

# POLITICAL PAYBACK TACTICS USED

(From [paybackpolitics.com](http://paybackpolitics.com))

## DID VC FIRM KLIENER PERKINS, OR OTHER VC'S, PUT "MOLES" OR SABOTEURS INSIDE OF THEIR COMPETITORS COMPANIES, ON BEHALF OF ELECTED OFFICIALS?

A number of start up companies have reported that former Kliener Perkins staff had penetrated their companies under the pretext of "helping them" only to, later be found to be sabotaging those very companies, using CIA-recommended internal manipulation techniques. A consultant named "Bruce" and another named "Robert", who used to work with John Doerr's Kleiner Perkins, are under investigation for such suspected acts. Kleiner is deeply in bed with the CIA's In-Q-Tel and uses them for public policy manipulation.

## Declassified CIA documents detail how to sabotage employers, annoy bosses

The previously secret guide might make you wonder whether your annoying colleagues are actually spies

- [Andrew Griffin](#)
- [@ andrew\\_griffin](#)

Your annoying colleagues might actually be CIA spies, according to recently-released documents from the US agency.

A previously secret document titled "Simple Sabotage Field Manual: Strategic Services" details the various ways that spies should work to bring down companies that they are placed in. But the sabotage techniques sound very similar to those encountered in many offices today.

The document was published in January 1944, as a way of showing spies and concerned citizens how they could work to bring down the productivity of important Axis workplaces during the war.

[Read more](#) Modern art was CIA 'weapon'

It was produced to detail the "simple acts which the ordinary individual citizen-saboteur can perform", allowing citizens to do damage to countries and companies using normal kit and "in such a way as to involve a minimum danger of injury, detection and reprisal".

Some of the document's suggestions are difficult to carry out and involve work. But others just read like simple tips for avoiding having to do too much at work.

Those include suggestions that saboteurs should hold meetings during important times, and to be a

jobsworth by “apply[ing] all regulations to the last letter”.

As well as means for being bad at their jobs, the CIA offers instructions to “Act stupid” and “Be as irritable and quarrelsome as possible without getting yourself into trouble”.

Included in the spies’ orders for sabotaging a company are instructions to:

1. When possible, refer all matters to committees, for "further study and consideration." Attempt to make the committees as large as possible - never less than five.
2. Bring up irrelevant issues as frequently as possible.
3. Misunderstand orders. Ask endless questions or engage in long correspondence about such orders. Quibble over them when you can.
4. Haggle over precise wordings of communications, minutes, resolutions.
5. Be unreasonable and urge your fellow-conferees to be "reasonable" and avoid haste which might result in embarrassments or difficulties later on.
6. Don't order new working' materials until your current stocks have been virtually exhausted, so that the slightest delay in filling your order will mean a shutdown.
7. To lower morale and with it, production, be pleasant to inefficient workers; give undeserved promotions. Discriminate against efficient workers; complain unjustly about their work.
8. Fill out forms illegibly so that they will have to be done over; make mistakes or omit requested information in forms.
9. Spread disturbing rumors that sound like inside dope.

The full document is [published in full on the CIA website](#)

[Timeless Tips for 'Simple Sabotage' — Central ... - CIA](https://www.cia.gov/.../simple-sabotage.html)  
Central Intelligence Agency

Jul 12, 2012 - In 1944, CIA's precursor, the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), created the *Simple Sabotage Field Manual*. This classified booklet described ...  
[\[PDF\]Simple Sabotage Field Manual - CIA](#)  
<https://www.cia.gov/.../ClearedUOSSSimpleS...>

Central Intelligence Agency

Apr 2, 2008 - This *Simple Sabotage Field Manual*- Strategic Ser- vices (Provisional) - is published for the information and guidance of all concerned and will ...

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In the 1980s the CIA produced a small illustrated booklet in both spanish and english designed to destabilise the nicaraguan government and economic system.  
[OSS Simple Sabotage Manual, Sections 11, 12](#)  
[svn.cacert.org/CAcert/CAcert\\_Inc/Board/oss/oss\\_sabotage.html](svn.cacert.org/CAcert/CAcert_Inc/Board/oss/oss_sabotage.html)

Editor's Note: This is sections 11,12 of the OSS's *Simple Sabotage Field Manual*, a 1944 document that has been declassified. The OSS became the CIA after ...  
[How to](#)

Operate Like a Spy: CIA Declassifies OSS Field ...  
[www.theblaze.com/.../how-to-operate-like-a-spy-](http://www.theblaze.com/.../how-to-operate-like-a-spy-)

cia-declassifies...

TheBlaze

Feb 19, 2014 - As the *CIA* writes in their release of this field *manual*, “many of the *sabotage* instructions guide ordinary citizens, who may not have agreed with ...

In the news

[Declassified CIA documents detail how to sabotage employers, annoy bosses](#)

The Independent - 1 day ago

A previously secret document titled “Simple *Sabotage* Field *Manual*: Strategic Services” ...

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..[CIA: Five particularly timeless tips from the Simple Sabotage ...](#)www.networkworld.com/.../cia--five-particularly-timeless...

Network World

Jul 13, 2012 - *CIA* The *CIA* today published a very interesting piece of its history, the once classified “Simple *Sabotage* Field *Manual*,” which defines how the ...

## The “RATF\*CKING” Of the American Voters: The Crime Without A Penalty

- Using the resources of taxpayer cash and public offices, an increasing number of Americans are being attacked and destroyed by their own elected officials
- Over 1000 companies offer criminally evil attack-and-destroy services, against voters, to politicians
- No laws prevent such attacks and politicians won't put any laws in place because they use these attacks so much

Example cases:

<http://thecleantechcrash.wordpress.com>

<http://paybackpolitics.org>

and below:

### Ratfucking

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Ratfucking** is an American [slang](#) term for political [sabotage](#) or [dirty tricks](#). It was first brought to public attention by [Bob Woodward](#) and [Carl Bernstein](#) in their book [“as men”](#)

[href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All the President%27s Men">All the President's Men](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All_the_President%27s_Men).

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Background Woodward and Bernstein's exposé *All the President's Men* reports that many staffers who had attended the [University of Southern California](#) such as [Donald Segretti](#), [Tim Elbourne](#), [Ronald Louis Ziegler](#), [H. R. Haldeman](#) and [Dwight Chapin](#) had participated in the highly-competitive student elections there. [UPI](#) reporter Karlyn Barker sent Woodward and Bernstein a memo "Notes On the USC Crowd" that outlined the connection. Fraternities, sororities and underground fraternal coordinating organizations such as [Theta Nu Epsilon](#) and their splintered rival "Trojans for Representative Government" engaged in creative tricks and underhanded tactics to win student elections.<sup>[1][2]</sup> Officially, control over minor funding and decision-making on campus life was at stake but the positions also gave bragging rights and prestige. It was either promoted by or garnered the interest of major political figures on the USC board of trustees such as [Dean Rusk](#) and [John A. McCone](#).<sup>[3][4]</sup> It was here that the term *ratfucking* had its origin. It is unclear whether it was derived from the military term for stealing the better part of military rations and tossing the less appetizing portions away or if the military adopted the phrase from the political lexicon.

The term was made famous in Australia after the phrase was attributed to then Prime Minister [Kevin Rudd](#) at the [2009 Copenhagen Climate Change Summit](#).<sup>[5]</sup>

Usage in the U.S. military The term *ratfucking* (*rat* in this case is shorthand for *ration*) is the unofficial slang term used by [soldiers](#) in the [U.S. Army](#) to mean the targeted pillaging of [MREs](#) (Meals Ready-To-Eat), which the U.S. military calls *field stripping*. It refers to the process of opening a case of MREs, of which there are twelve in a box, then opening up individual MRE packages, and removing the desired items (generally [as" href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M%26M%27s">M&M's](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M%26M%27s) and other sweets), and leaving the unenticing remainder. It is a common but generally frowned-upon practice.<sup>[6]</sup>

Other usages An early use of the term (as "rat-fuck") appears in [Edmund Wilson's](#) "The Twenties" in an entry dated February, 1922.<sup>[7]</sup>

A more benign use of the term "ratfucking" was commonplace in Southern California (and possibly other) college slang in the late 1950s to at least the early 1960s, meaning a prank. Around that time, [Tony Auth](#) was the cartoonist for the [UCLA Daily Bruin](#). One of his cartoons showed a large, inebriated rat suggesting to another rat, "Let's go PF-ing tonight!", a play on ratfucking or "RF-ing". The lead story in the January 6, 1961, *California Tech*, Caltech's student newspaper, was headlined, "Tech Scores First Televised RF". The article chronicled the [Great Rose Bowl Hoax](#), which had just taken place. A political context was irrelevant to such usage; at the end of the article, an Editor's Note both explained and bowdlerized: "RF (for Royal Flush) is a contemporary college colloquialism for a clever prank."

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[Donald Segretti Tribute - The Triumph Of The Ratfuckers - Esquirecached](#)

Oct 4, 2013 ... Let us raise a morning glass to Donald Segretti, the ratfucker.

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[http://www.esquire.com/news-politics/p\[...\].25090/donald-segretti-ratfking-100413/](http://www.esquire.com/news-politics/p[...].25090/donald-segretti-ratfking-100413/)

[Ratfucking - A GOP Tradition | Correntecached](#)

Mar 28, 2008 ... According to Woodward and Bernstein, Nixon aide Dwight Chapin hired fellow USC alumnus Donald Segretti to run a campaign of dirty tricks ...

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[http://www.correntewire.com/ratfucking\\_a\\_gop\\_tradition](http://www.correntewire.com/ratfucking_a_gop_tradition)

[Donald Segretti scene from All the President's Men - Critical Commonscached](#)

USC alum Donald Segretti talks about his involvement in pre-Watergate dirty tricks ... Many of the tactics ( termed "ratfucking") that Segretti and his team used to ...

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[Ratfucking - RationalWikicached](#)

May 20, 2015 ... Segretti was hired by the Committee to Re-elect the President (CREEP) to work his ratfucking magic for Nixon in the 1972 elections and funded ...

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[Donald H. Segretti | All the President's Mencached](#)

In 1972, Donald H. Segretti held the title as the CRP's political operative. Segretti was hired to run a slew of dirty tricks, dubbed as "ratfucking" against the ...

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[Did Donald Segretti and his friends at USC invent "ratfucking"? What ...cached](#)

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[Propaganda - RationalWikicached](#)

Jun 09, 2015 · No, this is not about the Russian girl group of a similar name (Пропаганда). Or the German '80s popstars. Or the album by the band Sparks.

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[Ratfucking - A GOP Tradition | Correntecached](#)

Mar 28, 2008 ... Maybe they are a special breed of GOP trolls called "ratfuckers." Part I Ratfucking is an American slang term for political sabotage or dirty tricks.

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[Jonathan Korman on Twitter: "Mindboggling story of Nixonian ...cached](#)

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<https://twitter.com/miniver/status/631914760649334784>

[How to pick your opponent: A guide to gaming Republican primariescached](#)

May 18, 2014 ... Along with McCaskill, Democrats ratfucked a Florida House primary in .....

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Jun 11, 2015 ... Well, the briefest of gubernatorial trial balloons has settled to the floor, like the birthday balloon that got a half-shot of helium. Deb Markowitz ...

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# The True Story...

THE "BURN NOTICE". A CASE EXAMPLE:

# **Dear President Obama:**

*You are familiar with the fact that your staff, including, Mr. Emanuel, Plouffe, Daly, Strickland, Holder, Chu, Gibbs, Axelrod, Carny, McDonough, Rattner, and others, all of whom, suddenly, quit their federal jobs, when exposed, did a bad thing.*

*They arranged with campaign financiers, including Mr. Musk, Westly, Jurvetson, Schmidt, Doerr, and others, to exchange government contracts, tax waivers, grants, stock valuation increases, stock holding assets and tax credits for campaign support.*

*This has come to be known as the “CleanTech Scandal”. It has been deeply documented in numerous lawsuits; the 60 Minutes Episode called: “The CleanTech Crash”; Many published GAO investigations; the in-progress FBI case which began with the FBI Solyndra raid; Over 100,000 news stories which deal with the following keywords: “Corruption, steven chu, department of energy Solyndra”; U.S. Senate ethics investigation documents, and thousands of other published, and broadcast materials. In fact, there is now, so much published evidence, proving that this scandal took place, that it is impossible to deny. There are now millions of pages of evidence, and hours of recordings that provide irrefutable proof.*

*To date, federal, and news, investigators have documented over a “trillion dollars in losses to taxpayers” from this incident.*

*We are the victims of this scandal. We are the companies, and individuals, that your Administration invited into the program, so it would look good, in the beginning. Your staff, knew, though, from Day One, that the money had already been set-aside for Mr. Musk, Westly, Jurvetson, Schmidt, Doerr, and others. The money was hard-wired, ahead of time. All of our time and money, spent at the request of your people, was worthless, and your people knew it, and lied to our faces.*

*While your people knew it all along, we sure hope you didn’t know it. That would just be a very sad situation for The Nation.*

*So all of us were lied to, and forced to spend our time and money on a federal program that we were never going to be allowed to help with. Bright Automotive, Aptera, Brammo, Zap, XPV, and all of the rest, were just being used as a cover for a game that was already rigged.*

*You owe us our expenses for the damages your people cost us because of those lies and abuses.*

*As if that wasn’t bad enough, when we cooperated with federal investigators, who were looking into these abuses of taxpayer resources, your people put hit-jobs on us. Your offices, and campaign financiers, ordered their associates: Media Matters, Gawker Media, In-Q-Tel, New America Foundation, Think Progress, Google, and others, to attack us. Your people tried to wipe us out, in retribution for helping the cops. The attacks were ten times worse than the whole “Lois Lerner”-type attacks.*

*That was pretty unkind.*

*You owe us for the losses suffered from these character assassination and employment database attacks. Your people made sure all of us could not work again. We plan to use our free time to prevent these kinds of abuses, starting with the 2016 elections.*

*On top of all that, you, personally, owe us an apology.*

*These were your people, on your watch. The buck stops at the Oval Office.*

*We look forward to your phone call. DOJ has our numbers.*

*Sincerely,*

*The Victims, and their families, from the “Cleantech Crash”*

## **RAPED BY WASHINGTON: A TECHNOLOGY TALE**

XYZ Company (not their actual name) was one of many, solicited by the U.S. Government to help America create new jobs, national security enhancements and new energy options.

In the process, XYZ experienced, within the highest levels of Washington, DC: fraud, lies, organized crime, hit-jobs and an epic abuse of the public trust. They saw the theft of taxpayer dollars, by federal officials and corrupt campaign billionaires.

This is their story.

Like the others, who experienced the same abuse, they are a team of engineers. They are the kinds of folks who invent and build “the next big thing”. They have received decades of issued patents, awards, contracts with famous clients, and been on TV for their accomplishments. They had a huge stack of reference letters, and customer orders, that they personally hand-delivered to top Washington, DC officials to show the market demand for what they were to work on. They received a Congressional Commendation in the Iraq War Bill. They had “street cred”. Popular Science, NPR and Network news applauded them.

In XYZ’s case, The U. S. Government asked them to deliver “the next big thing”. Unfortunately for XYZ, their technology threatened to put a rigged multi-billion dollar, insider, criminal commodity scam, set up by corrupt senators and Silicon Valley campaign financiers, out of business.

XYZ did not know this, when everything began.

XYZ, and their peers, witnessed White House staff, Department of Energy officers, U.S. Senators and

sociopathic Silicon Valley billionaires, engage in crimes with impunity, audacity and a complete disregard for ethics.

They, and staff from Bright Automotive, ZAP Automotive, Fischer, Aptera, Elio, Eco Motors, and many, many, other companies, were encouraged to spend extensive amounts of their time, and money, on what, they were all told by top State and Federal officials, was a sure thing. They did not realize that they were all playing against a rigged deck that had been “hard-wired” for a few campaign financiers, from the very start. They had their dreams, companies, life savings (And maybe some of their peers) killed off by a Corrupt program operated by the heads of the Department of Energy, under the direction of senior White House officials.

There was more than enough money to fund all of the applicants – so there was no possibility of the fund running out of money. Any excuses about “not enough money” by Steven Chu, and his staff, have been shown to have been lies in order to protect the Silicon Valley Cartel from having any competitors. There are still unspent billions of dollars sitting in the fund, half a decade later.

All of those applicants, in the top-tier final-round groups, had exceeded the technical, and financial, qualifications by many magnitudes, beating Tesla, Solyndra and Fisker many times over. Any excuses about “not being technically qualified”, by Steven Chu, and his staff, have been shown to have been lies, in order to protect the Silicon Valley Cartel from having any competitors. Evidence now shows that Chu had his staff, and contractors: McKinsey, Argonne Labs, Deloitte and IBM Consulting, rig the review process to favor campaign financiers stock and sabotage their competitors.

In one case, Steven Chu told an electric car company, which competed with Silicon Valley campaign financiers, that they were disqualified because they had not planned to use enough gasoline!!!! Rejections by Chu and his staff got even more ludicrous from there.

Most of Chu’s picks failed. They went bankrupt, got raided by law enforcement, and were investigated for stock manipulation fraud, lied on their financial reports and were all connected to the same campaign financiers. Funny coincidence.

In fact, news analysts always asked why Chu didn’t spread the risk by awarding even a single funding approval to any company who was not one of his business associates holdings? Energy Secretary Moniz, known around Washington as “Chu Too”, still, laughingly, orders the Department of Energy press office to send out monthly stories proclaiming the Green Energy CleanTech program “not that big of a failure”. That cover-up pitch has worn so thin that the media now responds with overt derision and belly laughs. The Department of Energy Program has now set the world record, (for all of recorded history to date) for government funding for the most failures, in the shortest timeframe, with the biggest taxpayer losses in history!

History has also proven that the Department of Energy only awarded funds to Silicon Valley campaign financier-approved holdings, and sabotaged any other applicant, particularly any that competed with John Doerr, Elon Musk, Eric Schmidt, Steve Jurvetson and the “Silicon Valley Cartel” of campaign purchasers.

The entire Department of Energy ATVM and LGP funding programs, and a portion of the TARP program was used to pay kick-backs to campaign finance billionaires.

It turned out that XYZ technology had put Steven Chu's, Diane Feinstein's, Harry Reid's and White House Staff's personal stock profits at risk (A criminal, and moral, conflict of interest in the first place). Those people, and their backers, had rigged the funding for the lithium battery and indium solar chemicals in which they controlled the profit stream. They didn't like any technology which showed up the failures of the monopolized mineral mining deals they had picked, so they sabotaged every other energy technology.

Unfortunately, they picked the wrong horse. Lithium blows up when it gets wet. Millions of dollars of millionaire wet-dream Fisker sports cars turned into piles of ash, in spectacular fireballs of destruction, when they got damp from storms. Lithium explodes, on its own, spontaneously, for no apparent reason. Aircraft have crashed because their lithium batteries turned into fireballs, killing the crew. Boeing lost vast amounts of money when it had to redo its lithium batteries because they kept igniting. Tesla's burst into flames from bumps in the road. A recent Tesla crash killed the driver and burned him into an unrecognizable lump. Getting the lithium from Bolivia and Afghanistan has gotten quite a lot of people killed, including U.S. soldiers. To get it, you need to invade another country. The mining deals, to process the lithium minerals are under investigation for their connections to the Russian mafia and Goldman Sachs criminal commodity market manipulation. When lithium "goes thermal", in its daily fire incidents around the world, it releases toxic vapors which have been proven to cause brain damage, lung damage, liver damage, fetal damage and neurological toxicity. The "we smell smoke" issues, in many trains and planes, is often someone's lithium ion cell phone battery going off. Lithium battery fires have set children, senior citizens, homes and offices on fire. Tesla lithium battery partner: Panasonic, is under global investigation for corruption. Lithium battery factories poison the workers, and nearby villages, to death.

While Chu's Silicon Valley financiers joined up with Goldman Sach's to flood Washington, and Wall Street, with articles saying that "*Afghanistan is the Saudi Arabia of lithium*" and "*Trillions of dollars of lithium in Afghanistan for the taking*"... the pitch turned out to be a poorly researched scam to try to get jobs for Russian mining companies. Many, now feel, that Russians may have trumped up the pitch about what a sweet deal "taking over Afghanistan" was. Main stream news report that the U.S. loss from Afghanistan, to U.S. taxpayers as of today, is six trillion dollars, and climbing. Chu's handover of federal cash to so many Russian owned, Silicon Valley-partnered, companies with investors who are now on FBI "Watch-Lists" raises many eyebrows. While Kleiner Perkin's "Troll farms" flood the internet with "Elon Musk is a Genius", "Oil Sucks", "Batteries are Good" spam, the public has gotten wise to the grift.

So: Yah, that whole lithium thing may not have been thought out very well.

Of course the same mining deals, and monopoly skims, applied to indium. The mining chemical that, now fiasco'd, Solyndra and Abound Solar needed. The FBI and law enforcement shut them down and they are still being reviewed for embezzlement and kick-backs. The Solyndra disaster was particularly painful for Senator Feinstein's family who owned the stock, employment service, leases, real estate

contracts, supplier holdings, construction company and other kick-back “perks” for both Solyndra and Tesla.

So the Silicon Valley scam of “monopolize-one-energy-chemical” thing was a bust and the whole lithium thing blew up, literally.

Steven Chu and the Silicon Valley billionaires hate oil, but they didn’t hate it enough to not try to copy it. They thought: *‘the oil companies have this one chemical, called petroleum, we will get us one chemical and control it, and kill oil, and be all ‘not oil’*. They saw the “treasure maps” about the “trillions of dollars” of these mining chemicals and wanted those trillions in their pockets. They were willing to do anything to get it.

Science doesn’t work like that.

Greed overcame technical reality, and the great “Cleantech” rush turned into the “Cleantech Crash” (Per the 60 Minutes tv show).

To keep XYZ out of the funding, and prevent them from competing with the campaign financiers. Chu first said, in a recorded conversation, he would waive the fee he was going to charge them (Federal lawyers question the legality of charging citizens for federal awards in the first place). Then he assigned his top staffer to respond to them to give feedback to their investors who were loaning the money to pay that “fee”. The staffer promised, in writing, to respond. XYZ called him, faxed, him, Fed-ex’d him and messenger’d him and he never got back to XYZ with the critical information the investors needed in order to release the funds for the “fee”. His secretary, on multiple occasions, even stated that he was *“in the next office and would get right back to you”*.

The day after the deadline for the “fee”, Steven Chu’s top staffer finally responded, in writing, and said, “oh, you missed the deadline” , “you are out of the program”. He had intentionally waited until after the arbitrary deadline in order to cut off the XYZ application. Alas, for DOE, XYZ had another application in process, and that one became part of a federal crime investigation that brought down some of the biggest names in politics.

XYZ, and the other applicants, experienced huge numbers of lies, misrepresentations, manipulations, “missing hard-drives”, “lost” documents, stone-walling and actual attacks.

Because they filed a complaint, the Campaign Financiers, and, likely, White House staff, hired their associated front groups: Gawker Media, Media Matters, Google and In-Q-Tel to run retribution hit-jobs on those who complained

One company, in the same boat, published this damning letter in the media:

**Secretary Steven Chu**

**U.S. Department of Energy**

**Washington, D.C.**

**Dear Secretary Chu,**

**Today Bright Automotive, Inc will withdraw its application for a loan under the ATVM program**

*administered by your department. Bright has not been explicitly rejected by the DOE; rather, we have been forced to say “uncle”. As a result, we are winding down our operations. Last week we received the fourth “near final” Conditional Commitment Letter since September 2010. Each new letter arrived with more onerous terms than the last. The first three were workable for us, but the last was so outlandish that most rational and objective persons would likely conclude that your team was negotiating in bad faith. We hope that as their Secretary, this was not at your urging. The actions – or better said “lack of action” -- by your team means hundreds of great manufacturing and technical jobs, union and non-union alike, and thousands of indirect jobs in Indiana and Michigan will not see the light of day. It means our product, the Bright IDEA plug-in hybrid electric commercial vehicle, will not provide the lowest total cost of ownership for our commercial and government fleet customers, saving millions of barrels of oil each year. It means turning your back on a bona fide step forward in our national goal to wean America away from our addiction to foreign oil and its implications on national security and our economic strength. In good faith we entered the ATVM process, approved under President Bush with bi-partisan Congressional approval, in December of 2008. At that time, our application was deemed "substantially complete."*

*As of today, we have been in the “due diligence” process for more than 1175 days. That is a record for which no one can be proud. We were told by the DOE in August of 2010 that Bright would get the ATVM loan "within weeks, not months" after we formed a strategic partnership with General Motors as the DOE had urged us to do. We lined up and agreed to private capital commitments exceeding \$200M – a far greater percentage than previous DOE loan applicants. Finally, we signed definitive agreements with state-of-the-art manufacturer AM General that would have employed more than 400 union workers in Indiana in a facility that recently laid-off 350 workers. Each time your team asked for another new requirement, we delivered with speed and excellence. Then, we waited and waited; staying in this process for as long as we could after repeated, yet unmet promises by government bureaucrats. We continued to play by the rules, even as you and your team were changing those rules constantly – seemingly on a whim. Because of ATVM's distortion of U.S. private equity markets, the only opportunities for 100 percent private equity markets are abroad. We made it clear we were an American company, with American workers developing advanced, deliverable and clean American technology.*

*We unfortunately did not aggressively pursue an alternative funding path in China as early as we would have liked based on our understanding of where we were in the DOE process. I guess we have only ourselves to blame for having faith in the words and promises of our government officials. The Chairman of a Fortune 10 company told your former deputy, Jonathan Silver, that this program “lacked integrity”; that is, it did not have a consistent process and rules against which private enterprises could rationally evaluate their chances and intelligently allocate time and resources against that process. There can be no greater failing of government than to not have integrity when dealing with its taxpaying citizens. It does not give us any solace that we are not alone in the debacle of the ATVM process. ATVM has executed under \$50 million of transactions since October of 2009. Going back to the creation of the program, only about \$8 billion of the approved \$25 billion has been invested. In the meantime, countless hours, efforts and millions of dollars have been put forth*

*by a multitude of strong entrepreneurial teams and some of the largest players in the industry to advance your articulated goal of advancing the technical strength and clean energy breakthroughs of the American automotive industry. These collective efforts have been in vain as the program failed to finance both large existing companies and younger emerging ones alike. Our vehicle would have been critical to meet President Obama's stated goal of one million plugin electric vehicles on the road in 2015 and his commitment to buy 100 percent alternative fueled vehicles for the Federal Fleet. So, we are not the only ones who will be disappointed. The ineffectiveness of the DOE to execute its program harms commercial enterprise as it not only interfered with the capital markets; it placed American companies at the whim of approval by a group of bureaucrats. Today at your own ARPA-E conference, Fred Smith, the remarkable leader of FedEx, made the compelling case to reduce our dependence on oil; a product whose price is manipulated by a cartel which has caused the greatest wealth transfer in our history from the pockets of working people and businesses to countries, many of whom are not our allies.*

*And yet, having in hand a tremendous tool for progress in this critically strategic battle -- a tool that drew the country's best to your door -- you failed not only in the deployment of funds from ATVM but in dissipating these efforts against not just false hope, but false words. For us, this is a particularly sad day for our employees and their families, as well as the employees and families of our partners. We asked our team members on countless occasions to work literally around the clock whenever yet another new DOE requirement came down the pike, so that we could respond swiftly and accurately. And, we always did.*

*Sincerely,*

*Reuben Munger*

*Mike Donoughe*

*CEO, COO*

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Of course the Department of Energy got sued, for running a corruption operation, by applicant's trying to gain a modicum of justice and get their damages covered. All of those applicants discovered that the news head-lines about: "no justice left in America", may be true. In one lawsuit the feds dismissed the case because, according to the court, there is no law that prevents the Department of Energy from engaging in corruption. Nice!

No law enforcement, or regulatory entity, at the State or Federal level, seems to want to upset the pig trough of kick-backs and corruption. It is hard for the FBI, or the SEC, to stomach putting their own bosses in jail.

XYZ had the customers, the factories, the suppliers, the jobs and every advantage. So did all of the hundreds of other domestic companies, that experienced these attacks and manipulations. But Japanese and Russian companies got some of the cash because they were partners with the Silicon Valley campaign financiers and those campaign financiers, directly, got handed the rest of the money that went

out.

In Tesla's (Solyndra's financial and real estate sister) case, the "fee" was entirely waived for Tesla. Even though Tesla had the worst debt-ratio of any applicant; horrible credit ratings per Treasury; no design; inaccurate price models; a BOM that was \$100K over budget per car; no factory; lawsuits with its founders, exploding batteries, many technical problems, no experience and few customers; to mention only some of the vast numbers of red flags; Tesla was hand-held through Steven Chu's program and handed cash without any questions. Major papers have recently outed Elon Musk as the biggest taker of government kick-backs in history: over \$6 Billion of "payola" from taxpayer's pocket's to billionaire Musk's bank vaults, protected from investigation, at the highest levels.

So, it didn't hurt that Steven Chu was nominated, and placed in Office, by Tesla's owners and investors.

Every single item of technology that XYZ, and the sabotaged applicants, built; worked. The big players, that Steven Chu funded, copied them and now sell copies of their products globally, proving that they work. They, laughingly, tell the applicants they stole from to "sue them if you think you can afford the millions of dollars of legal expenses" to go after a Kleiner Perkins, Google or the rest.

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This article shows how the Senator, or Secretary of Energy, that shakes your hand, is picking your pocket with his other hand:

## **Small businesses claim US government stealing their ideas**

Feds putting companies out of business?"They stole all my stuff and used taxpayer money to do it," John Hnatio, a Maryland small business owner, says of the U.S. government.

Hnatio claims the government has put his company, FoodquestTQ, nearly out of business by stealing his firm's software that was designed to be licensed to the Food and Drug Administration to monitor food safety.

The FDA "took our ideas, plagiarized my doctoral dissertation on which a patent was based, and then they infringed on our patent. The result was that it decimated our business," he adds.

Hnatio says his company has been left hanging by a thread. He has had to fire employees and says that the remaining three, including himself, are receiving no salary and have been forced to go on unemployment insurance.

"I have never seen anything like it," says Hnatio, who is a retired federal government official.

He says the FDA "duplicated exactly what we were selling to industry and they were giving it away for free...instead of helping small business commercialize their product, what we are seeing is a dragon, in the name of the U.S. government that is eating their own young."

FoodquestTQ is only one of numerous small businesses that accuse the government of stealing their intellectual property or trade secrets when they enter into contracts or research agreements with federal

agencies.

"The government interceded, stole the technology and attempted to use this in classified programs," says Jim O'Keefe, the president of the small New Jersey technology company Demodulation. He has filed a \$50 million lawsuit against the U.S. government, accusing it of taking his firm's research.

Demodulation developed an advanced technology involving fiber coated wire, called microwire, which is thinner than a human hair. The company says its microwire can be used for a variety of national security applications, such as tracking drones, keeping tabs on soldiers on battlefields, transmitting information without a power source, and that it even has the ability "to render objects invisible to radar."

"It sounds incredible and impossible that the U.S. government is taking things from people," says Demodulation lawyer Sean Callagy. "We believe this is the greatest country in the world with the greatest justice system in the world but the U.S. government is not an eagle or a flag, but human beings. And human beings make mistakes."

The lawsuit accuses the Department of Energy and the National Nuclear Security Administration, among others, of illegally swiping the firm's information by "using microwire and Demodulation's trade secrets in its mission to gather intelligence."

It also says that the U.S. has even built "a secure facility for the production of microwire" on its own.

"There are classified reports showing the technology," declares Demodulation attorney Ben Light, who says that after the company "shared the secret sauce" about microwire with federal officials, they simply "took (the) wire."

The Department of Energy referred Fox News' requests for comment to the National Nuclear Security Administration, which did not respond to repeated requests for a comment about the company's allegations.

The Department of Justice denies Demodulation's charges in court filings.

Stuart Delery, an Acting Assistant Attorney General, wrote that while "the United States admits that it continues to conduct research regarding what is generally known as 'microwire,'" he says that the government did not act improperly.

The Department of Justice claims the government did not take any proprietary information or develop the microwire technology based on Demodulation's work, and that "none of the asserted patents have been infringed on by the United States."

Delery also pointed out that some of Demodulation's patents had expired.

The only reason the patents expired is because Demodulation was driven out of business," responds the firm's lawyer, Light. "It doesn't affect the entire case because any infringement during the period when the patents were enforced is still compensable."

O'Keefe says the government denials are "an impossibility based on the evidence I have."

He is calling for "reform and legislation to protect us. I hope through our litigation we will be able to expose some of the problems."

It turns out that the government is routinely accused of similar wrongdoing and sometimes has to pony up.

The U.S. Army settled a case in November by paying \$50 million to a Texas company, Apptricity, which claimed the government took some of its software, which tracks military equipment from MRE's to troops, without paying for it. The company's court papers said that the government "willfully infringed" on its copyrights, "failed to provide information" about what it did and was engaged in "actively concealing the Army's misappropriation of Apptricity software."

The complaint said the Army paid for using the software on five servers and 150 devices, but actually "copied and installed Apptricity software on at least 98 servers and at least 9,063 devices" without telling the company.

"I don't think there was malicious intent," Apptricity's founder and president Tim Garcia tells Fox News in the aftermath of the settlement. He says his company pursued its case by the "standard process through the Court of Claims."

There are numerous other companies that have filed similar actions at the Washington, D.C.-based court, which is the venue for legal claims against the federal government. Among them:

Liberty Ammunition, which is suing the government for allegedly infringing on its copyright for developing a lead-free "green bullet" after it worked on the invention with the Department of Defense.

Net Results, which claims that the Army infringed on its patent for a "mine detecting device" by giving out its design to six other government contractors.

In 2009, NASA was ordered to pay \$28.3 million to Boeing after the court found that the government infringed on the company's aluminum alloy patent.

In a noted case in 1999, the U.S. government paid then Hughes Electronics \$154 million in damages after a 30-year long legal battle found that the government illegally appropriated the company's satellite technology.

The U.S. Court of Federal Claims calls itself "the people's court," and says it is considered "the keeper of the nation's conscience." It is situated right across Lafayette Park from the White House.

There is no reason to think it can't happen," observes New York University law Professor Jeanne Fromer, an intellectual property and copyright law specialist.

The government can take patent rights, as long as they compensate for it. It is not dissimilar, in that sense, to notions of eminent domain."

The government is a big sprawling place and there are lots of people acting in it. I think some of them act very nobly...but it's hard to say that everyone always does."

We are hearing more frequently from companies about intellectual property theft by the government,"

notes John Palatiello, head of the Washington, D.C.- area lobbying group, the Business Coalition for Fair Competition, which is studying the issue.

Companies are becoming more vocal about it."

Hnatio believes there is a troubling explanation for alleged government flinching.

What we are seeing is a direct competition between the private sector and the U.S. government. The problem for small businesses is that they are simply being destroyed by their own government in spite of the fact that we hear politicians say all the time, that small business is important...it's extremely disturbing because it means we lose jobs, and it means we lose our competitive edge in the world. It creates a very dangerous situation for our national security."

Fox News repeatedly requested comment from the FDA regarding Hnatio's allegations about FoodquestTQ, but the agency did not issue a statement.

While the Demodulation case is expected to go to trial next year, Hnatio says he has been left without any money to hire a lawyer to go to court.

From the time I was a little kid I dreamed of starting a business. But I do have to tell you that there is a grave danger to the American dream," he says.

*Follow Eric Shawn on Twitter: @EricShawnonFox Becky Diamond contributed to this report.*

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One of the Cleantech peers was a fellow named Gary D. Conley. He blew the whistle on Solyndra and Tesla and was later found with a bullet in his head behind Beale Air Force base in Northern California. That was always a disturbing item. Do crazy Silicon Valley billionaires really do mobster things? Type: "Silicon Valley Cartel" and take a look. There have been over 80 CleanTech-connected investment bankers, reporters and technicians who took "the big sleep" in mysterious and unexpected ways during the Cleantech Crash. Many of them must have seen their "trillion dollars" suddenly vaporize and headed for the window...the rest?.., Hard to tell, yet...

Between then, and now, some interesting and unexpected things happened:

The Solyndra FBI raid; The Snowden/Assange/Guccifer leakers revealed that every corrupt politician since 9/11 has been surveilled and recorded doing all of their dirty deeds; The Chinese and Russians broke into the CIA, White House, Federal Records and Sony and grabbed all of the documents that show who was really in bed with whom; The GOP took over Congress; The Age of Transparency went full boogie and some of the biggest political names at the White House, NHTSA, DOJ, IRS, DOE, and other agencies, suddenly resigned to "spend more time with their families (It was because they got caught in the Cleantech Crash investigations, actually); The West lost control of the Middle East; Main stream print-news died and digital online independent news sprang to life; The Lois Lerner case proved that the White House uses federal agencies to put hit-jobs on U.S. Citizens that it does not like; The rest of the world began taking the internet away from Silicon Valley; Even Bill Cosby imploded; and more shockers seem to pop up daily...

We appear to live in a new world where things done in the dark, always come to light.

XYZ set out to serve their country, help out with the economy and make something cool and exciting.

What they got was ripped off, attacked, and punished for doing what the American Dream said they were supposed to do. Over 80 of their peers were targeted, and terminated, because they dared to build something better than the Silicon Valley campaign financiers.

In an ironic twist of fate, Russian and Chinese lawyers are now offering to front the costs of suing Elon Musk, John Doerr and Eric Schmidt for RICO Racketeering, fraud and infringement... hmmm? This could get interesting.

This is a cautionary tale for voters everywhere. You have inherited an America with a Washington DC run amuck with corruption. The District of Columbia represents Goldman Sachs and six dot com billionaires, and not you!

You get a chance to change that in 2016. Will you go for the chump or the champ this time?

(This story includes authorships from ZAP Motors Staff, Bright Automotive Staff, Eric Shawn, Carol Leonning, Dave Lessons, Washington Post, Fox News, LA Times, and Susan Alexander. For updates, see <http://www.xyzcase.com> )

### **In the simplest terms:**

A group of companies and individuals were invited by federal officials to participate in a Department of Energy program.

The effort, they were requested to assist with, was intended to support national public needs for jobs, energy and industry.

During this project, a number of companies saw, and reported to federal authorities, an organized crime activity engaged in by some federal officials. You will notice, in the news, that the D.O.E CleanTech program was suddenly halted, for many years, even though it had billions of dollars of extra money still in the bank.

The crimes turned out to be very large, and involved massive amounts of taxpayer money.

In retribution for reporting the crimes, senior federal officials put "hit attacks" on the people who reported these crimes.

The "hit" attacks included: Job sabotage, employer sabotage, character attacks using fake bloggers and attacker-controlled tabloids, internet search engine manipulation, investor black-listing, back-ground database manipulation on Axiom and similar services, honey-traps, and similar revenue and brand destruction defamation tactics.

Federal law enforcement officials were ordered to avoid prosecution of some of the federal officials. Some federal law enforcement senior staff have now been charged, by the U. S. Senate, with running "cover-up" operations.

Senate, GAO, and hundreds of national media investigations have confirmed via published investigation files and reports, in detail, that these crimes took place and remain un-prosecuted.

A very large number of senior federal officials have resigned over this matter. Very few have been prosecuted.

The attacks on the citizens and tax-payers who reported these crimes, continues to this day...

If that sounds too wild to be true: remember "Watergate", Snowden, The Madoff Caper, The Tuskegee Syphilis Study, The MKUltra Program, The Banking Industry manipulations and the fact that you have actually seen hundreds of epic political crimes in the news, that were incredible in scope and moral failure. You can read more details about the crime(s) here: <http://www.xyzcase.com>

Remember, these were people that were willing to risk everything in order to acquire hundreds of billions of dollars, and political power, in personal gain.

**How this affects you?:** It lost billions of your tax-dollars via an organized criminal venture, hurt your families health by cutting off resources, cost jobs that some of your family may have held, diluted due process and broke the public policy system. The public services you were expecting, are not there, because so much money was lost on this scam.

The details have now been published by tens of thousands of main-stream publications and in court and criminal charges filings. A dramatic number of federal officials have been presented with the facts, and then immediately quit their jobs. Multiple books, videos, surveillance elements and emails have documented the corruptions.

After half a decade of preparation, a league of private and journalism investigators and a massive public development effort involving Congress, Agencies, Newspaper Editors, Insiders and the Public has been produced and now EVERYTHING is KNOWN and DOCUMENTED by a vast number of parties. APEX team hired former FBI, CIA, DOJ, and Senate Investigators to go figure out what really happened. Now the results are in, and those investigation facts are in the hands of all jurisdictional entities.

Some of the team were plucked from their jobs, in the middle of a work-day, because the attackers had sabotaged Axciom, **InBloom** and related HR databases, inserting fake, damaging information. (Note: **InBloom** database service has since been terminated and the CEO of **Axciom** was forced to quit and the company is now under vast investigations)

On-going job searches were blockaded via attacker manipulation of Axciom, InBloom and over 30 other HR back-ground check and job research databases.

Credit ratings suddenly shifted via attacker manipulation.

Team members were exposed to toxins.

Approved, and finalized, contracts were suddenly terminated, for no logical or historically precedented reason.

Attack articles were generated, and promoted, by attacker owned and controlled entities.

**In one instance** of the degree of maliciousness of the attacks against the target, the following has been discovered, by investigators:

The Google search engine staff have been found, by investigators, to have been in communication with the attackers.

The Google search engine investors have been found, by investigators, to have been in communication with the attackers.

Google engaged in industrial espionage by requesting company data from the target under false pretenses.

The Google search engine staff and investors have been found, by investigators, to have conspired, for competitive and political business reasons, with known third parties in order to equally benefit from such attacks.

The Google search engine staff have been found, by investigators, to have rigged The largest search engine search engines and data processing in order to lock defamatory videos and links in a fixed top position in order to intentionally and maliciously harm the target.

The Google search engine refused to comply with cease and desist and removal notices in a concerted effort to damage the target.

Senate investigators have found proof that The Google search engine has previously rigged The Google search engine search engines and data processing in order to lock defamatory videos and links in a fixed top position in order to intentionally and maliciously harm other targets.

Other lawsuits, by other parties, have retained technical SEO, algorithm and network investigators who have found proof that The Google search engine has previously rigged The Google search engine search engines and data processing in order to lock defamatory videos and links in a fixed top position in order to intentionally and maliciously harm targets.

## **THE TACTICS OF THE ATTACKERS**

**CHARACTER ASSASSINATION, AND CAREER HIT-JOBS, BY HIGHLY PLACED**

## POLITICAL ENTITIES USING TAXPAYER MONEY

By Thomas Winstead, Bob Unruh, Edward Snowden, Winston Emery & Piper Lee

Government sponsored character assassination delivered by Google, Gawker Media, IN-Q-Tel and New America Foundation; all of whom are financially, politically and operationally connected. Eric Schmidt ran and funded New America Foundation; Ran Google; Partnered and funded In-Q-Tel; hired, along with his associate: Elon Musk, In-Q-Tel executives; Worked with Gawker Marketers along with In-Q-Tel; was, himself and Google, funded by In-Q-Tel; funded the top 4 political campaigns, that all of those parties aggressively supported; and managed a business plan, that ran between all of those efforts, to ruin competitors and those who did not think like him, in any way possible.

Using the largest character assassination engine ever created. The Large Hadron Collider of defamation, Schmidt and his little Cartel went to work on enemies of his ideology. These were hit-jobs, using taxpayer dollars, against American born taxpayers, inside America, on U.S. soil because some politician or, campaign backer billionaire, wanted to hide their crimes.

### **REFERENCE LINKS FOR DETAILS ON SOME OF THE PLAYERS:**

**about these kinds of things:**

<http://www.opencongress.org/people/zipcodelookup>

**Who Eric Schmidt's little hit-job spy buddies are:**

<http://www.inqtelcase.wordpress.com>

**The details of their tactics:**

<http://www.paybackpolitics.org>

<http://www.cyberbullies.net>

**How Eric's Cartel Works:**

<http://vcracket.weebly.com>

### ARTICLES CONFIRMING THE BACKGROUND:

[Character assassination – Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia](#)

**Character assassination** is a deliberate and sustained process that aims to destroy the credibility and reputation of a person, institution, social group, or nation.

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Character\\_assassination](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Character_assassination)

**Google Search Results Rigged?** – Outside The Beltway

Is **Google** manipulating its **search** results to keep competitors down? ... When **Google** was a pure **search engine**, it was easy to appear agnostic about **search** results, ... Are **Google's** results **rigged**? Heck yeah.

[outsidethebeltway.com/google-search-results-rigged/More results](http://outsidethebeltway.com/google-search-results-rigged/More%20results)

### [Character Assassination | Definition of character ...](#)

Full Definition of **CHARACTER ASSASSINATION** : the slandering of a person usually with the intention of destroying public confidence in that person See **character assassination** defined for English-language learners Examples of **CHARACTER ASSASSINATION** None of those rumors are true. She's been the ...

[merriam-webster.com/dictionary/character assassination](http://merriam-webster.com/dictionary/character%20assassination)

[More results](#)

### [Urban Dictionary: Character Assassination](#)

**Character Assassination** is the act of attempting to influence the portrayal or reputation of a particular person, causing others to develop an extremely negative perception of him/her.

[urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Character Assassination](http://urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Character%20Assassination)

[PCWorld; Google Defends Against Claims of Rigged Search ...](#) **Google** Defends Against Claims of **Rigged Search** Results. **Google** is aggressively defending itself against accusations it manipulates its **search** ... or specialized image, shopping, flight, or movie results. And that's not just **Google**; Bing, Yahoo and other **search engines** do the ...

[pcworld.com/article/257269/google\\_defends\\_against\\_cla...](http://pcworld.com/article/257269/google_defends_against_cla...)

### [Character Assassination Law & Legal Definition](#)

**Character Assassination** refers to the slandering or vicious personal verbal attack on a person with the intention of destroying or damaging that person's reputation or confidence.

[definitions.uslegal.com/c/character-assassination/](http://definitions.uslegal.com/c/character-assassination/)

### [Google Has Rigged It's Search Results... ..](#)

The bclund Blog The Intersection of Markets, Trading, and Life! Main menu. Skip to content. Home; About Brian Lund; THE BEST OF bclund; Brian Lund In Media; **Google Has Rigged It's Search Results...Is Anyone Surprised?** ... To bolster its own listings, **Google** sometimes copied, ...

[bclund.com/2015/03/20/google-has-rigged-its-search-r...More results](http://bclund.com/2015/03/20/google-has-rigged-its-search-r...More%20results)

### [character assassination – The Free Dictionary](#)

**character assassination** n. The malicious denunciation or slandering of another person, especially as part of an effort to ruin the reputation of a public figure. **character assassin** n. **character assassination** n 1. the act of deliberately attempting to destroy a person's reputation by defamatory ...

[thefreedictionary.com/character+assassination](http://thefreedictionary.com/character+assassination)

[Europe investigates Google: Rigged search rankings ...](#) Europe investigates **Google: Rigged search rankings?** More like this. Update: **Google** targeted by EU antitrust probe. **Google** Instant results: ... it

makes no sense. ... **Google** is a **search engine**. ... It s their job. If they are not allowed to do this, they cannot serve their users. ...

[computerworld.com/article/2469754/e-commerce/europe-investi...](http://computerworld.com/article/2469754/e-commerce/europe-investi...)

### **Character Assassination – Changing Minds**

**Character Assassination** . Techniques > Propaganda > **Character Assassination**. Method | Example | Discussion | See also . Method. Attack the person, showing them to be bad and unworthy.

[changingminds.org/techniques/propaganda/character\\_assassina...](http://changingminds.org/techniques/propaganda/character_assassina...)

[More results](#)

[Spies and Honey Traps: PW Talks with Jason Matthews](#)I don't know if there still is an operating Sparrow School, but I imagine **honey traps** are still used. ... which continues the narrative with the same **characters** (**and** some new ones). There are recruitments, double crosses, despicable traitors, **assassination** attempts, and a desperate ...

[publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/authors/interviews/article/56...](http://publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/authors/interviews/article/56...)

[EU competition commissioner 'concerned' Google is rigging its ...](#)... with competition commissioner Margrethe Vestager formally accusing the **search** giant of rigging its **search engine** and its Android smartphone . Jobs. Jobs; Cars. CarsIreland.ie; Used Car **Search**; Car Dealers; Deals. ... EU competition commissioner 'concerned' **Google** is rigging its **search engine** ...

[independent.ie/business/technology/news/eu-competition-c...](http://independent.ie/business/technology/news/eu-competition-c...)

[Barbara Hartwell Vs. CIA: Honey Trap Trickster? Or CIA Assassin?...](#) **Honey Trap** Trickster? Or CIA Assassin? ... Here's a little sample of Negri's more recent **character assassination** regarding myself and my friends and colleagues Rayelan ... But it's getting late and this 'Former CIA Assassin' and '**Honey Trap** Trickster' has grown tired of typing ...

[barbarahartwellvsCIA.blogspot.com/2006/11/honey-trap-trickster-or-cia-assas...](http://barbarahartwellvsCIA.blogspot.com/2006/11/honey-trap-trickster-or-cia-assas...)

[Julian Assange in the Honey Trap by Justin Raimondo ...](#)Julian Assange in the **Honey Trap**. How they snared him. by Justin ... **character assassination** is an art, to be practiced with a fine attention to detail ... One of the participants in the ensuing conversation describes her as "certainly an odd **character**," who seemed out of ...

[original.antiwar.com/justin/2010/12/07/julian-assange-in-the-h...](http://original.antiwar.com/justin/2010/12/07/julian-assange-in-the-h...)

[Snowden Drip: Government Funded Character Assassination ...](#)Snowden Drip: Government Funded **Character Assassination** Squads Rampant Online From The Intercept: ... the use of "**honey traps**" (luring people into compromising situations using sex) and destructive viruses. But, here, ...

[blog.agupieware.com/2014/02/snowden-drip-government-funded.html](http://blog.agupieware.com/2014/02/snowden-drip-government-funded.html)

By Bob Unruh

Journalist Glenn Greenwald, through whom document-leaker Edward Snowden previously rattled the entire National Security Agency, is now confirming Western intelligence networks strategize to place “trolls” on the Internet to undermine, discredit and destroy critics.

[In an article posted on website Greenwald help create called the Intercept](#), Greenwald reports secret documents from the GCHQ – the United Kingdom’s version of the NSA – reveal “how western intelligence agencies are attempting to manipulate and control online discourse with extreme tactics of deception and reputation-destruction.”

He cites documents from the “previously secret” Joint Threat Research Intelligence Group in the U.K., which describe injecting “all sorts of false material onto the Internet in order to destroy the reputation of its targets” and to use “social sciences and other techniques to manipulate online discourse and activism to generate outcomes it considers desirable.”

“To see how extremist these programs are, just consider the tactics they boast of using to achieve those ends: ‘false flag operations’ (posting material to the Internet and falsely attributing it to someone else), fake victim blog posts (pretending to be a victim of the individual whose reputation they want to destroy), and posting ‘negative information’ on various forums.”

The document lists a “Disruption Operational Playbook” and subheadings titled “Infiltration Operation, Ruse Operation, Set Piece Operation, False Flag Operation, False Rescue Operation, Disruption Operation, Sting Operation.”

[Get “Disinformation: Former Spy Chief Reveals Secret Strategies for Undermining Freedom, Attacking Religion, and Promoting Terrorism” at WND’s Superstore](#)

Regarding how to “discredit a target,” the instructions include, “Set up a honey-trap, change their photos on social networking sites, write a blog purporting to be one of their victims, email/text their colleagues, neighbors, friends etc.”

[Sam Rolley at the Personal Liberty blog](#) wrote that his organization for years has been “warning readers that the well-connected and ruling elite, displeased by this newfound proletariat freedom, have been prolific in attempts to undermine and marginalize information provided by any media outlet unwilling to obey the same unspoken rules that govern the content choices of major media outlets.”

“Now, thanks to the efforts of National Security Agency whistleblower Edward Snowden and journalist Glenn Greenwald, readers no longer have to take the word of ‘paranoid’ bloggers who relate tales of paid government trolls lurking in comment sections and other concentrated top-down efforts to muddy the information provided by alternative media,” Rolley said.

He warned that the “most disturbing confirmation provided in the newly publicized intelligence documents is that spy agencies in Western nations with free speech guarantees have been given carte blanche authority from political leadership to target private individuals and organizations deemed uncooperative with the will of the state with ruthless online reputation-destruction efforts.”

Greenwald said the discussion of many of the techniques “occurs in the context of using them in lieu of ‘traditional law enforcement’ against people suspected (but not charged or convicted) of ordinary crimes or, more broadly still, ‘hacktivism,’ meaning those who use online protest activity for political ends.”

Rolley said it takes “no stretch of the imagination – even for those who have resisted considering the possibility of malevolent intent on government’s part – to assume that the mission of organizations like the NSA and GCHQ is ultimately more about quelling citizen dissent than stopping citizen bloodshed at the hands of terrorists.”

“The mere existence of documents like those published this week,” Rolley said, “provides that the nefarious and long-suspected Internet activities of Western propagandists are not just plausible – they have very likely occurred in the comment sections and social media posts of articles like the one you are reading now.”

WND columnist Eric Rush highlighted the outrageous idea of government agents trying to destroy the reputations of critics.

“It is worth noting that in 2008, Cass Sunstein, an Obama adviser and the White House’s former head of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs ... wrote a paper proposing that the U.S. government engage teams of covert agents and independent, ideologically kindred surrogates to employ *precisely the aforementioned methods* to achieve their objectives,” Rush said.

Greenwald said the “point is that, far beyond hacktivists, these surveillance agencies have vested themselves with the power to deliberately ruin people’s reputations and disrupt their online political activity even though they’ve been charged with no crimes, and even though their actions have no conceivable connection to terrorism or even national security threats.”

Greenwald said the British organization, GCHQ, in response to his questions, said only that it does not comment on intelligence matters.

“Furthermore,” the agency said, “all of GCHQ’s work is carried out in accordance with a strict legal and policy framework which ensures that our activities are authorized, necessary and proportionate, and that there is rigorous oversight, including from the Secretary of State, the Interception and Intelligence Services Commissioners, and the Parliamentary Intelligence and Security Committee.”

“Whatever else is true,” Greenwald wrote, “no government should be able to engage in these tactics: what justification is there for having government agencies target people – who have been charged with no crime – for reputation-destruction, infiltrate online political communities, and develop techniques for manipulating online discourse?”

WND previously has reported on leftist trolls operating online, including those with thousands of postings that would be unlikely to come from someone submitting comments during free time.

The report at the time said the trolls were performing a “disinformation” function typical of counter-intelligence efforts by intelligence agencies to confuse political enemies and refute or deflect opposing

political views that are less susceptible to refutation by more traditional methods of debate and argumentation.

Typically, trolls operating on WND forums were defending Obama by posting specious and diversionary arguments with the goal of changing the subject and obscuring topics that could damage Obama, such as his birth records, life narrative, political history and policy preferences, including his current positions as president.

One was found to have posted nearly 4,800 comments over a two-year period. Another operated under different user names used various email addresses and nine different IP addresses to post 15,200 comments over 787 days on WND.com and FoxNews.com, as well as several smaller news websites, some of which had a local focus or interest.

The report confirmed many of the trolls banned from participating in WND forums appeared to have been operating on a professional level.

Read more at <http://www.wnd.com/2014/02/govt-handbook-for-internet-trolls-uncovered/#lZFg1EdYRI9iTSC8.99>

## THE WHITE HOUSE'S COVERT PRESS OFFICE ATTACK DOG:

### Who Is Gawker Media and Nick Denton? Let's take a look at how the international news media answers that question:

#### [Gawker Media: Hypocrites vs. Douchebanoes](#)

by [Matt Forney](#) For TAKI MAG.com

In 2002, a **failed** British journalist named Nick Denton started *Gawker*, a **bitchy** gossip blog run out of his Manhattan apartment. Over 10 years later, *Gawker* and its sister sites have become the biggest names in clickbait “journalism,” pulling down millions of visitors a month and making its owner a millionaire several times over. The secret to Denton’s success? He took the aggressive, **lynch mob mentality** of British tabloids, which **specialize in ruining people’s lives**, and injected it into [America’s comparatively placid, Oprahfied media market](#).

In particular, *Gawker*, *Jezebel*, *Valleywag*, and their sister sites specialize in witch hunts: digital vigilantism against those who fail to keep up with leftist orthodoxy. [Geoffrey Miller](#), [Pax Dickinson](#), [Justine Tunney](#), [Violentacrez](#): the list of people whom *Gawker* has garroted for “racism” or “misogyny” could fill a phone book. With an army of Twitter twits behind it, Gawker Media truly is the moral majority of the left, **instigating mob action** against those who sin against the religion of *tolerance*. *Gawker*’s provocations are even encouraging real-world violence now, as *Valleywag*’s overfed man-baby of an editor Sam Biddle [eggs on attacks against San Francisco tech](#)

[workers](#) from the safety of the East Coast.

Video Player

[http://www.corruptionnewsdc.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/SPIES-WHO-WENT-ROGUE\\_-THE-IN-Q-TEL-STORY.102d.mp4](http://www.corruptionnewsdc.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/SPIES-WHO-WENT-ROGUE_-THE-IN-Q-TEL-STORY.102d.mp4)

00:00

Use Left/Right Arrow keys to advance one second, Up/Down arrows to advance ten seconds.00:00

18:53

Use Up/Down Arrow keys to increase or decrease volume.

**“Which makes the revelation that Denton has been allowing trolls to terrorize his female employees all the more delicious.”**

For the past few months, 4chan has been engaged in a trolling operation against *Jezebel*, [posting pictures of rape and gore porn in the comments section](#). Despite the fact that these shocking and disgusting images are stressing out staffers to the point where they’re developing PTSD, Denton has steadfastly refused to do anything about the problem. *Jezebel*’s staff recently snapped and [posted an open letter on the site](#) demanding that Gawker Media do something, calling 4chan’s trolling “a very real and immediate threat to the mental health of *Jezebel*’s staff and readers.”

Fat chance of this happening, however. [As others have pointed out](#), Gawker Media’s business model depends on getting clicks; indeed, [their writers are paid according to how many page views their articles get](#). Since comments help drive traffic to websites, fighting 4chan’s rape porn trolling will reduce *Gawker*’s profitability. Not only that, [Google itself ranks web pages according to how many comments they have](#), as comments are extremely difficult to fake. Fewer comments means a lower page rank, which translates into less search traffic and less money for Denton to blow on exotic vacations with his boy-toy hubby. If Gawker Media was willing to testify in federal court as to [why they should be allowed to rip off their interns](#), you can bet your bottom peso that they aren’t going to do jack about this.

Gawker Media Attack Specialist Adrian Covert of San Francisco. Now under 24/7 electronic surveillance for “suspicious activities”

And there’s the punch line. Gawker Media, the company that gets people fired from their jobs for making “sexist” jokes, has been creating a hostile work environment for its women staffers for *months*. They’re the leftist equivalent of a priest who rails against homosexuality only to be caught molesting altar boys in the confessional booths. In staying silent on this for so long, Dodai Stewart, [Lindy West](#), and *Jezebel*’s other star employees have shown themselves to be frauds. They don’t care about feminism, “fat shaming,” or whatever cause they’re screeching about today; all they care about is money and power. And now we have the proof.

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### [Advertisers Ditch Gawker Media In Droves. “Brand Tainted” says Forbes Exec. Gawker’s](#)

[Denton Sweats Over Decline in Web Ad Revenues – CBS News](#) **Gawker Media’s** Nick Denton has made a horrible prediction regarding internet adspend for the next year: ... **Gawker’s** Denton Sweats Over Decline in Web **Ad Revenues**. Shares Tweets Stumble ... But the web **ad** economy as a whole will be the beneficiary of **falling** budgets.

[cbsnews.com/news/gawkers-denton-sweats-over-decline-i...](http://cbsnews.com/news/gawkers-denton-sweats-over-decline-i...)

[More from cbsnews.com](#)

### [Nick Denton charged with ordering phone-hacking, helping Anonymous hackers, stealing Mitt Romney’s tax records, hiding money in Russia and Caymans and MORE...IS GAWKER MEDIA THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY’S “PLAUSIBLE DENI-ABILITY” HIT SQUAD? STILL MORE... ‘Straight To Hell:’ Reflections On Annie, Gawker ...](#)

I feel like I’m probably going straight to **hell** for all of this. But, given all the other shitty ... Emily Ratajkowski entertainment expats facebook **Gawker Gawker Media** gender hipsters Hollywood Hugh Hefner inter-racial dating internet Jezebel Julia Allison korea liberalism ...

[migukin.wordpress.com/2014/08/06/straight-to-hell-reflections-o...](http://migukin.wordpress.com/2014/08/06/straight-to-hell-reflections-o...)

[More from migukin.wordpress.com](#)

[Terror](#)– John Cook of Gawker; now of Greenwald – NOT CIA’S FRIEND!Gawker Tries to Reveal Identity of CIA Agent Behind Bin Laden KillBy [Jana Winter](#)

[FoxNews.com](#)

May 1: Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden, along with with members of the national security team, receive an update on the mission against Usama bin Laden in the Situation Room of the White House.APThe Gawker website is under fire for trying to expose the CIA agent who may have helped lead the effort to kill [Usama Bin Laden](#) — despite efforts by the U.S. government and media to keep his identity secret for security reasons.

Using red arrows pointing to a full-length picture and close-up photos of the possible agent, Gawker reporter [John Cook](#) on July 6 wrote a piece under the headline “Is This the Guy Who Killed Bin Laden?” The story has since sparked an angry response from former intelligence agents — as well as Gawker’s own readers — who say Cook’s post was irresponsible and could have deadly consequences.

“This whole business of exposing people is a real serious matter. It’s not entertainment, some people may think it is, but it’s not ... There are real people out there that are going to be killed because of this,” said Charles Faddis, a former CIA operations officer who spent 20 years working international hot spots and who headed the CIA’s Terrorist Weapons of Mass Destruction Unit before retiring in 2008.

“I don’t have a lot of patience for this,” added Faddis, speaking about attempts to out the identity of a

CIA operative. “This is serious, this is really serious. It’s completely irresponsible.”

Some Gawker readers also weren’t amused. A commenter named “Myrna Minkoff” wrote in response to Cook’s story:

*“If this is the guy who tracked down Bin Laden, I can think of no better way to thank him for his outstanding civil service than by outing him on a highly trafficked web site and putting his career, his life, the lives of his loved ones in danger. Hooray!”*

Another commenter “joelydanger” wrote:

*“Consider that the next time you decide to write another article that tries to glorify DEVGRU, the CIA, or anyone and anything else used on the mission. You’re causing harm and danger to the very people you’re claiming to be heroes.”*

But Cook insisted he didn’t compromise anyone’s security by posting the photos.

“I do not believe my post put anybody in physical danger,” Cook said in an email response to several questions posed by FoxNews.com. “I do not believe that people whose photographs are distributed by the White House as part of its public relations efforts have a reasonable claim to ask that no one speculate as to who they are.”

Cook was referring to a series of official White House pictures taken from the Situation Room during the raid on Bin Laden’s compound in Pakistan. The most famous of those photos, seen on televisions, newspapers and websites around the world, showed [President Obama](#), Vice President Biden, Secretary of State [Hillary Clinton](#), Defense Secretary [Robert Gates](#) and other officials watching a live feed of the raid.

Barely visible in that photo is the right jacket arm and the bottom of a necktie that appear to belong to a tall man standing behind Gates. Other pictures taken in the Situation Room during the raid, posted on the White House Flickr feed, show full-on shots of a tall man whose jacket and tie appear to match those of the man standing behind Gates in the earlier photo.

On July 5, the Associated Press published an extensive article on a CIA agent who led the hunt and eventual takedown of Bin Laden. The article referred to the agent only as “John,” explaining: “The Associated Press has agreed to the CIA’s request not to publish his full name and withhold certain biographical details so that he would not become a target for retribution.”

Later that same day, the website Cryptome, a [Wikileaks](#) competitor that publishes leaked, sometimes classified documents and information, used clues from the AP article to home in on photos from the [White House](#) Flickr feed and other AP photos that might show “John.” The article noted that “John” appeared just out of frame in the famous photo.

The following day, Cook picked up the Cryptome info and published the photos from the White House Flickr feed, beneath the “Is This the Guy Who Killed Bin Laden?” headline. Cook’s post also included an AP file photo of CIA Director Leon Panetta leaving a briefing on Capitol Hill, where the man who may be “John” is seen in the background.

“Of course, it could be a random staffer who happened to be in both locations with John,” Cook wrote. “Or it could be the guy who iced bin Laden.”

The New York Observer posted a story late Tuesday that claimed to have confirmed the identity of the CIA agent, starting with the AP article and the Situation Room photo, and it posted photos online of the man it said was the agent.

Cook said he and his Gawker editors discussed potential safety concerns before publishing the information and photos.

“We came to the conclusion that it is highly unlikely that the White House would distribute for publication a photograph of a man whose life would be endangered if his photograph were ever published. Likewise, we decided that it is highly unlikely that such a man would publicly accompany the director of Central Intelligence, in the presence of AP photographers, to Capitol Hill to testify.”

But those White House photos do not identify the man in question, only noting that the group of people are “members of the national security team,” numerous Gawker commenters pointed out.

“*You seem to have not noticed that they took great pains to make sure his face wasn’t in the shot and he was never identified by name,*” Myrna Minkoff wrote, when another commenter challenged her criticism of the Gawker post.

Other commenters chimed in.

“*Sure it’ll put him, his friends, and his family in danger regardless of whether or not he’s actually the guy, but it’ll generate some pageviews and advertiser revenue, and that’s the IMPORTANT thing, right?*” wrote someone using the name “dgoat.”

“*You should still be ashamed of yourselves.*”

[Sortie en mer](#) Embarquez pour une expérience interactive et immersive. ... speakers and fullscreen recommended

[sortieenmer.com/?lang=en](http://sortieenmer.com/?lang=en)

[More from sortieenmer.com](#)

[One Denton Bio | Gawker Media LLC and Nick Denton- The ...](#) The headquarters of **Gawker Media**, ... (Ironically, it was one of the few things he’s ever done mainly for the **hell** of it.) ... Blog at WordPress.com. Follow. Follow “**Gawker Media LLC and Nick Denton- The Killing of Babies ...**

[gawkerhell.wordpress.com/2012/08/27/one-denton-bio/](http://gawkerhell.wordpress.com/2012/08/27/one-denton-bio/)

[More from gawkerhell.wordpress](#)

[“Gawker is the most vile and evil example of the written word in history”, says employee. What Gawker Media Is Doing About Our Rape Gif Problem](#) On Monday, we posted an open letter to the management of **Gawker Media**, our parent company, regarding an ongoing problem that we here at Jezebel could no longer tolerate: horribly violent rape gifs that were consistently appearing in our

comments. For months, we asked **Gawker Media** HQ for help with

[jezebel.com/what-gawker-media-is-doing-about-our-rape...](http://jezebel.com/what-gawker-media-is-doing-about-our-rape...)

[More from jezebel.com](#)

[Jezebel calls out \*\*Gawker Media\*\* for failing to address ...](#) Jezebel calls out **Gawker Media** for failing to address incessant misogynist comments ... we'd report the **hell** out of it here and cite it as another example of employers failing to take the safety of its female employees seriously.

[salon.com/2014/08/11/jezebel\\_calls\\_out\\_gawker\\_media...](http://salon.com/2014/08/11/jezebel_calls_out_gawker_media...)

[More from salon.com](#)

[Gawker and the Rage of the Creative Underclass — New York ...](#) Everybody **Sucks Gawker** and the rage of the creative underclass. By Vanessa Grigoriadis; Published Oct 14, 2007 ; ... **Gawker** made its debut under the leadership of Nick Denton, the complicated owner of the blog network **Gawker Media**, ...

[nymag.com/news/features/39319/](http://nymag.com/news/features/39319/)

[More from nymag.com](#)

[Gawker Sucks and Here is Why | The Writings](#) Perhaps you, like everyone else who uses the web, likes to visit gossip sites like **Gawker**. I have had it with those sites. Their trade is in lies, deception, ...

**Gawker Sucks** Even More | **Gawker Media**. Leave a Reply Cancel reply. Enter your comment here ...

[neobiblical.wordpress.com/2011/04/07/gawker-sucks-and-here-is-why/](http://neobiblical.wordpress.com/2011/04/07/gawker-sucks-and-here-is-why/)

[More from neobiblical.wordpress.com](#)

[Gawker Sucks – “Free Beacon” — Breaking News, Politics ...](#) **Gawker Sucks**. Share. Tweet. Email. ... It is unclear to me how **Gawker Media's** actions are materially different from, say, Napster circa 2000 when it was sued out of existence for facilitating the illicit downloads of copyright material. Who knows.

[freebeacon.com/blog/gawker-sucks/](http://freebeacon.com/blog/gawker-sucks/)

[More from freebeacon.com](#)

[Who else hates \*\*Gawker Media\*\*? – Boycott-Gawker-And-Gizmodo](#) Who else hates **Gawker Media**?

Nobody who works at **Gawker**/Gizmodo/etc. should ever work again! Butt handed to **Gawker**; ...

<http://juicedsportsblog.com/2008/05/gawker-media-sucks.html> <http://suckreport.com/search/gawker>

<http://tomsucks.wordpress.com/2008/05/14/gawker-sucks/>

[boycott-gawker-and-gizmodo.weebly.com/who-else-hates-gawker-media.html](http://boycott-gawker-and-gizmodo.weebly.com/who-else-hates-gawker-media.html)

[More from boycott-gawker-and-gizmodo.weebly.com](#)

[Why Digg Really Sucks and \*\*Gawker Media\*\* Probably Does Too ...](#) Right on. I won't say that most of the stuff on Digg is bad. It's just not that great. Meh. But I really agree with you that there are way too

many “me too” blog posts out there.

[imaginaryplanet.net/weblogs/idiotprogrammer/2007/06/why-digg-...](http://imaginaryplanet.net/weblogs/idiotprogrammer/2007/06/why-digg-...)

[More from imaginaryplanet.net](http://imaginaryplanet.net)

[New Statesman | Reddit blocks Gawker in defence of its right ...](#) Links from **Gawker** are banned from /r/politics, after journalist threatens to reveal the identity of the man running Reddit’s “creepshots”, “beatingwomen” and “jailbait” forums.

[newstatesman.com/blogs/internet/2012/10/reddit-blocks-gawk...](http://newstatesman.com/blogs/internet/2012/10/reddit-blocks-gawk...)

[More from newstatesman.com](http://newstatesman.com)

[Gawker Sucks | Exposing “Gawker Medias” racist Slants one ...](#) **Gawker Media** gets traffic with copyrighted material? I find this bit even more interesting, ... Follow “**Gawker Sucks**” Get every new post delivered to your Inbox. Powered by WordPress.com ...

[gawkersucks.wordpress.com](http://gawkersucks.wordpress.com)

[More from gawkersucks.wordpress.com](http://gawkersucks.wordpress.com)

[Gawker Sucks – blogspot.com](#) **Gawker Sucks** Sunday, August 24, 2014. ... Earlier today, Joel Johnson announced **Gawker** was disabling all image uploads in their comments. ... And you can be sure the top guys at **Gawker Media**, like Joel Johnson, are now looking into it!

[gawkersucks.blogspot.com](http://gawkersucks.blogspot.com)

[More from gawkersucks.blogspot](http://gawkersucks.blogspot)

[Gawker Sucks: Finding Mobutu](#) **Gawker Sucks**. Sunday, December 9, 2012. Finding Mobutu. Most people reading this are probably familiar with **Gawker Media** properties.

[gawkersucks.blogspot.com/2012/12/finding-mobutu.html](http://gawkersucks.blogspot.com/2012/12/finding-mobutu.html)

[More from gawkersucks.blogspot.com](http://gawkersucks.blogspot.com)

[Gawker Media とは – goo Wikipedia \(ウィキペディア\)](#) **Gawker Media**. From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. Vanessa Grigoriadis, “Everybody **Sucks: Gawker** and the rage of the creative underclass, New York magazine, October 22, 2007.

[wpedia.goo.ne.jp/enwiki/Gawker Media](http://wpedia.goo.ne.jp/enwiki/Gawker_Media)

[More from wpedia.goo.ne.jp](http://wpedia.goo.ne.jp)

[Gawker Media – Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia](#) **Gawker Media** is a Cayman Islands<sup>1</sup> corporation online **media** company and blog network, founded and owned by Nick Denton based in New York City. It is considered<sup>2</sup> to be one of the most visible and successful blog-oriented **media** companies.citation As of March 2012...

[wikipedia.sfstate.us/Gawker Media](http://wikipedia.sfstate.us/Gawker_Media)

[More from wikipedia.sfstate.us](http://wikipedia.sfstate.us)

[Gawker Writers Have to Work Weekends Now Too | New York Observer](http://www.nyobserver.com/2008/12/gawker-writers-have-to-work-weekends-now-too) **Nick Denton**, for his part, said that the weekend plan is “nothing new,” and that in the first half of the year, ... and said he thinks it “**sucks.**” Share this: Facebook; Twitter; Google; LinkedIn; Print; Email; Filed under: Alex Pareene, Gabriel Snyder, Gawker, **Nick Denton**, The Media Mob. Comment .

[observer.com/2008/12/gawker-writers-have-to-work-weekends-now-too](http://observer.com/2008/12/gawker-writers-have-to-work-weekends-now-too)

[More from observer.com](http://observer.com)

[Nick Denton – Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nick_Denton) **Nick Denton**, born 24 August 1966, is a British journalist and internet entrepreneur, the founder and proprietor of the blog collective Gawker Media, and the managing editor of the New York-based Gawker.com.

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nick\\_Denton](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nick_Denton)

[More from en.wikipedia.org](http://en.wikipedia.org)

[Shots In The Dark: Why Gawker Sucks](http://richardbradley.net/2005/11/why-gawker-sucks.html) I was just googling “Gawker **sucks**” and this came up making a very clear point of why I was googling this phrase in the first place. They’re not even funny.

[richardbradley.net/2005/11/why-gawker-sucks.html](http://richardbradley.net/2005/11/why-gawker-sucks.html)

[More from richardbradley.net](http://richardbradley.net)

Oh my! Gawker’s Nick Denton’s ex boyfriend is not happy with his new boy toy.

By [Christopher Koulouris](http://sallywagandvagabond.com) For <http://sallywagandvagabond.com>

Frankly there’s nothing more delicious than watching someone famous for ripping people’s alive (yes journalism sucks these days) apart become his own parody on manners and gossip. That said there was a twinkle of relish when I came across **page 6**’s interesting expose on [Nick Denton](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nick_Denton), the media zealot of **Gawker media** (which owns a smattering of salacious dribble including **gawker**, **jezebel**, **deadspin**, **lifehacker** and **jalopnik**) who has suddenly found himself the scorn of a former jealous and one imagines scorned lover.

**page 6: Gadfly Gawker Media head Nick Denton recently changed his Facebook status from single to “in a relationship,” but not everyone seems to be happy about it.**

**Sources say an angry ex of his new boyfriend tossed a brick through the window of Denton’s SoHo loft building recently, and has been causing enough further trouble that the police have been contacted.**

Not to drift too much from Nick but I too was quite aghast when I decided to publicly note that I was no longer single but in a relationship on Facebook (for some reason I was quite surprised by the number of people who responded to what I perceived to be something really quite arbitrary and of little consequence in the world scheme of things, but yes people do pay attention it seems) which perhaps might explain the sudden attention that Mr Denton received when he publicly decided to note that he

was in fact now no longer a pedophile or single.

Of course who also noted one assumes is a scorned former lover of the media titan who felt compelled enough to go smashing bricks into his former lover's abode. And perhaps with good reason as it appears Mr Denton's attentions have now turned to presumably a nimble agile and quite pretty young man ( 28 year old **Derrence Washington**) who it appears is an English actor here in NYC on tour (permanent tour one supposes).

What perhaps make the intrusion even more charming (not to suggest they are ever charming) is Mr Denton's own acknowledgment that he is now being served the same dish he is well known famous for serving up on a regular basis.

**When we asked Denton about the incidents, he told us via e-mail: "After that Hulk Hogan sex tape on Gawker, I can hardly complain about intrusion into my private life!**

**"Yep, love is messy," he added.**

Indeed love and gossip are quite messy but that said I'm betting Mr Denton is loving every minute of it. If I could suggest one thing Mr Denton, perhaps if you were to send a bouquet to the former lover it may temper their ire. I know it worked for me once. Oh dear...

above image found [here](#)

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[Who owns the Gawker Media company? – Ask questions, Find ...](#)... Who owns the **Gawker Media** company? : ... Jossip founder David Hauslaib estimated **Gawker.com**'s annual advertising **revenue** to be at least \$1 ... but someone else will have better luck selling the advertising than we did."[5] In a fall 2008 memo Denton announced the layoff of "19 of our ...

[askville.amazon.com/owns-Gawker-Media-company/AnswerViewer.do...](http://askville.amazon.com/owns-Gawker-Media-company/AnswerViewer.do...)

[More from askville.amazon.com](http://askville.amazon.com)

NICK DENTON SAYS, ON CAMERA, TO NBC, THAT HE MAKES A LIVING DESTROYING PEOPLE:<http://jimromenesko.com/2012/03/06/gawkers-nick-denton-talks-to-nbcs-rock-center/>

Billionaire industrialists are campaign backers who hire writers/bloggers (known as "shills") who sell their services as character assassins. There is also a [whole industry of character-assassins-for-hire today](#). They work for corporations, [tabloids](#), investment groups and political organizations. The largest groups of them are in New York City and Silicon Valley. Their job is to destroy people and things. Their attacks on competing product innovations are the most prevalent. In the old days, it used to be cheaper to destroy your competitor than buy their stuff. Now, that is no longer true but they still try it anyway.

[Good Inventors](#) have built, patented, and launched some technologies that threatened billions of dollars of existing companies who were doing things the old-fashioned way. Some of them got unhappy and thought it might be cheaper to start trouble rather than pay for the technology that they later ended

up copying. History has shown that the big-company-IP-theives were always wrong on that assumption, and that it was always cheaper in cash and bad PR recovery to have paid the inventor in the first place. Stealing IP never pays.

As part of the [Playbook](#) for attacking a new competing technology, the big competing entities hire digital THUGS to attack and seek to destroy the new, better, competing technology.

During the on-going IP theiving, a very aggressive group of companies launched a character attack on the inventors who "sort of reported them" to federal law enforcement agencies for stealing federal tax money, in the course of trying to control the market that the inventors had embarked on, and some of the bad-guy insider people got fired, some had to quit big government jobs and some got indicted (Over \$25B+ in tax revenue is still missing and investigations are ongoing). It is the same five people, but they have spent millions of dollars on their character attack effort against the inventors. So far, the results are that they just keep getting in more trouble and the inventors they targeted get more jobs because the bad guys made such a stink. (It helps when a large number of Senators, major newspapers and federal prosecutors are backing the inventors up and when the bad guys found out that every communication they engaged in was under surveillance and archived.)

Because these are [standard "Playbook" attack articles](#), the authors never interview those they are ordered to attack. In fact, they go to great lengths to make sure none of their targets are interviewed or allowed to provide counter-points in advance. They never allow the targets to fact-check the attack articles because they don't want any factual data in their articles. Their attacks are contrived to simply be malicious, fake, damaging efforts to seek to destroy the lives of their targets and curtail or impede business, delay financing and slow public policy efforts. While the inventors have assisted major press, citizens groups and federal agencies with investigations that have caught the bad guys engaged in crimes, the hired blogger and attack writers are ordered to seek to punish those inventor/advocates for doing the right thing. There are usually only a couple of nasty attack articles, but the bad guys spend vast amounts of money to replicate them everywhere they can, and artificially stick them to the top of search engines. Some bad guys that do this, pay off the investors in search engine companies to have those search engines results artificially manipulated in order to keep the negative attack information at the top of the results in order to maliciously cause as much damage as possible.

The decades of thousands of positive, factual, fair and unbiased articles and references about those the inventors they attack, and their projects, stand in stark contrast to the few attack articles by the same entity operating under a variety of pseudonyms.

These people, some of them associated with the highest levels of government, have hired a tabloid organization, which owns many tabloids under different names, as their covert mouthpiece, to publish character attacks and purchase synthetically manipulated search engine result rankings from friendly search engine owners (Now under investigation). Multiple well know [politicians](#) have been attacked in the same manner and each has now hired investigators to confirm algorithm manipulation.

Why is this point a big deal? Because small companies that sell their ideas have a large suite of issued patents, validated by millions of dollars of outside appraisal third-party review, which they designed

and engineered. They don't "troll", these are their in-house products. It is their bread-and-butter. The U.S. Government, The international industrial press, executed NDA's, industry awards, published broadcast videos, documented presentations, patent documents, public demonstrations, published communications and other hard data prove, beyond question, that the handful of things that those other companies copied; were created first by them. In most of these cases, those few things just happen to have all been big hits in global markets.

Some of these inventors intellectual property is quite controversial because they were the first to create a few things that others, years later, copied and made billions of dollars on. Those others do not like people to know some of their things were not invented by them. They all feel that "Big companies can't steal from small inventors and get away with it, with impunity."

When major companies in a few large industries get caught stealing IP assets, violating the law, or both; they get unhappy and hire "Swift-Boat"-type cyberbully attack bloggers. The authors of those attack articles are also most of the commenters in the comments-section under each article, commenting under hundreds of different fake names. It is an honor that the bad guys wish to acknowledge the effectiveness of these inventor's by attacking them with a malicious PR strike. It is good to know that they think their inventions and public policy efforts are that productive.

Law enforcement agencies, public policy law firms, constitutional lawyers and media investigators have now begun to successfully prosecuted those who sell their services as character destroyers.

Most intelligent people would not judge someone based on one read of a tabloid article no less credible than the rags at a supermarket check-out stand about actresses weight problems. Alas, some readers are not very smart and do not think to seek counter-point viewpoints.

The references, track-record and durability of the inventors that are attacked speak for themselves as positive credibility.

These product designers have always started a company to commercially sell the products they developed entrepreneurially, or, their products were produced for a corporate client or agency. Sometimes, though, a big copy-cat group floods out those start-up ventures with counter-marketing, so the inventor is forced to market the IP assets to create an effective ROI for their investors. A smart inventor always arranges for their investors and partners to be routed to their ROI by either selling the product in retail or commercial markets or selling/licensing the IP.

A savvy inventor has no intention of ending up like Philo Farnsworth, Robert Kearns, Preston Tucker or [the folks in this link](#). They intend to be alive and enjoying the benefits of the things they built so they will always fight for fairness, against the bullies who take things, who believe they are too big to be spanked.

**[TO SEE AN ACTUAL EXAMPLE OF A TAKE  
DOWN ATTACK ON AN INVENTOR - CLICK](#)**

# HERE

## **The Copy Cat Playbook**

If you make something that actually makes a difference in the world, it will often be attacked by the people who make the thing that it competes with.

### **The standard Playbook play they will use against you is:**

**A. Big company hears about a competing effort**

**B. Big company orders a hit on competing effort**

**C. Hit-team thugs, working for big company, launch counter-measure campaign consisting of:**

**1- Attack articles creating non-existent questions about the new technology are generated**

**2- Attack articles character-attacking the creators of the new technology are generated**

**3- Phone calls, and fake negative "whitepapers" to potential investors in the new technology to leverage them from investing**

**D. After stalling competing effort, big company copies competing technology directly or sets up "front company" they later "acquire".**

The people attacking you want to minimize your power to achieve. They will use every dirty trick in the book to stop you from affecting their profits if you have a product or service that is actually good. For example; they will author a character assassination blog, article or letter and then call your employers HR department and say: "Hey, did you see this thing about one of your employees", and you will be mysteriously fired the next day. Then they will post links and references to it in all of the employment databases to make it very hard for you to get another job.

The upside is that anybody who denies you a job because of this can be subpoenaed, all of their phone calls and files can be subpoenaed, their workmates can be subpoenaed. If you can find that you lost any income or work because of anything the character attackers did, you can sue them and win.

## **Inventors+ Who Changed the World and Got Screwed in Return**

By [Karl Smallwood](#), [Mike Floorwalker](#) March 03, 2013

As we've [discussed before](#), just because your hard work and perseverance led you to create something that changes the world, it doesn't mean that you'll get fame, fortune, or the slightest bit of recognition out of it. In fact, some inventors get so little credit that we completely forgot about them in our previous article, and since we really don't like angering the [ghosts](#) of people who could probably invent a way to punch us from beyond the grave, here they are.

### **#6. Siegel and Shuster, Superman's Creators**

**Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster** created Superman, the most famous superhero ever, perhaps with the exception of Spider-Man or that kid who changes the channel with his eyes in *X2*.

Debuting in 1938, Superman was an instant success. DC Comics soon followed up the "man in underpants punches criminals" concept with Batman, and that was it, there was no turning back: Siegel and Shuster's creation had started a multibillion-dollar industry that is still going strong today, spawning toys, T-shirts, and, oh yeah, some of the highest-grossing movies of all time.

Nice one, Siegel and Shuster!

[Alan Light](#) "Take it from us, kids: Work hard, change the world, and you too can see *absolutely no reward* from it!"

*But Then They Got Screwed*

"Nice one, Siegel and Shuster" is exactly what DC must have said, in a sarcastic tone, when the duo famously sold them all rights to Superman for a measly \$130, a check that's now ironically worth [hundreds of thousands of dollars](#).

At the time, no one suspected that the guy in blue pajamas that they'd been drawing would turn into a cultural icon -- so when he did, and Siegel and Shuster continued getting squat, the pair embarked on perhaps the longest clusterfuck in copyright history.

The duo spent the better part of their lives unsuccessfully trying to reclaim some part of their creation, only to be rebuffed time and time again. While DC raked in billions from Superman alone, Siegel and Shuster lived the [lives of paupers](#). They were given a yearly pension in the late 1970s by Warner Bros. (which had purchased DC), but only because the studio couldn't afford the bad publicity with a Superman movie on the way.

In 1999, three years after Siegel died, his family successfully won the rights to his half of his creation. A happy ending, right? Nope! This meant dick to Warner Bros., who still refused to pay them a penny, leaving them to fight in court for another 10 fucking years. And the superdickery continues: More recently, [documents disappeared](#) from Siegel's daughter's attorney's office and somehow wound up in the hands of Warner Bros. executives.

## **#5. Philo T. Farnsworth, the Farm Boy Who Invented Television**

**Philo Farnsworth**, besides having the supreme honor of inspiring a *Futurama* character, was a serial inventor with a list of credited [patents](#) longer than his forehead.

Among those patents was the one that made television possible: an "image dissector" that could capture images as a series of lines to be displayed electronically. If that isn't impressive enough for you, consider the fact that Farnsworth came up with the idea [at age 14](#), while growing up on a farm in Idaho, and first demonstrated it at 21, in 1927. If that didn't make you feel bad about yourself, it should have.

*But Then He Got Screwed*

When the young inventor applied for a patent at age 20, David Sarnoff of the Radio Corporation of

America took notice. Radio had a pretty cozy spot at the center of the American living room at this point, and Sarnoff wasn't interested in letting that change. And if it did, then he would at least make sure that RCA would be the one getting rich from it.

Sarnoff kept Farnsworth tied in a series of legal battles over the next decade using a number of bullshit tactics, like [hiring a Russian inventor to spy on him](#) or using said inventor's earlier patents (which they could never get to work) to argue that *he* had invented TV. At one point Sarnoff just said "Fuck it" and started making TVs without paying Farnsworth. RCA was eventually forced to pay him a one-time \$1 million licensing fee, but it wasn't worth the emotional stress that had left the man crippled.

Then the whole television business was put on hold when the '40s rolled around and the government told everyone to focus on building things that could kill Germans. The final blow came when Farnsworth's patents expired just as World War II ended ... and, what do you know, television sales skyrocketed. RCA, or anyone else for that matter, no longer had to even pretend to give a shit about paying Farnsworth for his invention.

It wasn't until 20 years after his death that the government decided that Farnsworth probably deserved some recognition. No shit.

Following Farnsworth's final wishes, his statue is about to insert something into Sarnoff's anus.

#### **#4. Edwin H. Armstrong, the Father of FM Radio**

When is the last time you listened to AM radio? Intentionally? The sound quality is so bad that most of the programming is reduced to things that already sound like shit, like conservative talk radio or a single, never-ending religious sermon in Spanish.

The much superior FM was invented by [Edwin Armstrong](#), who created a system to reduce interference across radio bands in the 1910s. He continued his lifelong vendetta against crappy sound in the '20s, when he came up with frequency modulation (FM) as a way to reduce static. We will now reiterate that he developed all this technology nearly 100 years ago, and it's still present in all modern radios.

#### *But Then He Got Screwed*

Things seemed to be going swimmingly for Armstrong for a while, but it was at this point that a remarkably smug asshole came into the picture.

Yes, David fucking Sarnoff from RC-fucking-A proceeded to mess with the life of yet another world-changing inventor. Sarnoff had built his empire with AM radio, so he decided that if FM was the way of the future, then he'd do anything possible to pull a John Connor on that future. Since Armstrong wouldn't relinquish his patent, Sarnoff made sure that RCA not only stopped supporting the development of the new technology, but actively tried to stop it.

In 1937, Armstrong used money from his own pocket to build the [very first FM radio station](#). Another followed, then another, until by the mid '40s a string of stations known as the [Yankee Network](#) were busy convincing everyone of the superiority of FM, just by existing. And then it all stopped.

In a dick move of epic proportions, Sarnoff [successfully lobbied the FCC](#) to move the FM band to a different place on the dial, from 42 to 50 MHz to 88 to 108 MHz. While there were somewhat valid technical reasons for this, a happy side effect for RCA was that it made all of Armstrong's stations instantly obsolete.

It took decades for FM radio to recover. In the late '70s, it finally surpassed AM, but Armstrong was long gone by then, having committed suicide in 1954 by jumping from the 13th floor of his office building, presumably screaming "FUCK SARNOOOOOOFFFF" all the way down.

### **#3. John Walker, Inventor of the Match**

About [500 billion matches are used every year](#) in the United States -- that's the kind of volume you can do when your product sets itself on fire with every use. Before the invention of self-igniting friction matches, people simply used sticks that caught on fire when you, y'know, put them near fire.

This changed when **John Walker**, an English chemist born in 1871, began coating sticks in a number of dangerous-sounding chemicals until he happened upon one that, when struck against a surface, erupted in flames. Other self-igniting matches had been tried before, but they were extremely impractical, by which we mean that a lot of people probably lost their eyebrows or worse using them.

And clearly, eyebrows were very important to this man.

Walker's invention caught on fire, both literally and figuratively, and we still keep matches around today, despite the fact that we've all heard of lighters.

#### *But Then He Got Screwed*

Walker, unaware of the potential of his invention, worked on these new "friction lights" for about a year, then promptly forgot about the whole thing and stopped selling them. People close to him implored Walker to [patent his friction light](#), since he'd just revolutionized the creation of fire and all. Walker declined, believing that his invention could better benefit mankind without a patent.

Others, however, believed that Walker's invention could better benefit mankind by making them rich.

Getty- "How does fire help humanity if it doesn't allow me to buy prostitutes?"

In 1829, another inventor named Isaac Holden independently came up with an improved version of Walker's friction matches. Like Walker, Holden [neglected to patent his idea](#) ... and that's where one Samuel Jones came in. Jones, realizing that Walker and Holden had effectively created one of the most useful inventions in the history of civilization and weren't making money from it, decided to do it on their behalf, because he was nice like that.

Almost immediately, Jones patented [the exact same thing](#) and began selling it under the name "Lucifers," because fuck it -- if you're gonna be evil, you might as well go to the source. Soon other brands began offering improved versions of the same thing, all for a price, of course. It wasn't until they were all dead that Walker was credited for his invention, and Jones for being a douchebag.

### **#2. Stephen Foster, the Father of American Music**

There are some tunes that you're just born knowing. If we somehow forced you to hum a melody right now, chances are that a great number of you would go with something like "Oh! Susanna":

Or "Camptown Races" (you know, the one that goes "doo-da, doo-da"):

Or maybe something more nostalgic, like "Old Folks at Home":

Man, can you imagine if all these songs had been written by the same guy, and that he'd been actively trying to get money from them? That dude would have been richer than Madonna and Bono combined.

Actually, all those songs and more *were* written by the same person, and he *did* try to cash in on them -- the keyword being "try."

Then "she" came around the mountain and snatched up all his royalties.

*But Then He Got Screwed*

In the 1800s, **Stephen Foster** wrote classics like "My Old Kentucky Home" and "Beautiful Dreamer" and [over 200 other songs](#). Foster was a professional songwriter before those existed. Seriously: The profession literally [did not exist](#) before Foster trailblazed it like a motherfucker.

Of course, the problem with being the first in his profession was that there were no such things as "enforcing copyright" or "not screwing over songwriters" back then. Today, Foster would have earned obscene amounts of money from "Oh! Susanna" alone, but in 1848, [he got exactly \\$100](#) for the rights to publish the sheet music, while the publisher made \$10,000 selling his work.

Even when Foster became a minor celebrity, he continued getting nothing but pennies for every copy of his work that was sold. For his dozens of hit songs, he saw around \$15,000 in royalties in his whole life. In the 1860s, he was dumped by his wife, who had probably had enough of sticking around with this dude who *wrote* like a rock star, and *drank* like a rock star, but was not *rich* like one. He died at the age of 37 after hitting his head on a washbasin, with around 40 cents in his pocket.

Some of which were melted down to make this statue.

His contributions can't be overstated. Not only did he create most of the conventions of popular songwriting as we know them today, but he also demonstrated the need for intellectual property laws by getting repeatedly screwed.

## **#1. Gary Kildall, the Father of the Operating System**

**Gary Kildall** is one of the guys we have to thank for the fact that you don't need to be a genius to use the ultra advanced computer you are looking at right now to search for porn. Thank you, Gary.

In 1973, Kildall made life a lot easier for nerds everywhere when he created CP/M, a groundbreaking operating system for microcomputers (which is what they called any computer smaller than a semi truck back then). The program became the industry standard for the next decade. This guy was basically Bill Gates before Bill Gates was Bill Gates.

Michael Ochs Archives / Getty

"It's cool, I'll just donate a bunch of money to charity someday when I'm all old and prune-faced."

*But Then He Got Screwed*

Of course, at the same time, Bill Gates was busy trying to become Bill Gates, and he eventually achieved that at Kildall's expense.

In 1980, IBM was getting ready to launch its first personal computer and needed an operating system to operate the shit out of it. They first knocked on Microsoft's door, but Microsoft wasn't really into the OS-making business at that point, so they directed the IBM suits to Gary Kildall's company.

However, [as nerd lore has it](#), Gary picked that day to go flying (he was an amateur pilot), blowing off IBM and his chance at history.

Accounts differ on whether Kildall met the IBM suits that day or not, but either way, the company went back to Microsoft, totally forgetting the whole "We don't make OS's here" part. Not one to miss out on an opportunity, Bill Gates turned to local programmer [Tim Paterson](#), who had built a CP/M clone he called QDOS (for "Quick and Dirty Operating System"), bought it for a paltry 50 grand, then turned around and sold it to IBM under the name PC-DOS.

The term "user-friendly" meant something very different back then.

PC-DOS, later renamed MS-DOS, was included in every computer IBM made, and, long story short, that's why roughly 90 percent of you are using Microsoft Windows right now.

Today, Kildall's name is [barely known](#), while Bill Gates will be a household name in the fucking 25th century. Most of Kildall's innovations ended up being credited to other people -- and he can't even defend himself, having died in 1994 after falling down in a tavern, which pretty much just seems like his luck.

Today's lesson is, if you're an inventor, wear a freaking helmet.

*Karl Smallwood wrote a book (yes, a real one), which you can read [all about here](#). If you want to read words he's written for free, feel free to follow him [on Twitter](#). Mike Floorwalker has a [website](#) that's like ... whoa. Like, seriously, dude ... whoa.*

**Robert William Kearns** (March 10, 1927 – February 9, 2005) was an American inventor who invented the intermittent windshield wiper systems used on most automobiles from 1969 to the present. His first patent for the invention was filed on December 1, 1964.

Kearns won one of the best known patent infringement cases against Ford Motor Company (1978–1990) and a case against Chrysler Corporation (1982–1992). Having invented and patented the intermittent windshield wiper mechanism, which was useful in light rain or mist, he tried to interest the "Big Three" auto makers in licensing the technology.

*But then he got screwed.*

They all rejected his proposal, yet copied his idea and began to install intermittent wipers in their cars, beginning in 1969. march Abraham made the film: "Flash of Genius" about him.

**Preston Tucker** was a car-crazy kid who hung around auto speedways and grew up to create an automobile--the Tucker--that was years ahead of its time. He was a man of pioneering spirit, ingenuity and daring, who revolutionized Detroit in the 1940s with his stunning "Car of Tomorrow." It was streamlined, futuristic and fast--the car every American dreamed of owning, at a price most people could afford.

A man of endless enthusiasm, Tucker publicized his model all over the country to wild acclaim. He sold stock, set up a factory . . .

*But then he got screwed.*

...and then the auto industry launched a devastating anti-Tucker campaign in order to character assassinate, industrially spy on and sabotage his car. Francis Ford Coppola made a movie: "The Man and His Dream" about him.

**Nikola Tesla** helped established robotics, radar, remote control, and he helped expand ballistics, nuclear physics, and theoretical physics.

*But then he got screwed.*

Practically no one's heard of him. Why? Because of a man named Thomas Edison, who is widely credited with the invention of the light bulb. Edison was an all-around pretentious ass, who totally tried to steal Tesla's credit... which kinda worked, considering everyone remembers him and not Tesla.

Anyway, the two men had initially worked together — well, Tesla worked for Edison —and this is where Tesla was first screwed over by the man. Edison had offered \$50,000 — over a million bucks, adjusted for inflation — to someone who could fix his crappy and inefficient motors. When Tesla did (probably by staring them down until they worked harder), Edison wrote his deal off as a joke, and continued to pay Tesla \$18 per week. Keep in mind, Tesla was one of the most brilliant humans to have ever lived; it didn't take long for him to flip Edison the bird and get his ass outta there to start his own company.

Soon enough, Edison's electricity, direct current (DC) was competing with Tesla's far superior electricity, alternating current (AC). Edison actually tried to discredit Tesla's AC by having the first electric chair run on it; this was supposed to discourage people from putting it in their home. There are a few movies based on Nikola, one is: "The Prestige".

Professional character assassins will create fake business accounts at, or bribe the staff of:

TalentShield

BeenVERified

GIS BackGround Checks

CVCertify

Social Intelligence

Dun And Bradstreet

EquiFax

Infortal  
Kroll Backgrounds  
Onesource  
Checkpeople

...and numerous other database companies and input nasty lies, misrepresentations and red flag data in order to prevent you from ever getting hired again. This is a felony, though, and if you can find more than two cases of false input you have the start of good evidence for an arrest and to win a lawsuit. Search, find the bad data and file city, state and federal police reports and charges on those who did it to you. If any of your employers got a call from one of the attackers providing false information in an attempt to get you fired, or layed off, as we all now know, every communication in the world has been tracked for the last 10 years so it will be easy to catch them, now, with a subpoena.

### [BLACKLISTED- THE EXPOSE ARTICLE ON TARGETING -](#)

Extreme Attack Techniques are Deployed by Corporations, Investor Groups and Political Groups as shown in the documentation at link below:

#### [How Washington DC Politicos Have Reporters “HIT” and Intimidated!](#)

Character assassination From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

This article **relies largely or entirely upon a [single source](#)**. Relevant discussion may be found on the [talk page](#). Please help [improve this article](#) by introducing [citations](#) to additional sources. *(December 2011)***Character assassination** is a deliberate and sustained process that aims to destroy the credibility and [reputation](#) of a person, institution, social group, or nation.<sup>[\[1\]](#)</sup>

Agents of character assassinations employ a mix of open and covert methods to achieve their goals, such as raising [false accusations](#), planting and fostering rumours, and manipulating information.

**Character assassination** is an attempt to tarnish a person's [reputation](#). It may involve [exaggeration](#), misleading [half-truths](#), or manipulation of facts to present an untrue picture of the targeted person. It is a form of [defamation](#) and can be a form of [ad hominem](#) argument.

For living individuals targeted by character assassination attempts, this may result in being rejected by his [community](#), [family](#), or members of his or her living or work environment. Such acts are often difficult to reverse or rectify, and the process is likened to a literal [assassination](#) of a human life. The damage sustained can last a lifetime or, for historical figures, for many centuries after their death.

In practice, character assassination may involve [doublespeak](#), spreading of [rumours](#), [innuendo](#) or

deliberate [misinformation](#) on topics relating to the subject's morals, integrity, and reputation. It may involve [spinning](#) information that is technically true, but that is presented in a misleading manner or is presented without the necessary context. For example, it might be said that a person refused to pay any [income tax](#) during a specific year, without saying that no tax was actually owed due to the person having no income that year, or that a person was sacked from a firm, even though he may have been made redundant through no fault of his own, rather than being terminated for cause.

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In politics[\[edit\]](#)In politics, perhaps the most common form of character assassination is the spread of allegations that a candidate is a liar. Other common themes may include allegations that the candidate is a bad or unpopular member of his family, has a bad relationship with his spouse or children or is not respected by his colleagues. Another theme claims that the person routinely engages in disturbing, socially unacceptable behavior, such as [sexual deviancy](#). The person may also be portrayed as holding beliefs widely considered despicable within society, such as supporting [racism](#) or other forms of [bigotry](#).

Charging an opponent with character assassination may have political benefits. In the [hearings for Clarence Thomas' nomination to the Supreme Court of the United States](#), supporters claimed that both [Clarence Thomas](#) and [Anita Hill](#) were victims of character assassination.[\[2\]](#)

The International Society for the Study of Character Assassination (ISSCA) specializes in the academic study and research of how character attacks and assassinations have been executed in both history and during contemporary times.[\[3\]](#)

Character assassination in a totalitarian regime[\[edit\]](#)The effect of a character assassination driven by an individual is not equal to that of a state-driven campaign. The state-sponsored destruction of reputations, fostered by political propaganda and cultural mechanisms, can have more far-reaching consequences. One of the earliest signs of a society's compliance to loosening the reins on the perpetration of crimes (and even massacres) with total impunity is when a government favors or directly encourages a campaign aimed at destroying the dignity and reputation of its adversaries, and the public accepts its allegations without question. The mobilisation toward ruining the reputation of adversaries is the prelude to the mobilisation of violence in order to annihilate them. Official dehumanisation has always preceded the physical assault of the victims.[\[1\]](#)

See also[\[edit\]](#)

- [Mudslinging](#)
- [Black propaganda](#)

- [Fair Game \(Scientology\)](#)
- [Pittura infamante](#)
- [McCarthyism](#)
- [Hollywood blacklist](#)
- [Damnatio memoriae](#)
- [Smear campaign](#)
- [Personal attack](#)

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1. ^ [Jump up to:](#) **a** Rojas, Rafael; Blanco, Juan Antonio; de Aragon, Uva; Montaner, Carlos Alberto; Faya, Ana Julia; Lupi, Gordiano (2012). *Ready, Aim, Fire! Character Assassination in Cuba*. Miami: Eriginal Books. p. 12. [ISBN 978-1-61370-974-0](#).
2. [Jump up](#)^ Walkowitz, Rebecca L.; Garber, Marjorie B.; Matlock, Jann (1993). *Media spectacles*. New York: Routledge. p. 32. [ISBN 0-415-90751-9](#).
3. [Jump up](#)^ <http://characterattack.files.wordpress.com/>

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## **Tabloids**

Tabloids are trashy, unethical publications which make money off publishing made-up stories about celebrities and people in the news.

One of the more horrific aspects of tabloids is that almost every one of them hires a group of spies to break into the personal information of people in order to try to find out information which can be manipulated by their editors into salacious, malicious and artificial news about a person.

The ACLU, various investigations and main stream media have reported that these tabloid spies can, and do, break into anything that is electronic. It is extremely easy for them to break into devices. In many cases it only takes them a few clicks on commercially available black market software to enter your most personal data repositories. So far, little has been done to criminally prosecute these tabloids for their information theft. The things that tabloid spies can currently break into that expose your life, as reported in many published articles are:

*“Any “smart device”; any “smart reader” output; toll bridge fastraks; Google; Twitter, Facebook, Netflix, Your GPS; ANY social media; any email system; your ATM; ANY bluetooth connection; your contact list on your phone or computer; your dating sites; public cameras, ANY cell phone, tablet or computer web camera can monitor even when you think it is turned off; any security camera; medical records; Youtube; Comcast,; Xfinity; ANY server; ANY router; ANY flash media; Fastrak; Any Java software; There are RFID tracking chips in many auto tires, RFID in your wallet; RFID in many product containers in Safeway; ANY network appliance; Almost any motherboard with AMD or Intel chips; ANY wireless network system in your car, ie: Onstar, Siri, Sync, etc.; ANY GPS data flow including controlling your GPS; ANY cell phone tower; Most browsers; Any lottery or contest entry; ANY credit card transaction...”*

Is this legal? No! Are tabloids doing this? Yes, almost with impunity.

There are a number of quite awful feature news stories, every day, about tabloid editors who contract spies to engage in horrendous crimes, ie: The vast tabloid phone spying scheme in England which had a number of senior people arrested (Yet the same people and techniques still being used in America have, as yet, gone unprosecuted); the tabloid that broke into a dead girls voicemail in England in violation of her families mourning; The tabloid in Los Angeles that offers rewards for breaking into movie star's voicemails; The New York tabloid that offered rewards for tracking the physical spying of stars; the list of transgressions numbers in the tens of thousands. Vast numbers of child suicides have now been attributed to tabloid-based harassment of fragile children caught in the crossfire. Children who are victims of trauma, who might otherwise not take their lives, are now at greater-than-ever risk because of tabloid harassment .

## **What can you do?**

**Create petitions and campaigns** and take them to your **state attorney general** and **all of the federal agencies** and demand laws to outlaw tabloid spies! Demand that the tabloids off-shore funds are

reviewed and accounted for and their secret payments to break-in experts are disclosed and their tax evasion techniques for these slush-funds are shut down. The feds have every illegal communication, for the last 8 years+, between tabloid editors, writers and break-in technicians but they need a legal demand by a state or federal attorney in order to prosecute using that data. Give them the reason they need.

Don't let your friends buy tabloids. Contact the advertisers of each tabloid that engages in such actions. Don't use any connected electronics unless they are essential and you are practicing good security hygiene with them. [Check to see if you have been spied on by a tabloid.](#)

### **After suicide of girl who was bullied online, David Cameron calls for boycott**

Read more at: <http://www.firstpost.com/world/after-suicide-of-girl-who-was-bullied-online-david-cameron-calls-for-boycott-1021373.html>

London: British Prime Minister David Cameron today urged Internet users to boycott certain social networking sites, after a teenage girl who was bullied online committed suicide. Cameron described the death of 14-year-old Hannah Smith, who hanged herself last week after receiving abuse on the website ask.fm, as “absolutely tragic”. He blasted “vile” websites that allow bullying to take place. “There’s something all of us can do as parents and as users of the Internet and that is not to use some of these vile sites,” Cameron told Sky News television. ”Boycott them, don’t go there, don’t join them.” Hannah’s father has called for the website to face murder or manslaughter charges. Cameron urged website operators to do more to stop them from being used as forums for bullying.

### **Severe penalties for slanderous retweets in China**

English.news.cn 2013-09-09

BEIJING, Sept. 9 (Xinhua) -- People who post slanderous comments online in China will face up to three years in prison if their statements are widely reposted, according to a judicial interpretation issued on Monday. The document, released by the Supreme People's Court and the Supreme People's Procuratorate, stipulates that people will face charges of defamation if online rumors they create are visited by 5,000 Internet users or retweeted for more than 500 times. In China, people committing the crime of defamation face up to three years in prison or deprivation of political rights. Cyber attacks have consequences.

### **Google and Spain battle over privacy rights**

By Aimee Ortiz / February 27, 2013

Google has had problems when it comes to the right to privacy in Europe for years. In the latest suit, Google is locked in a legal battle with Spain over “the right to be forgotten.”

On Feb. 26, the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) heard arguments in Google's latest case. Spain's Data Protection Agency has ruled that Google breached individuals’ right to be forgotten. As a result, the search engine giant was ordered to take down links or information that can be deemed as harmful to an individual. Google, stating that such an action would set a precedent, has taken the trial to the CJEU.

## **Internet Law- Another victory in the battle against cyber-bullies.**

Cheerleader's defamation verdict against thedirty.com is upheld

Posted Aug 13, 2013 By Debra Cassens Weiss

A federal judge has upheld a \$338,000 defamation verdict against thedirty.com obtained by a former Cincinnati Bengals cheerleader.

U.S. District Judge William Bertelsman said the website and its founder weren't protected from liability because they played a significant role in developing the content, the Associated Press reports in stories posted here and here. The federal Communications Decency Act protects website operators from liability for content posted by third parties.

Former cheerleader and school teacher Sarah Jones sued the website and its founder over online allegations that she had sex with every member of the Cincinnati Bengals and that her ex-husband had obtained two venereal diseases after cheating on her.

Bertelsman said the website founder, Hooman Karamian, "intentionally encourages illegal or actionable third-party postings to which he adds his own comments ratifying or adopting the posts." Karamian uses the name Nik Richie.

## **How to tell if your computer has been broken into by tabloid hackers:**

[How to Know if You've Been Hacked \(with Pictures\) - wikiHow](#) **How to Know**

if **You've Been Hacked**. There are many ways to find out if your **hacked** but some ways hackers get in are surprising. Symptoms of being **hacked** are: \*If programs and files won't work or open. \*Deleted files that you didn't delete....

wikihow.com/Know-if-You've-Been-Hacked

[About.com Internet / Network Security - Help! I Think I've ...](#) An article on incident response when you think **you've been hacked**. **how** do you collect clues and evidence of your perpetrator- when they attacked? what they did? **How** do you restore your system and **how** do you protect yourself from future occurrences??

netsecurity.about.com/cs/disasterrecovery/a/aa061603.htm

[How do I know if my computer has been hacked?](#) Steps on **how** to determine if your computer has been **hacked** by a hacker.

computerhope.com/issues/ch001296.htm

[Windows Forensics: Have I been Hacked? - Bleeping Computer](#) Table of Contents. Introduction; Why would someone want to hack me? Creating your Computer Forensics Tool belt; **How** can I tell if I have been hacked?

[bleepingcomputer.com/tutorials/have-i-been-hacked/](http://bleepingcomputer.com/tutorials/have-i-been-hacked/)

[GeekDrop - How To Tell If Your Facebook Account Has Been Hacked](#) **How To Tell If Your Facebook Account Has Been Hacked** Here's one very good method to stay on top of your Facebook account, and get immediately alerted via email and SMS text message (**if you** choose to) if someone accesses your account. Setting this up is  
[geekdrop.com/content/how-to-tell-if-your-facebook-ac...](http://geekdrop.com/content/how-to-tell-if-your-facebook-ac...)

[How to do you know if you have been hacked? - Yahoo! Answers](#) Best Answer: yor files wouldn't work. you will ahve deleted files which you didn't delete. sometimes some ppl hack you from e-mail and change your passsword and your computer ...  
[answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20080131125513AACJTve](http://answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20080131125513AACJTve)

[YouTube - How can you can tell if your computer has been ...](#) This video will show you **how you** can remove established ports  
[youtube.com/watch?v=WzerXAi3Uok](http://youtube.com/watch?v=WzerXAi3Uok)

[How to tell if your phone or mobile device has been hacked ...](#) I **have** had a few phone calls and meetings over the past week from people asking if I can look at their phone and **tell** them **if** their mobile device has been **hacked**.  
[grassigroup.com/how-to-tell-if-your-phone-or-mobile-dev...](http://grassigroup.com/how-to-tell-if-your-phone-or-mobile-dev...)

The primary tool in politics is the character assassination tactic. It builds up as the elections get closer. If you are not deeply disturbed by the following, then you might want to re-examine your awareness -

Below is how some campaign managers operate. This is actually how they think. This is used by ALL of the political parties. This is a widely distributed "*Political Operative's Hit List*" of tactics that are in common use by campaigns today:

**" Never mention the name of the opposing party. Refer to the Candidate by name, only, in order to minimize their status."**

" Turn every fact into a negative. Everything you discover about the official or person you are targeting must be massaged into something that is bad. Turn every aspect into something awful. All facts have two sides to the story, your job is to interpret the bad side and then make it sound as bad as possible."

**" The average American has the intellect of a child or an ape. They are easily persuaded by the loudest voice, the most colorful object and the generalized movement of masses without respect to logic or circumspection. They will watch endless hours of "reality television" as long as it depicts equally stupid people. They will watch toilet humor movies with frat house prank actors forever as long as the actors are as childish as the audience is. It is easy to brainwash them into buying a product, needing a needless service or doing something they otherwise might not naturally do.**

**Their willingness to think and consider all sides of a thing is very limited. Use flash, avoid substance, never be specific about anything and you win the election every time."**

" Use only our internal newspaper wire service, it will send out a political clipsheet every week, to thousands of "thought leaders," and cartoons, editorials, and articles to 200,000 newspapers. Rural newspapers are so desperate for copy that many will print whatever our Service sends them, including documents that are basically press releases disguised as editorials endorsing whatever political position we advance."

**" Pretend that you are the Voice of the People. Use radio ads, sponsored by a false-front group with the word "Citizens" or "taxpayers" in the name."**

" Attack, attack, attack. You can't wage a defensive campaign and win!"

" Keep it simple. Rhyming is a good tactic for the majority. The low intellect voter's love rhymes. Never explain anything. The more you have to explain the more difficult it is to win support."

" Humans are insanely easy to brainwash. Say the same thing over and over again. We have to get a voter's attention seven times per slogan to control their intentions. Anybody that hears the same thing seven times is programmed to it for life."

" Subtlety is your enemy. Words that lean on the mind are no good. They must dent it. Simplify, simplify, simplify. A wall goes up when you try to make Mr. and Mrs. Average American Citizen work or think."

**" Find any idiotic grammar or geography mistake a person said and play it over and over until the public thinks that their mix-up of the name of a state was a call to eat babies. Make every mistake sound like a federal crime"**

" Fan flames. A good political engineer needs more partisanship in this country to operate effectively. Never shy away from controversy; instead, win the controversy. The average American doesn't want to be educated; he doesn't want to improve his mind; he doesn't even want to work, consciously, at being a good citizen, But there are two ways you can interest him in a campaign, and only two that we have ever found successful. You can put on a fight or you can put on a Show. So if you can't fight, PUT ON A SHOW! And if you put on a good show, Mr. and Mrs. America will turn out to see it. "

" Winner takes all. If you launch a campaign for a new car, your client doesn't expect you to lead the field necessarily in the first year, or even the tenth year, But in politics, they don't pay off for PLACE OR SHOW! You have to win, if you want to stay in business."

**" This must be a campaign that makes people hear the beat of drums and the thunder of bombs. . . This must be A CALL TO ARMS IN DEFENSE AMERICA!, that, above all things, will distract from any bad economic report, sex scandal, or other distraction."**

**" Never tell the candidate what you are really doing. Let them think it is all bread and roses but behind the scenes you must use knives and shotguns. If you fail, you lose your car, your girlfriend**

**and your house. You must win the campaign at all costs. YOU DO NOT WORK FOR THE CANDIDATE. THEY ARE JUST THE FACE IN FRONT. YOU WORK FOR THE CANDIDATE'S BACKERS. YOU WORK FOR THE BIG DONATION PEOPLE. Never, ever, ever forget this or you will starve! Listen to what the candidate says, smile and nod your head and then go do what the backers want and make the candidate think he is getting what he wants."**

" Where the men go, the women will follow. Focus on male trigger slogans first."

" Always, and only, use our prescreened 15 minute talking script. Try not to speak for more than fifteen minutes—people get bored—and never for more than half an hour."

**" Look at dating sites, find anybody the opposition may have dated, everybody someone broke up with has something bad to say about them."**

**" Talk to all of their ex bosses and ex co-workers, one of them must have been jealous or mad about them in the past."**

" Reject any issues that affect our supporters ability to make money. Say often: You can't beat something with nothing," and: "Political XXXX is bad XXXXX. (Insert the topic of controversy in the XXXX position)"

" Lobby your local newspaper editors. Have your staff make in-person drop-by's to every newspaper office to persuade editors to change their positions. Many of these newspapers do a vast amount of advertising business with us and received hundreds of words of free copy, each week, from our news services. They will not risk losing our advertising dollars when the internet is killing their business. We can cut out all of the newspapers supporting any given issue in 70 days if we stay on our goal. This is a top 6 issue and we now have the budget to spend 10 dollars against every individual dollar the opposing campaign spends to push it."

" Use Germany! In private conversations with Senators, use this talking point: "Please vote against all Compulsory XXXX Bills pending before the Legislature. We have enough regimentation in this country now. Certainly we don't want to be forced to go to "A State XXXXX service," or to pay for such a service whether we use it or not. That system was born in Nazi Germany—and is part and parcel of what our boys are fighting overseas to stop. Let's not adopt it here."

" This must be a campaign to arouse and alert the American people in every walk of life, until it generates a great public crusade and a fundamental fight for freedom, any other plan of action, in view of the drift toward socialization and despotism all over the world, would invite disaster."

" The great need is to go on the offensive—and to attack, Best to forget anybody who wouldn't vote for you even if you got the personal endorsement of every saint in heave."

" Politics is just like show business. . . . You begin with a hell of an opening, you coast for a while, and you end with a hell of a closing."

" The public is basically lazy, basically uninterested in making an effort to understand what we're

talking about, Reason requires a higher degree of discipline, of concentration; impression is easier, Reason pushes the viewer back, it assaults him, it demands that he agree or disagree; impression can envelop him, invite him in, without making an intellectual demand. . . . When we argue with him we demand that he make the effort of replying. We seek to engage his intellect, and for most people this is the most difficult work of all. The emotions are more easily roused, closer to the surface, more malleable. Voters are, simply, idiots. Treat them as such and keep them amused by the shiny object."

The above is a sample of the way political campaigns think and operate. Is this ethical?

Professional character assassins will create fake business accounts at, or bribe the staff of:

TalentShield  
BeenVERified  
GIS BackGround Checks  
CVCertify  
Social Intelligence  
Dun And Bradstreet  
EquiFax  
Infortal  
Kroll Backgrounds  
Onesource  
Checkpeople

...and numerous other database companies and input nasty lies, misrepresentations and red flag data in order to prevent you from ever getting hired again. This is a felony, though, and if you can find more than two cases of false input you have the start of good evidence for an arrest and to win a lawsuit. Search, find the bad data and file city, state and federal police reports and charges on those who did it to you. If any of your employers got a call from one of the attackers providing false information in an attempt to get you fired, or layed off, as we all now know, every communication in the world has been tracked for the last 10 years so it will be easy to catch them, now, with a subpoena.

FROM RT Newspaper- 11/27/13

### **"We can discredit them'**

Snowden's revelation's turned a spotlight on the NSA and its warehousing of billions of pieces of information - emails, phone calls, photos and videos. However, in its effort to find the proverbial needle in a haystack, the NSA is scooping up millions of innocent people in its dragnet.

However, in the never-ending fight against terrorism, proponents of the NSA's eavesdropping techniques, which have spied on everything from the offices of the United Nations to the Vatican, maintain a position of security over privacy.

Stewart Baker, former general counsel for the NSA, supported the idea of practicing what essentially amounts to character assassination against individuals who are believed to pose a risk to US security

interest.

"If people are engaged in trying to recruit folks to kill Americans and we can discredit them, we ought to," Baker said, as quoted by HP. "[D]ropping the truth on them," as opposed to a drone missile attack, for example, is "fairer and maybe more humane."

Who's next?

Although the NSA document only mentions Muslims on its list of targets, critics of the clandestine data mining system worry that such tactics could be used against ordinary Americans for any number of reasons.

"This kind of dragnet surveillance is precisely what the Fourth Amendment was meant to prohibit," said ACLU Deputy Legal Director Jameel Jaffer, who presented arguments against the NSA surveillance in a US federal court last week.

"The Constitution does not permit the NSA to place hundreds of millions of innocent people under permanent surveillance because of the possibility that information about some tiny subset of them will become useful to an investigation in the future," Jaffer added.

Jaffer said it is right to ask if a "president will ask the NSA to use the fruits of surveillance to discredit a political opponent, journalist or human rights activist."

"The NSA has used its power that way in the past and it would be naïve to think it couldn't use its power that way in the future," he said.

None of the individuals listed in the NSA document, all of whom are believed to reside outside the United States, is accused of being involved in terror plots against US interests, the article concluded. "

### **How Washington DC Has you "Killed" if you piss them off.**

If you are targeted by adversaries, here are other tactics they may use against you. Watch out for them and report them. Process against them, legally, if you identify these actions:

- Calling your employer to anonymously report false negative information about you.
- Placing false and damaging information about you in job agency databases, credit agency reports and background check services which affect your ability to get jobs in a pattern that is inconsistent with your previous job history.
- Placing their people as plants in your company.
- Hacking your computer or voicemail to get information on you or your contacts.
- Inviting you to a TV interview and then jumping you with a surprise guest: your arch enemy with targeted attack comments in hand.

## How Washington DC Politicos Have Troublemakers and Reporters “Killed”!

**Option #1: “The Full Monty”- Honey Trap/Brand Kill/Career Hit/ De-Googling/Hacking- Details below:**

**Option #2: “Actual” Death- Details below:**

**Option #3: “The Come On”- Details below**

**Option #4: “The Poor Boy”- Details below:**

**Option #5: “The Honey Trap”- Details below:**

**Option #6: “The Hack and Block”- Details below:**

**Option #7: “The Molasses Tactic”- Details below:**

**Option #8:” Having You De-Googled”- Details Below:**

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**Option #1: “The Full Monty”- Combined: Honey Trap/De-Googling/Brand Kill/Career Hit/Hacking, AKA “The Works” -**

**For the sake of argument let’s assume Silicon Valley and Washington DC are sort of the same thing...**

**Relationship Status: Call My Lawyer**

As he built TechCrunch into a multi-million-dollar empire, blogger-investor Michael Arrington became a one-man nexus of power in Silicon Valley. Now he’s on the defensive, denying accusations that he raped an ex-girlfriend and abused two other women. Welcome to the dark side of the Information Age.

By [Maximillian Potter](#)

left, by John Keatley/Redux; right, by Tom Foremski.

**HE POSTS, SHE POSTS** Left: TechCrunch founder Michael Arrington in 2010. Right: Jennifer Allen, Arrington’s ex-girlfriend, in 2012. Several times a year, the Center for Entrepreneurship and Technology at the University of California, Berkeley, persuades a “Distinguished Innovator” to give an on-campus lecture. Speakers are a Who’s Who of Silicon Valley and in recent years have included such titans of tech as the C.E.O. of Yahoo, Marissa Mayer, then a V.P. at Google, who had been the company’s first female engineer, and Ben Horowitz, co-founder of the V.C. leviathan Andreessen Horowitz, where he manages a multi-billion-dollar portfolio that has included Facebook, Skype, and Twitter. In September 2010 the Distinguished Innovator was someone *Time* magazine had named one of the world’s 100 most influential people, along with President Obama, Rupert Murdoch, and the Dalai

Lama: Michael Arrington, the founder of TechCrunch, the Web site of record for all of Silicon Valley's deals, developments, and dubious ethics. The format of Arrington's lecture was an interview conducted by Vivek Wadhwa, a scholar who focuses his research on the dearth of women in tech.

Arrington has the doughy physique of an N.F.L. lineman past his prime and the untucked style of a frat-house social chairman. Onstage that day, he sat with his shoulders slumped, legs outstretched, bags under his eyes. Then 40, he was dressed in khakis and a blue button-down oxford. Wadhwa began by asking him to share a bit of his biography. Anyone else would have recognized the question as a chance to charm the crowd.

Arrington said he had attended Berkeley his freshman year but transferred to Claremont McKenna College because he "didn't love having classes of 900 people" at Berkeley. The audience grumbled, but let the dig pass. Then Arrington said he got his law degree from Stanford University, adding, "Clearly the best school in California," and the crowd let loose a barrage of rhetorical tomatoes. Wadhwa, a round, bearded Indian-American with a gentle way about him, turned to the audience, grinned, and, in a tone of for-those-of-you-who-don't-know, said, "Mike has a habit of doing that—pissing off half of the world in one fell swoop."

Crunch. That's what Arrington is known for. From a rented house in Silicon Valley, he built a media-tech-venture-capital Empire of Crunch. First, the TechCrunch blog. Then its spin-offs, like CrunchBase—a database for investors and entrepreneurs—and the globally influential TechCrunch conferences, including its most famous, Disrupt. The very month Arrington was on that Berkeley stage, AOL was in the midst of paying him some \$30 million to acquire TechCrunch.

Crunch has not only been Arrington's brand, it has been his M.O. Mess with Arrington and you get crunched. He's provoked personalities ranging from Hollywood star and venture capitalist Ashton Kutcher to former Yahoo C.E.O. Carol Bartz into telling him—to his face, mind you—to "fuck off." Even Arrington's colleagues who respect him say he is inclined to volatile mood swings. He'll scream, he'll shout. Sarah Lacy, one of Arrington's former employees, says, "The worst place to be is between Michael Arrington and something he wants." In Arrington's honor, someone went as far as to create a Web site: [ismikearringtonadick.com](http://ismikearringtonadick.com).

"Let's talk about women," Wadhwa said. The topic was inevitable. *The Wall Street Journal* had published a column bemoaning the lack of women in tech in which TechCrunch was mentioned because its conferences featured too few women. Arrington had responded with a column of his own, titled, "Too Few Women in Tech? Stop Blaming the Men." He elaborated to Wadhwa, saying, "Women in my world are respected as much as men." He pointed out that the C.E.O. of TechCrunch was a woman, as were almost half of his employees.

Arrington then called on a woman in the audience. He identified her as his girlfriend, Jenn. He asked her to please stand. Arrington explained that Jenn had just started a company, Rtist, a Web-based broker of original art. He said Jenn had hired a team and launched the Web site, and it was doing well. Looking in her direction, he asked, "Have you ever felt like, Wow, I feel like I'd be doing better if I was a man?"

Without pause, her soft voice infused with defiance, Jenn responded, “Not yet.”

Arrington shifted in his chair, and, after a few moments, launched into a soliloquy.

“If we want to get beyond this whole I’m-cool-because-I-care-about-women thing, what we really need to do is we have to start encouraging women to get engineering degrees in college. We have to start encouraging women to get into math and science early on in life. . . . But to just say TechCrunch is perpetuating the problem because there aren’t enough women speakers at our events is just a way to get attention and not solve the problem. So do we want to solve the problem or do we want to just pick on me?”

That Berkeley moment now seems astonishingly surreal, as Arrington has been accused not only of sexual assault but also of rape. In other words, the de facto king of Silicon Valley, who has insisted that the tech industry is a non-discriminating meritocracy, stands accused of misogynistic crimes—with the allegations coming not through a lawsuit or criminal charge but from a series of public accusations on social media. Arrington has sued the alleged victim for defamation. The source of these allegations? Jenn Allen, his ex-girlfriend, whom Arrington called on that day to help him make his case that he and the Valley culture he has been so instrumental in creating treat women fairly.

It was while working in the Valley as a young associate at the law firm Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati that Arrington realized he didn’t want to be an attorney pushing the paperwork for done deals; rather, the only child of a Bank of America data-processing executive and a stay-at-home mom, Arrington decided he wanted to be the mover-shaker doing the deals. One of the firm’s clients hired Arrington away and gave him his chance, on one start-up and then another. By 2005 the Valley had just about wiped the popped bubble from its face. Eighty-five percent of eligible college kids were on something called Facebook; Google and Yahoo were on a buying spree, targeting acquisitions like the photo-sharing site Flickr. YouTube was in its infancy. Twitter had not yet tweeted. Over at Apple, Steve Jobs was at work on a secret project: creating a touch screen that might eliminate the need for a keyboard. Anything and everything once again seemed possible. V.C.’s were itching to invest. The Valley was like Churchill Downs on Derby Day: packed dense with flush gamblers wanting to lay bets—only, Arrington realized, there was no *Racing Form*.

His first official TechCrunch post was on June 11, 2005. Within a few months, Arrington was churning out kisses-and-cupcakes coverage on start-ups and news items big and small. He got the idea of throwing a business-warming party. He invited sources, friends, fans, subjects he covered, whatever you wanted to call them—such distinctions made no difference to him. He didn’t consider himself a journalist. He was a blogger. Before anything else, an entrepreneur. The party was a brilliant move. His first “Meetup” was in September 2005. About 20 people showed up in his backyard, in Atherton, for beer and burgers. One of his guests was Chad Hurley, the co-founder of YouTube.

One of the early BBQs had a corporate sponsor, Eurekster. That company’s marketing-and-development person, Jenn Allen, had approached Arrington with the idea. The party drew hundreds, all in all a cross section of the Valley: V.C.’s from the likes of Kleiner Perkins, Greystone Ventures, and Accel Partners; entrepreneurs and engineers; rich geeks, broke geeks; high-school dropouts and

M.B.A.'s; publicists and marketers, who tended to be pretty girls, like Jenn Allen. Dark hair, striking eyes; and trite as it may sound, she exuded a sweetness. At least that's what Arrington thought at the end of the night when they agreed to go on a date the following weekend. More Meetups followed and went later and later into the early morning. "These were proper parties," says Arrington's friend Nik Cubrilovic. The old-fashioned networking fed Arrington's intel on high tech, and TechCrunch became a must-read. Its Web traffic and page views skyrocketed, and in no time it dominated all other tech blogs.

In October 2006, Arrington landed the scoop that changed everything. He reported a rumor that Google was going to acquire YouTube. *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, other blogs, all did a double take. Just like that, Arrington had "journalistic" cred. What's more, TechCrunch had so much clout that if Arrington wrote favorably about a start-up or product it was almost guaranteed venture-capital interest. Aspiring entrepreneurs literally banged on the door and windows of his ranch-house office. Venture capitalists wanted to stay in Arrington's good graces. Arrington had become a one-man nexus of ego, money, and information in the Valley. A month after Arrington broke the Google-YouTube story, *The Wall Street Journal* ran a story headlined: **TECHCRUNCH SITE MAKES ARRINGTON A POWER BROKER.**

A week after exchanging numbers at the TechCrunch Meetup in 2005, Arrington and Allen went on their first date to the bar in the Ritz-Carlton in San Francisco. Allen ordered a bottle of Veuve Clicquot, Arrington a beer. He drank his beer. She drank a single glass of the champagne, and they decided to call it a night. Arrington picked up the tab. Before they left, Allen opened up the little leather folder with the signed bill inside, to make sure Arrington left a decent tip.

A relationship blossomed, or, perhaps, erupted. It was volatile throughout. On again and off again, from 2005 until at least 2010, when Arrington called on Allen at the Berkeley lecture. At an officially unofficial annual gathering of Silicon Valley players in Hawaii, called the Lobby, a friend of Arrington's, Cyan Banister, says she spent a lot of time hanging out with Allen because Arrington was so busy being Arrington. Banister remembers Allen and Arrington constantly texting. "It was like a high-school relationship," Banister told me. "I was surprised that this was the kind of girl Mike was interested in."

Not long after Allen and Arrington started dating she was let go from her job at Eurekster, according to the company's C.E.O., Steven Marder, who said Allen had been "dropping the ball." From what Marder recalls, it got to a point where her colleagues were coming to him and saying that something had to be done because "she seemed a bit lost." Allen declined numerous requests to comment for this story.

Arrington's Meetups evolved into a traveling Silicon Valley Super Bowl trade show called "TechCrunch50." At these days-long conferences in cities around the world, investors, entrepreneurs, marketers, publicists, and tech journalists gathered. Featured attractions were panel discussions, one-on-one interviews conducted by Arrington, who abrasively poked his subjects, and a contest called "Startup Battlefield," which is pretty much just what it sounds like.

For the first three years of the conferences, Arrington's partner in planning, hosting, and executing was Jason Calacanis, a serial entrepreneur with a track record of success and relentless self-promotion. It

was Calacanis who persuaded Arrington that they should unite and launch TechCrunch50. They struck an agreement wherein they split the revenue 50-50. In 2007, Arrington hired Heather Harde away from Fox Interactive Media to be C.E.O., and she began to expand the TechCrunch conferences globally. As the TechCrunch brand grew, and its staff was doing much of the work in organizing, the terms of the deal with Calacanis were revisited. The negotiations became acrimonious and fell apart, as did the partnership with Calacanis. Soon TechCrunch50 was dead, and the newly christened TechCrunch Disrupt Conference was born.

In early 2010, Tim Armstrong, the C.E.O. and chairman of AOL, attended a Disrupt and asked if Arrington would be interested in selling TechCrunch. Within a matter of months there was a deal memo, finalized in September 2010. As part of the \$30 million sale, Arrington would remain at TechCrunch, which he believed would retain editorial independence from AOL. A year later, in September 2011, Arrington launched CrunchFund, a V.C. firm. In other words, Arrington would be a major force in an industry in which he himself was now even more financially invested. AOL would invest \$10 million in CrunchFund. At some point, Arrington added a disclaimer to his bio on TechCrunch: “Sometimes I have so many financial conflicts of interest that I can’t even keep them straight. So when you read what I write ... understand that I’m conflicted. A lot.”

What Arrington was doing with CrunchFund was only more of what he had been doing all along: from virtually day one of TechCrunch he had been an active investor-player in the Valley. But in early 2011, AOL had bought the Huffington Post and made its founding owner-publisher-editor, Arianna Huffington, the editor in chief of all AOL content. Upon learning of Arrington’s CrunchFund side pursuit, Huffington demoted him. Within 48 hours, Arrington wrote a blog response to his demotion in which he demanded that Armstrong honor TechCrunch’s editorial independence or else sell TechCrunch back to him. According to a *Forbes* story, Huffington counter-demanded that Armstrong support her, as she wanted to “make an example of Arrington.” Huffington won, and Arrington got the boot.

Furious, Arrington did two things: He started his own blog, *Uncrunched*, and he helped one of his former TechCrunch editors, Sarah Lacy, launch her own tech blog, *PandoDaily*. CrunchFund invested \$100,000, and, according to Lacy, Arrington agreed to write and work exclusively for her site in exchange for a seat on the board. Shortly thereafter, representatives of the new AOL TechCrunch reached out to Arrington. They wanted him back. Or at least back onstage. In the wake of his departure, TechCrunch had hemorrhaged many of its best-known staffers; the AOL TechCrunch team realized the main event, the lucrative Disrupt conference, needed Arrington’s master-of-ceremonies cachet, not to mention his own abrasive star power. According to AOL TechCrunch sources, Arrington got the sort of offer he couldn’t refuse, and agreed to sign on for the May 2012 Disrupt in New York. Lacy was furious and felt betrayed. She fired him. Six months later Arrington returned to TechCrunch as a writer.

**TECHCRUNCH FOUNDER’S EX-GIRLFRIEND CLAIMS HE PHYSICALLY ABUSED HER.** That was the headline on a story that broke last April 1 on the Web site Gawker. Under the headline, there was a picture of Arrington and Jenn Allen, both smiling, with a text overlay of the catchy pull-quote: “It hurts when you love someone and they threaten to murder you.”

When Heather Harde, Arrington's friend and former TechCrunch C.E.O., saw it, she thought the post might be the site's idea of an April Fools' joke. The main source material in Gawker's scoop by Adrian Chen was a Facebook status update. Three days earlier, from her mobile phone, Allen had posted this status update to her Facebook page:

Last post on someone i'm completely over. I've never been lonelier in my entire life. To all my friends who loved me for who I am—thank you. Power hungry people, I loved Michael Arrington for 8+ years starting when i implemented Eurekster search at the time on Techcrunch in 2006 and throughout the years i didn't know he cheated on me multiple times, then tells people it was me immediately after he did it. It hurts when you love someone borderline and they can't feel anything at all for you, and threaten to murder you if you told anyone about the physical abuse—all for keeping his reputation. The emotional abuse was equally bad. On a positive note, it can't get any worse than this and I can't get myself of [sic] this bed.

Neither Allen nor Arrington was quoted in the story. As Gawker reported, they “did not immediately respond to requests for comment.”

Within minutes, there were dozens of comments, well on the way to more than 100. It was in the comments section that the Allen-Arrington story escalated. Allen herself posted three times, something she confirmed in her response to Arrington's lawsuit, accusing Arrington of even more despicable crimes. Posting under the name “JennNella,” she alleged that five months earlier he had raped a friend of hers, whom she did not name. Someone going by “DisgustedByJennAllen” claimed to know Arrington and wrote, “First you accuse the man of abusing you and now you accuse him of rape? Really Jenn? You are truly a disgusting human being and a disgrace to the thousands of women who actually HAVE suffered such horrific tragedies.” Switching to the handle “youreinthemovie,” Allen went further and accused Arrington of raping her: “He did rape me, on March 5 last year ... ”

Opinion and judgment of Arrington and Allen spread like a World Wide Web virus.

On April 5, Gawker published a follow-up report. Nick Denton, the founder and owner of Gawker, tweeted a link to the story with this rather definitively phrased tease: “Two more women roughed up by Michael Arrington, the Silicon Valley kingmaker.” This second story, once again reported by Chen, unearthed a decade-old accusation of sexual abuse made by a former co-worker of Arrington's at RealNames, a start-up he had worked at. (The company shut down in 2002.) And Chen offered a more recent allegation that Arrington had physically abused another former girlfriend, New York-based blogger Meghan Asha.

According to Gawker, the alleged Asha incident occurred on September 12, 2009. Asha had flown from New York City, where she lived, to San Francisco. As Gawker reported it, “This coincided with the start of the TechCrunch50, a Bay Area tech conference that Arrington organized with his former business partner Jason Calacanis.” Gawker reported the allegation that Arrington attacked Asha on the last night of the conference, throwing her against the wall in a hotel room.

The day after that report, on April 6, Asha not only issued a blanket denial of everything Chen had reported but also gave her statement to Arrington's former home team of TechCrunch:

None of the claims made on my behalf over the past week are accurate. I'm not inclined to comment on my personal life, Mike and I remain friends. I'm focused on business and my career. I hope we can all get back to the business of building innovative companies in the spirit of what makes this industry great. I wish everyone well who is involved. I have no further comment on the matter.

As far as the incident with the co-worker, Gawker's lone named source was Cecile DeSmet Sharp, who had been the director of human resources at RealNames.

Shortly after the story was posted, the former C.E.O. of RealNames, Keith Teare, also a co-founder of TechCrunch, posted a comment on Facebook: "Mike was indeed the subject of an accusation at RealNames. . . . An outside party was hired to conduct an investigation The investigation concluded that there was no behavior to answer for. Mike was never reprimanded in any way. Both parties asked for confidentiality and to date this has been honored."

On April 7, Arrington responded to all the accusations in a—what else—Uncrunched blog post: "There have been some extremely serious and criminal allegations against me over the last week. All of the allegations are completely untrue." He went on to say that he had hired a law firm to pursue legal action.

Six days after the second Gawker story, on April 11, Eric M. George, a Los Angeles-based attorney representing Arrington, sent a letter via e-mail and U.S. mail to Jennifer Allen. George demanded she retract her statements or Arrington would pursue litigation against her for making "false and defamatory statements that caused significant harm to his good name." Along with the letter, George sent Allen a packet of material: e-mails, photos, text messages, and Facebook postings. In keeping with the digital media circus/virtual trial, Arrington published the materials on his Uncrunched blog.

Included was a document noting the date and location in San Francisco that Allen presented in her accusation where she claimed Arrington raped her on the evening of March 5, 2012. Arrington's attorney offered as one of the "provable facts" that Arrington was in Washington, not San Francisco, at that time.

Furthermore, George alleged that Allen herself was out with friends late that very same evening, into the early morning. George's Attachment A is a photo of Allen taken at 1:05 A.M. on March 6, which a friend of Allen's had posted to Facebook. In the photo, Allen is standing in the center of four friends at a San Francisco bar. That photo has since been removed.

In the third of the three comments Allen had posted to Gawker following its first report, she wrote that the last time she had seen Arrington was March 5, the night of the alleged rape, and that since then she had attempted to contact him only once, to request that he return a painting. "In fact," George alleged in his letter, "you attempted to repeatedly communicate with Michael—by telephone, text message and tweets." The very day following the alleged rape, Allen e-mailed Arrington three photos of herself, according to George. In at least one, she appears to be lying on a bed, and wrote, "The others are showing too much to email. Maybe if you beg. :)"

George's letter included several examples of messages that Allen had allegedly sent Arrington from late

March through the late summer—weeks and months after the date she claimed he had raped her. The letter and accompanying materials were later included in the defamation suit filed by Arrington. George wrote that the communications “do not portray you as a victim of abuse or murder threats, but rather as a person who is distraught at a break up and angered that her ex-boyfriend entered into a new relationship.”

On March 22, for example, 17 days after the day on which she alleged that Arrington had raped her, Allen e-mailed Arrington asking him to invest in her business.

Then, on April 21, 2012, Allen wrote to Arrington that she was “feel[ing] betrayed and slighted by you and, wish I wasn’t alone since you decided to be with someone else so quickly. Not sure how I’m going to teach myself how to love and trust again.”

And on July 21, she wrote, “You, Mike, seem happy with the most boring fake personalitied [*sic*] person on the planet, who you treat the way I should have been treated. If you can’t treat me with respect publicly, still, then you fall into the selfish whorish male prostitute category that will always hurt me during and in the end. Hope you’re enjoying the weather.”

In August 2012, Allen tweeted at Arrington for all of the world to see: “Mike @arrington last chance to reconcile. I [*sic*] you’re not feeling what I’m feeling, with the same heart, than [*sic*] fuck you.”

George also included some earlier correspondence between Arrington and Allen. On May 18, 2011, just about two years before Allen made her rape claim, and less than a year before the alleged rape had occurred, she e-mailed Arrington to say, “I’m getting an abortion tomorrow. On my birthday. please don’t contact me ever again. I can’t imagine you care—but if you do—just keep flirting and fucking. and dating the ... meghans of the world. anything that might help your image, to make yourself feel better. and then fake a relationship like you did with me to make your parents happy. have a nice life and fuck you.”

Three months later, according to the material included in Arrington’s suit, Arrington and Allen had the following text exchange:

Arrington: do you want to see me?

Allen: Im open to talking to you but i’m dating someone if that’s what you mean. I’m in a relationship. it’s “facebook official”—so I could meet you for coffee. somewhere or at your office. but please don’t be last minute if you still want to meet.

Arrington: I wanted to talk about this pregnancy. I never really understood if it was real or not. or if you were still pregnant. I’m assuming there’s no chance of that. I’m happy for you that you’re dating someone and can talk about it online. I know how much that means to you. If you aren’t pregnant with my child, then we don’t really have anything further to talk about. Be well.

Michael Arrington refused to speak to me on the record for this story. Jenn Allen ignored at least a half-dozen of my requests to be interviewed for this story. One morning, I rang the buzzer of her apartment building in San Francisco, and a nice landlady, Shirley, relayed to me a message from Allen that she

had received my voice mails and e-mails. Shirley said, “When I told Allen you were here, that’s all she said; I don’t think she’s coming down to talk with you.”

Another address I found for Jenn Allen is that of her childhood home, where her parents still reside. The house is in a gorgeous, idyllic, old-money neighborhood of San Francisco. Allen’s father was a successful attorney. He’s now retired and, according to a neighbor, does Tai Chi in the park across the street from their home.

On the afternoon I knocked on the door, a modest white sedan was parked in the driveway; a sticker from Mills College, which is where Allen went to school, was in the rear window, faded it seemed, like anything resembling childhood innocence. It was hard not to imagine Jenn’s mom and dad driving their little girl off to school in that car.

After several knocks, Allen’s mother opened a window above me. I recognized her from a photo that Allen had posted online. It seems Allen documents a lot of her life on the Web. Including photos of her only sibling, a sister who is in an elite Ph.D. program, and who also politely declined to speak with me. Looking down at me from the window, Allen’s mother said, “My other daughter warned me you would probably try to contact me. We can’t talk to you.” In her eyes there was an exasperation, an anguish, an agony—a mother’s petition for mercy and privacy. I nodded and started down the steps to leave, and she closed the window.

On May 7, 2013, Michael Arrington filed suit against Allen, seeking damages for defamation. In her answer to Arrington’s complaint, filed in June, Allen did not retract her statements, though she did revise at least one major aspect of her allegation. She said that she had been mistaken when she said he had raped her on March 5. Later she would tweet that it actually happened on March 30.

According to her answer, Allen is represented by two law firms, one of them, Allred, Maroko & Goldberg, the firm headed by feminist superlawyer Gloria Allred, who herself was a victim of rape. To date, Allen has not filed a criminal charge against Arrington. Nor have the two other women. A trial has been set for next October.

More than two dozen sources I spoke with were quick to point out the intensity of the rivalry that existed between Michael Arrington and Valleywag, which is essentially a Gawker dedicated to Silicon Valley. Gawker’s Nick Denton launched Valleywag in 2006, shut it down in 2008, then relaunched it this year. Arrington had called Denton “evil” in the *San Francisco Chronicle* around the time Valleywag launched and “a total dick” in *Portfolio* in 2008, and he wrote a TechCrunch column that same year lambasting the site for being irresponsible: “Today I read all the sordid details about the alleged sexual encounter between a notable technology visionary and a woman who appears to be looking for as much publicity as possible. Where did I read it? On the Silicon Valley gossip blog Valleywag. The posts include private IM chats and various rumors, all designed to make the person mentioned look like as much of a fool as possible. That’s not new, of course. Valleywag is making a business out of digging into people’s personal lives and publishing it for all to see (me included, regularly).” (Denton didn’t respond to numerous requests for comment.)

In his column, published in March 2008, Arrington noted that a business executive had recently

committed suicide after being written about in a blog (not owned by Denton), and then asked:

So how long will it be before Valleywag drives someone in our community to suicide? My fear is that it isn't a matter of if it will happen, but when. Valleywag and Nick Denton, though, will likely look forward to the event, and the great traffic growth that will surely follow. There's a market for this kind of content, obviously. And nothing can stop it except significant changes to our libel and defamation laws. That isn't something I support. But the valley was a much nicer place to live and work before the days of Valleywag."

There are just as many people in the Valley who would say it was a lot nicer place before the days of Arrington. The allegations lobbed at him are the result of the very same blog/social media/Silicon Valley "innovative journalism" that he himself has championed. In 2009, Arrington wrote a blog post on TechCrunch in defense of his site's practice of publishing rumors as part of the process to get to the "absolute truth." Digitally savvy journalists have academically dubbed this "process journalism."

"Some people ask why we don't just wait until we have the whole story before posting," Arrington wrote. "The fact is that we sometimes can't get to the end story without going through this process. . . . When a story is up and posted, it's amazing how many people come out of the woodwork to give us additional information. . . . And readers love it. The only people who don't like it are competitors who like to point out that a story was partially wrong, and that they got it right later. But the fact is that they didn't even know there was a story to begin with. Our original post kicked off the process, and they, like us, started digging for the absolute truth."

You might say process journalism was applied to the accusations against Arrington, and this sordid mess is the necessary by-product of a pursuit of the absolute truth. Regardless of the absolute truth of what Arrington did or did not do to Jenn Allen, the whole affair makes this much clear: while the Valley is busy incubating a lot of shiny new start-ups and promising innovations and social networks that generate all kinds of value propositions and tremendous revenue possibilities, behind the scenes of that eco-system there's another part of the culture, where someone is always trying to screw somebody over, where it's crunch or be crushed. The big question the luminaries of the Valley might want to ask themselves is the question Arrington himself posed that day at Berkeley: Does the Valley want to solve the problem, or does it want to pick on Mike?

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(G.H.- See More About [GAWKER, HERE>>>](#))

(F- LAT- Payback's a Bitch, VC's)

(F- Daily Caller- The **Silicon Valley VC's** are the **DNC's bankroll**. When they go, the DNC goes.)

(FGH- Here's the problem with the Venture Capitalists character assassinating someone clever and entrepreneurial like Arrington. When you end someone's life with a character attack you create a highly motivated enemy. They, and their friends, will come after you forever. When you do it to a publisher with lots of friends you double your pleasure/payback. When you do it to someone who is clever, a publisher and you do it on the internet where all of the other kids, adults, etc. who got attacked,

themselves, can catch some affinity; you ([VC/illuminati](#)) pretty much shoot yourselves in the foot. Combine doing it to Greenwald, Assange, Arrington, Manning and the others at the same exact historical time-span and you are pretty much fucked, you VC's. Good luck with a pissed off Arrington, Silicon Valley. You were better off with just a blabby Arrington. You should have let sleeping dogs sleep.)

(SD- The Arrington/D. McClure/R. Conway payback scheme will be Epic)

(GH-j- Elon Musk hit Martin Eberhard, and most of Musk's enemies, with most of "The Full Monty" in order to force a settlement from him. According to his ex-wives and ex-girlfriends, he also threatened them with "trouble" if they didn't accept a quick settlement, too [as discussed HERE>>>](#))

(MA- Gawker is a stealth front for Jay Carney and Robert Gibbs in the WH Press Office. If it is too dirty for a WH press syndicate release they have Nick Denton do the hit on somebody (usually the GOP) and, in exchange, avoid looking at his overseas accounts)

(G- Per the quote in the article about waiting for "Valleywag to drive someone in the -Silicon Valley- community to **suicide..**" **It Has!!!** Silicon Valley Has Committed Suicide in Self-Disgust. Goodbye Silicon Valley and the Arrogant Hipsters and [Douche Bag VC's](#).)

**[MARTIN EBERHARD, of Tesla, got the FULL MONTY.](#)**

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[Crovitz: Silicon Valley's 'Suicide Impulse' – WSJ.com](#)In The Wall Street Journal, Information Age columnist Gordon Crovitz writes that the tech industry's affection for Washington keeps growing—with Facebook ...

[online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424127887323539804578266290231304934](http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424127887323539804578266290231304934) – [View by Ixquick Proxy](#) – [Highlight](#)

[Suicide in Silicon Valley – ToobBox.com](#)Jul 14, 2013 ... The recent **suicides** of Jody Sherman, Aaron Swartz and Ilya Zhitomirskiy are tragic but all too familiar stories. Some might also recall the ...

<http://www.toobbox.com/blog/suicide-in-silicon-valley/> – [View by Ixquick Proxy](#) – [Highlight](#)

[The Story Of A Failed Startup And A Founder Driven To Suicide](#)Apr 4, 2013 ... A few months ago, on Sunday, January 27, an entrepreneur named Jody Sherman had plans to see a movie with a friend. But that afternoon ...

<http://www.businessinsider.com/jody-sherman-ecomom-2013-4> – [View by Ixquick Proxy](#) – [Highlight](#)

(DFG- [THISLINK](#) has Arrington's big blow-out disclosure on the VC's.)

**But once in awhile, Reporters win! See the Movie: "Big Boys Gone Bananas":**

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**Option #2: "Actual" Death-**

**Known as “Wet-Work” and done by hired mercenaries, who mainstream news calls: “Contractors” (See George Clooney’s movie “Micheal Clayton” to see how it is done). Killing you dead with, formerly, untraceable creepy technology... Internet lore holds that Brietbart is thought to have been taken out this way.**

...they can actually, ACTUALLY, kill you like [THIS!>>> as shown in THESE ARTICLES](#)

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### **Option #3: “The Come On”-**

**They ask to look at your technology, then steal it, then they say: “Ha! We are going to give it away, or just use it without paying you, to kill your market. What are you going to do about it, Sue us? Ha! Suckers...”**

Except, ...now you CAN sue them, and win!

.. they can sabotage your business like [THIS!>>>](#)

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### **Option #4: “The Poor Boy”-**

**Political operatives hack into, or pay friends to access, each of the career databases and credit reporting companies to falsely crash your background and credit checks so you can’t get a job. The companies they mostly use are:**

**TalentShield  
BeenVERified  
GIS BackGround Checks  
CVCertify  
Social Intelligence  
Dun And Bradstreet  
EquiFax  
Infortal  
Kroll Backgrounds  
Onesource  
Checkpeople  
and others...**

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### **Option #5: “The Honey Trap”-**

**They send somebody to sleep with you, or charge you for sex, or get pregnant or all of the above and cause all kinds of hell in the media...**

The **creepiest Honey Trap** system is the one we heard about at ProPublica where the owners of [Match.com/OKCupid.com](#) are closely connected to certain **political “interests”**. A source claimed

that they allow those interests to scan their database with **photo-comparison software**. If the dating profile picture you posted on Match.com or OkCupid is a match for a person the “interests” want to run a Honey Trap on, the “interests” send in a fake date person to try to get info from you or get you in a compromising situation. Very often the hot blonde you think you are writing to is some hairy fat male political operative in New Jersey. Both sites already have **a number of legal actions** for fake profiles. If true, and you are controversial, I suppose you can’t date anymore... bummer!

Ed- PP

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To see some of the HONEYS. [CLICK HERE>>>](#)

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[Julian Assange in the Honey Trap by Justin Raimondo — Antiwar.com](#) Dec 8, 2010 ... Anyone who doubts the unmitigated evil of the US government and its international enablers has only to look at the disgraceful persecution of ...

[original.antiwar.com/justin/2010/12/07/julian-assange-in-the-honey-trap/](http://original.antiwar.com/justin/2010/12/07/julian-assange-in-the-honey-trap/) – [View by Ixquick Proxy](#) – [Highlight](#)

[We are Women Against Rape but we do not want JulianAssange ...](#) Aug 23, 2012 ... WikiLeaks founder **JulianAssange** on the balcony of the ... internet; they have been trashed, accused of setting a “**honeytrap**“, and seen their ...

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2012/aug/23/women-against-rape-julian-assange> – [View by Ixquick Proxy](#) – [Highlight](#)

[Was Assange Lured into ‘Honey Trap?’ – The Truthseeker](#) Feb 27, 2013 ... Eyewitnesses report “an astounding swarm of women” around **JulianAssange**. Lucky guy but the fact that they were journalists from ...

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[“CIA Honeytrap” Ardin Deleted Twitter Posts PraisingAssange Alex ...](#) Dec 10, 2010 ... Anna Ardin, described in court documents as “Miss A,” had deleted Twitter messages speaking highly of Wikileaks founder **JulianAssange**, the ...

<http://www.infowars.com/cia-honeytrap-ardin-deleted-twitter-posts-praising-assange/> – [View by Ixquick Proxy](#) – [Highlight](#)

[IBA – IBA interview with Mark Stephens, lawyer forJulian Assange](#) 25.10mins: Stephens denies claims **Assange** has seen the full report of the sex allegations against him. 28.20mins: ‘The **honey-trap** has been sprung’ ...

<http://www.ibanet.org/Article/Detail.aspx?ArticleUid=160c30de-e4db-4837-a0fe-466c951a23f9> – [View by Ixquick Proxy](#) – [Highlight](#)

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[Was Anna Ardin a “CIA Honeytrap”? | Operation Protest](#) Dec 16, 2010 ... In computer terminology, a honeytrap or honeypotis a **trap** set to detect, ... seen the proof says **JulianAssange**’s lawyer” Source: dailymail.co.uk ...

[Commentary: Sex is Russian ‘honey trap’ for spies – The Santa Fe ...](#) Jul 19, 2013 ... And in a briefing at the International Spy Museum in **Washington**, D.C., recently, Melton spilled some of sexpionage’s greatest secrets.

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[VAWA And Variants On The “Honey Trap” by Charles E. Corry, Ph.D.](#) Jul 28, 2012 ... In popular fiction a “**honeytrap**” usually implies a woman entrapping ... Reston, Virginia and other installations near **Washington**, D.C., among ...

<http://www.ejfi.org/DV/dv-34.htm> – [View by Ixquick Proxy](#) – [Highlight](#)

[Honey Trap: Dozens of G20 Diplomats Get Hacked After They Click ...](#) **HoneyTrap**: Dozens of G20 Diplomats Get Hacked After They Click on a Link ... elites in **WashingtonDC** are competent super-managers of sterling character ...

[Russian spy Anna Chapman was luring U.S. cabinet member into ...](#) Apr 3, 2012... of President Obama’s inner circle in a seduction “**honeytrap**” when FBI ... born at the Smithsonian’s National Zoo in **Washington** D.C. on Aug.

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[Should You Set Up a Honey Trap? – Catching a Cheating Spouse](#) What is a **honeytrap**? Simply, a **honeytrap** (sometimes called a **honey pottrap**) is a kind of “sting operation” in which a person hired by you approaches your ...

[http://www.catchyourcheatingpartner.com/should\\_you\\_set\\_up\\_honey\\_trap.php](http://www.catchyourcheatingpartner.com/should_you_set_up_honey_trap.php) – [View by Ixquick Proxy](#) – [Highlight](#)

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**OR, just Bully Them To Death with “Swiftboating”, “Character Kills”...**

*(This is why good candidates don’t run for office, nobody wants to get character assassinated except the ones that are so dirty they just don’t give a damn- GH)*

[Sen. Rand Paul’s wife hesitant about White House bid – USA Today](#) Sep 18, 2013 ... Democrat LBJ

won the **Whitehouse** by a gigantic landslide on an anti-war ... As far as **character** assassination, with all the ammo that he has ...

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**Character assassination**-Jean Seberg and information control by ... **Characterassassination** — ... and Marilyn Monroe — in Jean Seberg's private life , films, and **political** victimization, the personal really becomes the **political**.

<http://www.ejumpcut.org/archive/onlinessays/JC28folder/Seberg.html> – [View by Ixquick Proxy](#) – [Highlight](#)

[KNIGHT: Foiling the left's character assassination – Washington Times](#) Sep 23, 2013 ... It was 10 years ago that Hillary Rodham Clinton famously lamented “the politics of personal destruction.” The former first lady and future ...

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/sep/23/knight-foiling-the-lefts-character-assassination/?page=all> – [View by Ixquick Proxy](#) – [Highlight](#)

[Gujarat BJP complains to EC against Modi's characterassassination ...](#) Nov 25, 2013 ... “It is pertinent to note that Arjun Modhwadia, while giving **apolitical** ... The phrase is used to describe a person of bad/loose **character**,” BJP ...

[Dave McClure says Silicon Valley is 'functionally illiterate' at ...](#) Jul 1, 2013 ... In a series of tweets that appear to have been sent out of frustration, prominent **SiliconValley** VC, Dave **McClure** let it all rip on what he thinks of ...

<http://www.ventureburn.com/2013/07/dave-mcclure-says-silicon-valley-is-functionally-illiterate-about-marketing/> – [View by Ixquick Proxy](#) – [Highlight](#)

[Bravo's Start-ups: Silicon Valley Debuts Clips; DaveMcClure ...](#)

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**Option #6: “The Hack and Block”-**

**Did you ever think you were doing everything right and things inexplicably go south right at the last minute? If you are a reporter or a public service person, you might be under the watch of a Hack and Block Operative. These technical hackers are already inside your phone and**

computer via embedded backdoors and spyware. Most of the time they do not even have to watch as you type. They just program their spyware to look for a selection of keywords that may have something to do with what they want to block. For example, if you are working on a story about stuffed animals and toxins, they might program their spyware to resend them anything with the words: “teddy bear, mattel, stuffed, stuffing, elmo, toys, investigation...etc” and on and on for thousands of words. The second you type one of these things, the political operative gets a text about it and goes to work. Did you just set up a meeting with an investor? That investor suddenly gets an anonymous tip with damaging info about you and the meeting is “rain-checked”.. Did you just set up a date online? [Your date](#) gets a disturbing message about you and suddenly she is “busy”. Did you just try to source a great tip for an interview? Suddenly the tip source “wants to think about it some more”? Your Operative got mail and you got Blocked.

[State Dept. whistleblower has email hacked, deleted | New York Post](#) 15 hours ago ...

WASHINGTON — The personal e-mail account of a **StateDepartmentwhistleblower** was **hacked**, and four years worth of messages — some ...

<http://www.nypost.com/2013/12/30/state-dept-whistleblower-has-email-hacked-deleted/> – [View by Ixquick Proxy](#) – [Highlight](#)

[State Dept. whistleblower has email hacked, deleted Alex Jones ...](#) 10 hours ago ... The personal e-mail account of a **StateDepartmentwhistleblower** was **hacked**, and four years worth of messages — some detailing alleged ...

<http://www.infowars.com/state-dept-whistleblower-has-email-hacked-deleted/> – [View by Ixquick Proxy](#) – [Highlight](#)

[State Dept. Whistleblower Has Email Hacked – Breitbart](#) 9 hours ago ... A **whistleblower** who had helped expose misconduct by Hillary Clinton’s security detail had his Gmail account **hacked** and key evidence ...

<http://www.breitbart.com/Big-Government/2013/12/30/Whistleblower-Who-Exposed-State-Department-Wrongdoing-Has-Email-Hacked> – [View by Ixquick Proxy](#) – [Highlight](#)

**Also known as “Hack-And-Extort”!**

**Ideal counter measures are: Massive disinformation output, never keep anything connected to any network (ie: unplug all power cords and network cables), only write fake meeting dates in electronic calendars, encrypt, relay, tor, create false lead traps that end up at your litigation firm’s office, put black electrical over every camera lens, phone lens, tablet lens, webcam lens, smart tv lens, computer lens, etc.**

One of the more **horrific** uses of **Hack and Block** is this story, an act which every **American is now at risk of** if you don’t **put black electrical tape over every camera lens** on your phone, tablet and computers:

<http://guardianlv.com/2013/12/apple-inc-and-other-webcams-hacked-miss-teen-usa-nude-photos-taken/>

**Apple Inc. And Other Webcams Hacked – Miss Teen USA Nude Photos Taken** Added by [Brent Matsalla](#) on December 21, 2013.

Saved under [Apple](#), [Brent Matsalla](#), [Technology](#)

Tags: [apple inc](#), [top](#)

<http://guardianlv.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Apple-Inc.-And-Other-Webcams-Hacked-Miss-Teen-USA-Nude-Photos-Taken-650x361.jpg>

Researchers at the Department of Computer Science at Johns Hopkins University say that Apple Inc.'s iSight camera system among other webcams can be vulnerable to hijack hacking. However, 19-year-old Miss Teen USA, Cassidy Wolf, found out the hard way when she received an anonymous email containing two nude photos of herself that were taken by her own hacked webcam.

The email demanded more nude photos from Wolf or the anonymous sender threatened to release her photos to the public if she didn't comply. More demands were also made in the email, but the details of these demands were not shared.

<http://guardianlv.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Apple-Inc.-And-Other-Webcams-Hacked-Miss-Teen-USA-Nude-Photos-Taken2-450x382.jpg>

The nude photos were taken over several months by Wolf's own laptop webcam. Wolf said that her webcam light never came on during this period, which would have tipped her off that her webcam was in use. It was never confirmed whether the webcam light had been disabled by the hacker, or if Wolf just didn't realize the LED light being on. **The hacker was spying on her and through up to 150 other webcams in the area.**

The FBI says suspected hacker, Jared Abrahams, breached the privacy of people by hacking into their webcams with his sophisticated network and peeping software. Abrahams has now pled guilty to extortion charges.

Earlier this month the FBI also revealed that they have been using a malicious software program called "malware" as a spying technique on suspects through the suspect's own webcams. The malware program was able to allow surveillance without toggling on the "in-operation" LED light located on a suspect's webcam. This is a similar sounding observation described by Miss Teen USA when her webcam was hacked and the nude photos were taken. Apple Inc.'s and other webcams have a hardware interlock between the LED light and the webcam. When the webcam is in operation, the LED light is always supposed to be toggled to the on position automatically.

Assistant professor and co-author of the Johns Hopkins' paper – *iSeeYou*, Stephen Checkoway, says that he and his partner were able to hack into Apple Inc.'s iSight camera system and disable the LED light when the camera was operating. Checkoway and his paper's co-author, Matthew Brocker, were able to independently control the camera to record audio, video, and snap pictures without enabling the camera's integrated LED light. The team was able to accomplish their feat by reprogramming the microcontroller contained within the iSight camera system.

Checkoway and Brocker notified Apple Inc. about their ability to exploit the iSight camera system, and

although Apple did not reply to requested comments, Apple sources say they took this very serious. The researchers did follow up with Apple several times, but were not informed by any possible plans for mitigation. Checkoway did note that the exploit now only works on older 2008 Apple products.

The federal government made agreements with seven computer rental companies last year, when it was discovered that they were unlawfully spying on their customers. The companies were allegedly capturing photos of their customers through the rental computer's webcam.

Miss Teen USA is only one case where nude photos have been taken from a hacked webcam. Apple Inc. and other webcam manufacturers will always remain vulnerable to malware hacking programs. The Federal Trade Commission says that currently many thousands of people may be getting spied on from webcam software named PC Rental Agent. This program had previously been installed on approximately 420,000 computers across the world. When it's not in use, covering the webcam with a piece of paper remains to be the best security from any hacked webcam.

By Brent Matsalla

Sources:

[New York Times](#)

[Techland](#)

[Washington Post](#)

(PS: GHI- A number of auto execs/agency heads have quit, or are sleeping in fear, because they believe they got Hack & Blocked doing bribery, WITH VIDEO, and their numbers may be about to come up in federal investigations. I'd say keep on eye out for Mother Jones or ProPublica's next video undercover exclusive from the tipsters ..... )

### **Personal Privacy Security 2014:**

(What a drag...)

- Get rid of your credit cards. Only use cash.
- Tape over every digital camera lens. Don't buy devices with built-in cameras.
- Unplug both the power cord and network cord of any device that network connects, when not in use. Routers, gamebox, appliances, Smart TV's, etc. They all watch you.
- Never leave your wifi unit in the "on" position.
- Keep your cell phone in "flight" mode or "airplane" mode until you are ready to use it and then turn it off after use.
- Always remove the battery from your phone when you go into a meeting or drive between locations.
- Try to buy devices that do not have a GPS chip in them.
- Don't "sync" any device.
- Phone, computer and other wall charger/adapters often have bugs built into them.
- Delete your contact list, calendar, tasks & memos from any mobile device. Carry them on paper

or on a device with no modem, wifi or bluetooth.

- Never use a “social network” site. Delete all data and cancel all existing sites.
- Remember: “If it has a plug, it has a bug”.
- Use TOR and peer to peer hardware and software certified by the open source community.
- Never post your picture online. If you do, make sure it is only used once per site and has your own steganography ID in it but your data meta tags stripped out.
- Don’t own anything with an RFID chip. Even your car tires have them in them.
- Cover your mouth when saying something important. Surveillance cameras read lips.

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### **Option #7: “The Molasses Tactic”-**

**AKA: The slow burn delay tactic**

**Lawyers and administrators PRETEND to be doing their jobs but, in actuality, they are intentionally delaying and “bottom drawer-ing” actions for years until you run out of money, time, patience, resources and sanity. Specific to reporters, their FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) request will sometimes be held off until the last possible minute.**

**Sometimes, a law-firm or lawyer will approach you because they “heard about your situation and want to help you”. Be sure they do not, secretly, work for the other side and they are there to make sure you lose the case or that it runs so slow, it has no effect.**

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### **Option #8:” Having You De-Googled”- [CLICK HERE FOR DETIALS](#)**

**Paying Google to Remove your name, company name or political campaign from Google Web searches or associating a search of your name with artificially created horrible things as was done with Rick Santorum’s name being “search-frozen” by Google to always bring up a disgusting sexual term.**

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**See Additional suppression techniques: [CLICK HERE>>>](#)**



## **WHEN WHITE HOUSE STAFF ABUSE THEIR ROLES: WHITE HOUSE HIT SQUADS**

Isn't it sad that, sometimes, the people who you pay part of your paycheck to, to take care of you, sometimes turn around and bite the hand that feeds them?

Oh those politicians... Sometimes they forget that they are the employees of the public.

Recent Freedom of Information Act revelations show that When the Monica Lewinsky scandal happened, The White House put a senior White House adviser named Sidney Blumenthal on the job as character assassination lead. He was mission-ed with defaming Monica Lewinsky, Lucianne Goldberg, Bill Kristol and seeking to destroy Vanity Fair's Christopher Hitchens, for writing about the scandal.

This is now well documented in the mainstream media and studied in university social ethics classes. Robert Gibbs and Jay Carney are now accused of running the modern day equivalent.

While this may seem horrific for the "highest office in the land", it is more of the rule than the exception.

Some people work in the White House merely to steer hundreds of billions of dollars of taxpayer money to their friends pockets, or campaign backer/employers pockets. Campaign backers are, more often than not, insane ego-maniacal billionaires who think they are untouchable because they have bought all of the power they want.

These kinds of people ignore the law, morality or ethics and exist purely to show off to the other insane billionaires in their good ole' boys club. They will stoop to anything; a character assassination, or even a real assassination, is not out of the question for them.

The procedure uses an axillary unit of the White House press office. The axillary unit never uses official emails. They conduct their work with personal text messages, personal emails and lunch meetings. They trade access for a hatchet job article on an enemy. They maintain a secret, but direct, link with tabloids, such as the **Nick Denton and The Gawker Media Syndicate**, in order to machine gun an opponent with fake blogger comments and hit-job articles. ( "Ah.. If only some spy agencies had kept a running archive of every phone call and email White House staff had made in, and out, of the office.....OOOOPSIE... They Did, This Time Around! Well, I bet it will be fun when the subpoenas start rolling out...)

They have "special project IT Consultants" go into the career databases at Axcion, Dun and Bradstreet, and all of the other services recruiters use, and put fake negative comments about the target so they can kill their career. They have a thousand "trade-craft" tools in their dirty war-chest. Some of them are ex CIA.

Is it illegal? VERY MUCH SO!

Can you catch them? The answer used to be no...but, now that everybody knows that every email, restaurant camera, text message and other communication system since 2001 has been recorded, logged, archived and analyzed by multiple federal agencies; maybe now you can!

### **The HuffPost Puts Sidney Blumenthal On Trial For Media Sins**

Posted by Ryan S. Jackson

Is the man who once coined the term “vast ring wing conspiracy” now an integral part of the monster he once decried, willingly abetting a yellow journalism vendetta against Barack Obama?! Peter Drier, of the American Prospect and the Los Angeles Times (amongst others), brings forth the case against Clintonista Sidney Blumenthal:

Former journalist Sidney Blumenthal has been widely credited with coining the term “vast right-wing conspiracy” used by Hillary Clinton in 1998 to describe the alliance of conservative media, think tanks, and political operatives that sought to destroy the Clinton White House where he worked as a high-level aide. A decade later, and now acting as a senior campaign advisor to Senator Clinton, Blumenthal is exploiting that same right-wing network to attack and discredit Barack Obama. And he’s not hesitating to use the same sort of guilt-by-association tactics that have been the hallmark of the political right dating back to the McCarthy era.

Amongst the questionable media narratives Drier accuses Blumenthal of pushing (there are many, and it is a long and winding piece):

- Obama’s high school exposure to a Hawaiian Marxist poet, who Obama mentions briefly in Dreams from My Father and who has since been elevated to an Obama father-figure by hard-right press critic Cliff Kincaid.
- The recent ‘Obama as Radical Black Nationalist’ narrative, and his Chicago connections to Weather Underground member William Ayers.

- A National Review article which accuses Obama of being an integral part of Chicago machine-style politics, which notes: "Blacks adapted to both the tribalism and the corrupt patronage politics."
- A plethora of different Tony Rezko stories.
- And lest anyone forget, the circa February 'Obama as Cult Leader' narrative penned initially by Washington Post columnist Charles Krauthammer.

Hardball politics or cavorting with the enemy? Read the piece and draw your own conclusions:

Peter Dreier

### **Sidney Blumenthal Uses Former Right-Wing Foes To Attack Obama**

Former journalist Sidney Blumenthal has been widely credited with coining the term "vast right-wing conspiracy" used by Hillary Clinton in 1998 to describe the alliance of conservative media, think tanks, and political operatives that sought to destroy the Clinton White House where he worked as a high-level aide. A decade later, and now acting as a senior campaign advisor to Senator Clinton, Blumenthal is exploiting that same right-wing network to attack and discredit Barack Obama. And he's not hesitating to use the same sort of guilt-by-association tactics that have been the hallmark of the political right dating back to the McCarthy era.

Almost every day over the past six months, I have been the recipient of an email that attacks Obama's character, political views, electability, and real or manufactured associations. The original source of many of these hit pieces are virulent and sometimes extreme right-wing websites, bloggers, and publications. But they aren't being emailed out from some fringe right-wing group that somehow managed to get my email address. Instead, it is Sidney Blumenthal who, on a regular basis, methodically dispatches these email mudballs to an influential list of opinion shapers -- including journalists, former Clinton administration officials, academics, policy entrepreneurs, and think tankers -- in what is an obvious attempt to create an echo chamber that reverberates among talk shows, columnists, and Democratic Party funders and activists. One of the recipients of the Blumenthal email blast, himself a Clinton supporter, forwards the material to me and perhaps to others.

These attacks sent out by Blumenthal, long known for his fierce and combative loyalty to the Clintons, draw on a wide variety of sources to spread his Obama-bashing. Some of the pieces are culled from the mainstream media and include some reasoned swipes at Obama's policy and political positions.

But, rather remarkably for such a self-professed liberal operative like Blumenthal, a staggering number of the anti-Obama attacks he circulates derive from highly-ideological and militant right-wing sources such as the misnamed Accuracy in Media (AIM), The Weekly Standard, City Journal, The American Conservative, and The National Review.

To cite just one recent example, Blumenthal circulated an article taken from the fervently hard-right AIM website on February 18 entitled, "Obama's Communist Mentor" by Cliff Kincaid. Kincaid is a right-wing writer and activist, a longtime critic of the United Nations, whose group, America's Survival, has been funded by foundations controlled by conservative financier Richard Mellon Scaife,

the same millionaire who helped fund attacks on the Clintons during their White House years. Scaife also funds AIM, the right-wing media "watchdog" group.

The Kincaid article that Blumenthal circulated sought to discredit Obama by linking him to an African-American poet and writer whom Obama knew while he was in high school in Hawaii. That writer, Frank Marshall Davis, was, Kincaid wrote, a member of the Communist Party. Supported by no tangible evidence, Kincaid claimed that Obama considered his relationship to Davis to be "almost like a son." In his memoir, *Dreams from My Father*, Obama wrote about meeting, during his teenage years, a writer named "Frank" who "had some modest notoriety once" and with whom he occasionally discussed poetry and politics. From this snippet, Kincaid weaves an incredulous tale that turns Davis into Obama's "mentor."

Kincaid's piece had been previously circulating within the right-wing blogosphere, but Blumenthal sought to inject the story into more respectable opinion circles by amplifying it in his email blast.

In the same piece, Kincaid, expanding his guilt-by-association tactics, also wrote that Obama "came into contact with more far-left political forces," including former Weather Underground member William Ayers. Until a few weeks ago, Obama's tangential connection with Ayers -- whose 1960s anti-war terrorism occurred when Obama was in grade school -- was echoing among right-wing bloggers.

Some Clinton supporters who also knew about Ayers have been discreetly trying to catapult the story out of the right-wing sandbox into the wider mainstream media. On April 9, Fox News' Sean Hannity interviewed fellow right-winger Karl Rove, who raised the Ayers-Obama connection. The next day, ABC News reporter Jake Tapper wrote about Ayers in his *Political Punch* blog. The following week, on his radio show, Hannity suggested to his guest, George Stephanopoulos, that he ask Obama about his relationship with Ayers at the upcoming Philadelphia presidential debate. Stephanopoulos, who was Bill Clinton's press secretary, replied, "Well, I'm taking notes." The following night during the April 16 nationally televised Presidential debate, Stephanopoulos dutifully asked Obama about Ayers, who is now a professor of education at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

One can only speculate how much influence Blumenthal did or did not have in elevating the Ayers story into the mainstream media and into the national political debate. What is certain is that Blumenthal sought to keep this classic red-baiting controversy alive.

Blumenthal's April 24 email dispatch featured a two-year old article by Sol Stern, published in *City Journal*, sponsored by the right-wing Manhattan Institute. The article, from the journal's Summer 2006 issue, doesn't mention Obama. Why would Blumenthal resurrect it now? The article, entitled "The Ed Schools' Latest--and Worst--Humbug," was, instead, a frontal attack on Ayers' views on educational theory and policy. Blumenthal obviously wasn't trying to offer enlightenment on educational policy or Obama's positions on school reform as much as he was presumably trying to keep Ayers' name, and his controversial past, in the public eye.

As a follow-up punch, Blumenthal again dipped directly into the "vast right wing conspiracy" by retrieving and circulating an article from the current issue of *National Review* -- the staunchly conservative opinion journal founded by William F. Buckley. The piece, titled "The Obama Way," was

penned by Fred Siegel who, like Sol Stern, is a former 60s leftist who has moved to the opposite end of the political spectrum, serving at one point as a political advisor to Rudy Giuliani. Siegel's piece links Obama to corrupt Chicago machine politics, observing that "Blacks adapted to both the tribalism and the corrupt patronage politics" of Chicago's Democratic Party. In the process, he manages to throw in as many spurious ad hominem attacks on Obama as he can, calling him a "friend of race-baiters" and a "man who would lead our efforts against terrorism yet was friendly with Bill Ayers, the unrepentant 1960s terrorist."

When Blumenthal worked in the White House, a big thorn in Bill Clinton's side was the Weekly Standard, the right-wing magazine edited by William Kristol and owned by Rupert Murdoch. But in mid-February, Blumenthal's email attack featured an article, "Republicans Root for Obama," written by Weekly Standard executive editor and Fox News talking head Fred Barnes. That same month, Blumenthal also offered up a piece by Scott McConnell, titled "Untested Savior," that appeared in The American Conservative (a magazine founded by Pat Buchanan) claiming that Obama "would probably lead them [Democrats] to disaster in November."

When Blumenthal isn't relying directly on anti-Obama smears from the extreme right, he's pumping up more traditionally sourced material, from the Washington Post, New Republic, and other publications, to question and damage Obama's character and electability. On several occasions, Blumenthal has circulated articles from the Chicago Sun Times and the Chicago Tribune about Obama's ties to developer Tony Rezko, a relationship Obama has said he regrets. In one email, Blumenthal wrote: "The record on Obama's fabled 'judgement'? So how would he conduct himself in those promised summits without preconditions with Ahmadinejad, Kim Jong Il, Chavez, Castro, and Assad? Let's look at how he did with Tony Rezko."

Earlier this year, one theme pushed by Clinton supporters and buoyed by Blumenthal's efforts, was that Obama's appeal was similar to that of a messianic cult leader. Obama's capacity to inspire people was reframed as a kind of malevolent force, as though his followers would somehow willingly drink poisoned Kool-Aid if Obama so demanded. In his February 7 Time magazine column, "Inspiration vs. Substance," writer Joe Klein, who, like Blumenthal, worked on the Boston alternative paper, The Real Paper, in the 1970s, wrote: "There was something just a wee bit creepy about the mass messianism -- 'We are the ones we've been waiting for' -- of the Super Tuesday speech and the recent turn of the Obama campaign." That same morning, Blumenthal sent the Klein column to his email list. Later that day, in his Political Punch blog, ABC News reporter Jake Tapper wrote, "The Holy Season of Lent is upon us. Can Obama worshippers try to give up their Helter-Skelter cultish qualities for a few weeks?" (Update: In response to OffTheBus, Tapper is categorical in denying that he in any way relied upon Blumenthal or was influenced by Blumenthal in the production or in the writing of this story or his reports on William Ayers or the Obama "cult")

The following day, in the Los Angeles Times, columnist Joel Stein wrote: "Obamaphilia has gotten creepy. What the Cult of Obama doesn't realize is that he is a politician."

After this idea had bounced around the media echo chamber for a few days, the liberal watchdog group Media Matters for America, run by David Brock, posted a summary on February 8 of the sudden

outbreak of "cult" references about Obama. It was headlined: "Media figures call Obama supporters' behavior 'creepy,' compare them to Hare Krishna and Manson followers." The next day, Blumenthal sent the Media Matters piece to his email list. A few days later, the New York Times' Paul Krugman, a Clinton supporter, weighed in with a column, "Hate Springs Eternal," in which he wrote, "I'm not the first to point out that the Obama campaign seems dangerously close to a cult of personality." Nor would he be the last. Four days later, Washington Post columnist Charles Krauthammer, an arch conservative, penned a column entitled, "The Audacity of Selling Hope" in which he simply quoted Klein, Tapper, Stein, and Krugman.

One of Blumenthal's associates scoffs at the notion that there's anything vaguely conspiratorial about these emails and that a number of the people on the list-serve are also the authors of the pieces he sends out. "They're just Sid's friends," he told me. This is, in fact, the very definition of an echo chamber. People in the opinion-shaping business also seek to influence other opinion-makers, who then bounce their ideas through their overlapping outlets -- newspapers, magazines, talk shows, websites, blogs, and social and political fundraising circles. The connections are so incestuous that it's hard to untangle where the "feedback loop" begins and ends.

Among those whose names show up as recipients of Blumenthal's emails are writers and journalists Craig Unger, Edward Jay Epstein, Thomas Edsall (Politics Editor of the Huffington Post), Joe Conason, Gene Lyons (Arkansas Democrat-Gazette columnist and author of *The Hunting of the President: The Ten Year Campaign to Destroy Bill and Hillary Clinton*), John Judis, Eric Alterman, Christine Ockrent, David Brock, Reza Aslan, Harold Evans, and Josh Marshall; academics and think tankers Todd Gitlin (Columbia U sociologist), Karen Greenberg (NYU law school), Sean Wilentz (Princeton historian), Michael Lind, William M. Drozdiak, and Richard Parker; and former Clinton administration officials John Ritch, James Rubin, Derek Shearer, and Joe Wilson.

Not all of Blumenthal's recipients, or those who, like me, receive the emails second-hand, are Clinton supporters.

Before and after his service in the Clinton White House, Blumenthal wrote for the New Yorker, New Republic, Washington Post, the Guardian, and Salon, where he was often accused of engaging in partisan journalism.

In the Clinton administration, Blumenthal was primarily a behind-the-scenes strategist, but often found himself speaking in front of the cameras and on the record. In both roles, he was known as a committed Clintonista who played hardball. He's demonstrated those same traits since joining Hillary's campaign as a senior advisor last November.

Presidential politics can get down and dirty, and Blumenthal is a master at the game. Some Obama supporters might even wish that his campaign would resort to similar tactics. If it did, there would be no shortage of anti-Hillary screeds by the "vast right-wing conspiracy" activists and writers, such as surfacing the photo of Rev. Jeremiah Wright with Bill Clinton at a prayer breakfast at the White House in 1998, invited by the president in the midst of his Lewinsky scandal. Indeed, the right-wingers probably hate Hillary more than they dislike Obama. But so far the Obama camp has avoided slinging

the right-wing mud, at least with any of the enthusiasm and diligence demonstrated by Sid Blumenthal.

Follow Peter Dreier on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/peterdreier](http://www.twitter.com/peterdreier)

media character assassination | Tumblr

[www.tumblr.com/tagged/media-character-assassination](http://www.tumblr.com/tagged/media-character-assassination) - View by Ixquick Proxy - Highlight

When The Media Treats White Suspects And Killers Better Than Black Victims ... almost from the start of his time in the White House, by the tea party, with its ...

NAACP President: "Postmortem Character Assassination" Of ...

[www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2014/08/17/](http://www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2014/08/17/naACP_president_postmortem_character_assassination_of_michael_brown.html)

[naACP\\_president\\_postmortem\\_character\\_assassination\\_of\\_michael\\_brown.html](http://naACP_president_postmortem_character_assassination_of_michael_brown.html) - View by Ixquick Proxy - Highlight

Aug 17, 2014 ... Here we have a postmortem character assassination, very troubling. ... I have received calls from the White House late at night, early in the morning. ... The NAACP has been working with the FBI agents to identify and bring ...

Great news: Democrats on board with Reid's McCarthyite character ...

[www.hotair.com/archives/2014/07/08/great-news-democrats-on-board-with-reids-mccarthyite-character-assassination-strategy/](http://www.hotair.com/archives/2014/07/08/great-news-democrats-on-board-with-reids-mccarthyite-character-assassination-strategy/) - View by Ixquick Proxy - Highlight

Jul 8, 2014 ... Considering their 'dear leader' in the White House consults Alinky's book on a .... If you wanted to compare the leftist character assassination of ...

More Character Assassination: "Gentle Giant" Had Pot in System ...

[www.rushlimbaugh.com/daily/2014/08/18/](http://www.rushlimbaugh.com/daily/2014/08/18/more_character_assassination_gentle_giant_had_pot_in_system_cops_version_of_story_comes_to_light)

[more\\_character\\_assassination\\_gentle\\_giant\\_had\\_pot\\_in\\_system\\_cops\\_version\\_of\\_story\\_comes\\_to\\_light](http://more_character_assassination_gentle_giant_had_pot_in_system_cops_version_of_story_comes_to_light) - View by Ixquick Proxy - Highlight

Aug 18, 2014 ... Home > Archives (Aug 18, 2014) > More Character Assassination: "Gentle ... With the aid of the Washington Post, I have just participated in a smear .... to grandmother's house -- was accosted by a typically white racist cop and ...

Police accused of 'character assassination' - Video on NBCNews.com

[www.nbcnews.com/video/all-in-/55876972](http://www.nbcnews.com/video/all-in-/55876972) - View by Ixquick Proxy - Highlight

Aug 15, 2014 ... Chris Hayes speaks with Brown family attorney Anthony Gray and St. Louis ...

Michael Brown's family condemns what they call character assassination after the Ferguson police ...

The 'WhiteHouse jumper' story gets scarier.

Andrew Johnson | The White House

[www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents/andrewjohnson](http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents/andrewjohnson) - View by Ixquick Proxy - Highlight

..

[www.politicususa.com/2013/11/23/brand-presidential-assassination.html](http://www.politicususa.com/2013/11/23/brand-presidential-assassination.html) - View by Ixquick Proxy - Highlight

Nov 23, 2013 ... During NBC's tick-tock march through those terrible Friday hours 50 years ... sought to bring grace, history, and good works to the White House.

Democrats turn on Debbie Wasserman Schultz - Edward-Isaac ...

[www.politico.com/ story/ 2014/ 09/ democrats-debbie-wasserman-schultz-111077.html](http://www.politico.com/story/2014/09/democrats-debbie-wasserman-schultz-111077.html) - View by Ixquick Proxy- Highlight

## **HOW GOOGLE BECAME A "POLITICAL HIT-Job" PROVIDER:**

Google targeted, and sought to sabotage and destroy, those who got fingered by the Washington Executives who were seeking to cover up financial crimes they had engaged in. Reporters, whistleblowers and competitors were subjected to a withering onslaught of cyber-bullying, character assassination, web site removal, link hiding, customer deflection, and other dirty tricks, brought to you by GOOGLE.

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TECHNOLOGY

# Inside the U.S. Antitrust Probe of Google

Key FTC staff wanted to sue Internet giant after finding 'real harm to consumers and to innovation'



Google's Eric Schmidt testified in 2011 about the Internet giant's business practices and defended how it displayed search results. PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES



By BRODY MULLINS, ROUFE WINGLER and BRENT KENDALL

49 COMMENTS

Updated March 19, 2015 7:38 p.m. ET

WASHINGTON—Officials at the Federal Trade Commission concluded in 2012 that Google Inc. used anticompetitive tactics and abused its monopoly power in ways that harmed Internet users and rivals, a far harsher analysis of Google's business than was previously known.

The staff report from the agency's bureau of competition recommended the commission bring a lawsuit challenging three Google practices. The move would have triggered one of the highest-profile antitrust cases since the Justice Department sued Microsoft Corp. in the 1990s.

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The 160-page critique, which was supposed to remain private but was inadvertently disclosed in an open-records request, concluded that Google's "conduct has resulted—and will result—in real harm to consumers and to innovation in the online search and advertising markets."

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## Technology

# WALL STREET JOURNAL

## Inside the U.S. Antitrust Probe of Google Key FTC staff wanted to sue Internet giant after finding ‘real harm to consumers and to innovation’

Updated March 19, 2015 7:38 p.m. ET [49 COMMENTS](#) WASHINGTON—Officials at the Federal Trade Commission concluded in 2012 that [Google](#) Inc. used anticompetitive tactics and abused its monopoly power in ways that harmed Internet users and rivals, a far harsher analysis of Google’s business than was previously known. The staff report from the agency’s bureau of competition recommended the commission bring a lawsuit challenging three Google practices. The move would have triggered one of the highest-profile antitrust cases since the Justice Department sued [Microsoft](#) Corp. in the 1990s. Related

- [How Google Skewed Search Results](#)
- [Digits: Excerpts from FTC Staff Report on Google’s Search Practices](#)
- [Google Dodges Antitrust Hit](#) (Jan. 3, 2013)
- [EU Prepares to Step Up Google Investigations](#) (July 22, 2014)

The 160-page critique, which was supposed to remain private but was inadvertently disclosed in an open-records request, concluded that Google’s “conduct has resulted—and will result—in real harm to consumers and to innovation in the online search and advertising markets.”

The findings stand in contrast to the conclusion of the FTC’s commissioners, who voted unanimously in early 2013 to end the investigation after Google agreed to some voluntary changes to its practices.

It is unusual for the commissioners to not take staff recommendations. But in this case, they were wrestling with competing recommendations, including a separate report from the agency’s economic bureau that didn’t favor legal action.

AdvertisementThen-Chairman Jon Leibowitz said in a written statement at the time that Google’s voluntary changes deliver “more relief for American consumers faster than any other option.”

Google General Counsel Kent Walker said in a statement Thursday that the FTC ultimately “agreed that there was no need to take action on how we rank and display search results.” He added: “Speculation about potential consumer harm turned out to be entirely wrong. Since the investigation closed two years ago, the ways people access information online have only increased, giving consumers more choice than ever before.”

On one issue—whether Google used anticompetitive tactics for its search engine—the competition staff recommended against a lawsuit, although it said Google’s actions resulted in “significant harm” to

rivals. In three other areas, the report found evidence the company used its monopoly behavior to help its own business and hurt its rivals.

**ENLARGE** The report undercuts Google's oft-stated contention that the FTC found no evidence of wrongdoing. "The conclusion is clear: Google's services are good for users and good for competition," said [David Drummond](#), Google's senior vice president and chief legal officer, when the FTC closed the matter.

It could prompt new complaints from some Google competitors, such as [Yelp Inc.](#), who allege the company still engages in anticompetitive behavior, and renewed focus by antitrust authorities in Europe, who are pursuing their own look into Google.

"This document appears to show that the FTC had direct evidence from Google of intentional search bias," said Luther Lowe, the vice president of public policy for Yelp.

**ENLARGE** The Wall Street Journal viewed portions of the document after the agency inadvertently disclosed it as part of a Freedom of Information Act request. The FTC declined to release the undisclosed pages and asked the Journal to return the document, which it declined to do.

"Unfortunately, an unredacted version of this material was inadvertently released in response to a FOIA request," an FTC spokesman said in a statement to the Journal. "We are taking steps to ensure this does not happen again."

Embedded in the document and in detailed footnotes are an array of previously unknown details about Google's business, many of which come from senior officials such as Executive Chairman [Eric Schmidt](#), former executive [Marissa Mayer](#) and co-founders [Larry Page](#) and [Sergey Brin](#).

Data included in the report suggest Google was more dominant in the U.S. Internet search market than was widely believed. The company estimated its market share at between 69% and 84% during a period when research firm comScore put it at 65%. "From an antitrust perspective, I'm happy to see [comScore] underestimate our share," the report quoted Google Chief Economist Hal Varian as saying, without specifying the context.

An antitrust suit against Google would have pitted [Obama](#) administration appointees against one of the White House's closest corporate allies. Google was the second-largest corporate source of campaign donations to President Barack Obama's re-election effort. Google executives have visited the White House scores of times since Mr. Obama has been in office, according to visitor logs.

"The FTC is an independent agency and we respect their independent decision-making," said Jennifer Friedman, a White House spokeswoman.

In its investigation, FTC staff said Google's conduct "helped it to maintain, preserve and enhance Google's monopoly position in the markets for search and search advertising" in violation of the law. Google's behavior "will have lasting negative effects on consumer welfare," the report said.

Google has long disputed any characterization that it is a monopoly, saying that competition is "just a click away."

In discussing one of the issues the FTC staff wanted to sue over, the report said the company illegally took content from rival websites such as Yelp, [TripAdvisor](#) Inc. and Amazon.com Inc. to improve its own websites. It cited one instance when Google copied Amazon's sales rankings to rank its own items. It also copied Amazon's reviews and ratings, the report found. Spokesmen for TripAdvisor and Amazon declined to comment.

When competitors asked Google to stop taking their content, it threatened to remove them from its search engine.

"It is clear that Google's threat was intended to produce, and *did* produce, the desired effect," the report said, "which was to coerce Yelp and TripAdvisor into backing down." The company also sent a message that it would "use its monopoly power over search to extract the fruits of its rivals' innovations."

In its final agreement, the commission secured a promise that Google would allow websites to opt out of having their content included in its competing search products.

The staff said Google also broke antitrust law by placing restrictions on websites that publish its search results from also working with rivals such as Microsoft's Bing and [Yahoo](#) Inc.

The commission made no mention of this issue in its final report, nor did it secure any commitments from Google to change its policies.

In a third area, the FTC staff said Google violated antitrust law by restricting advertisers' ability to use data garnered from Google ad campaigns in advertising run on rival platforms.

The FTC report cited a Google employee who said the company once wanted to do away with the unnecessary restriction but was overruled by Mr. Page, who is now Google's chief executive. A Google spokeswoman declined to make Mr. Page available for comment.

Ultimately, Google changed this policy voluntarily in 2013 at the behest of the agency.

On the most important issue, that of Google's prized search engine, the FTC report said Google altered it to benefit its own services at the expense of rivals. The report said Google "adopted a strategy of demoting, or refusing to display, links to certain vertical websites in highly commercial categories."

In what it termed "a close call," the staff said the FTC shouldn't issue a complaint against the company because of legal hurdles and Google's "strong procompetitive justifications."

'[Google's behavior] helped it to maintain, preserve and enhance Google's monopoly position in the markets for search and search advertising'

—FTC staff report The "evidence paints a complex portrait of a company working toward an overall goal of maintaining its market share by providing the best user experience, while simultaneously engaging in tactics that resulted in harm to many vertical competitors, and likely helped to entrench Google's monopoly power over search and search advertising," the staff said.

On Jan. 3, the five FTC commissioners voted to close the investigation. A few months later, now FTC

Chairwoman Edith Ramirez told a Senate committee that a majority of commissioners didn't support a case against Google on any of the allegations under investigation. **Write to** Brody Mullins at [brody.mullins@wsj.com](mailto:brody.mullins@wsj.com), Rolfe Winkler at [rolfe.winkler@wsj.com](mailto:rolfe.winkler@wsj.com) and Brent Kendall at [brent.kendall@wsj.com](mailto:brent.kendall@wsj.com)

## **PATIENT ZERO - THE FIRST INTERNET CHARACTER ASSASSINATION KILL ORDER**

**"Monica Lewinsky Speaks: 'It's My Mission To End Cyberbullying ...'"**

**Forbes**



[Clare O'Connor](#) Forbes Staff

Monica Lewinsky has broken a decade-long silence to announce her campaign to end cyberbullying

and today's toxic culture of internet shaming.

In her first ever public address, the former mistress of President [Bill Clinton](#) revealed her plan to launch a “cultural revolution” against the sort of online harassment she experienced firsthand in the late 1990s.

“I was Patient Zero,” said Lewinsky, now 41, to an auditorium full of 1,000-plus high-achieving millennials at Forbes' inaugural 30 [Under 30](#) summit in Philadelphia. “The first person to have their reputation completely destroyed worldwide via the Internet.”

“There was no [Facebook](#), [Twitter TWTR +2.85%](#) or Instagram back then,” she said. “But there were gossip, news and entertainment websites replete with comment sections and emails which could be forwarded. Of course, it was all done on the excruciatingly slow dial up. Yet around the world this story went. A viral phenomenon that, you could argue, was the first moment of truly ‘social media’.”

Lewinsky described her life since the 1998 sex scandal that resulted in Bill Clinton's impeachment as one marred by a deep sense of shame and even suicidal thoughts.

She became emotional telling of the miserable months after then-unknown gossip website the Drudge Report broke the news of her relationship with Clinton — a public humiliation exacerbated by the release of the Starr Report online later that year, offering intimate details of their trysts.

“Staring at the computer screen, I spent the day shouting: ‘oh my god!’ and ‘I can't believe they put that in’ or ‘That's so out of context,’” she said. “And those were the only thoughts that interrupted a relentless mantra in my head: ‘I want to die.’”

In the immediate aftermath of the Clinton saga, Lewinsky tried to capitalize on her notoriety, first designing handbags and then hosting a reality dating show. She moved to the U.K., where she attended the London School of Economics and got a master's degree in social psychology. Still, nothing could remove the specter of her public shaming.

It was only years later in 2010 when she read of the tragic suicide of Rutgers freshman Tyler Clementi that Lewinsky stumbled on what she now sees as a calling.

Clementi's college roommate secretly filmed him kissing another man in their dorm room and streamed the video via webcam. Derided and ridiculed online, the 18-year-old jumped off the [George Washington](#) Bridge to his death.

“That tragedy is one of the principal reasons I am standing up here today,” said Lewinsky. “While it touched us both, my mother was unusually upset by the story, and I wondered why. Eventually it dawned on me: she was back in 1998, back to a time when I was periodically suicidal; when she might very easily have lost me; when I, too, might have been humiliated to death.”

Lewinsky met with Clementi's parents, who set up the Tyler Clementi Foundation for vulnerable youth, LGBT youth and their allies. She intends to share her story with victims of cyberbullying and online harassment. There are many of them: almost 54% of young Facebook users describe being bullied or harassed online. The recent web hacks that exposed nude photos of A-list celebrities like Jennifer Lawrence serve as a reminder that no one is immune.

“Having survived myself, what I want to do now is help other victims of the shame game survive, too,” she said. “I want to put my suffering to good use and give purpose to my past.”

Follow Lewinsky’s plans on Twitter, at her brand new handle: [@MonicaLewinsky](#).

# The White House Political Hit-Master: Sidney Blumenthal:

**Killing Monica....**From: Keep It Constitutional [February 04, 1999](#)The House impeachment managers who are prosecuting President Clinton before the Senate have asked all the questions they cared to ask of the three witnesses they chose to call and apparently learned little of help to their case. That won't stop them from appealing to the Senate today to compel public testimony from Monica S. Lewinsky, Vernon Jordan, the president's chum, and **Sidney Blumenthal, a political hit man** for Bill and Hillary Clinton. Clearly the House managers are ready to prolong this trial until the last senator keels over from terminal boredom, but even senators who want to convict Clinton of high crimes and misdemeanors are signaling they have had enough. The trial phase of this proceeding is effectively over, and today's vote on the witnesses should say so. Though it may have added only marginally to the stupefyingly voluminous record, this week's videotaped questioning of the three witnesses should nonetheless be made public. Repetitious and unilluminating though the testimony may be, it is part of a historic event and deserves to be released in full. For the same reason, the Senate's pending debate on whether to convict or acquit Clinton on charges of perjury and obstructing justice should take place before the eyes of the nation and not in a closed chamber.

Even if the Senate deservedly rejects the House managers' plea to hear witnesses, its route toward ending the trial by Feb. 12 will remain rocky. No one any longer believes that 67 votes can be found to convict Clinton and end his presidency. Recognizing that, Republicans continue to search for a variation on their leadership's notion of a "finding of fact" that, in so many words and by a simple majority vote, would declare Clinton guilty of willfully lying under oath and trying to obstruct justice.

We have held from the onset of the impeachment process that Clinton's behavior in the Lewinsky affair has earned him the strongest condemnation. That could be expressed, without any question of its being extra-constitutional, in a joint congressional resolution. Conversely, the notion of a "finding of fact" to brand Clinton guilty of the same crimes of which an impeachment vote surely would acquit him is a brazen effort to circumvent the letter and spirit of the Constitution. Republicans have always insisted that the impeachment process is solely about upholding the sanctity and dignity of the law. A partisan, constitutionally unsanctioned "finding of fact" would make a mockery of that standard.

## BOB WOODWARD: ALL THE PRESIDENTS "HIT JOBS":

CNN Politics



## Exchange between Bob Woodward and White House official in spotlight

Posted by [CNN Political Unit \(CNN\)](#) - An email exchange between two old Washington hands – one, a longtime journalist, and the second, a source in the Obama administration – is at the center of a political controversy Thursday as two sides read the messages differently.

The veteran journalist is [Bob Woodward](#), who broke the Watergate scandal and wrote a book about the [debt ceiling negotiations in the summer of 2011](#). The Obama administration source is [Gene Sperling](#), a senior economic aide to [President Barack Obama](#) and a veteran of the Clinton administration.

They traded emails, Woodward said, as he prepared to report that President Barack Obama was "moving the goal posts" around the [forced spending cuts](#), known as the sequester.

That irked the White House, he said Wednesday on CNN's "The Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer," and led to the email exchange between Woodward and Sperling.

"They're not happy at all," with what he was reporting, Woodward said.

"It was said very clearly, 'You will regret doing this,' " he continued, intimating a threat.

[Politico published the emails](#) on Thursday, which a Democrat with knowledge of identified as between Woodward and Sperling. White House Press Secretary Jay Carney did not dispute that the published emails were accurate.

The part of the email from Sperling to Woodward that used the word "regret" said: "But I do truly believe you should rethink your comment about saying saying [sic] that [Obama] asking for revenues is moving the goal post. I know you may not believe this, but as a friend, I think you will regret staking out that claim."

"The idea that the sequester was to force both sides to go back to try at a big or grand bargain [sic] with a mix of entitlements and revenues (even if there were serious disagreements on composition) was part of the DNA of the thing from the start."

The two were trading words over the deal White House and Congress struck in the summer of 2011, an agreement to increase the federal debt limit in exchange for the spending cuts – a draconian measure which was never expected to take effect but are now set to trigger on Friday. Instead, the [forced spending cuts](#) were designed to incentivize further deficit negotiations.

Woodward reported that the White House was agreeing with the forced spending cuts to negotiate in the future a deal which replaced the broad and indiscriminate spending cuts in the sequester with more palatable cuts and without additional funds through tax increases.

[Obama has stumped for a sequester replacement](#) which balances spending cuts with additional tax revenue gained through eliminating tax loopholes.

"[W]hen the president asks that a substitute for the sequester include not just spending cuts but also new revenue, he is moving the goal posts," Woodward wrote [in an op-ed published by The Washington Post](#) late last week.

"His call for a balanced approach is reasonable, and he makes a strong case that those in the top income brackets could and should pay more. But that was not the deal he made."

He spoke by phone with Sperling, a conversation which was apparently heated.

After the email from Sperling, which included an apology for the sharp phone call, Woodward wrote back not taking offense, "You get wound up because you are making your points and you believe them. This is all part of a serious discussion."

A White House official said Wednesday evening – after the CNN interview – that the email Woodward referenced "was sent to apologize for voices being raised in their previous conversation. The note suggested that Mr. Woodward would regret the observation he made regarding the sequester because that observation was inaccurate, nothing more. And Mr. Woodward responded to this aide's email in a friendly manner."

"Of course no threat was intended" in that email, the official said.

And former Obama adviser David Axelrod tweeted that the e-mails were "cordial."

But Woodward said on CNN that the White House objection to his reporting has no basis in facts.

"It's irrefutable. That's exactly what happened," he said. "I'm not saying this is a moving of the goal posts that was a criminal act or something like that. I'm just saying that's what happened."

Carney spoke about the emails specifically and the Obama administration's approach to working with the press on Thursday, saying "the president expects us to fully explain his policies, to answer questions about his positions and to make clear when we believe factual errors are being stated, which is what we do."

"Gene Sperling, in keeping with a demeanor I have been familiar with for more than twenty years, was incredibly respectful, referred to Mr. Woodward as his friend and apologized for raising his voice," Carney said. "I think you can not read those emails and come away with the impression that Gene was threatening anybody."

Sharyl Attkisson's Story: DOES THE WHITE HOUSE PUT "HITS" ON CITIZENS?... YEP...

# Document Dump Shows DOJ Worked With White House To Target 'Out of Control' Sharyl Attkisson For Fast and Furious Coverage



Katie Pavlich | Nov 21, 2014



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----- Original Message -----

From: Schmalzer, Tracy (OPA) <Tracy.Schmalzer@usdoj.gov>

To: Schultz, Eric

Sent: Tue Oct 04 07:46:06 2011

Subject: No stories

DOJ-FF-61331

From NYT, AP, Reuters, WaPo, NBC, Bloomberg ...

I'm also calling Sharryl's editor and reaching out to Scheiffer. She's out of control

Document Dump Shows DOJ Worked With White House To Target 'Out of Control' Sharyl Attkisson For Fast and Furious Coverage [Katie Pavlich](#) | TOWN HALL

A Department of Justice document dump to government watchdog [Judicial Watch](#), made public yesterday, shows former DOJ Spokeswoman and Holder Flack Tracy Schmalzer talking to the White House about "out of control" investigative reporter Sharyl Attkisson. Attkisson was covering Operation Fast and Furious for CBS News at the time.

An email was sent by Schmalzer to White House Deputy Press Secretary Eric Schultz on October 4, 2011 and shows she planned to call Attkisson's editor and longtime CBS anchor Bob Scheiffer to get a handle on her reporting.

Emails also show Schultz responding to Schmalzer with, "Good. Her [Attkisson] piece was really bad for the AG."

The specific story by Attkisson that Schmalzer and Schultz are referring to was about memos showing Holder was briefed about Operation Fast and Furious nearly one year before he claimed he'd heard about the program under oath in front of Congress in May 2011.

Keep in mind that in 2011, when this email exchange occurred, the White House had denied any discussion about Operation Fast and Furious with the Department of Justice. This email not only proves they were jointly targeting Attkisson, but working together to mitigate the scandal. At one point during her pursuit of Fast and Furious Attkisson was screamed at by Schultz, who used profanity, over the phone.

It seems top brass over at CBS gave into DOJ pressure. Attkisson left CBS News last year after 20 years of working at the outlet, citing difficulty in getting stories critical of the Obama administration on the air.

In addition to going directly to the bosses of reporters for intimidation purposes, during her tenure Schmalzer regularly worked with far left smear machines like Media Matters to [attack other reporters and DOJ whistleblowers](#).

Internal Department of Justice emails obtained by The Daily Caller show Attorney General Eric Holder's communications staff has collaborated with the left-wing advocacy group Media Matters for America in an attempt to quell news stories about scandals plaguing Holder and America's top law enforcement agency.

Emails sent in September and November 2010 show Schmalzer working with Media Matters staffer Jeremy Holden on attacking news coverage of the New Black Panther Party voter intimidation scandal.

Holden attacked former DOJ Civil Rights Division attorneys J. Christian Adams and Hans von Spakovsky on Sept. 20, 2010 for what he called an attempt "to reignite the phony New Black Panther Party scandal."

Throughout the email exchanges TheDC obtained through the FOIA request are numerous examples of Gertz and other Media Matters staff sending the full text of Media Matters blog entries attacking the DOJ's political opponents in the media.

Among others, Gertz sent Schmalzer attack pieces he wrote about Townhall Magazine's Katie Pavlich, who also authored a book on Operation Fast and Furious; Breitbart.com writers Joel Pollak and Ken Klukowski; Fox News Channel's William LaJeunesse, Judge Andrew Napolitano, Megyn Kelly, Martha MacCallum, Bill Hemmer, Bill O'Reilly and Sean Hannity; Sipse Street Irregulars blogger Mike Vanderboegh; DirectorBlue blogger Doug Ross; National Review's Andrew C. McCarthy; and this reporter. Schmalzer left DOJ in February 2013. Under a court order, DOJ turned over 42,000 pages of Fast and Furious documentation to Judicial Watch last week. The documentation was held for years under President Obama's claim of executive privilege. Because of the vast amount of information, [Judicial Watch](#) is asking the public for help reviewing them and with [looking for evidence of wrongdoing and corruption](#).

Attkisson recently published a book, [Stonewalled: My Fight for Truth Against the Forces of Obstruction, Intimidation, and Harassment in Obama's Washington](#), about her experiences.

Topics:

- [White House](#)
- [Eric Holder](#)
- [Department of Justice](#)
- [Operation Fast and Furious](#)
- [Sharyl Attkisson](#)
- [tracy schmalzer](#)

**READ THE ORIGINAL EMAILS ABOUT COORDINATING ATTACKS ON ATTKISSON BY WHITE HOUSE AND DOJ STAFF (Download the following files provided by congressional investigators):**



**she-is-out-of-control.pdf**

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## **Former CBS News Reporter Sharyl Attkisson Claims Existence of Obama Enemies' List**

"I kind of assume I'm on a list. I don't think I'm the only one" **Sharyl Attkisson** is an investigative journalist who became the story when she quit CBS News after two decades amid allegations that the network refused to run some of her stories that were critical of President **Barack Obama**. Ahead of the Tuesday release of her book *Stonewalled: My Fight for Truth Against the Forces of Obstruction, Intimidation, and Harassment in Obama's Washington*, she spoke to *The Hollywood Reporter* about her struggles with CBS executives and her assertion that her computers were hacked, possibly by Obama operatives.

*THR* reached out for a response from CBS News, but the organization declined to comment.

**Who did you tell at CBS that your computers were hacked?**

The first person I spoke to was Washington bureau chief **Chris Isham**.

**Did he believe you?**

He appeared to.

**Did CBS care? Did they do anything about it?**

God, you know, there's a lot of people there. He seemed to care. He hired a separate computer forensics firm to look at the computers. They, too, agreed that there had been highly sophisticated remote intrusion of my computers. They decided to dig deeper and embark upon a process that spanned a number of months, during which time the situation with the Associated Press and the government

spying on Fox News reporter **James Rosen** was disclosed, as well as **Edward Snowden**'s NSA information.

**Did they ever find out who hacked your computers and spied on you?**

I don't believe their computer forensics team concluded who spied on me.

**Did they ask anybody in the Obama administration if they were the culprits?**

Not to my knowledge. Executives discussed with me that they assumed that was the case. And we discussed how to proceed with that information and what we could do about it.

**So what did you do about it?**

It seemed to fall off the radar after the forensics report was delivered to CBS. And so I hired a — I have a legal and forensics team that began work.

**Did they conclude anything yet?**

Yes. Her work is still very much active, but they have told me they have evidence of highly sophisticated remote intrusions into my personal and work computers by someone using software proprietary to a government agency.

**CBS executives suspect that the government hacked your computer, and CBS computers, but there's been no accountability? CBS just dropped the matter?**

As far as I know, although what they told me was they wanted to heavily pursue it and find out who was responsible. I discovered on my own they have a computer security specialist working for CBS ... But nobody ever questioned me, came to my house, checked the security of my system, asked me for more information, or followed up with me.

**Do you believe that people working for the president of the United States hacked your computer and spied on you?**

The way you phrase the question makes me want to couch it a little bit. I have been told by two computer forensics experts that a highly sophisticated entity using abilities outside non-government resources, using software proprietary either to the DIA, CIA, FBI or NSA made repeat remote intrusions into both my computers over a period of time. And we have evidence of a government computer connection into my computer system.

**And why do you think they would target you as opposed to more partisan voices, like Rush Limbaugh or Glenn Beck?**

The question carries the assumption that they haven't targeted others. I kind of assume I'm on a list. I don't think I'm the only one, along with James Rosen and the Associated Press, that garnered special attention. There's probably a list of people.

**So an enemies list, like in the Nixon administration?**

I've been told there is such a list, yes.

**And who do you suspect is on that list?**

Well, there's an internal email that indicated reporters who were working with leakers in government agencies or perceived as enemies of the White House are being targeted. So I think that's probably accurate — anybody that they perceive as harmful to their agenda or working with leakers and whistleblowers, which I did a lot of.

**Do you have sources who told you the names on that list? Is Rush Limbaugh on that list, for example?**

Another reporter told me — I can't remember who — that they thought he was on some sort of target list, but I don't know that to be the case. I have someone who told me the existence of a list but not the names on it.

**You're being accused of being a partisan right-winger. Have you reported negative stories about conservatives?**

Most of my reporting has not been political in nature. Some of the stories that were politicized, I don't consider political stories, but they were made out to be by people who obviously didn't want them reported, and I would put Fast and Furious and Benghazi in that category. But other stories include the one I won an investigative Emmy Award for last year, which was a series of stories from the time I went undercover to investigate freshmen Republican fundraising. I also did a story that MSNBC's **Rachel Maddow** complimented in a seven-minute long segment, exposing Congressman **Steven Buyer**, a Republican from Indiana, and his possible and allegedly fraudulent charity, which was followed shortly thereafter by his resignation from Congress.

**Did your colleagues give you grief about your negative stories on Obama?**

Not my reporter colleagues.

**But you have said your bosses kind of shut down a lot of your reporting?**

Some of them did. It was very complicated. All of them encouraged my reporting initially, and then as time went on some of them encouraged it and some of them discouraged it.

**Who were the ones discouraging it?**

Nobody ever discouraged it to my face, they just would not run the stories or would have other stories they wanted to put on every time the stories were offered. That was CBS News with **Scott Pelley** and his executive producer **Pat Shevlin** primarily, but there may have been others.

**You've said they did this because of liberal bias?**

I'm not sure I've ever said that. But I think there was a complex list of reasons why a lot of stories did and didn't make it on the air the last couple of years. But in a general sense, I noticed a tendency to avoid stories that would draw pushback from people they didn't want to have pushback from, whether it's corporations, advertisers or politicians.

**Has CBS ever cared about pushback from politicians before, or only under this administration?**

I don't know how these same people would have acted under a different administration. They came in shortly after the Obama administration.

**Do you think CBS was unlikely to run negative stories about President George W. Bush for fear of pushback?**

They might have been just as likely to be fearful of stories that drew controversy or pushback from corporate entities, charities, politicians, whatever the special interest might be.

**Since when has CBS ever been afraid to air controversial political stories? It ran those memos claiming Bush was trying to avoid the Vietnam War. That wasn't controversial?**

CBS is hundreds of people and they've changed over the years. It's not a monolithic organization that has one viewpoint, and that's why for everything you try to put into a box there are exceptions. For example, they assigned me to cover Benghazi, that wasn't my idea. And they were very enthusiastic about the story for a period of time. Why they changed on that, I tried to figure out many times and I can't say, I can only say what my experiences were.

**You must have a theory as to why, right?**

They simply didn't want stories on any controversies, whether that involved corporations, advertisers, charities or other special interests. They were not impossible to get on the air, but very difficult. So we just concluded that there was not the same appetite as there had been in the past.

**You're acting like it was a monetary decision on the part of CBS, like it didn't want to risk its advertising. But these were government stories we're talking about.**

No, I'm trying to explain to you it wasn't just government stories, although that's what the media tended to focus on.

**Okay, then, name the corporations that wanted to kill your stories.**

I don't think any corporations killed my stories. I said CBS had a tendency, in the last couple years especially, to appear to want to avoid controversies or stories that they felt would get pushback from certain corporations and politicians and special interests and charities.

**Can you tell me the names of these corporations, charities and politicians?**

I hate to tick them off because I feel like the story should be told in some context for legal reasons, but I think that you can pull some ideas from the book.

**Does CBS go after liberal policies that are failing with as much gusto as they do conservative policies that are failing?**

Well, whether something's failing is a matter of somebody's opinion. But I would say, as **Lisa Myers** has observed, as *USA Today* has observed, the media in general has been less enthusiastic about government accountability under the Obama administration. And I concur with those observations.

**Why is that the case?**

In my view, trying to avoid the pushback, and the fallout, and the headaches that come with doing stories on whatever the topic may be that the powers-that-be don't like.

**So, in journalism today, it works to bully the reporters and they'll lay off? 'Speak truth to power' — that saying from the 1960's — that doesn't apply to journalism anymore?**

Reporters want to, as you say, 'speak truth to power,' but it's harder to get those types of stories past the gatekeepers.

**So what good is CBS News if it's just going to bow down to the bullies who tell them to shut up?**

Those were your words, but I think they do a great job on some controversies and investigations. *60 Minutes* still does some great work. So I'm not saying there aren't very good journalists and work being done, but on the whole, as many other journalists have observed recently and publicly, the media is not as good at holding the powers that be accountable, for whatever reason.

**And that reason has nothing to do with political bias?**

It's a complex set of factors involving politics, relationships with corporations and advertisers and, at times, just the idea that they'd rather not have the headache of doing a story that they have to defend.

**You seem to be going way out of your way not to label the media biased. But in your book you talk about how one of your bosses insisted on labeling conservative analysts but not labeling the liberal ones, and if they really didn't like an analyst, they'd label him or her 'right-wing.' So if that's not bias, what is it?**

I didn't say that nobody is ever biased. I'm not trying to be cagey. It's not one factor at play ... I never told CBS when I wanted to leave that I thought anybody was liberally biased. I never argued that point. People kind of drew that conclusion because it served a certain narrative on both sides. It served the narrative of conservatives who were happy to feel like someone was spilling the family secret and it served the narrative of liberals who didn't like some of my reporting and thought it could be explained away if I were a right-wing conservative. So everybody sort of adopted that line and that's something that I never said.

**So whose rule was it at CBS that analysts who were conservative be labeled as such and analysts who are liberal not be labeled?**

I'm not going to name her. And it was some time ago, but she did say after I brought it up, she'd think about it, and she agreed that what I brought up was a good point and she changed — at least with me — what she'd been doing.

**And who at CBS got mad at you for going on Laura Ingraham's radio show because Ingraham is right wing?**

I don't want to say her name, either.

**It sounds like you criticize Obama officials by name but you won't say names when you're criticizing CBS. Why the double standard?**

I said a lot of names in the book, and I have my reasons why ... I described it in the book as I wished to describe it.

**Did anybody at CBS get mad when reporters went on liberal outlets, like MSNBC?**

I can only speak for myself. I saw other reporters go on conservative and liberal outlets and I never heard that they received blowback. So I don't know if it was just me. But in my experience, they did tell me to not go on the *Laura Ingraham Show*.

**Just the *Laura Ingraham Show* or all conservative shows?**

That's a good question. At the time it was, 'just don't ever go on her show again.' And then they denied other interview requests on both liberal and conservative outlets after that — a lot, but not all the time.

**Are there any celebrities mentioned in your book?**

**Sheryl Crow** and **Sinbad**. I traveled with them on a trip to Bosnia with **Hillary Clinton**. They were entertaining the troops. But First Lady Hillary Clinton and her daughter were on a work trip and I was there covering it. I mention them briefly in light of the fact that I did the story that exposed that Mrs. Clinton's account that we'd been fired at by snipers was not true. I mentioned that Sinbad and Sheryl Crow were on the plane with us.

**Was there any pushback on your Hillary-Bosnia report?**

No. That sort of highlights the changes that had occurred because that was a different executive producer who, as far as I know, is actually friendly with the Clintons but nonetheless was very gung-ho on the story because he was like most journalists — able to get outside of his own friendships and belief systems and just be a newsman.

**Who at CBS did you tender your resignation to?**

The first time I tried to leave, a year before I left, I had my agent call CBS president **David Rhodes**.

**What was your interaction with David Rhodes like?**

Well, for most of my tenure at CBS he was very supportive. We met privately a lot about how he wanted my stories to get exposure.

**When did that change?**

As I tried to leave, there were some tense times. But it ended up cordial.

**Why did you want to leave?**

The bottom line is, the last couple of years it was clear for me that there was nothing meaningful left for me to do at CBS, and I just wanted to move on. They had plenty of talented reporters but, for what I did, investigative and original reporting, there was no appetite for that.

**What are your politics personally?**

I don't talk about my politics, but I would say I'm like a lot of Americans. I'm mixed. I can honestly

see two valid sides of a debate. That's not to say I don't have positions and thoughts on things, of course I do, but I don't let those things get in the way of my work.

**The primary issues in your book are Benghazi, Fast and Furious, the alleged green energy scandals and Obamacare. Which of those four needs further reporting?**

Wow. There's a great deal of reporting to be done on all of them. I can't pick one. At CBS, I would have continued on all of them, if I was able to.

**It sounds like you've been telling me that journalists at CBS who don't toe a certain line have something to fear there. Is that the case at other networks, too?**

I'm not sure we have anything to fear, it's just that if you want to keep working there, you may not be doing what you want to do. In my case it was not being willing to do what they wanted me to do, or disagreeing with it so much that I just would rather move on. I don't think reporters are fearful, per se, but I think they will tell you at the other networks that it's getting more difficult to get original and hard-nosed stories on, especially if they don't fit with the narrative that the gatekeepers in New York are trying to portray.

**You were accused by some at CBS of agenda-driven news stories against Obama. Has anyone at CBS ever accused a reporter of agenda-driven stories against Sarah Palin, or George W Bush, or anyone prominent on the right?**

When I did stories that clearly were not positive toward Republicans, I was never accused of being a crazy liberal or having an agenda. That only happened when I did stories that were perceived as being negative toward Democrats.

**Did your executive producer, Patricia Shevlin, accuse you of not being supportive enough of green energy because of your stories about taxpayer money given to Solyndra before it went bankrupt?**

She never told me that — that was her answer to another executive who raised the question: 'Shouldn't we be doing these stories on evening news?'

**Why is that anecdote about Shevlin significant?**

She is a well-known liberal ideologue who let that get in the way of her decisions and judgment. Whether people will say that to you or not, that was the consensus. That was discussed sometimes daily at CBS.

**You also said somebody hacked your TV. How would you know? Why would someone want to hack someone's TV?**

I didn't say that. What I said was the anomalies that were occurring in my house all seemed to be associated with my FIOS line ... I think that the work that they were doing to get into my computer system may have interfered with the other systems in the house.

**The progressive watchdog group Media Matters for America is leading the charge against you, it**

seems.

Media Matters has acknowledged targeting me, yes. Not with a computer intrusion, just with trying to discredit the stories I did as much as possible.

**Do you think they were paid to do so?**

They said they weren't, but the question has certainly crossed my mind.

**Do you know of any occasions where Media Matters was given money earmarked to targeting somebody?**

**David Folkenflik** of NPR told me they were paid to target Rush Limbaugh. He may have misspoken on that, because someone told me it may have been Glenn Beck. He gave me two instances in which they were paid to target. He also said that they were paid to target Fox News. I'm not sure if that's correct. It was just another reporter relaying that information to me.

(David Folkenflik did not respond to a request for comment. Media Matters president **Bradley Beychok** told THR: "Media Matters has never taken a dime to target Sharyl Attkisson.").

**Do you think Media Matters has libeled you?**

That's a good question. I haven't had a legal review of what they've said. I actually read little to zero of what they write. They have definitely said many, many, false things. But I'm not sure it qualifies as libel under the law.

**They're a media watchdog. They tell the truth about what the media is reporting, right?**

I don't think they have an obligation to, no. Anyone can say they're a media watchdog and then give their opinions ... most people understand it's a propaganda blog. They are very close to the Obama administration, Hillary Clinton and Democratic interests.

**What does the press think of Media Matters?**

Like anybody that reaches out to us, we may take under consideration an idea that they propose. But I never get asked about their conservative counterparts, such as Media Research Center or Accuracy in Media. In my experience, no one ever takes their criticism as if it is something legitimate to be answered, but when Media Matters says something, many people in the media almost treat them as a neutral journalism organization.

**Is that biased?**

That probably is the result of an unintentional bias.

**As we're talking, I got an email from Media Matters that says a video you released of your computer being hacked is probably just a stuck backspace key.**

It's what I would call a video anecdote, something that happened along the way. It has nothing to do with the forensic evidence and the analysis. It's just something interesting, a punctuation mark of things that were happening. And, certainly, I expect Media Matters to say that the backspace key was held

down.

**What story were you working on when your backspace key started operating by itself?**

I was preparing questions for my interview with Ambassador **Thomas Pickering** about Benghazi and the Accountability Review Board.

**So of all the stories you did that were seen as negative against Obama, Benghazi was the one that really irritated them?**

I think green energy got under their skin first, and the remote intrusions into my computer pre-dated Benghazi.

**From what you told me thus far, it sounds like you're accusing CBS of cowardice more than liberal bias. Is that correct?**

I haven't used that word, ever. CBS is hundreds of people. It's not a monolithic organization. That's the hard part about trying to make a statement or draw conclusions. I would use the word 'fearful,' rather than 'cowardice.' Some people in the decision-making process, not necessarily reporters at the ground level, but some of those deciding what goes on television have become very fearful of the sponsors and would just prefer to avoid conflict and controversy, which means you're not going to do a lot of original investigative reporting.

**You mentioned your former boss David Rhodes. His brother is Ben Rhodes, a security adviser to the president. Is there at least an appearance of a conflict of interest there when he's telling you to lay off Benghazi while his brother works for the president?**

David didn't tell me to lay off Benghazi, and I don't really have an opinion of his relationship with his brother, and how that might have affected things.

**Did anyone tell you to lay off Benghazi, or did they just stop using your stories on TV?**

They started not using my stories. I don't know what goes on in the decision-making process, but in general the shows' producers and managing editors and so on would be the ones that decide what goes on the broadcasts and what doesn't. I certainly had people joining me at CBS and pushing for stories to get on television that didn't get on. And they were stopped, as far as I was concerned, somewhere in New York.

**What reasons did they give you for not airing your stories?**

They would just say — and they didn't talk to me personally, this was to senior producers — they would just say things like, 'There is no time on the show for it tonight;' 'That's a great story but maybe we'll get to it tomorrow;' 'Not today, but tell us when there are other developments, we'll consider it again.'

**Why would the administration blame the murders in Benghazi on a YouTube video if that was untrue?**

Some of the information the administration is withholding from public release involves a meeting or

meetings that occurred in which this was presumably discussed. So, we can only wonder, but the body of evidence that's come out in the two years since would lead a reasonable person to conclude they wanted to steer the public's direction away from the idea that this was definitely an act of terror, technically on U.S. soil if it was U.S. property overseas. It occurred on the president's watch, very close to an election, at a time when he had claimed Al Qaeda was on the run.

**But that reason sounds fairly pathetic and unworthy of such a huge lie. Doesn't it?**

From whose viewpoint? I mean, it's apparently important enough for them to deflect opinion, and I'm not sure if that is indeed why they did it, that's just the best reason most of us can come up with, looking at the evidence that has come out since. Maybe there is a better reason why they did it, I don't know. I have a feeling we won't ever have the full story.

**What news network do you think you'll land with next?**

I certainly haven't decided I'll ever work at another network or even necessarily work full-time again. When I decided to leave CBS, the discussion I had with my husband was, I have to be prepared to walk out and not work anywhere ever again, and we were fine with that.

**Have you had offers?**

Yes, but I don't want to discuss them.

**Media Matters and others say that you're pushing a media-is-biased narrative to curry favor with conservatives.**

Anyone who knows much of anything about me knows that I don't curry favor with people. Period.

**Being targeted, allegedly, by the Obama administration, and your stories allegedly being shunned at CBS — were those ultimately good things for you?**

I don't think those were pleasant things, but where I sit today I would say, 'fine, I'm exactly where I ought to be.' And I will tell you, before all this stuff happened, I did hope to, and thought I would, work the rest of my career at CBS doing as much as I had been doing over most of the last 20 years. It didn't work out that way, but I'm not sorrowful over it ... I think there is a cultural change in journalism that's going on — a turn away from the kind of reporting that just holds the powers-that-be accountable. It's not just a CBS thing.

**The major news networks are just afraid of the powerful all of a sudden?**

Well, when you put it that way, it makes it sound silly, and that's what I've written about in the book. I don't think there was a sudden switch.

**Nobody was saying that the media was afraid of George W. Bush, now all of a sudden they are afraid of Barack Obama?**

There were times when people said that — inside CBS, after Rather-Gate.

**Were there some depressing days for you at CBS toward the end?**

I was very disheartened when my producer and I would have great stories, and in some cases, whistleblowers we convinced to go out on a limb and tell their story, only to then have to go back to them and say nobody's interested. So, we've had to do that more times in the past few years than I've had to do in the previous 30.

### **An Obama spokesman called you "unreasonable." Are you?**

I'm probably one of the most reasonable reporters out there. But their definition of unreasonable is when they answer a question, if it doesn't make sense or if it contradicts other facts, I don't just accept it and go away. What have I not asked you about yet that you deem important?

### **What haven't I asked you about that you think is important to mention?**

A couple people have told me that CBS News has started a whisper campaign to say that I'm paranoid, crazy, and a liar?

### **Are you paranoid?**

I'd like to think not. It's just a good word they use to discredit and "controversialize" reporters and stories they don't like.

### **Assuming this whisper campaign against you is true, who is orchestrating it?**

I was told that Chris Isham, the bureau chief in Washington, was a part of it.

*Email: Paul.Bond@THR.com*

## **Dr. Katherine Mitchell**

Dr. Mitchell exposed one of the biggest abuses of Veterans in U.S. history, resulting in the largest re-organization of the VA in U.S. history. She was attacked and had multiple acts of retribution in exchange for her service to the Nation. That is unacceptable .

## **Protect the doctor who is protecting our vets**

[EJ Montini](#) EJ Montini, columnist | [azcentral.com](#)

EDr. Katherine Mitchell just may be a hero.

And like many other heroes, she just may be treated like a villain.

Mitchell is the emergency room physician at the Phoenix VA who came forward after a co-worker said that records were being destroyed that at the Phoenix VA Health Care System.

She is the second physician to come forward, but the only one still working for the VA.

Her actions could cost her career.

"I am violating the VA 'gag' order for ethical reasons," she wrote in a [statement](#). "I am cognizant of the

consequences. As a VA employee I have seen what happens to employees who speak up for patient safety and welfare within the system. The devastation of professional careers is usually the end result, and likely is the only transparent process that actually exists within the Phoenix VA Medical Center today."

Two things must not be allowed to happen.

First, veterans must not be allowed to go untreated or neglected at the VA because the system is overwhelmed.

That's unacceptable.

Also unacceptable would be for a whistleblower like Dr. Mitchell suffering any negative consequences for have the courage to come forward with her concerns.

There are federal investigations now going on to get to the bottom of the problems at the Phoenix hospital.

That's a good thing. It's a necessary thing.

It might not have happened had it not been for the issues raised by Dr. Sam Foote, a VA primary-care physician who retired in December, and now by Dr. Mitchell.

We pretend to shelter whistle-blowers but all too often we leave them to twist in the wind.

That can't happen this time.

"I spent my whole professional life wanting to be a VA nurse, and then a VA physician," Dr. Mitchell said. "(But) the insanity in the system right now needs to stop, and whatever I can do to accomplish that, I will."

Our veterans need someone like that.

She has their backs.

We should have hers.

# VA crisis exposes cost of whistleblower reprisal

by [Linda Lewis](#) The Department of Veterans Affairs is embroiled in a scandal: Employees “cooked the books” to [hide extraordinary delays](#) in scheduling healthcare appointments. In Phoenix, [40 veterans reportedly died](#) while waiting for appointments say sources who came forward last month. But, the

existence of “inappropriate scheduling practices” was known to upper management [four years ago](#). One of the sources, Dr. Samuel Foote, a retired VA physician, reported that VA managers focused on generating numbers that would make superiors and the VA look good. “There’s really [no incentive](#) for the upper management to get accurate numbers,” Foote said. (CNN, 5/21) Thus, [Secretary Eric Shinseki](#) was able to say, in December 2013, that wait times were down.

Whistleblowers Break the Silence Earlier intervention was thwarted when the agency tried to [silence or discredit](#) employees who voiced concerns.

One who spoke up was Lisa Lee, then a VA scheduler in Fort Collins, Colorado. After refusing to comply with an order to hide appointment waiting times, management placed her on unpaid administrative leave for two weeks, she says, then [transferred her](#) to Cheyenne, Wyoming. Lee filed an internal grievance, to no avail. Next, she took her concerns outside the agency to the Office of Special Counsel. Lee refused an agency offer to compensate her for lost pay, she says, because it included a requirement to stop whistleblowing.

Another who expressed concerns was Dr. Jose Mathews, head of psychiatry at the St. Louis hospital. He reported internally that doctors were shirking half of their caseload. Management responded by removing Mathews from his position and [sending him to the basement](#).

Dr. Katherine Mitchell, director of the Phoenix VA’s emergency department, says she contacted the office of Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) last September to have a “[confidential complaint](#)” about a variety of healthcare issues forwarded to the VA’s Office of Inspector General. AZCentral [reports](#) that “Records show her list of concerns was not submitted to the inspector general, who investigates systemic problems and wrongdoing, but to the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs — a political liaison department in Washington.” Days later, the agency put her on [administrative leave](#).”

Employees at other VA hospitals were [inspired](#) by the first whistleblower disclosures to share their observations, CNN reports, demonstrating that whistleblowing can be contagious if there is any encouragement.

Besides the toll on veterans, the VA’s whistleblower reprisals are striking for their banality. The same kinds of abuses occur in virtually every government agency, although VA appears to have more of them. Attorney Stephen Kohn says, “The VA is notoriously bad, and institutionally bad, and [no one has taken any steps to fix it](#) – Congress, the Office of Special Counsel, the inspector general.”

Congress has passed a succession of laws to protect whistleblowers, but each ultimately fails because legislators insist on funneling whistleblower cases through administrative courts that provide limited due process and little transparency, both essential to ensuring justice. Moreover, reprisal is rarely punished although whistleblowing is treated harshly.

“As a VA employee I have seen what happens to employees who speak up for patient safety and welfare within the system. [The devastation of professional careers is usually the end result, and likely is the only transparent process that actually exists within the Phoenix VA Medical Center today.](#)” – Dr. Katherine Mitchell [AZCentral]

The Administration Responds President Obama has ordered an [internal VA review](#) and another to be led by a White House staffer. He has been [supportive](#) of Shinseki, saying, “He has put his heart and soul into this thing and taken it very seriously,” while saying that he’s waiting for results of an investigation. “[H]e made clear his [main target for now](#) was anyone who actually carried out improper practices at VA, rather than the retired Army general at the top,” reports CNN.

[Shinseki](#) has put three Phoenix officials on [administrative leave](#), [rescinded a bonus](#) to the Phoenix VA Director, and accepted the resignation of the Undersecretary for Health. But, in claiming to be unaware of the extent of the problems, he implicates himself as one of them.

In TIME, [Joe Klein writes](#) that “An effective leader would have gone to Phoenix as soon as the scandal broke, expressed his outrage, held a town meeting for local VA outpatients and their families—dealt with their fury face-to-face—and let it be known that he was taking charge and heads were going to roll.” Klein’s strategy is fine for political damage control, but too little, too late for protecting veterans. A truly effective leader would have acted much earlier, to prevent harm in the first place. Forbes contributor Adam Hartung explains how in a discussion of Shinseki’s [over-reliance on statistics](#).

When those long wait times were previously reported, the President publicly admitted to being appalled and told Secretary Shinseki to do something. The Secretary then declared a standard of no more than 125 days from incident to care had to be met. And he told employees of the VA to meet that goal, or they risked losing their jobs.

Shinseki failed to help employees [develop a solution](#), Hartung notes. “He didn’t challenge his staff to find out the root cause of the problem and understand why these waits were so long. He didn’t hire outside consultants to evaluate the problem and propose solutions. He didn’t ask for “best practices” from industry.” (Republicans share the responsibility for any resource shortfalls, having thrown up [roadblocks](#) to funding VA services.)

If VA staff lacked resources and leadership to meet numerical goals, they might indeed resort to manipulating numbers. But, that doesn’t explain why Shinseki might be unaware that manipulation was (allegedly) taking place on a massive scale.

The previously mentioned reports of whistleblower reprisal and lack of transparency suggest that Shinseki failed also to provide leadership in terms of VA treatment of whistleblowers. Reports of waste, fraud and abuse do not flow naturally upstream, especially in an agency notorious for whistleblower reprisals. When subordinates thwart official policies by acting in their own interest and alter the official record, whistleblowers are critical to keeping upper management informed.

One of the first acts of any new department secretary, therefore, should be to immediately take steps to encourage and reward whistleblowers. In fairness to Sec. Shinseki, his own boss set a poor example.

# # #

*Photo Credit: Vietnam Women’s Memorial, Washington, DC., from Wikipedia.*

Linda Lewis Writer, web editor for Whistleblowing Today. Former policy analyst (16 years) specializing in homeland security and emergency response.

**SARAH LACY:**

**A View To A Kill. ORDERING UP ONE CHARACTER ASSASSINATION TO GO**

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## Uber Executive Suggests Digging Up Dirt On Journalists

Senior vice president Emil Michael floated making critics' personal lives fair game. Michael apologized Monday for the remarks.

posted on Nov. 17, 2014, at 2:27 p.m.

 **Ben Smith**  
BuzzFeed Staff



Emil Michael, senior vice president of business for Uber, in July. David Paul Morris/Diamondberg via Getty Images

Uber Executive Suggests Digging Up Dirt On Journalists

**Senior vice president Emil Michael floated making critics' personal lives fair game.** Michael apologized Monday for the remarks. [Ben Smith](#)

A senior executive at Uber suggested that the company should consider hiring a team of opposition researchers to dig up dirt on its critics in the media — and specifically to spread details of the personal life of a female journalist who has criticized the company.

The executive, Emil Michael, made the comments in a conversation he later said he believed was off the record. In a statement through Uber Monday evening, he said he regretted them and that they didn't reflect his or the company's views.

His remarks came as Uber [seeks to improve its relationship](#) with the media and the image of its management team, who have been cast as insensitive and hyper-aggressive even as the company's business and cultural reach have boomed.

Michael, who has been at Uber for more than a year as its senior vice president of business, floated the idea at a dinner Friday at Manhattan's Waverly Inn attended by an influential New York crowd including actor Ed Norton and publisher Arianna Huffington. The dinner was hosted by Ian Osborne, a former adviser to British Prime Minister David Cameron and consultant to the company.

At the dinner, Uber CEO and founder Travis Kalanick, boyish with tousled graying hair and a sweater, made the case that he has been miscast as an ideologue and as insensitive to driver and rider complaints, while in fact he has largely had his head down building a transformative company that has beat his own and others' wildest expectations.

A BuzzFeed editor was invited to the dinner by the journalist Michael Wolff, who later said that he had failed to communicate that the gathering would be off the record; neither Kalanick, his communications director, nor any other Uber official suggested to BuzzFeed News that the event was off the record.

Michael, who Kalanick described as "one of the top deal guys in the Valley" when he joined the company, is a charismatic and well-regarded figure who came to Uber from Klout. He also sits on a board that advises the Department of Defense.

Over dinner, he outlined the notion of spending "a million dollars" to hire four top opposition researchers and four journalists. That team could, he said, help Uber fight back against the press — they'd look into "your personal lives, your families," and give the media a taste of its own medicine.

Michael was particularly focused on one journalist, **Sarah Lacy**, the editor of the Silicon Valley website *PandoDaily*, a sometimes combative voice inside the industry. Lacy recently accused Uber of "sexism and misogyny." [She wrote](#) that she was deleting her Uber app after [BuzzFeed News reported](#) that Uber appeared to be working with a French escort service. "I don't know how many more signals we need that the company simply doesn't respect us or prioritize our safety," she wrote.

At the dinner, Michael expressed outrage at Lacy's column and said that women are far more likely to

get assaulted by taxi drivers than Uber drivers. He said that he thought Lacy should be held “personally responsible” for any woman who followed her lead in deleting Uber and was then sexually assaulted.

Then he returned to the opposition research plan. Uber’s dirt-diggers, Michael said, could expose Lacy. They could, in particular, prove a particular and very specific claim about her personal life.

Michael at no point suggested that Uber has actually hired opposition researchers, or that it plans to. He cast it as something that would make sense, that the company would be justified in doing.

In a statement through an Uber spokeswoman, Michael said: “The remarks attributed to me at a private dinner — borne out of frustration during an informal debate over what I feel is sensationalistic media coverage of the company I am proud to work for — do not reflect my actual views and have no relation to the company’s views or approach. They were wrong no matter the circumstance and I regret them.”

The spokeswoman, Nairi Hourdajian, said the company does not do “oppo research” of any sort on journalists, and has never considered doing it. She also said Uber does not consider Lacy’s personal life fair game, or believe that she is responsible for women being sexually assaulted.

Hourdajian also said that Uber has clear policies against executives looking at journalists’ travel logs, a rich source of personal information in Uber’s possession.

“Any such activity would be clear violations of our privacy and data access policies,” Hourdajian said in an email. “Access to and use of data is permitted only for legitimate business purposes. These policies apply to all employees. We regularly monitor and audit that access.”

In fact, the general manager of Uber NYC accessed the profile of a BuzzFeed News reporter, Johana Bhuiyan, to make points in the course of a discussion of Uber policies. At no point in the email exchanges did she give him permission to do so.

At the Waverly Inn dinner, it was suggested that a plan like the one Michael floated could become a problem for Uber.

Michael responded: “Nobody would know it was us.” The White House Attack Dog: David Plouffe, is said to have been hired by UBER.

## **IN-Q-TEL:**

**"IN-Q-Tel was born in the Harvard and Stanford Frat Houses of the elite. As the world has now seen, these frat houses teach young white men that date-rape and the use of women as disposable play things is the norm, outsiders and people of color are to be shunned, "greed is not only good" - it is the apex of your life, and the only thing that matters is beating your frat brothers in business coups to show who has the biggest penis.**

*You saw the Jewish holocaust and said: "How could those people do such a thing?". You saw genocide in Africa and said: "How could those people do such a thing?" You saw Enron and Madoff and a host of epic crimes against the public and you said, in each case: "How could those people do such a thing?" It is called Dissociation. The IN-Q-TEL leaders lost track, they lost morality and they let blind greed and boys club rules overcome decency and the law."*

LATIMES RESEARCHER

## **CONTRACTED POLITICAL ATTACK SERVICE PROVIDERS:**

If you pay them enough, they will take down anybody and anything with precision character assassination:

Media Matters

Think Progress

In-Q-Tel

New America Foundation

Gawker Media comprised of the front operations of:

- Gawker
- Gizmodo
- Defamer
- Jezebel
- Valleywag
- Jalopnik

and their many other false front covers...

A.L.E.C.

A.L.I.C.E.

Google

## THE "GRAB-N-GO"

A novel approach, that can be taken by elected officials, for retribution purposes, is called the "Grab-N-Go". In this scenario, certain entities acquire all of the knowledge about your product, service or book and then release it themselves, ahead of you, in a copied or pirate version, without paying you, in order to squash your product value and damage you, and your company. Here are some example of this:

### Politics

REGULATION

## Small businesses claim US government stealing their ideas



By Eric Shawn

Published December 17, 2013

FoxNews.com

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"They stole all my stuff and used taxpayer money to do it," John Hnatio, a Maryland small business owner, says of the U.S. government.

Hnatio claims the government has put his company, FoodquestTQ, nearly out of business by stealing his firm's software that was designed to be licensed to the Food and Drug Administration to monitor food safety.

The FDA "took our ideas, plagiarized my doctoral dissertation on which a patent was based, and then they infringed on our patent. The result was that it decimated our business," he adds.

Hnatio says his company has been left hanging by a thread. He has had to fire employees and says that the remaining three, including himself, are receiving no salary and have been forced to go on unemployment insurance.

"I have never seen anything like it," says Hnatio, who is a retired federal government official.

He says the FDA "duplicated exactly what we were selling to industry and they were giving it away for free...instead of

helping small business commercialize their product, what we are seeing is a dragon, in the name of the U.S. government that is eating their own young."

Foodquest(TQ) is only one of numerous small businesses that accuse the government of stealing their intellectual property or trade secrets when they enter into contracts or research agreements with federal agencies.

"The government interceded, stole the technology and attempted to use this in classified programs," says Jim O'Keefe, the president of the small New Jersey technology company Demodulation. He has filed a \$50 million lawsuit against the U.S. government, accusing it of taking his firm's research.

Demodulation developed an advanced technology involving fiber coated wire, called microwire, which is thinner than a human hair. The company says its microwire can be used for a variety of national security applications, such as tracking drones, keeping tabs on soldiers on battlefields, transmitting information without a power source, and that it even has the ability "to render objects invisible to radar."

"It sounds incredible and impossible that the U.S. government is taking things from people," says Demodulation lawyer Sean Callagy. "We believe this is the greatest country in the world with the greatest justice system in the world but the U.S. government is not an eagle or a flag, but human beings. And human beings make mistakes."

The lawsuit accuses the Department of Energy and the National Nuclear Security Administration, among others, of illegally swiping the firm's information by "using microwire and Demodulation's trade secrets in its mission to gather intelligence."

It also says that the U.S. has even built "a secure facility for the production of microwire" on its own.

"There are classified reports showing the technology," declares Demodulation attorney Ben Light, who says that after the company "shared the secret sauce" about microwire with federal officials, they simply "took (the) wire."

The Department of Energy referred Fox News requests for comment to the National Nuclear Security Administration, which did not respond to repeated requests for a comment about the company's allegations.

The Department of Justice denies Demodulation's charges in court filings.

Stuart Delery, an Acting Assistant Attorney General, wrote that while "the United States admits that it continues to conduct research regarding what is generally known as 'microwire,'" he says that the government did not act improperly.

The Department of Justice claims the government did not take any proprietary information or develop the microwire technology based on Demodulation's work, and that "none of the asserted patents have been infringed on by the United States."

Delery also pointed out that some of Demodulation's patents had expired.

"The only reason the patents expired is because Demodulation was driven out of business," responds the firm's lawyer, Light. "It doesn't affect the entire case because any infringement during the period when the patents were enforced is still compensable."

O'Keefe says the government denials are "an impossibility based on the evidence I have."

He is calling for "reform and legislation to protect us. I hope through our litigation we will be able to expose some of the problems."

It turns out that the government is routinely accused of similar wrongdoing and sometimes has to pony up.

The U.S. Army settled a case in November by paying \$50 million to a Texas company, Apptricity, which claimed the government took some of its software, which tracks military equipment from MRE's to troops, without paying for it.

The company's court papers said that the government "willfully infringed" on its copyrights, "failed to provide information" about what it did and was engaged in "actively concealing the Army's misappropriation of Apptricity software."

The complaint said the Army paid for using the software on five servers and 150 devices, but actually "copied and installed Apptricity software on at least 98 servers and at least 9,063 devices" without telling the company.

"I don't think there was malicious intent," Apptricity's founder and president Tim Garcia tells Fox News in the aftermath of the settlement. He says his company pursued its case by the "standard process through the Court of Claims."

There are numerous other companies that have filed similar actions at the Washington, D.C.-based court, which is the venue for legal claims against the federal government. Among them:

Liberty Ammunition, which is suing the government for allegedly infringing on its copyright for developing a lead-free "green bullet" after it worked on the invention with the Department of Defense.

Net Results, which claims that the Army infringed on its patent for a "mine detecting device" by giving out its design to six other government contractors.

In 2009, NASA was ordered to pay \$28.3 million to Boeing after the court found that the government infringed on the company's aluminum alloy patent.

In a noted case in 1999, the U.S. government paid then Hughes Electronics \$154 million in damages after a 30-year long legal battle found that the government illegally appropriated the company's satellite technology.

The U.S. Court of Federal Claims calls itself "the people's court," and says it is considered "the keeper of the nation's conscience." It is situated right across Lafayette Park from the White House.

"There is no reason to think it can't happen," observes New York University law Professor Jeanne Fromer, an intellectual property and copyright law specialist.

"The government can take patent rights, as long as they compensate for it. It is not dissimilar, in that sense, to notions of eminent domain."

"The government is a big sprawling place and there are lots of people acting in it. I think some of them act very nobly...but it's hard to say that everyone always does."

"We are hearing more frequently from companies about intellectual property theft by the government," notes John Palatiello, head of the Washington, D.C.-area lobbying group, the Business Coalition for Fair Competition, which is studying the issue.

"Companies are becoming more vocal about it."

Hnatio believes there is a troubling explanation for alleged government flinching.

"What we are seeing is a direct competition between the private sector and the U.S. government. The problem for small businesses is that they are simply being destroyed by their own government in spite of the fact that we hear politicians say all the time, that small business is important...it's extremely disturbing because it means we lose jobs, and it means we lose our competitive edge in the world. It creates a very dangerous situation for our national security."

Fox News repeatedly requested comment from the FDA regarding Hnatio's allegations about FoodquestTQ, but the agency did not issue a statement.

While the Demodulation case is expected to go to trial next year, Hnatio says he has been left without any money to hire a lawyer to go to court.

"From the time I was a little kid I dreamed of starting a business. But I do have to tell you that there is a grave danger to the American dream," he says.

*Follow Eric Shawn on Twitter: @EricShawnonFox*

*Becky Diamond contributed to this report.*



# Business Coalition for Fair Competition

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BCFC

"The Federal government will not start or carry on any commercial activity to provide a service or product for its own use if such product or service can be procured from private enterprise through ordinary business channels."

--Bureau of the Budget Bulletin 55-4, January 15, 1955

### **Mission:**

To advocate for public policies that promotes the utilization of and reliance upon the private sector by government at all levels and that eliminates unfair government-sponsored competition with private, for profit enterprise, including small business.

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## About BCFC

The Business Coalition for Fair Competition (BCFC), a coalition of trade associations, businesses, and organizations dedicated to free enterprise, relief from unfair government sponsored competition, and smaller, more efficient government, is being revitalized in 2009. Active in the 1980s and 1990s, BCFC will once again elevate the public's awareness and work proactively with legislators and executive branch officials to assure that private, for-profit firms continue to constitute the strength of the United States economic system and that competitive private enterprises remain the most productive, efficient, and effective sources of goods and services. Unfair government-sponsored competition has been a top issue at every White House Conference on Small Business.

In 1980, the first White House Conference on Small Business made unfair competition one of its highest-ranked issues. It said, "The Federal Government shall be required by statute to contract out to small business those supplies and services that the private sector can provide. The government should not compete with the private sector by accomplishing these efforts with its own or non-profit personnel and facilities."

In 1986, the second White House Conference made this one of its top three issues. It said, "Government at all levels has failed to protect small business from damaging levels of unfair competition. At the federal, state and local levels, therefore, laws, regulations and policies should ... prohibit direct, government created competition in which government organizations perform commercial services ... New laws at all levels, particularly at the federal level, should require strict government reliance on the private sector for performance of commercial-type functions. When cost comparisons are necessary to accomplish conversion to private sector performance, laws must include provision for fair and equal cost comparisons. Funds controlled by a government entity must not be used to establish or conduct a commercial activity on U.S. property."

And the 1995 White House Conference again made this a priority issue when its plank read, "Congress should enact legislation that would prohibit government agencies and tax exempt and anti-trust exempt organizations from engaging in commercial activities in direct competition with small businesses." That was among the top 15 vote getters at the 1995 Conference and was number one among all the procurement-related issues in the final balloting.

However, the unfair government-sponsored competition issue has not been a top priority for Congress, the Administration or small business and private sector organizations for several years.

Since the enactment of the Federal Activities Inventory Reform (FAIR) Act in 1998, and the implementation of "competitive sourcing" by the Bush Administration, (OMB Circular A-76, revised May 29, 2003), the focus on a broader, philosophical issue of government not competing with its citizens has been lost in favor of the narrower attention to A-76.

Similarly, the **Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy** is designed to be the in-house advocate for small business within the Federal Government. It is an independent office within SBA that has the statutory authority to go to other agencies and advocate policies, changes in regulations, and other remedies when an agency is doing something that is harmful to small business. The Office of Advocacy has not had government competition as an issue on its agenda for many years. The office conducted a series of hearings and issued a report, "Government Competition: A Threat to Small Business", (March 1980) and "Unfair Competition by Nonprofit Organizations

## **BOOKS RELEASED, AHEAD OF PUBLICATION BY THIRD PARTIES, IN ATTEMPT TO DAMAGE THEM:**

**Sarah Palin and Quentin Tarantino have sued Gawker Media for the pre-release of their scripts or books.**

**The pre-release of controversial books is a well-known tactic for political press offices to play with their stealth tabloid front organizations.**

## **ALEC, ALICE AND THE COORDINATED ATTACK PROGRAMS:**

In the age of social media, over 40 organizations exist to covertly coordinate and synchronize the release of information via private Google Docs accounts, stealth Twitter feeds and similar networked information.

If you see an attack story, on you, come out in more than 3 publications, blogs or web papers at the same time, and it isn't on PR Newswire, or Business Wire, you can be pretty sure it is part of a Social PR Attack.

Two of the most famous writer coordination outlets are A.L.E.C. and A.L.I.C.E. They are opposing groups of writers who are in constant battle to burn the other.

There are many more.

Attack "captain's" will post a targeting document and/or "talking points" on their stealth server and then Tweet, or email, a codeword that says that there is a new attack to be launched within the next 30 minutes. Then the writers, linked to that attack group, go to it!

## **STASI TACTICS**

**Did you piss off a corrupt politician and then have your life go to sh\*t? Here is how they did it to you:**

That corrupt Senator then had their chief of staff call either: In-Q-Tel, Tactical Resources or PsyoContract. These are consulting groups made up of former CIA operatives. Those kinds of services sell "hit-jobs", using the latest government technology and psychological tactics. Here is what they did to you.

This activity is referred to as "Organized Corporate Stalking" - or "Political Gang Stalking" in the vernacular. Several million of Americans experience this type of activity in the US if they have been deemed a "dissident, activist, domestic threat or domestic terrorist."

There are dozens of websites and YouTube channels dedicated to these black ops which are perpetrated in every major city of the US (and small towns as well)

Moving objects around in someone's home is referred to as "gas-lighting" and is done so that the complainant/victim sounds delusional when they call the police for assistance.

After all, who is going to break into a home (usually without leaving a trace) and move a few objects around without stealing anything? It does not sound credible or believable.

Everything is done so there is plausible deniability, should the potential perpetrators ever be identified.

These tactics/techniques were used against American Embassy Staff in Cuba and Russia for years, however US authorities have been quite mum about it since the same techniques are used on a wide scale in the United States against "dissidents, activists" and anyone else who has been extra-judicially deemed a threat to the establishment, the status quo or large companies.

These activities are usually done in conjunction with vehicle vandalism/hacking, computer/e-mail/bank account hacking, mail tampering and untraceable, remotely-initiated damage to electronic devices and their power supplies.

Additionally victims of these covertly-styled assaults are also plagued by people passing by their residences at all hours and blowing their horns or revving their engines (referred to as a noise campaign).

Codes can be remotely stripped/read from computer keyboards, phones and alarm touch-pads since every key generates an electronic signature which can be read/culled from a distance - there are devices built specifically for this purpose.

Furthermore, these black ops are done while the victim's name is simultaneously being slandered via false accusations of criminal activity, theft, violence, crimes of moral turpitude and prior mental health issues. The "teams" perpetrating these illegal acts will try and destroy every aspect of the target's life.

You are likely bugged and your vehicle tagged with a GPS, thus moving will not necessarily terminate the issue(s) you are experiencing - although if your experience(s) have been published it may alleviate some of the illegal activities.

These politicians will hire private security groups and criminals to follow their targets around in order to let them know that he/she is now "persona non grata" and being monitored.

Being a single woman - especially with a child makes these activities even more traumatizing.

These tactics were used by Hitler, Mao Tze Tung, the East German Stasi and the KGB.

All of these activities are done so that the perpetrators are hard to identify - and the criminal acts are hard to prove to the police - and in court. (plausible deniability).

You will find you can't get a job. You will get many phone calls and emails from people with east indian accents asking you to approve submitting a resume for a great job. Each time you will never hear back from them. Your disappointment will increase. That is how they like it. Those were not real recruiters, they were operatives trying to build you up and let you down, over and over, in order to create a sense of self-doubt and a sense of personal failure, so that you will be too emotionally weakened to fight against the politician.

**It is also referred to as "No-Touch Torture" and is used to intimidate the target in addition to making them psychologically more vulnerable. The technique was developed by the Stasi and is called *Zersetzung* and is now used the U.S. political operatives, illegally:**

*Zersetzung* (German; variously translated as decomposition, corrosion, undermining, biodegradation or dissolution) was a psychological technique of the [East German](#) secret police, the [Stasi](#) used to silence political opponents. The "measures of *Zersetzung*", defined in the framework of a directive on police procedures in 1976,[\[1\]](#) were used in the context of so-called "operational procedures" (in German *Operative Vorgänge* or *OV*). They replaced the overt terror of the [Ulbricht](#) era.

The practice of repression in *Zersetzung* comprised extensive and secret methods of control and [psychological manipulation](#), including personal relationships of the target, for which the Stasi relied on its network of [informal collaborators](#),[\[2\]](#) (in German *inoffizielle Mitarbeiter* or *IM*), the State's power over institutions, and on [operational psychology](#). Using targeted psychological attacks the Stasi tried to deprive a dissident of any chance of a "hostile action".

The use of *Zersetzung* is well documented thanks to numerous Stasi files published after East Germany's [Wende](#). Several thousands or up to 10,000 individuals are estimated to have become victims[\[3\]](#):217 5,000 of whom sustained irreversible damage.[\[4\]](#) Pensions for restitution have been created for the victims.

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## Definition

The [Stasi](#), or Ministry for State Security (German: Ministerium für Staatssicherheit, MfS) by its full name, defined *Zersetzung* in its 1985 dictionary of political operatives as

"...a method of operation by the Ministry for State Security for an efficacious struggle against [subversive activities](#), particularly in the treatment of operations. With *Zersetzung* one can influence hostile and negative individuals across different operational political activities, especially the hostile and negative aspects of their dispositions and beliefs, so these are abandoned and changed little by little, and, if applicable, the contradictions and differences between the hostile and negative forces would be laid open, exploited, and reinforced.

The goal of *Zersetzung* is the fragmentation, paralysis, disorganization, and isolation of the hostile and negative forces, in order to preventatively impede the hostile and negative activities, to largely restrict, or to totally avert them, and if applicable to prepare the ground for a political and ideological reestablishment.

*Zersetzung* is equally an immediate constitutive element of "operational procedures" and other preventive activities to impede hostile gatherings. The principal forces to execute *Zersetzung* are the unofficial collaborators. *Zersetzung* presupposes information and significant proof of hostile activities planned, prepared, and accomplished as well as anchor points corresponding to measures of *Zersetzung*.

*Zersetzung* must be produced on the basis of a root cause analysis of the facts and the exact definition of a concrete goal. *Zersetzung* must be executed in a uniform and supervised manner; its results must be documented.

The political explosive force of *Zersetzung* heightens demands regarding the maintenance of secrecy."<sup>[5]</sup>

## Political context

During its first decade of existence the [German Democratic Republic](#) (GDR) subdued political opposition primarily through the [penal code](#), by accusing them of incitement to war or of calls of boycott.[\[6\]](#) To counteract the international isolation of the GDR due to the construction of the Berlin wall in 1963, judicial terror was abandoned.[\[7\]](#) Since the debut of the [Erich Honecker](#) era in 1971 in particular, the Stasi intensified its efforts to punish [dissident](#) behaviors without using the penal code.[\[8\]](#) Important motives were the GDR's desire for international recognition and [rapprochement](#) with West Germany at the end of the 1960s. In fact the GDR was committed to adhere to the [U.N. Charter](#)[\[9\]](#) and the [Helsinki accords](#)[\[10\]](#) as well as the [Basic Treaty, 1972](#) signed with the Federal Republic of Germany,[\[11\]](#) to respect human rights, or at least it announced its intention as such. The regime of the [Socialist Unity Party of Germany](#) thus decided to reduce the number of political prisoners, which was compensated for by practicing repression without imprisonment or court judgements.[\[12\]\[13\]](#)

## In practice

The Stasi used *Zersetzung* essentially as a means of [psychological repression](#) and persecution.[\[14\]](#) Findings of [operational psychology](#),[\[15\]](#) were formulated into method at the Stasi's College of Law (*Juristische Hochschule der Staatssicherheit*, or *JHS*), and applied to [political opponents](#) in an effort to undermine their self-confidence and self-esteem. Operations were designed to intimidate and destabilise them by subjecting them to repeated disappointment, and to socially alienate them by interfering with and disrupting their relationships with others as in [social undermining](#). The aim was to induce [personal crises](#) in victims, leaving them too unnerved and psychologically distressed to have the time and energy for anti-government activism.[\[16\]](#) The Stasi intentionally concealed their role as mastermind of the operations.[\[17\]\[18\]](#) Author [Jürgen Fuchs](#) was a victim of *Zersetzung* and wrote about his experience, describing the Stasi's actions as “[psychosocial](#) crime”, and “an assault on the human soul”.[\[16\]](#)

Although its techniques had been established effectively by the late 1950s, *Zersetzung* was not defined in terms of a scientific method until the mid-1970s, and only then began to be carried out in a systematic manner in the 1970s and 1980s.[\[19\]](#) It is difficult to determine how many people were targeted, since the sources have been deliberately and considerably redacted; it is known, however, that tactics varied in scope, and that a number of different departments implemented them. Overall there was a ratio of four or five authorised *Zersetzung* operators for each targeted group, and three for each individual.[\[20\]](#) Some sources indicate that around 5,000 people were “persistently victimised” by *Zersetzung*.[\[4\]](#) At the College of Legal Studies, the number of dissertations submitted on the subject of *Zersetzung* was in double figures.[\[21\]](#) It also had a comprehensive 50-page *Zersetzung* teaching manual, which included numerous examples of its practice.[\[22\]](#)

## Implementing institutions

Almost all Stasi departments were involved in *Zersetzung* operations, although first and foremost the lead of the Stasi's directorate XX (*Hauptabteilung XX*) in Berlin, and its divisional offices in regional

and municipal government. The function of the head and *Abteilung XXs* was to maintain surveillance of [religious communities](#); cultural and media establishments; [alternative political parties](#); the GDR's many political establishment-affiliated mass social organisations; sport; and [education](#) and health services - effectively covering all aspects of civic life.[23] The Stasi made use of the means available to them within, and as a circumstance of, the GDR's closed social system. An established, politically-motivated collaborative network (*politisch-operatives Zusammenwirken*, or *POZW*) provided them with extensive opportunities for interference in such situations as the sanctioning of professionals and students, expulsion from associations and sports clubs, and occasional arrests by the [Volkspolizei](#)[17] (the GDR's quasi-military national police). Refusal of [permits for travel](#) to [socialist](#) states, or denial of entry at [Czechoslovakian](#) and [Polish](#) border crossings where no visa requirement existed, were also arranged. The various collaborators (*Partnern des operativen Zusammenwirkens*) included branches of regional government, university and professional management, housing administrative bodies, the *Sparkasse* public savings bank, and in some cases head physicians.[24] The Stasi's *Linie III* (*Observation*), *Abteilung 26* (Telephone and room surveillance) and *M* (Postal communications) departments provided essential background information for the designing of *Zersetzung* techniques, with *Abteilung 32* procuring the required technology.[25]

The Stasi collaborated with the secret services of other Eastern Bloc countries to implement *Zersetzung*. One such example was the Polish secret services co-operating against branches of the [Jehovah's Witnesses](#) organisation in the early 1960s, which would come to be known[26] as "*innere Zersetzung*"[27] (internal subversion).

## Against individuals

The Stasi applied *Zersetzung* before, during, after, or instead of incarcerating the targeted individual. The "operational procedures" did not have as an aim, in general, to gather evidence for charges against the target, or to be able to begin criminal prosecutions. The Stasi considered the "measures of *Zersetzung*" rather in part as an instrument that was used when judiciary procedures were not convenient, or for political reasons such as the international image of the GDR.[28][29] In certain cases, the Stasi attempted meanwhile to knowingly inculcate an individual, as for example in the case of [Wolf Biermann](#): The Stasi set him up with minors, hoping that he would allow himself to be seduced, and that they could then pursue criminal charges.[30] The crimes that they researched for such accusations were non-political, as for example drug possession, trafficking in customs or currencies, theft, financial fraud, and rape.[31]

...the Stasi often used a method which was really diabolic. It was called *Zersetzung*, and it's described in another guideline. The word is difficult to translate because it means originally "biodegradation." But actually, it's a quite accurate description. The goal was to destroy secretly the self-confidence of people, for example by damaging their reputation, by organizing failures in their work, and by destroying their personal relationships. Considering this, East Germany was a very modern dictatorship. The Stasi didn't try to arrest every dissident. It preferred to paralyze them, and it could do so because it had access to so much personal information and to so many institutions.

—Hubertus Knabe, German historian [32]

The proven forms of *Zersetzung* are described in the directive 1/76:

a systematic degradation of reputation, image, and prestige in a database on one part true, verifiable and degrading, and on the other part false, plausible, irrefutable, and always degrading; a systematic organization of social and professional failures for demolishing the self-confidence of the individual; [...] stimulation of doubts with respect to perspectives on the future; stimulation of mistrust or mutual suspicion among groups [...]; putting in place spatial and temporal obstacles rendering impossible or at least difficult the reciprocal relations of a group [...], for example by [...] assigning distant workplaces. —Directive No. 1/76 of January 1976 for the development of "operational procedures".[\[33\]](#)

Beginning with intelligence obtained by espionage, the Stasi established "sociograms" and "psychograms" which it applied for the psychological forms of *Zersetzung*. They exploited personal traits, such as homosexuality, as well as supposed character weaknesses of the targeted individual — for example a professional failure, negligence of parental duties, pornographic interests, divorce, alcoholism, dependence on medications, criminal tendencies, passion for a collection or a game, or contacts with circles of the extreme right — or even the veil of shame from the rumors poured out upon one's circle of acquaintances.[\[34\]](#)[\[35\]](#) From the point of view of the Stasi, the measures were the most fruitful when they were applied in connection with a personality; all "schematism" had to be avoided.[\[34\]](#)

Moreover, methods of *Zersetzung* included espionage, overt, hidden, and feigned; opening letters and listening to telephone calls; encroachments on private property; manipulation of vehicles; and even poisoning food and using false medications.[\[36\]](#) Certain collaborators of the Stasi tacitly took into account the suicide of victims of *Zersetzung*.[\[37\]](#)

It has not been definitely established that the Stasi used x-rays to provoke long-term health problems in its opponents.[\[38\]](#) That said, Rudolf Bahro, Gerulf Pannach, and Jürgen Fuchs, three important dissidents who had been imprisoned at the same time, died of cancer within an interval of two years.[\[39\]](#) A study by the Federal Commissioner for the Records of the State Security Service of the former GDR (*Bundesbeauftragte für die Unterlagen des Staatssicherheitsdienstes der ehemaligen Deutschen Demokratischen Republik* or *BStU*) has meanwhile rejected on the basis of extant documents such a fraudulent use of x-rays, and only mentions isolated and unintentional cases of the harmful use of sources of radiation, for example to mark documents.[\[40\]](#)

In the name of the target, the Stasi made little announcements, ordered products, and made emergency calls, to terrorize him/her.[\[41\]](#)[\[42\]](#) To threaten or intimidate or cause psychoses the Stasi assured itself of access to the target's living quarters and left visible traces of its presence, by adding, removing, and modifying objects.[\[31\]](#)

## **Against groups and social relations**

The Stasi manipulated relations of friendship, love, marriage, and family by anonymous letters, telegrams and telephone calls as well as compromising photos, often altered.[\[43\]](#) In this manner, parents and children were supposed to systematically become strangers to one another.[\[44\]](#) To provoke conflicts and extramarital relations the Stasi put in place targeted seductions by Romeo agents.[\[30\]](#)

For the *Zersetzung* of groups, it infiltrated them with unofficial collaborators, sometimes minors.[45] The work of opposition groups was hindered by permanent counter-propositions and discord on the part of unofficial collaborators when making decisions.[46] To sow mistrust within the group, the Stasi made believe that certain members were unofficial collaborators; moreover by spreading rumors and manipulated photos,[47] the Stasi feigned indiscretions with unofficial collaborators, or placed members of targeted groups in administrative posts to make believe that this was a reward for the activity of an unofficial collaborator.[30] They even aroused suspicions regarding certain members of the group by assigning privileges, such as housing or a personal car.[30] Moreover the imprisonment of only certain members of the group gave birth to suspicions.[46]

## Target groups for measures

The Stasi used *Zersetzung* tactics on individuals and groups. There was no particular homogeneous target group, as opposition in the GDR came from a number of different sources. Tactical plans were thus separately adapted to each perceived threat.[48] The Stasi nevertheless defined several main target groups:[49]

- associations of people making collective visa applications for travel abroad
- artists' groups critical of the government
- religious opposition groups
- youth subculture groups
- groups supporting the above (human rights and peace organisations, those assisting illegal departure from the GDR, and expatriate and defector movements).

The Stasi also occasionally used *Zersetzung* on non-political organisations regarded as undesirable, such as the [Watchtower Society](#).<sup>[50]</sup>

Prominent individuals targeted by *Zersetzung* operations included [Jürgen Fuchs](#), Gerulf Pannach, Rudolf Bahro, [Robert Havemann](#), Rainer Eppelmann, [Reiner Kunze](#), husband and wife Gerd und [Ulrike Poppe](#), and [Wolfgang Templin](#).

## Social and juridicial process

Once aware of his own status as a target, GDR opponent Wolfgang Templin tried, with some success, to bring details of the Stasi's *Zersetzung* activities to the attention of western journalists.<sup>[51]</sup> In 1977 [Der Spiegel](#) published a five-part article series, “*Du sollst zerbrechen!*” (“You're going to crack!”), by the exiled Jürgen Fuchs, in which he describes the Stasi's “operational psychology”. The Stasi tried to [discredit](#) Fuchs and the contents of similar articles, publishing in turn claims that he had a [paranoid](#) view of its function,<sup>[52]</sup> and intending that *Der Spiegel* and other media would assume he was suffering from a persecution complex.<sup>[53][54]</sup> This, however, was refuted by the official Stasi documents examined after [Die Wende](#) (the political power shift in the GDR in 1989-90).

Because the scale and nature of *Zersetzung* were unknown both to the general population of the GDR and to people abroad, revelations of the Stasi's malicious tactics were met with some degree of disbelief

by those affected.[55] Many still nowadays express incomprehension at how the Stasi's collaborators could have participated in such inhuman actions.[56]

Since *Zersetzung* as a whole, even after 1990, was not deemed to be illegal because of the principle of *nulla poena sine lege* (no penalty without law), actions against involvement in either its planning or implementation were not enforceable by the courts.<sup>[57]</sup> Because this specific legal definition of *Zersetzung* as a crime didn't exist,<sup>[58]</sup> only individual instances of its tactics could be reported. Acts which even according to GDR law were offences (such as the violation of *Briefgeheimnis*, the secrecy of correspondence) needed to have been reported to the GDR authorities soon after having been committed in order not to be subject to a statute of limitations clause.<sup>[59]</sup> Many of the victims experienced the additional complication that the Stasi was not identifiable as the originator in cases of personal injury and misadventure. Official documents in which *Zersetzung* methods were recorded often had no validity in court, and the Stasi had many files detailing its actual implementation destroyed.<sup>[60]</sup>

Unless they had been detained for at least 180 days, survivors of *Zersetzung* operations, in accordance with §17a of a 1990 rehabilitation act (the *Strafrechtlichen Rehabilitierungsgesetzes*, or *StrRehaG*), are not eligible for financial compensation. Cases of provable, systematically effected targeting by the Stasi, and resulting in employment-related losses and/or health damage, can be pursued under a law covering settlement of torts (*Unrechtsbereinigungsgesetz*, or *2. SED-UnBerG*) as claims either for occupational rehabilitation or rehabilitation under administrative law. These overturn certain administrative provisions of GDR institutions and affirm their unconstitutionality. This is a condition for the social equalisation payments specified in the *Bundesversorgungsgesetz* (the war victims relief act of 1950). Equalisation payments of pension damages and for loss of earnings can also be applied for in cases where victimisation continued for at least three years, and where claimants can prove need.<sup>[61]</sup> The above examples of seeking justice have, however, been hindered by various difficulties victims have experienced, both in providing proof of the Stasi's encroachment into the areas of health, personal assets, education and employment, and in receiving official acknowledgement that the Stasi was responsible for personal damages (including psychic injury) as a direct result of *Zersetzung* operations.<sup>[62]</sup>

## Modern use of techniques

Russia's secret police, the FSB, has been reported to use such mobbing techniques against foreign diplomats and journalists.<sup>[63]</sup>

## See also

- Destabilisation
- Gaslighting
- Mind control
- Mind games

- [Psychological manipulation](#)
- [Psychological warfare](#)
- [Stasi#Zersetzung](#)
- [COINTELPRO](#)

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**Look to major journalists, social networks and carbon-copy every law enforcement agency, so everyone knows what is going on, and so that no single entity can “stone-wall” or cover-up.**

## **Tips for Companies Under Political Hit-Job Attack –**

Cooperate with every law enforcement agency request. Every law enforcement agency will have an interest in terminating felony-grade law-breaking.

When they seek to destroy your reputation. Prove them wrong in public. Prove them wrong with the facts. Offer to meet them in any federal court or live TV debate to prove the facts. If the “bad guys” are involved in crime, be sure to show those facts in your public debate, so that people consider the source of the attacks. It isn’t possible to take a considered read of our references and proven deliverable documentation and not realize that any “scam” attack media/blog clips are fabricated by the attackers. In our case, we have seen law enforcement records and investigator documents proving severe felony-level crimes were engaged in by the people suspected of attacking our Team. We are extremely confident about who will be looking bad when everything is all-said-and-done. In today’s total information world, you can hire thousands of services that can track the off-shore tax evasion accounts, escort services, political bribes and illegal PAC groups, kick-backs, insider trading and other criminal actions that any criminal billionaire, that is attacking you is involved in. If you find such information, help the law enforcement people by delivering it to all of them. The level of felony crimes, these kinds

of people get involved in, are “felony-grade embezzlement and racketeering matters”, according to the FBI. They are going to get in pretty big trouble. In the cases where they used taxpayer money to stage their crimes, they are going to get in Super Big trouble.

Sue them. There are now contingency law firms who will cover the costs of going after big bad guys in exchange for a percentage of the judgement. For example: Many people, and countries, have now proven that Google rigs it’s search engines to harm it’s adversaries. If Google did that to you, the technical proof now exists and you can win in court and get compensated for the damages they caused you.

Watch out for “moles”. Crazy rich people have private eye’s and ex-employees that they pay to get a job at your company. They pretend that they are helping you, then they sabotage your effort. Consider past jobs that future employees had with your attackers.

Watch the news coverage for exposes about crimes that your attackers are suspected of being involved in and contact others that were harmed by the attackers. Form a support coalition with others that were damaged by the attackers.

Read about who does hired character assassinations, and how they do it, at [THIS LINK](#) and watch for the early signs of the attacks.

To understand the process, watch some of the movies about how the bad guys sabotage: Francis Coppola’s: **Tucker, A Man and His Dream**; Greg Kinear’s: **Flash of Genius**, and read some of the history of the “tech take-downs” at [THIS LINK](#)> <http://wp.me/P1EyVm-xH>

Stay on the “side of the Angels”. Good eventually wins over evil. In this new “Age of Transparency”, evil is losing faster than ever.

As punishment against you, rich political campaign backers will try to have their federal lackey’s change the law to hurt you. If you are a tech group, for example, the “bad guys”, might organize to suddenly try to change the patent laws so that your business is destroyed. When billionaires put bribes in the right pockets, they accomplish sweeping policy change. Don’t let that happen. Expose the “who” and the “why” in such tactics.

Consider Quid-Pro-Quo. In many countries the rule is: “if they do it to you, you have every right to do it back to them”

Watch out for “honey traps” in your activities and in on-line sites. Read the Snowden/Greenwald reports on what “Honey Traps” are.

The Bad Guys are usually very involved in politics because they like to control things. In order to control politics they own many stealth tabloid publications where they can order attack stories written about you. Some of these kinds of people own **famous online media tabloids** (ie: Gawker Media Group) and **stock tip publications** which are really just shill operations for their agendas and attacks. Identify these publications and partner with every person, or company, who they have coordinated attacks on in the past. Read about their attacks on inventor Mike Cheiky, Gary D. Conley, Aaron

Swartz, Stan Meyer, Preston Tucker [and hundreds of other innovators](#) that they wanted “out of the way”.

Certain “special interests” own, and control, the content on Google, Reddit, Hearst Publications, Motley Fool and other “publication outlets”. You will only see glowing reports about the “bad guys” on those. You will see no negative reports about the “bad guys”, allowed on those sites, and every bad report about you will be manually up-ranked and locked into the top slot on their page in order to damage you. The down-side for the bad guys, though, is that the internet remembers everything. You can now prove, in court, showing technical and historical metric data, that they intentionally locked and damaged you and you can get compensated for the damages.

Every single troll blog comment, every pseudo attack article about you, everything is already tracked back to the actual author. The NSA have done it, that is well known. NO amount of TOR, or VPN on top of VPN or stealthing software can hide a troll attacker any more. What is only now becoming known is that the official, and also the independent hacker, Chinese and Russian spies have got almost all of that information too. Hackers have broken into Sony, The White House, All of Target, All of the Federal Employee Records, everything. In a court case you can now, legally, subpoena NSA records to sue the attackers. Others, hearing of your filed case, may just show up and give you the information. Attackers cannot hide behind anonymity any more. Those who were blogging that you “*sleep with goats*” and “*eat unborn children*” can now be found out and delt with.

Do you have on-line stores and paypal or credit card accounts that take payments at those stores? Trying to make a little cash on the side? Confused about why you never get any orders? The attackers have DNS-re-routed your stores and payment certificates, spoofed your sites and turned off all of your income potential from those on-line options in order to damage your economic potential. Illegal? Yes. Happening to people every day? Yes. Get professional IT services to document the spoofs, and re-routes, and sue the operators of those tactics that are attacking your revenue stream.

It costs \$50,000.00 to bribe a Senator. Some of these tech billionaires earn that much in 3 minutes. Beware of your Senator. Senators take stock options in tech companies as bribes, watch for linkages. See the **60 Minutes** Episode called: **Congress Trading On Insider Information**.

Want a job? Forget about it! The bad guys went into Axciom, Oracle, SAP, and all of the Human Resources and Recruiter databases, and put “red flag notices” on your profile. You will get some great first interviews, but when they run your back-ground check, you will never hear back from that interviewer again. You got “HR Black-listed”, in retribution, for accidentally bothering a campaign billionaire. Hire an HR service to look and print out your false “red flag” HR data-base inserts and use those as evidence in your lawsuit.

(This one, submitted by a Washington Post reporter): They will anonymously put all of your email addresses on blacklists, and watch-lists, so that you can’t use services like craigslist, cafe press, zazzle or other on-line services to make money. If you try to open any accounts on those services, you either won’t be able to create an account or, you will get an account, but all of your orders will get “spoofed” into oblivion so you can’t make any money. The attackers believe that by causing you as much

economic hard-ship as possible, they can get retribution for what-ever they have perceived that you have done to offend them. Again, use an IT forensic services group to get the data to show this is happening, trace it, and sue the perpetrators.

Their actions provide the proof. When you look out on the internet and add up the pronouncements of “scam”, “sleeping with goats”, etc. The volume of attack items proves that no mere mortal, or company, could have acquired that much media unless it was placed there by very wealthy parties. Everyone now knows that the web is controlled. The volume of attacks can often prove that those attacks are fabricated. Additionally, IP Trace Routing and digital tracking now can prove the attackers manipulation of your data, email and website traffic. One of your best sets of evidence will come from the attackers, themselves. The bad guys always leave a digital trail of bread-crumbs leading right back to themselves. You can hire an IT company to build a “tracking array” comprised of hundreds of websites which are bait to catch them in the act. Regarding: Paranoia vs. documented evidence. If you, and others have experienced the tactics, and the police have recorded the tactics being used against you, it isn't paranoia to be cautious.

## **The New York Times**



### **The "[Sidney Blumenfeld](#)" of Energy; Character Assassination King preaches Kill-Them-All approach to media**

Bare-Knuckled Advice From Veteran Lobbyist: ‘Win Ugly or Lose Pretty’

Richard Berman Energy Industry Talk Secretly Taped

By ERIC LIPTON OCT.



Rick Berman, of the lobbying firm Berman and Company, in January. Daniel Rosenbaum for The New York Times

WASHINGTON — If the oil and gas industry wants to prevent its opponents from slowing its efforts to drill in more places, it must be prepared to employ tactics like digging up embarrassing tidbits about environmentalists and liberal celebrities, a veteran Washington political consultant told a room full of industry executives in a speech that was secretly recorded.

The blunt advice from the consultant, Richard Berman, the founder and chief executive of the Washington-based Berman and Company consulting firm, came as Mr. Berman solicited up to \$3 million from oil and gas industry executives to finance an advertising and public relations campaign dubbed Big Green Radicals.

The company executives, Mr. Berman said in his speech, must be willing to exploit emotions like fear, greed and anger and turn it against the environmental groups. And major corporations secretly financing such a campaign should not worry about offending the general public because “you can either win ugly or lose pretty,” he said.

“Think of this as an endless war,” Mr. Berman told the crowd at the June event in Colorado Springs, sponsored by the Western Energy Alliance, a group whose members include Devon Energy, Halliburton and Anadarko Petroleum, which specialize in extracting oil and gas through hydraulic fracturing, also known as fracking. “And you have to budget for it.”

What Mr. Berman did not know — and what could now complicate his task of marginalizing environmental groups that want to impose limits on fracking — is that one of the energy industry executives recorded his remarks and was offended by them.

“That you have to play dirty to win,” said the executive, who provided a copy of the recording and the meeting agenda to The New York Times, under the condition that his identity not be revealed. “It just left a bad taste in my mouth.”

Mr. Berman had flown to Colorado with Jack Hubbard, a vice president at Mr. Berman’s firm, Berman & Company, to discuss their newest public relations campaign, Big Green Radicals, which has already placed a series of intentionally controversial advertisements in Pennsylvania and Colorado, two states where the debate over fracking has been particularly intense. It has also paid to place the media

campaign on websites serving national and Washington audiences.

A spokeswoman for Mr. Berman confirmed that he gave the speech, but said he would have no comment on its contents.

Mr. Berman is well known in Washington for his technique of creating nonprofit groups like the Center for Consumer Freedom that secretly collect corporate donations to finance the aggressive, often satirical media campaigns his team conceives. They are intended to undermine his opponents, like labor unions or animal rights groups that have tried to spotlight the treatment of animals at meatpacking plants.

“I get up every morning and I try to figure out how to screw with the labor unions — that’s my offense,” Mr. Berman said in his speech to the Western Energy Alliance. “I am just trying to figure out how I am going to reduce their brand.”

Mr. Berman offered several pointers from his playbook.

“If you want a video to go viral, have kids or animals,” he said, and then he showed a spot his company had prepared using schoolchildren as participants in a mock union election — to suggest that union bosses do not have real elections.

“Use humor to minimize or marginalize the people on the other side,” he added.

“There is nothing the public likes more than tearing down celebrities and playing up the hypocrisy angle,” his colleague, Mr. Hubbard, said, citing billboard advertisements planned for Pennsylvania that featured the actor and environmentalist Robert Redford. “Demands green living,” they read. “Flies on private jets.”

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PUBLIC COMMENTS:

'The company executives, Mr. Berman said in his speech, must be willing to exploit emotions like fear, greed and anger and turn it against...

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From Wikipedia:Though Berman and Company does not publicly name its clients, 60 Minutes obtained a list of companies that funded the Center...

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Bergman represents the ethical, business school standards of industry. Cheat, lie, pay others less so there is more for yourself. Finally...

Mr. Hubbard also discussed how he had done detailed research on the personal histories of members of the boards of the Sierra Club and the Natural Resources Defense Council to try to find information that could be used to embarrass them.

But the speech, given in June at the Broadmoor Hotel and Resort, where the Western Energy Alliance held its 2014 annual meeting, could end up bringing a new round of scrutiny to Mr. Berman and the vast network of nonprofit groups and think tanks he runs out of his downtown Washington office.

Mr. Berman repeatedly boasted about how he could take checks from the oil and gas industry executives — he said he had already collected six-figure contributions from some of the executives in the room — and then hide their role in funding his campaigns.

“People always ask me one question all the time: ‘How do I know that I won’t be found out as a supporter of what you’re doing?’ ” Mr. Berman told the crowd. “We run all of this stuff through nonprofit organizations that are insulated from having to disclose donors. There is total anonymity. People don’t know who supports us.”

What is unclear is if the hardball tactics that Mr. Berman has pitched will succeed in places like Colorado. Already, The Denver Post editorial page, generally supportive of the oil and gas industry, has criticized Mr. Berman’s tactics, calling one video spot — featuring fictitious environmentalists who debate if the moon is made of cheese before calling for a ban on fracking — “a cheap shot at fracking foes.”

But Mr. Berman probably appreciated the criticism. As he explained in his remarks, what matters is increasing the number of people who see his work, which is part of the reason he intentionally tries to offend people in his media campaigns.

“They characterize us in a campaign as being the guys with the black helicopters,” he explained. “And to some degree, that’s true. We’re doing stuff to diminish the other sides’ ability to operate.”

# Fracking Advocates Urged to Win Ugly by Discrediting Foes

Oct 30, 2014 2:34 PM PDT

A veteran Washington public relations guru has an uncompromising message for oil and gas drillers facing backlash.



Oct. 31 (Bloomberg) -By Mark Drajem For Bloomberg- As he took the floor at the tony Broadmoor resort in Colorado Springs, the veteran Washington public relations guru had an uncompromising message for oil and gas drillers facing an anti-fracking backlash.

“You can either win ugly or lose pretty. You figure out where you want to be,” Rick Berman told the Western Energy Alliance, according to a recording. “Hardball is something that I’m a big fan of, applied appropriately.”

Berman has gained prominence, including a “60 Minutes” profile, for playing hardball with animal activists, labor unions and even Mothers Against Drunk Driving. In Colorado, he was offering to take on environmentalists pushing restrictions on hydraulic fracturing, or fracking.

“Think of it as endless war.”

—Rick Berman

The fight over fracking in the state has been viewed as a bellwether for similar debates brewing from New York to Sacramento. Energy companies are lobbying against a slew of regulations, including ones setting safety rules for fracking on public lands and another capping carbon emissions from power plants.

That partly explains why energy and resources companies, including Koch Industries Inc., Exxon Mobil Corp. and Murray Energy Corp. are spending lavishly on political campaigns this year. The

Center for Responsive Politics data shows the industry will contribute an amount second only to its record \$143 million leading up to the 2012 election. So far they have given \$95.5 million to candidates and political committees.

### 'Dream World'

Industry supporters say they have no choice. They face a well-funded environmental campaign from groups such as the Sierra Club that threaten to endanger the boom in production and domestic manufacturing that followed the shale revolution.

"There is an anti-fossil fuel movement, and a very well-funded lobbying campaign is behind it," said Michael Krancer, Pennsylvania's former top natural-gas regulator and an energy attorney at Blank Rome LLP in Philadelphia. "These are people who want to live in a dream world."

At the June session in Colorado with executives from Halliburton Co., Exxon and Devon Energy Corp., Berman offered companies a way to anonymously target their environmental foes - - at a cost of as much as \$3 million. The recording, provided to Bloomberg by an environmental advocate who got it from an attendee, shows an unvarnished look at what Berman promises companies in pitching for their business.

He said his campaign would follow the playbook from his earlier efforts: attacks on the hypocrisy of adversaries, an undercurrent of absurdist humor and the promise of anonymity for the companies behind it. The recording makes it clear that Berman is pitching for their business, and says some companies have already funded the campaign with "six-figure" payments.

### Anadarko, Noble

"Think of it as endless war," he said.

Berman and Tim Wigley, president of the Western Energy Alliance, a Denver-based trade group, didn't return telephone messages asking about his pitch. Sarah Longwell, a spokeswoman for Berman & Co., said Berman declined to comment.

"We are not confident in the objectivity of your reporting," Longwell told a reporter. "If you have the recording, then you can use that."

Anadarko Petroleum Corp. and Noble Energy Inc., two of the largest producers in the state, each had executives at the meeting, but their spokespeople said they didn't bankroll Berman's advertising campaign. They have formed a separate educational campaign aimed at explaining fracking, in which water, sand and chemicals are shot underground to free oil and gas from rock formations.

Halliburton, the world's biggest provider of fracking services, also had an executive at the meeting, according to an attendance list obtained by Bloomberg. Emily Mir, a company spokeswoman, said it hasn't funded the Berman campaign either.

### 'Fear and Anger'

For the Colorado part, Berman said it would cost \$2 million to \$3 million to run the kind of public relations campaign necessary to defeat proposed anti-fracking referendums, which have since been

delayed. That money would be spent in addition to the “positive campaign” companies were running, he said.

“Fear and anger have to be part of this campaign,” Berman told them. “You have to get people fearful about what is on the table, and you have to get people angry that they are being misled.”

Tapping those emotions requires a dose of humor, he said.

He played an advertisement that showed one activist blaming fracking for his overeating and another for the fact that his sock-puppet, Mr. Snuggles, was ignoring him. The ad was posted online and ran on television a few weeks later, according to a Denver Post article.

### Getting Message

“We like to use humor because humor doesn’t offend people and at the same time they get the message,” Berman said, according to the tape of the June meeting.

Jack Hubbard, a Berman & Co. vice president, told the audience that the work in Colorado flowed out of a national campaign that had begun some months earlier. That was after some companies provided funding to start “Big Green Radicals,” which goes after environmental groups such as the Sierra Club and the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Hubbard declined to comment for this story.

Berman’s opposition researchers, who Hubbard called the best in the nation, dug into the finances of board members of those groups and issued ads, both online and on billboards, mocking them.

One billboard in Pennsylvania showed a picture of actor Robert Redford, who’s on the board of the Natural Resources Defense Council, and stated: “Demands green living. Flies on a private jet.”

Another shows anti-fracking activist Yoko Ono: “Would you take energy advice from the woman who broke up the Beatles?”

### Attacking Messenger

Environmental groups said they were initially worried about the attacks, but found they didn’t gain much traction with the public or press.

“This really is an effort to go after the messenger,” Josh Mogerman, an NRDC spokesman, said. “I don’t think these campaigns have gotten a lot of attention.”

As he has in previous drives against raising the minimum wage or tightening rules to curb drunk driving, Berman said he would run the campaign for fracking through nonprofit entities. Because U.S. law allows nonprofits to keep the source of their funding secret, it’s not clear which companies or individuals are funding these various campaigns.

“What people always want to do is they want to know who funds me so they can attack the funder,” Berman told the Western Energy Alliance, when asked by an audience member which companies were backing him. “We run all of this stuff through nonprofit organizations that are insulated from having to

disclose donors.”

‘Dr. Evil’

Taking on unpopular causes -- such as objecting to new restrictions on drinking or food portions -- earned him the moniker “Dr. Evil,” which CBS’s “60 Minutes” program used to describe him in a 2007 broadcast.

In his presentation, Berman said that attacking the messenger is something he learned from the unions and animal rights groups he has tangled with for two decades.

“I studied what the other side did to be successful, and translated it to what business can do,” he said.

One of Berman’s campaigns was focused against then-New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg’s effort to ban the sale of soft drinks larger than 16 ounces. The mayor, whom Berman’s groups portrayed as a female nanny in a full-page New York Times advertisement, is the founder and majority owner of Bloomberg LP, the parent of Bloomberg News.

In the end, New York state courts tossed out the proposed soda-size limit.

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INVESTIGATORS BACKGROUND DOCUMENT:

**[berman-at-western-energy-alliance-june-2014-doc.pdf](#)**



[Download File](#)

Character Assassination: Weapon Against the Whistleblower

by Nicholas Morpus

Constitutional Freedoms, Personal Liberties

“Whistleblowing is an isolating act. It’s a courageous and phenomenal thing to do, but you are essentially doing something that your colleagues and friends would not want you to do, would not understand. It alienates you further from them.” - James Ball

Is it a crime to tell the truth? If your government was responsible for the deaths of innocent civilians or was engaged in the cover-up of its violations into the privacy of millions of American civilians, would you want to know? Do you have a right to know? In the cases of Bradley Manning, Julian Assange, Edward Snowden, and many other whistleblowers, exposing the truth about the abuses of those in power trumped the comfort of their lives so that freedom and transparency did not just become notions

that were brushed over in history books.

What followed these exposures was nothing short of embarrassment for those in power now that their legitimacy and practices were being brought under fire. Unfortunately for these whistleblowers, these slights to those who wish to keep close control of the narrative of their behavior are not taken lightly and do not go unpunished. However, with the spotlight cast on primarily the State and the whistleblowers, punishment and silencing in order to preserve whatever shreds of secrecy and credibility they have are heavily scrutinized. The most effective weapon that the State and their defenders have to turn to is actually the simplest of attacks: character assassination.

Character assassination has been a powerful tool in the dispatching of truth seekers, as it was so easily used against those such as Julian Assange and his most famous source of leaks, Bradley Manning. Assange, armed with his platform of exposure, Wikileaks and Bradley Manning (now known as Chelsea Manning) with his access to classified military information, reports, and cables, were able to expose the true nature of the Afghan and Iraq wars. Assange and Manning were able to bring forward secret information such as the infamous “Collateral Murder” Apache helicopter strike on innocent civilians and the true nature of the actions of our armed forces in the war in Afghanistan. These leaks exposed cruel and criminal actions as well as the intent and ability of our government to hide these events from the public eye.

Leaks of this proportion only led to prominent U.S. politicians and pundits, such as Newt Gingrich, calling for Julian Assange to be treated as an “active enemy combatant” and others shouting for him to be killed, such as neoconservative Bill Kristol of the Weekly Standard. Many labeled him a traitor, despite the fact that Julian Assange was not even an American citizen. As for Bradley (Chelsea) Manning, the United States government spared no time incarcerating him under questionable conditions, including allegations of forced sleep deprivation, prolonged isolation, and forced nudity in his cell during prisoner roll call. Manning’s incarceration allowed our government to engage in character assassination in the form of ad hominem attacks on his personality and behavior in hopes of distracting from the abuses of our military and the “classified” cover-ups that had taken place.

What better way for the spotlight to be taken off of the offenders than to attack the credibility and character of the messenger? After the revelations of the lies perpetrated by the NSA and its director, James Clapper, that they were in fact spying on and collecting large amounts of private information from American citizens, defenders of the surveillance state and the current administration began their smear campaign. The lawmakers and pundits quickly labeled Edward Snowden as a traitor and a Russian spy in an attempt to discredit him and build a narrative of distrust against his information. These character attacks have led to high positioned individuals, such as Secretary of State, John Kerry, calling on “cowardly” Edward Snowden to return to the U.S. as well as to “man up” and “face the music” for his “crimes.”

The issue with these charges is the fact that none of them were substantiated by facts, but were instead merely circumstantial charges based on the fact that Snowden had fled and sought asylum in any nation that would have him and not turn him over to U.S. authorities. It is simple common sense that Snowden would seek to evade U.S. authorities so that those who would seek to put an end to these disclosures would not silence him or subject him to the same treatment dealt to Bradley Manning.

The fact is, there is nothing traitorous about exposing violations to our rights and Constitution and seeking to continue this much needed campaign for government transparency and accountability. The reason these heroic acts have not deterred the true lawbreakers from engaging in outright slander and

political imprisonment is to shift attention away from their misdeeds. In the words of former Congressman Ron Paul: "Truth is treason in the empire of lies." Unfortunately for those who would keep the villainous actions of our government a secret, their empire of lies is crumbling by the minute due to the expanded transparency provided by the Internet and the courageous actions of whistleblowers as we hope that the free flow of information continues.

## Using Agencies As Political Weapons

When senior political officials order senior agency executives to use their agencies as political weapons against opponents, they usually get turned in by lower level staff who feel that that sort of corruption of power taints their agency and shames the lower level people who work there.

In recent history there have been some famous deployments of this tactic:

### - Chris Christie's "Bridge-Gate"

The ordering of the artificial creation of traffic jams affecting hundreds of thousands of taxpayers in order to make nearby politician look bad.

### - Steven Chu's Department of Energy Manipulations

The rigging of political funding in order to terminate competitors

### - Lois Lerner's staff's manipulation of the IRS

The ordering of Federal Tax agency resources in order to damage non-aligned interests

### - The citing of DOJ Attorney General Eric Holder, By Congress, For "Contempt of Congress"

The U.S. Congress accused AG Eric Holder of refusing to provide evidence because he was engaging in a cover-up of something that Congress wanted to investigate

Multiple investigations are underway to determine: "Who gave the orders?"

- [DOES KLEINER PERKINS USE SABOTAGE EXPERTS](#)
- [SCREWED BY THE WHITE HOUSE](#)
- [HOME](#)

- [THE BURN NOTICE AFFAIR](#)
- [THEIR TACTICS](#)
- [WHITE HOUSE HIT SQUADS](#)
- [DEATH BY GOOGLE](#)
- [MONICA](#)
- [BOB](#)
- [SHARYL](#)
- [KATHERINE](#)
- [SARAH](#)
- [IN-Q-TEL](#)
- [CONTRACTED POLITICAL ATTACK PROVIDERS](#)
- [KILL THE MESSENGER](#)
- [GRAB-N-GO](#)
- [ALEC & ALICE COORDINATED ATTACKS](#)
- [VIDEOS](#)
- [STASI TACTICS](#)
- [TEACHING POLITICOS HOW TO - KILL -](#)
- [SNOWDEN ON CHARACTER ASSASSINATION SQUADS](#)
- [THE OTHERS](#)
- [USING AGENCIES AS POLITICAL WEAPONS](#)
- [TROLL FARMS OF THE CAMPAIGN BILLIONAIRES](#)
- [PROMOTE THE CAUSE](#)
- [CONNECT/JOIN](#)
- [THE WHITE HOUSE ATTACK MACHINE](#)
- [DISCLOSED: Massive Criminal Investigation to Snare Cartel of Famous and Corrupt Silicon Valley Venture Capitalists!](#)
- [FREE BOOK](#)
- [The Assassins of Gawker](#)

## **Politics Payback - The Troll Farms of The Billionaire Campaign Crooks**

When big crazy political campaign billionaires want you "DEAD", they have a very novel method that only they can afford to deploy: TROLL FARMS.

The average person has no defense against this kind of attack. It destroyed Monica Lewinsky and was found to be so effective that crooked politicians now use it as their first-weapon-of-choice.

Let's take a look at how they use these insidious tools to destroy your life across the entire internet:

## How The White House Attacks Voters That Call It's Bluff

The Most Secret Weapon that the White House has is not the legendary “*Rod of God*” kinetic satellite weapon. It is *KIM KARDASHIAN!*

The White House Press office is, according to Mitt Romney: “*expert in Character Assassination Tactics*”. They have Media Matters, Think Progress, Gawker Media, In-Q-Tel, New America Foundation, Sidney Blumenthal and the A.L.I.C.E. cartel of attack bloggers lined up with automated, Google-powered, Troll Farms, created to rain media hell on any adversary in the public.

The “Kardashian Engine” can make a non-issue into something, which the public believes is a big deal, by creating dialogue that does not actually exist. They use hired fake commenters, shill bloggers and the Google rigged web search engine.

Got a “problem person”? Robert Gibbs, at the White House, calls Nick Denton, at Gawker Media, and says: “*I have a target for you!*”

Google is, now charged with, manipulating the web dialogue, and searches, about Obama, in the 2008 election, in order to get him elected. They use their high volume fake social media engines to also manufacture fake user testimonials about candidates. The GOP figured this out, though, and has put a counter-measures engine in place. Russia and China figured this out too, and copied it, while giving Google the Finger. Did Trump use his own “Kardashian Engine” to create his historic rise in the GOP ranks, and national polls? Why did Hillary wipe her server and her staff communications? Did she send emails coordinating hits on members of Congress, and the public, using the Kardashian Engine?

The following are related investigations into how they do it:

Did you piss off a corrupt White House politician and then have your life go to sh\*t? Here is how they did it to you:

That corrupt Senator then had their chief of staff call either: In-Q-Tel, Tactical Resources or PsyoContract. These are consulting groups made up of former CIA operatives. Those kinds of services sell “hit-jobs”, using the latest government technology and psychological tactics. Here is what they did to you.

This activity is referred to as "Organized Corporate Stalking" - or "Political Gang Stalking" in the vernacular. Several million of Americans experience this type of activity in the US if they have been

deemed a "dissident, activist, domestic threat or domestic terrorist."

There are dozens of websites and YouTube channels dedicated to these black ops which are perpetrated in every major city of the US (and small towns as well)

Moving objects around in someone's home is referred to as "gas-lighting" and is done so that the complainant/victim sounds delusional when they call the police for assistance.

After all, who is going to break into a home (usually without leaving a trace) and move a few objects around without stealing anything? It does not sound credible or believable.

Everything is done so there is plausible deniability, should the potential perpetrators ever be identified.

These tactics/techniques were used against American Embassy Staff in Cuba and Russia for years, however US authorities have been quite mum about it since the same techniques are used on a wide scale in the United States against "dissidents, activists" and anyone else who has been extra-judicially deemed a threat to the establishment, the status quo or large companies.

These activities are usually done in conjunction with vehicle vandalism/hacking, computer/e-mail/bank account hacking, mail tampering and untraceable, remotely-initiated damage to electronic devices and their power supplies.

Additionally victims of these covertly-styled assaults are also plagued by people passing by their residences at all hours and blowing their horns or revving their engines (referred to as a noise campaign).

Codes can be remotely stripped/read from computer keyboards, phones and alarm touch-pads since every key generates an electronic signature which can be read/culled from a distance - there are devices built specifically for this purpose.

Furthermore, these black ops are done while the victim's name is simultaneously being slandered via false accusations of criminal activity, theft, violence, crimes of moral turpitude and prior mental health issues. The "teams" perpetrating these illegal acts will try and destroy every aspect of the target's life.

You are likely bugged and your vehicle tagged with a GPS, thus moving will not necessarily terminate the issue(s) you are experiencing - although if your experience(s) have been published it may alleviate some of the illegal activities.

These politicians will hire private security groups and criminals to follow their targets around in order to let them know that he/she is now "persona non grata" and being monitored.

Being a single woman - especially with a child makes these activities even more traumatizing.

These tactics were used by Hitler, Mao Tze Tung, the East German Stasi and the KGB.

All of these activities are done so that the perpetrators are hard to identify - and the criminal acts are hard to prove to the police - and in court. (plausible deniability).

You will find you can't get a job. You will get many phone calls and emails from people with east

indian accents asking you to approve submitting a resume for a great job. Each time you will never hear back from them. Your disappointment will increase. That is how they like it. Those were not real recruiters, they were operatives trying to build you up and let you down, over and over, in order to create a sense of self-doubt and a sense of personal failure, so that you will be too emotionally weakened to fight against the politician.

It is also referred to as "No-Touch Torture" and is used to intimidate the target in addition to making them psychologically more vulnerable. The technique was developed by the Stasi and is called *Zersetzung*

*Zersetzung* (German; variously translated as *decomposition*, *corrosion*, *undermining*, *biodegradation* or *dissolution*) was a working technique of the East German secret police, the Stasi. The "measures of *Zersetzung*", defined in the framework of a directive on police procedures in 1976,<sup>[1]</sup> were effectively used in the context of so-called "operational procedures" (in German *Operative Vorgänge* or *OV*). They replaced the overt terror of the Ulbricht era.

As to the practice of repressive persecution, *Zersetzung* comprised extensive and secret methods of control and manipulation, even in the personal relations of the target. The Stasi relied for this on its network of unofficial collaborators<sup>[2]</sup> (in German *inoffizielle Mitarbeiter* or *IM*), on the State's influence on institutions, and on "operational psychology". By targeted psychological attacks the Stasi tried in this way to deprive the dissident of any possibility of "hostile action".

Thanks to numerous files of the Stasi made public following "the turning" (Die Wende) of East Germany, the use of measures of *Zersetzung* is well documented. Estimates of the number of victims of such measures are on the order of a thousand, or even about 10,000,<sup>[3]</sup> of which 5,000 sustained irreversible damage.<sup>[4]</sup> Pensions for restitution have been created for the victims.

[*Zersetzung* is] an operational method of the Ministry for Security of State for an efficacious struggle against subversive doings, in particular in the treatment of operations. With *Zersetzung*, across different operational political activities, one gains influence over hostile and negative persons, in particular over that which is hostile and negative in their dispositions and beliefs, in such a way that these would be shaken off and changed little by little, and, if applicable, the contradictions and differences between the hostile and negative forces would be provoked, exploited, and reinforced.

The goal of *Zersetzung* is the fragmentation, paralysis, disorganization, and isolation of the hostile and negative forces, in order to impede thereby, in a preventive manner, the hostile and negative doings, to limit them in large part, or to totally avert them, and if applicable to prepare grounds for a political and ideological reestablishment.

*Zersetzung* is equally an immediate constitutive element of "operational procedures" and other preventive activities to impede hostile gatherings. The principal forces to put *Zersetzung* in practice are the unofficial collaborators. *Zersetzung* presupposes information and significant proof of hostile activities planned, prepared, and accomplished as well as anchor points corresponding to measures of *Zersetzung*.

*Zersetzung* must be produced on the basis of an analysis of the root of facts and the exact establishment of a concrete goal. *Zersetzung* must be executed in a uniform and supervised manner; its results must be documented.

The political explosivity of *Zersetzung* poses elevated imperatives in that which concerns the maintenance of secrecy.[5]

### **Political context**

During the first decade of existence of the German Democratic Republic, political opposition was combatted primarily through the penal code, via accusations of incitement to war or boycott.[6] To counteract the isolation of the GDR on the international scene due to the construction of the Berlin wall in 1963, judicial terror was abandoned.[7] Especially since the debut of the Honecker era in 1971, the Stasi intensified its efforts to punish dissident behaviors without using the penal code.[8] Important motives were the desire on the part of the GDR for international recognition and *rapprochement* with West Germany at the end of the '60s. In fact the GDR was committed, in adhering to the Charter of the U.N.[9] and the [Helsinki accords](#)[10] as well as the fundamental treaty signed with the Federal Republic of Germany,[11] to respect human rights, or at least it announced its intention as such. The regime of the [Socialist Unity Party of Germany](#) decided thus to reduce the number of political prisoners, which was compensated for by practices of repression without imprisonment or judicial condemnation.[12][13]

### **In practice**

The Stasi used *Zersetzung* essentially as a means of psychological oppression and persecution.[14] Findings of *Operativen psychologie* (psychological operations),[15] formulated into method at the Stasi's College of Legal Studies (*Juristischen Hochschule der Staatssicherheit*, or *JHS*), were applied to political opponents in an effort to undermine their self-confidence and self-esteem. Operations were designed to intimidate and destabilise them through subjection to repeated disappointments, and to socially alienate them through interference in and disruption of their relationships with others. The aim was to then induce personal crises in victims, leaving them too unnerved and psychologically distressed to have the time and energy for anti-government activism.[16] The Stasi intended that their role as mastermind of the operations remain concealed.[17][18] [Jürgen Fuchs](#), a victim of *Zersetzung* who later wrote about his experience, described the Stasi's actions as “psychosocial crime”, and “an assault on the human soul”. [16]

Although its techniques had been established as effective by the late 1950s, *Zersetzung* was not defined in terms of scientific method until the mid-1970s, and only began to be carried out in a significantly systematic way in the 1970s and 1980s.[19] It is difficult to determine the number of people targeted, since source material has been deliberately and considerably redacted; it is known, however, that tactics were varied in scope, and that a number of different departments participated in their implementation. Overall there was a ratio of four or five authorised *Zersetzung* operators for each targeted group, and three for each individual.[20] Some sources indicate that around 5,000 people were “persistently victimised” by *Zersetzung*. [21] At the College of Legal Studies, the number of dissertations submitted on the subject of *Zersetzung* was in double figures.[22] It also had a comprehensive 50-page *Zersetzung* teaching manual, which included numerous examples of its practice.[23]

### **Institutions implementing and cooperating with *Zersetzung* operations**

Almost all Stasi departments were involved in *Zersetzung* operations, although foremost among these in implementing them were the head department of the Stasi's directorate XX (*Hauptabteilung XX*) in Berlin, as well as its divisional offices in regional and municipal government. The function of the head and area *Abteilung XXs* was to maintain surveillance of [religious communities](#); cultural and media

establishments; alternative political parties; the GDR's many political establishment-affiliated mass social organisations; sport; and education and health services - effectively, as such, covering all aspects of civic life and activity.[24] The Stasi made use of the means available to them within, and as a circumstance of, the GDR's closed social system. An established, politically-motivated collaborative network (*politisch-operatives Zusammenwirken*, or *POZW*) provided them with extensive opportunities for interference in such situations as the sanctioning of professionals and students, expulsion from associations and sports clubs, and occasional arrests by the Volkspolizei[17] (the GDR's quasi-military national police). Refusal of permits for travel to socialist states, or denial of entry at Czechoslovakian and Polish border crossings where no visa requirement existed, were also arranged. The various collaborators (*Partnern des operativen Zusammenwirkens*) included branches of regional government, university and professional management, housing administrative bodies, the *Sparkasse* public savings bank, and in some cases head physicians.[25] The Stasi's *Linie III (Observation)*, *Abteilung 26* (Telephone and room surveillance) and *M* (Postal communications) departments provided essential background information for the designing of *Zersetzung* techniques, with *Abteilung 32* procuring the required technology.[26]

The Stasi also collaborated with the secret services of other Eastern Bloc countries in implementing *Zersetzung*. One such example was the co-operation of the Polish secret services in actions taken against branches of the Jehovah's Witnesses organisation in the early 1960s, which would come to be known[27] as "*innere Zersetzung*"[28] (internal subversion).

### Against individuals

The Stasi applied *Zersetzung* before, during, after, or instead of incarcerating the targeted individual. The "operational procedures" did not have as an aim, in general, to gather evidence for charges against the target, or to be able to begin criminal prosecutions. The Stasi considered the "measures of *Zersetzung*" rather in part as an instrument that was used when judiciary procedures were not convenient, or for political reasons such as the international image of the GDR.[29][30] In certain cases, the Stasi attempted meanwhile to knowingly inculcate an individual, as for example in the case of Wolf Biermann: The Stasi set him up with minors, hoping that he would allow himself to be seduced, and that they could then pursue criminal charges.[31] The crimes that they researched for such accusations were non-political, as for example drug possession, trafficking in customs or currencies, theft, financial fraud, and rape.[32]

...the Stasi often used a method which was really diabolic. It was called *Zersetzung*, and it's described in another guideline. The word is difficult to translate because it means originally "biodegradation." But actually, it's a quite accurate description. The goal was to destroy secretly the self-confidence of people, for example by damaging their reputation, by organizing failures in their work, and by destroying their personal relationships. Considering this, East Germany was a very modern dictatorship. The Stasi didn't try to arrest every dissident. It preferred to paralyze them, and it could do so because it had access to so much personal information and to so many institutions.

—Hubertus Knabe, German historian [33]

The proven forms of *Zersetzung* are described in the directive 1/76:

a systematic degradation of reputation, image, and prestige in a database on one part true, verifiable and degrading, and on the other part false, plausible, irrefutable, and always degrading; a systematic organization of social and professional failures for demolishing the self-confidence of the individual;

[...] stimulation of doubts with respect to perspectives on the future; stimulation of mistrust or mutual suspicion among groups [...]; putting in place spatial and temporal obstacles rendering impossible or at least difficult the reciprocal relations of a group [...], for example by [...] assigning distant workplaces. —Directive No. 1/76 of January 1976 for the development of "operational procedures".[34]

Beginning with intelligence obtained by espionage, the Stasi established "sociograms" and "psychograms" which it applied for the psychological forms of *Zersetzung*. They exploited personal traits, such as homosexuality, as well as supposed character weaknesses of the targeted individual — for example a professional failure, negligence of parental duties, pornographic interests, divorce, alcoholism, dependence on medications, criminal tendencies, passion for a collection or a game, or contacts with circles of the extreme right — or even the veil of shame from the rumors poured out upon one's circle of acquaintances.[35][36] From the point of view of the Stasi, the measures were the most fruitful when they were applied in connection with a personality; all "schematism" had to be avoided. [35]

For marketing and political manipulation, Google now maintains a sociogram of each user and manipulates each user via Stasi-like mood manipulation.

Moreover, methods of *Zersetzung* included espionage, overt, hidden, and feigned; opening letters and listening to telephone calls; encroachments on private property; manipulation of vehicles; and even poisoning food and using false medications.[37] Certain collaborators of the Stasi tacitly took into account the suicide of victims of *Zersetzung*. [38]

It has not been definitely established that the Stasi used x-rays to provoke long-term health problems in its opponents.[39] That said, Rudolf Bahro, Gerulf Pannach, and Jürgen Fuchs, three important dissidents who had been imprisoned at the same time, died of cancer within an interval of two years. [40] A study by the Federal Commissioner for the Records of the State Security Service of the former GDR (*Bundesbeauftragte für die Unterlagen des Staatssicherheitsdienstes der ehemaligen Deutschen Demokratischen Republik* or *BStU*) has meanwhile rejected on the basis of extant documents such a fraudulent use of x-rays, and only mentions isolated and unintentional cases of the harmful use of sources of radiation, for example to mark documents.[41]

In the name of the target, the Stasi made little announcements, ordered products, and made emergency calls, to terrorize him/her.[42][43] To threaten or intimidate or cause psychoses the Stasi assured itself of access to the target's living quarters and left visible traces of its presence, by adding, removing, and modifying objects.[32]

### **Against groups and social relations**

The Stasi manipulated relations of friendship, love, marriage, and family by anonymous letters, telegrams and telephone calls as well as compromising photos, often altered.[44] In this manner, parents and children were supposed to systematically become strangers to one another.[45] To provoke conflicts and extramarital relations the Stasi put in place targeted seductions by Romeo agents.[31]

For the *Zersetzung* of groups, it infiltrated them with unofficial collaborators, sometimes minors.[46] The work of opposition groups was hindered by permanent counter-propositions and discord on the part of unofficial collaborators when making decisions.[47] To sow mistrust within the group, the Stasi made believe that certain members were unofficial collaborators; moreover by spreading rumors and manipulated photos,[48] the Stasi feigned indiscretions with unofficial collaborators, or placed

members of targeted groups in administrative posts to make believe that this was a reward for the activity of an unofficial collaborator.[31] They even aroused suspicions regarding certain members of the group by assigning privileges, such as housing or a personal car.[31] Moreover the imprisonment of only certain members of the group gave birth to suspicions.[47]

### Target groups for measures

The Stasi used *Zersetzung* tactics on individuals and groups. There was no particular homogeneous target group, as opposition in the GDR came from a number of different sources. Tactical plans were thus separately adapted to each perceived threat.[49] The Stasi nevertheless defined several main target groups:[50]

- associations of people making collective visa applications for travel abroad
- artists' groups critical of the government
- religious opposition groups
- youth subculture groups
- groups supporting the above (human rights and peace organisations, those assisting illegal departure from the GDR, and expatriate and defector movements).

The Stasi also occasionally used *Zersetzung* on non-political organisations regarded as undesirable, such as the [Watchtower Society](#).<sup>[51]</sup>

Prominent individuals targeted by *Zersetzung* operations included [Jürgen Fuchs](#), Gerulf Pannach, Rudolf Bahro, [Robert Havemann](#), Rainer Eppelmann, [Reiner Kunze](#), husband and wife Gerd und [Ulrike Poppe](#), and [Wolfgang Templin](#).

### Social and juridicial process

Once aware of his own status as a target, GDR opponent Wolfgang Templin tried, with some success, to bring details of the Stasi's *Zersetzung* activities to the attention of western journalists.<sup>[52]</sup> In 1977 [Der Spiegel](#) published a five-part article series (“*Du sollst zerbrechen!*” - "You're going to crack!") by the exiled Jürgen Fuchs, in which he describes the Stasi's “operational psychology”. The Stasi tried to [discredit](#) Fuchs and the contents of similar articles, publishing in turn claims that he had a [paranoid](#) view of its function,<sup>[53]</sup> and intending that [Der Spiegel](#) and other media would assume he was suffering from a persecution complex.<sup>[54][55]</sup> This, however, was refuted by the official Stasi documents examined after [Die Wende](#) (the political power shift in the GDR in 1989-90).

Because the scale and nature of *Zersetzung* were unknown both to the general population of the GDR and to people abroad, revelations of the Stasi's malicious tactics were met with some degree of disbelief by those affected.<sup>[56]</sup> Many still nowadays express incomprehension at how the Stasi's collaborators could have participated in such inhuman actions.<sup>[57]</sup>

Since *Zersetzung* as a whole, even after 1990, was not deemed to be illegal because of the principle of

[\*nulla poena sine lege\*](#) (no penalty without law), actions against involvement in either its planning or implementation were [not enforceable by the courts](#).<sup>[58]</sup> Because this specific legal definition of *Zersetzung* as a crime didn't exist,<sup>[59]</sup> only individual instances of its tactics could be reported. Acts which even according to GDR law were offences (such as the violation of [Briefgeheimnis](#), the secrecy of correspondence) needed to have been reported to the GDR authorities soon after having been committed in order not to be subject to a statute of limitations clause.<sup>[60]</sup> Many of the victims experienced the additional complication that the Stasi was not identifiable as the originator in cases of personal injury and misadventure. Official documents in which *Zersetzung* methods were recorded often had no validity in court, and the Stasi had many files detailing its actual implementation destroyed.<sup>[61]</sup>

Unless they had been detained for at least 180 days, survivors of *Zersetzung* operations, in accordance with §17a of a 1990 rehabilitation act (the *Strafrechtlichen Rehabilitierungsgesetzes*, or *StrRehaG*), are not eligible for financial compensation. Cases of provable, systematically effected targeting by the Stasi, and resulting in employment-related losses and/or health damage, can be pursued under a law covering settlement of torts (*Unrechtsbereinigungsgesetz*, or *2. SED-UnBerG*) as claims either for occupational rehabilitation or rehabilitation under administrative law. These overturn certain administrative provisions of GDR institutions and affirm their unconstitutionality. This is a condition for the social equalisation payments specified in the *Bundesversorgungsgesetz* (the war victims relief act of 1950). Equalisation payments of pension damages and for loss of earnings can also be applied for in cases where victimisation continued for at least three years, and where claimants can prove need.<sup>[62]</sup> The above examples of seeking justice have, however, been hindered by various difficulties victims have experienced, both [in providing proof](#) of the Stasi's encroachment into the areas of health, personal assets, education and employment, and in receiving official acknowledgement that the Stasi was responsible for personal damages (including psychic injury) as a direct result of *Zersetzung* operations.<sup>[63]</sup>

## Modern use of techniques

[Russia's](#) secret police, the [FSB](#), has been reported to use such techniques against foreign diplomats and journalists.<sup>[64]</sup>

## See also

- [Destabilisation](#)
- [Gaslighting](#)
- [Mind control](#)
- [Mind games](#)
- [Psychological manipulation](#)
- [Psychological warfare](#)

- [Stasi#Zersetzung](#)
- [COINTELPRO](#)

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**How Do You Fight Back When Large Corrupt Entities Attack You: [Your adversaries will hire private investigators known as “Opposition Researchers”](#). [Regular people call them “hit-men”](#). [From the famously vindictive Sidney Blumenthal](#), [to the notorious Richard Berman](#), [to unknown college kid junior “hit-men” in training](#); [whenthey come for you it will be harsh, massively financed and driven by the madness of power-hungry campaign technology billionaires](#).**

**Your saving grace, though, will always be this: The “bad guys” are forced to operate in darkness and stealth, once exposed to the light, they will wither and crawl away. In this new Age of Transparency, the ability to shed light on bad guys is more potent than ever! Look to major journalists, social networks and carbon-copy every law enforcement agency, so everyone knows what is going on, and so that no single entity can “stone-wall” or cover-up.**

**Tips for Tech Companies Under Attack – 1.** Cooperate with every law enforcement agency request. Every law enforcement agency will have an interest in terminating felony-grade law-breaking.

**2.** When they seek to destroy your reputation. Prove them wrong in public. In our case, the volume of [great references](#) and [broadcast news acclaim](#), posted on this site, counters any credibility attacks. They will try to spin the phrase “scam” or “not credible” into their attacks. Prove them wrong with the facts. Offer to meet them in any federal court or live TV debate to prove the facts. If the “bad guys” are involved in crime, be sure to show those facts in your public debate, so that people consider the source of the attacks. It isn’t possible to take a considered read of our references and proven deliverable documentation and not realize that any “scam” attack media/blog clips are fabricated by the attackers. In our case, we have seen law enforcement records and investigator documents proving severe felony-level crimes were engaged in by the people suspected of attacking our Team. We are extremely confident about who will be looking bad when everything is all-said-and-done. In today’s total information world, you can hire thousands of services that can track the off-shore tax evasion accounts, escort services, political bribes and illegal PAC groups, kick-backs, insider trading and other criminal actions that any criminal billionaire, that is attacking you is involved in. If you find such information, help the law enforcement people by delivering it to all of them. The level of felony crimes, these kinds of people get involved in, are “felony-grade embezzlement and racketeering matters”, according to the FBI. They are going to get in pretty big trouble. In the cases where they used taxpayer money to stage their crimes, they are going to get in Super Big trouble.

**3.** Sue them. There are now contingency law firms who will cover the costs of going after big bad guys in exchange for a percentage of the judgement. For example: Many people, and countries, have now proven that Google rigs it’s search engines to harm it’s adversaries. If Google did that to you, the technical proof now exists and you can win in court and get compensated for the damages they caused you.

**4.** Watch out for “moles”. Crazy rich people have private eye’s and ex-employees that they pay to get a job at your company. They pretend that they are helping you, then they sabotage your effort. Consider past jobs that future employees had with your attackers.

**5.** Watch the news coverage for exposes about crimes that your attackers are suspected of being involved in and contact others that were harmed by the attackers. Form a support coalition with others

that were damaged by the attackers.

6. Read about who does hired character assassinations, and how they do it, at [THIS LINK](#) and watch for the early signs of the attacks.
7. To understand the process, watch some of the movies about how the bad guys sabotage: Francis Coppola's: **Tucker, A Man and His Dream**; Greg Kinear's: **Flash of Genius**, and read some of the history of the "tech take-downs" at [THIS LINK](#) <http://wp.me/P1EyVm-xH>
8. Stay on the "side of the Angels". Good eventually wins over evil. In this new "Age of Transparency", evil is losing faster than ever.
9. As punishment against you, rich political campaign backers will try to have their federal lackey's change the law to hurt you. If you are a tech group, for example, the "bad guys", might organize to suddenly try to change the patent laws so that your business is destroyed. When billionaires put bribes in the right pockets, they accomplish sweeping policy change. Don't let that happen. Expose the "who" and the "why" in such tactics.
10. Consider Quid-Pro-Quo. In many countries the rule is: "if they do it to you, you have every right to do it back to them"
11. Watch out for "honey traps" in your activities and in on-line sites. Read the Snowden/Greenwald reports on what "Honey Traps" are.
12. The Bad Guys are usually very involved in politics because they like to control things. In order to control politics they own many stealth tabloid publications where they can order attack stories written about you. Some of these kinds of people own **famous online media tabloids** (ie: Gawker Media Group) and **stock tip publications** which are really just shill operations for their agendas and attacks. Identify these publications and partner with every person, or company, who they have coordinated attacks on in the past. Read about their attacks on inventor Mike Cheiky, Gary D. Conley, Aaron Swartz, Stan Meyer, Preston Tucker **and hundreds of other innovators** ( <http://wp.me/P1EyVm-xH> ) that they wanted "out of the way".
13. Certain "special interests" own, and control, the content on Google, Reddit, Hearst Publications, Motley Fool and other "publication outlets". You will only see glowing reports about the "bad guys" on those. You will see no negative reports about the "bad guys", allowed on those sites, and every bad report about you will be manually up-ranked and locked into the top slot on their page in order to damage you. The down-side for the bad guys, though, is that the internet remembers everything. You can now prove, in court, showing technical and historical metric data, that they intentionally locked and damaged you and you can get compensated for the damages.

14. Every single troll blog comment, every pseudo attack article about you, everything is already tracked back to the actual author. The NSA have done it, that is well known. NO amount of TOR, or VPN on top of VPN or stealthing software can hide a troll attacker any more. What is only now becoming known is that the official, and also the independent hacker, Chinese and Russian spies have got almost all of that information too. Hackers have broken into Sony, The White House, All of Target, All of the Federal Employee Records, everything. In a court case you can now, legally, subpoena NSA records to sue the attackers. Others, hearing of your filed case, may just show up and give you the information. Attackers cannot hide behind anonymity any more. Those who were blogging that you “*sleep with goats*” and “*eat unborn children*” can now be found out and delt with.

15. Do you have on-line stores and paypal or credit card accounts that take payments at those stores? Trying to make a little cash on the side? Confused about why you never get any orders? The attackers have DNS-re-routed your stores and payment certificates, spoofed your sites and turned off all of your income potential from those on-line options in order to damage your economic potential. Illegal? Yes. Happening to people every day? Yes. Get professional IT services to document the spoofs, and re-routes, and sue the operators of those tactics that are attacking your revenue stream.

16. It costs \$50,000.00 to bribe a Senator. Some of these tech billionaires earn that much in 3 minutes. Beware of your Senator. Senators take stock options in tech companies as bribes, watch for linkages. See the **60 Minutes** Episode called: **Congress Trading On Insider Information**.

17. Want a job? Forget about it! The bad guys went into Axcium, Oracle, SAP, and all of the Human Resources and Recruiter databases, and put “red flag notices” on your profile. You will get some great first interviews, but when they run your back-ground check, you will never hear back from that interviewer again. You got “HR Black-listed”, in retribution, for accidentally bothering a campaign billionaire. Hire an HR service to look and print out your false “red flag” HR data-base inserts and use those as evidence in your lawsuit.

18. (This one, submitted by a Washington Post reporter): They will anonymously put all of your email addresses on blacklists, and watch-lists, so that you can’t use services like craigslist, cafe press, zazzle or other on-line services to make money. If you try to open any accounts on those services, you either won’t be able to create an account or, you will get an account, but all of your orders will get “spoofed” into oblivion so you can’t make any money. The attackers believe that by causing you as much economic hard-ship as possible, they can get retribution for what-ever they have perceived that you have done to offend them. Again, use an IT forensic services group to get the data to show this is happening, trace it, and sue the perpetrators.

19. Their actions provide the proof. When you look out on the internet and add up the pronouncements of “scam”, “sleeping with goats”, etc. The volume of attack items proves that no mere mortal, or company, could have acquired that much media unless it was placed there by very wealthy parties. Everyone now knows that the web is controlled. The volume of attacks can often prove that those

attacks are fabricated. Additionally, IP Trace Routing and digital tracking now can prove the attackers manipulation of your data, email and website traffic. One of your best sets of evidence will come from the attackers, themselves. The bad guys always leave a digital trail of bread-crumbs leading right back to themselves. You can hire an IT company to build a “tracking array” comprised of hundreds of websites which are bait to catch them in the act. Regarding: Paranoia vs. documented evidence. If you, and others have experienced the tactics, and the police have recorded the tactics being used against you, it isn't paranoia to be cautious.

55 Savushkina Street, last known home of the Internet Research Agency. Credit James Hill for The New York Times

### **The Agency**

From a nondescript office building in St. Petersburg, Russia, an army of well-paid “trolls” has tried to wreak havoc all around the Internet — and in real-life American communities.

By ADRIAN

[Читайте эту статью на русском.](#)

Around 8:30 a.m. on Sept. 11 last year, Duval Arthur, director of the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness for St. Mary Parish, Louisiana, got a call from a resident who had just received a disturbing text message. “Toxic fume hazard warning in this area until 1:30 PM,” the message read. “Take Shelter. Check Local Media and columbiachemical.com.”

•

### **Malwebolence - The World of Web Trolling**

St. Mary Parish is home to many processing plants for chemicals and natural gas, and keeping track of

dangerous accidents at those plants is Arthur's job. But he hadn't heard of any chemical release that morning. In fact, he hadn't even heard of Columbia Chemical. St. Mary Parish had a Columbian Chemicals plant, which made carbon black, a petroleum product used in rubber and plastics. But he'd heard nothing from them that morning, either. Soon, two other residents called and reported the same text message. Arthur was worried: Had one of his employees sent out an alert without telling him?

If Arthur had checked Twitter, he might have become much more worried. Hundreds of Twitter accounts were documenting a disaster right down the road. "A powerful explosion heard from miles away happened at a chemical plant in Centerville, Louisiana #ColumbianChemicals," a man named Jon Merritt tweeted. The #ColumbianChemicals hashtag was full of eyewitness accounts of the horror in Centerville. @AnnRussela shared an image of flames engulfing the plant. @Ksarah12 posted a video of surveillance footage from a local gas station, capturing the flash of the explosion. Others shared a video in which thick

Dozens of journalists, media outlets and politicians, from Louisiana to New York City, found their Twitter accounts inundated with messages about the disaster. "Heather, I'm sure that the explosion at the #ColumbianChemicals is really dangerous. Louisiana is really screwed now," a user named @EricTraPPP tweeted at the New Orleans Times-Picayune reporter Heather Nolan. Another posted a screenshot of CNN's home page, showing that the story had already made national news. ISIS had claimed credit for the attack, according to [one YouTube video](#); in it, a man showed his TV screen, tuned to an Arabic news channel, on which masked ISIS fighters delivered a speech next to looping footage of an explosion. A woman named Anna McClaren (@zpokodon9) tweeted at Karl Rove: "Karl, Is this really ISIS who is responsible for #ColumbianChemicals? Tell @Obama that we should bomb Iraq!" But anyone who took the trouble to check CNN.com would have found no news of a spectacular Sept. 11 attack by ISIS. It was all fake: the screenshot, the videos, the photographs.

In St. Mary Parish, Duval Arthur quickly made a few calls and found that none of his employees had sent the alert. He called Columbian Chemicals, which reported no problems at the plant. Roughly two hours after the first text message was sent, the company put out a news release, explaining that reports of an explosion were false. When I called Arthur a few months later, he dismissed the incident as a tasteless prank, timed to the anniversary of the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. "Personally I think it's just a real sad, sick sense of humor," he told me. "It was just someone who just liked scaring the daylights out of people." Authorities, he said, had tried to trace the numbers that the text messages had come from, but with no luck. (The F.B.I. told me the investigation was still open.)

The Columbian Chemicals hoax was not some simple prank by a bored sadist. It was a highly coordinated disinformation campaign, involving dozens of fake accounts that posted hundreds of tweets for hours, targeting a list of figures precisely chosen to generate maximum attention. The perpetrators didn't just doctor screenshots from CNN; they also created fully functional clones of the websites of Louisiana TV stations and newspapers. The YouTube video of the man watching TV had been tailor-made for the project. A Wikipedia page was even created for the Columbian Chemicals

disaster, which cited the fake YouTube video. As the virtual assault unfolded, it was complemented by text messages to actual residents in St. Mary Parish. It must have taken a team of programmers and content producers to pull off.

And the hoax was just one in a wave of similar attacks during the second half of last year. On Dec. 13, two months after a handful of Ebola cases in the United States touched off a minor media panic, many of the same Twitter accounts used to spread the Columbian Chemicals hoax began to post about an outbreak of Ebola in Atlanta. The campaign followed the same pattern of fake news reports and videos, this time under the hashtag #EbolaInAtlanta, which briefly trended in Atlanta. Again, the attention to detail was remarkable, suggesting a tremendous amount of effort. [A YouTube video](#) showed a team of hazmat-suited medical workers transporting a victim from the airport. Beyoncé's recent single "7/11" played in the background, an apparent attempt to establish the video's contemporaneity. A truck in the parking lot sported the logo of the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

On the same day as the Ebola hoax, a totally different group of accounts began spreading a rumor that an unarmed black woman had been shot to death by police. They all used the hashtag #shockingmurderinatlanta. Here again, the hoax seemed designed to piggyback on real public anxiety; that summer and fall were marked by protests over the shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo. In this case, [a blurry video](#) purports to show the shooting, as an onlooker narrates. Watching it, I thought I recognized the voice — it sounded the same as the man watching TV in the Columbian Chemicals video, the one in which ISIS supposedly claims responsibility. The accent was unmistakable, if unplaceable, and in both videos he was making a very strained attempt to sound American. Somehow the result was vaguely Australian.

Who was behind all of this? When I stumbled on it last fall, I had an idea. I was already investigating a shadowy organization in St. Petersburg, Russia, that spreads false information on the Internet. It has gone by a few names, but I will refer to it by its best known: the Internet Research Agency. The agency had become known for employing hundreds of Russians to post pro-Kremlin propaganda online under fake identities, including on Twitter, in order to create the illusion of a massive army of supporters; it has often been called a "troll farm." The more I investigated this group, the more links I discovered between it and the hoaxes. In April, I went to St. Petersburg to learn more about the agency and its brand of information warfare, which it has aggressively deployed against political opponents at home, Russia's perceived enemies abroad and, more recently, me.

Advertisement

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**Seven months after** the Columbian Chemicals hoax, I was in a dim restaurant in St. Petersburg, peering out the window at an office building at 55 Savushkina Street, the last known home of the Internet Research Agency. It sits in St. Petersburg's northwestern Primorsky District, a quiet

neighborhood of ugly Soviet apartment buildings and equally ugly new office complexes. Among the latter is 55 Savushkina; from the front, its perfect gray symmetry, framed by the rectangular pillars that flank its entrance, suggests the grim impenetrability of a medieval fortress. Behind the glass doors, a pair of metal turnstiles stand guard at the top of a short flight of stairs in the lobby. At 9 o'clock on this Friday night in April, except for the stairwell and the lobby, the building was entirely dark.

This puzzled my dining companion, a former agency employee named Ludmila Savchuk. She shook her head as she lifted the heavy floral curtain to take another look. It was a traditional Russian restaurant, with a dining room done up like a parlor from the early 1900s, complete with bentwood chairs and a vintage globe that showed Alaska as part of Russia. Savchuk's 5-year-old son sat next to her, slurping down a bowl of ukha, a traditional fish soup. For two and a half months, Savchuk told me, she had worked 12-hour shifts in the building, always beginning at 9 a.m. and finishing at 9 p.m., at which point she and her co-workers would eagerly stream out the door at once. "At 9 p.m. sharp, there should be a crowd of people walking outside the building," she said. "Nine p.m. sharp." One Russian newspaper put the number of employees at 400, with a budget of at least 20 million rubles (roughly \$400,000) a month. During her time in the organization, there were many departments, creating content for every popular social network: LiveJournal, which remains popular in Russia; VKontakte, Russia's homegrown version of Facebook; Facebook; Twitter; Instagram; and the comment sections of Russian news outlets. One employee estimated the operation filled 40 rooms.

Every day at the Internet Research Agency was essentially the same, Savchuk told me. The first thing employees did upon arriving at their desks was to switch on an Internet proxy service, which hid their I.P. addresses from the places they posted; those digital addresses can sometimes be used to reveal the real identity of the poster. Savchuk would be given a list of the opinions she was responsible for promulgating that day. Workers received a constant stream of "technical tasks" — point-by-point exegeses of the themes they were to address, all pegged to the latest news. Ukraine was always a major topic, because of the civil war there between Russian-backed separatists and the Ukrainian Army; Savchuk and her co-workers would post comments that disparaged the Ukrainian president, Petro Poroshenko, and highlighted Ukrainian Army atrocities. Russian domestic affairs were also a major topic. Last year, after a financial crisis hit Russia and the ruble collapsed, the professional trolls left optimistic posts about the pace of recovery. Savchuk also says that in March, after the opposition leader Boris Nemtsov was murdered, she and her entire team were moved to the department that left comments on the websites of Russian news outlets and ordered to suggest that the opposition itself had set up the murder.

Savchuk told me she shared an office with about a half-dozen teammates. It was smaller than most, because she worked in the elite Special Projects department. While other workers churned out blandly pro-Kremlin comments, her department created appealing online characters who were supposed to stand out from the horde. Savchuk posed as three of these creations, running a blog for each one on LiveJournal. One alter ego was a fortuneteller named Cantadora. The spirit world offered Cantadora insight into relationships, weight loss, feng shui — and, occasionally, geopolitics. Energies she

discerned in the universe invariably showed that its arc bent toward Russia. She foretold glory for Vladimir Putin, defeat for Barack Obama and Petro Poroshenko. The point was to weave propaganda seamlessly into what appeared to be the nonpolitical musings of an everyday person.

In fact, she was a troll. The word “troll” was popularized in the early 1990s to denounce the people who derailed conversation on Usenet discussion lists with interminable flame wars, or spammed chat rooms with streams of disgusting photos, choking users with a cloud of filth. As the Internet has grown, the problem posed by trolls has grown more salient even as their tactics have remained remarkably constant. Today an ISIS supporter might adopt a pseudonym to harass a critical journalist on Twitter, or a right-wing agitator in the United States might smear demonstrations against police brutality by posing as a thieving, violent protester. Any major conflict is accompanied by a raging online battle between trolls on both sides.

As Savchuk and other former employees describe it, the Internet Research Agency had industrialized the art of trolling. Management was obsessed with statistics — page views, number of posts, a blog’s place on LiveJournal’s traffic charts — and team leaders compelled hard work through a system of bonuses and fines. “It was a very strong corporate feeling,” Savchuk says. Her schedule gave her two 12-hour days in a row, followed by two days off. Over those two shifts she had to meet a quota of five political posts, 10 nonpolitical posts and 150 to 200 comments on other workers’ posts. The grueling schedule wore her down. She began to feel queasy, she said, posting vitriol about opposition leaders of whom she had no actual opinion, or writing nasty words about Ukrainians when some of her closest acquaintances, including her own ex-husband, were Ukrainian.

Employees were mostly in their 20s but were drawn from a broad cross-section of Russian society. It seemed as if the agency’s task was so large that it would hire almost anyone who responded to the many ads it posted on job boards, no matter how undereducated or politically ignorant they were. Posts teemed with logical and grammatical errors. “They were so stupid,” says Marat Burkhardt, who worked for two months in the department of forums, posting 135 comments a day on little-read message boards about remote Russian towns. “You see these people with a lot of tattoos. They’re so cool, like they’re from New York; very hip clothing, very hip tattoos, like they’re from Williamsburg. But they are *stupid*.” In office conversation, they used gay slurs to refer to Petro Poroshenko and called Barack Obama a monkey. Management tried to rectify their ignorance with grammar classes. Others had “politology” classes to outline the proper Russian point of view on current events. Yet the exact point of their work was left unclear to them. The handful of employees I spoke with did not even know the name of the company’s chief executive. They had signed a nondisclosure agreement but no official contract. Salaries were surprisingly high for the work; Savchuk’s was 41,000 rubles a month (\$777), or as much as a tenured university professor earns. “I can’t say they clearly explain to you what your purpose there is,” Savchuk says. “But they created such an atmosphere that people would understand they were doing something important and secretive and very highly paid. And that they won’t be able to find a job like this anywhere else.”

**Savchuk is 34**, but her taste in clothes runs toward the teenage: The night of our dinner she wore a plaid dress and a billowing neon yellow jacket, and her head was swaddled in a fuzzy hood with animal ears. She credits her innocent appearance for allowing her to infiltrate the Internet Research Agency without raising alarms. While employed there, she copied dozens of documents to her personal email account and also plied her co-workers for information. She made a clandestine video of the office. In February, she leaked it all to a reporter for *Moi Raion*, a local newspaper known for its independent reporting. The documents, together with her story, offered the most detailed look yet into the daily life of a pro-Kremlin troll. Though she quit the agency the day the exposé was published, she was continuing her surveillance from the outside. She brought a camera to our dinner in hopes of documenting the changing of the shifts, which she planned to post to the VKontakte page of Information Peace, the group she founded to fight the agency. Her ultimate goal is to shut it down entirely, believing that its information warfare is contributing to an increasingly dark atmosphere in Russia. “Information peace is the start of real peace,” she says.

But at 10 minutes after 9 p.m., still no crowd had entered or left 55 Savushkina. Finally, around 9:30, a group of five young people approached the building and walked inside. Savchuk perked up, grabbed the camera and began to film the scene. Now more started filtering in, each of them stopping at the guard desk to check in. I counted at least 30 in all. Savchuk told me with pride that she believed the agency had changed its schedule to confound journalists, who began to stake out the place after her exposé.

Savchuk is accustomed to antagonizing powerful people. She has been a longtime environmental activist in the town of Pushkin, the suburb of St. Petersburg where she lives; her main cause before the troll farm was saving forests and parks from being paved over by well-connected developers. Last year she even ran for a seat on her municipal council as an independent, which in Russia requires a level of optimism bordering on delusion. On Election Day, she told me, state employees — health care workers, teachers, law enforcement, etc. — came to the polls wielding lists of candidates they had been “encouraged” to vote for, all of them associated with United Russia, the governing party of Vladimir Putin. (She lost her race.) [Savchuk has filed a lawsuit](#) against the Internet Research Agency for violating labor rights laws, citing the lack of official contracts. She has enlisted the help of a well-known human rights lawyer named Ivan Pavlov, who has spent years fighting for transparency laws in Russia; he took on Savchuk’s case in hopes that it would force the agency to answer questions about its business on the record.

Several Russian media outlets have claimed that the agency is funded by Evgeny Prigozhin, an oligarch restaurateur called “the Kremlin’s chef” in the independent press for his lucrative government contracts and his close relationship with Putin. When a reporter from the opposition paper *Novaya Gazeta* infiltrated the agency posing as a job seeker, she discovered that one of the team leaders was an employee of Prigozhin’s Concord holding company. (The reporter was familiar with her because the woman was famous among journalists for having been deployed by Prigozhin to spy on *Novaya Gazeta*.) The suspicion around Prigozhin was bolstered when emails leaked by hackers showed an

accountant at Concord approving payments to the agency. If the speculation is accurate, it would not be the first time that Prigozhin has used his enormous wealth to fund quixotic schemes against his enemies: According to Novaya Gazeta, a documentary he backed, which later ran on the Kremlin-controlled NTV, claimed that the protesters who participated in the enormous anti-Putin demonstrations of 2011 were paid agents provocateurs, some of them bribed by United States government officials, who fed them cookies. “I think of him as Dr. Evil,” says Andrei Soshnikov, the reporter at Moi Raion to whom Savchuk leaked her documents. (My calls to Concord went unreturned.)

**Savchuk’s revelations** about the agency have fascinated Russia not because they are shocking but because they confirm what everyone has long suspected: The Russian Internet is awash in trolls. “This troll business becomes more popular year by year,” says Platon Mamatov, who says that he ran his own troll farm in the Ural Mountains from 2008 to 2013. During that time he employed from 20 to 40 people, mostly students and young mothers, to carry out online tasks for Kremlin contacts and local and regional authorities from Putin’s United Russia party. Mamatov says there are scores of operations like his around the country, working for government authorities at every level. Because the industry is secretive, with its funds funneled through a maze of innocuous-sounding contracts and shell businesses, it is difficult to estimate exactly how many people are at work trolling today. But Mamatov claims “there are thousands — I’m not sure about how many, but yes, really, thousands.”

The boom in pro-Kremlin trolling can be traced to the antigovernment protests of 2011, when tens of thousands of people took to the streets after evidence of fraud in the recent Parliamentary election emerged. The protests were organized largely over Facebook and Twitter and spearheaded by leaders, like the anticorruption crusader Alexei Navalny, who used LiveJournal blogs to mobilize support. The following year, when Vyascheslav Volodin, the new deputy head of Putin’s administration and architect of his domestic policy, came into office, one of his main tasks was to rein in the Internet. Volodin, a lawyer who studied engineering in college, approached the problem as if it were a design flaw in a heating system. Forbes Russia reported that Volodin installed in his office a custom-designed computer terminal loaded with a system called Prism, which monitored public sentiment online using 60 million sources. According to the website of its manufacturer, Prism “actively tracks the social media activities that result in increased social tension, disorderly conduct, protest sentiments and extremism.” Or, as Forbes put it, “Prism sees social media as a battlefield.”

Photo

Ludmila Savchuk, an activist and a former mole in the Internet Research Agency. Credit James Hill for The New York Times

The battle was conducted on multiple fronts. Laws were passed requiring bloggers to register with the state. A blacklist allowed the government to censor websites without a court order. Internet platforms

like Yandex were subjected to political pressure, while others, like VKontakte, were brought under the control of Kremlin allies. Putin gave ideological cover to the crackdown by calling the entire Internet a “C.I.A. project,” one that Russia needed to be protected from. Restrictions online were paired with a new wave of digital propaganda. The government consulted with the same public relations firms that worked with major corporate brands on social-media strategy. It began paying fashion and fitness bloggers to place pro-Kremlin material among innocuous posts about shoes and diets, according to Yelizaveta Surnacheva, a journalist with the magazine *Kommersant Vlast*. Surnacheva told me over Skype that the government was even trying to place propaganda with popular gay bloggers — a surprising choice given the notorious new law against “gay propaganda,” which fines anyone who promotes homosexuality to minors.

All of this has contributed to a dawning sense, among the Russian journalists and activists I spoke with, that the Internet is no longer a natural medium for political opposition. “The myth that the Internet is controlled by the opposition is very, very old,” says Leonid Volkov, a liberal politician and campaign manager to Alexei Navalny. “It’s not true since at least three years.” Part of this is simple demographics: The Internet audience has expanded from its early adopters, who were more likely to be well-educated liberal intelligentsia, to the whole of Russia, which overwhelmingly supports Putin. Also, by working every day to spread Kremlin propaganda, the paid trolls have made it impossible for the normal Internet user to separate truth from fiction.

“The point is to spoil it, to create the atmosphere of hate, to make it so stinky that normal people won’t want to touch it,” Volkov said, when we met in the office of Navalny’s Anti-Corruption Foundation. “You have to remember the Internet population of Russia is just over 50 percent. The rest are yet to join, and when they join it’s very important what is their first impression.” The Internet still remains the one medium where the opposition can reliably get its message out. But their message is now surrounded by so much garbage from trolls that readers can become resistant before the message even gets to them. During the protests, a favorite tactic of the opposition was making anti-Putin hashtags trend on Twitter. Today, waves of trolls and bots regularly promote pro-Putin hashtags. What once was an exhilarating act of popular defiance now feels empty. “It kind of discredited the idea of political hashtags,” says Ilya Klishin, the web editor for the independent television station TV Rain who, in 2011, created the Facebook page for the antigovernment protests.

Russia’s information war might be thought of as the biggest trolling operation in history, and its target is nothing less than the utility of the Internet as a democratic space. In the midst of such a war, the Runet (as the Russian Internet is often called) can be an unpleasant place for anyone caught in the crossfire. Soon after I met Leonid Volkov, he wrote a post on his Facebook wall about our interview, saying that he had spoken with someone from *The New York Times*. A former pro-Kremlin blogger later warned me about this. Kremlin allies, he explained, monitored Volkov’s page, and now they would be on guard. “That was not smart,” he said.

**The chain that links** the Columbian Chemicals hoax to the Internet Research Agency begins with an

act of digital subterfuge perpetrated by its online enemies. Last summer, a group called [Anonymous International](#) — believed to be unaffiliated with the well-known hacktivist group Anonymous — published a cache of hundreds of emails said to have been stolen from employees at the agency. It was just one hack in a long series that Anonymous International had carried out against the Kremlin in recent months. The group leaked embarrassing photos of Putin allies and incriminating emails among officials. It claimed to have [hacked into Prime Minister Dmitri Medvedev's phone](#), and reportedly hacked his Twitter account, tweeting: “I’m resigning. I am ashamed of this government’s actions. Forgive me.”

The emails indicated that the Internet Research Agency had begun to troll in English. One document outlined a project called “World Translation”; the problem, it explained, was that the foreign Internet was biased four to one against Russia, and the project aimed to change the ratio. Another email contained a spreadsheet that listed some of the troll accounts the agency was using on the English-language web. After BuzzFeed reported on the leak, I used the spreadsheet to start mapping the network of accounts on Facebook and Twitter, trying to draw connections.

One account was called “I Am Ass.” Ass had a Twitter account, an Instagram account, multiple [Facebook accounts](#) and his own website. In his avatars, Ass was depicted as a pair of cartoon buttocks with an ugly, smirking face. He filled his social-media presences with links to news articles, along with his own commentary. Ass had a puerile sense of humor and only a rudimentary grasp of the English language. He also really hated Barack Obama. Ass denounced Obama in posts strewn with all-caps rants and scatological puns. One characteristic post linked to a news article about an ISIS massacre in Iraq, which Ass shared on Facebook with the comment: “I’m scared and farting! ISIS is a monster awakened by Obama when he unleashed this disastrous Iraq war!”

Despite his unpleasant disposition, Ass had a half-dozen or so fans who regularly liked and commented on his posts. These fans shared some unusual characteristics. Their Facebook accounts had all been created in the summer of 2014. They all appeared to be well-dressed young men and women who lived in large American cities, yet they seemed to have no real-life friends. Instead, they spent their free time leaving anti-Obama comments on the Facebook posts of American media outlets like CNN, Politico and Fox News. Their main Facebook interactions, especially those of the women, appeared to be with strangers who commented on their physical appearance. The women were all very attractive — so attractive, indeed, that a search revealed that some of their profile photos had been stolen from models and actors. It became clear that the vast majority of Ass’s fans were not real people. They were also trolls.

I friended as many of the trolls on Facebook as I could and began to observe their ways. Most of the content they shared was drawn from a network of other pages that, like Ass’s, were clearly meant to produce entertaining and shareable social-media content. There was the patriotic [Spread Your Wings](#), which described itself as “a community for everyone whose heart is with America.” Spread Your Wings posted photos of American flags and memes about how great it was to be an American, but the

patriotism rang hollow once you tried to parse the frequent criticisms of Obama, an incoherent mishmash of liberal and conservative attacks that no actual American would espouse. There was also [Art Gone Conscious](#), which posted bad art and then tenuously connected it to Obama's policy failures, and the self-explanatory [Celebrities Against Obama](#). The posts churned out every day by this network of pages were commented on and shared by the same group of trolls, a virtual Potemkin village of disaffected Americans.

After following the accounts for a few weeks, I saw a strange notification on Facebook. One account, which claimed to be a woman from Seattle named Polly Turner, RSVPed to a real-life event. It was a talk in New York City to commemorate the opening of an art exhibit called Material Evidence. I was vaguely aware of Material Evidence, thanks to eye-catching advertisements that had appeared in subway stations and on the sides of buses throughout New York City: a black-and-white photo of masked men in camouflage, overlaid with the slogan "Syria, Ukraine ... Who's Next?" Material Evidence's website described it as a traveling exhibition that would reveal "the full truth" about the civil war in Syria, as well as about 2014's Euromaidan revolution in Ukraine, through a combination of "unique footage, artefacts, video." I clicked on the Material Evidence talk and saw that a number of other trolls had been invited, including my old friend I Am Ass.

**Walking into** Material Evidence, [mounted last September](#) in the cavernous ArtBeam gallery in Chelsea, was like walking into a real-life version of the hall of mirrors I'd stumbled into on Facebook. A sign at the front declared that the show did not "support a specific political goal," but the message became clear as soon as I began to browse the images. Large, well-composed photos testified to the barbarity of the Syrian rebels, bent on slaughtering handsome Syrian soldiers and innocent civilians alike. A grim panorama showed a gymnasium supposedly used by rebels to torture prisoners. There was a heroic, sunlit portrait of a Syrian Army officer. A room hidden behind a curtain displayed gory photos of rebel-caused civilian casualties, "provided by the Syrian ministry of defense."

Then there were the pictures from the Ukrainian revolution, which focused almost exclusively on the Right Sector, a small group of violent, right-wing, anti-Russian protesters with a fondness for black balaclavas. Russian authorities have seized upon Right Sector to paint the entire revolution, backed by a huge swath of Ukrainian society, as orchestrated by neo-fascist thugs. The show's decision to juxtapose the rebellions in Syria and Ukraine was never clearly explained, perhaps because the only connection possible was that both targeted leaders supported by Russia.

On the floor in front of many of the photos sat the actual items that appeared in them, displayed under glass cases. How, exactly, did organizers procure the very same battered motorcycle helmet that a Ukrainian protester wore in a photo while brawling with riot police? Who had fronted the money to purchase a mangled white van, supposedly used by Syrian rebels in a botched suicide bombing, and transport it to New York City? Few answers were forthcoming from Benjamin Hiller, the Berlin-based German-American photojournalist who was put forth as the curator of Material Evidence. He sat at a table in the front of the gallery, a heavyset bearded man dressed entirely in black. He told me that the

show had been organized by an independent collective of European, Russian and Syrian war photographers who were fed up with the one-sided view of conflicts presented by Western media. He said they simply wanted to show the “other side.” Hiller claimed that the funds to rent the space, take out the ads, transport the material and create a \$40,000 grant advertised on the Material Evidence website had been raised through “crowdfunding.” (Hiller has since left the organization and says that because of the show’s “misinformations” and “nonjournalistic approach,” he “does not want to be affiliated anymore with the project.”)

When I got home, I searched Twitter for signs of a campaign. Sure enough, dozens of accounts had been spamming rave reviews under the hashtag #MaterialEvidence. I clicked on one, a young woman in aviator sunglasses calling herself Zoe Foreman. (I later discovered her avatar had been stolen.) Most of her tweets were unremarkable song lyrics and inspirational quotes. But on Sept. 11 of last year, she spent hours spamming politicians and journalists about a horrific chemical plant explosion in St. Mary Parish, La. The source field on Twitter showed that the tweets Zoe Foreman — and the majority of other trolls — sent about #ColumbianChemicals were posted using a tool called Masss Post, which is associated with a nonworking page on the domain Add1.ru. According to online records, Add1.ru was originally registered in January 2009 by Mikhail Burchik, whose email address remained connected to the domain until 2012. Documents leaked by Anonymous International listed a Mikhail Burchik as the executive director of the Internet Research Agency.

In early February, I called Burchik, a young tech entrepreneur in St. Petersburg, to ask him about the hoax and its connection to the Internet Research Agency. In an article for the newspaper *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, the German journalist Julian Hans had claimed that Burchik confirmed the authenticity of the leaked documents. But when I called Burchik, he denied working at the Internet Research Agency. “I have heard of it, but I don’t work in this organization,” he said. Burchik said he had never heard of the Masss Post app; he had no specific memory of the Add1.ru domain, he said, but he noted that he had bought and sold many domains and didn’t remember them all. Burchik suggested that perhaps a different Mikhail Burchik was the agency’s executive director. But the email address used by the Mikhail Burchik in the leak matched the address listed at that time on the website of the Mikhail Burchik I spoke with.

**In St. Petersburg**, I finally had a chance to compare notes with Andrei Soshnikov, the young investigative journalist at *Moi Raion* to whom Ludmila Savchuk leaked [her documents](#). Soshnikov is an indefatigable reporter: During one investigation, he had gone so far as to create a 3-D computer model of a roadway in order to calculate how much asphalt had been stolen during its construction. He was one of the first journalists to expose the Internet Research Agency when he went undercover and got a job there in 2013. Since then, he had followed the agency’s Russian trolls as obsessively as I had been tracking their English counterparts.

I showed Soshnikov a [YouTube video](#) posted on Facebook by one of the trolls. The video was a slick animated infographic about the faults of the United States Secret Service. What had caught my

attention was the narrator. He sounded just like the voice from the videos spread during the Columbian Chemicals and Atlanta shooting hoaxes: a man trying desperately to sound American but coming off as Australian instead.

Soshnikov instantly recognized the style of the animation. It was made, he said, by an outfit called Infosurfing, which posts pro-Kremlin infographics on Instagram and VKontakte. Soshnikov showed me how he used a service called Yomapic, which maps the locations of social-media users, to determine that photos posted to Infosurfing's Instagram account came from 55 Savushkina. He had been monitoring all of the content posted from 55 Savushkina for weeks and had assembled a huge database of troll content.

He brought up Infosurfing's YouTube channel, and as we scrolled down, I noticed several videos in the same style as the Secret Service animation. In fact, Infosurfing had posted the exact same video on its own account — except instead of the unfortunate Australian voice-over, it was narrated in Russian. It was the most tantalizing connection yet: It seemed as if the man in the hoax videos had worked for an outfit connected to the same building that housed the Internet Research Agency.

Still, no one had heard of any department that might have orchestrated the hoax. The English-language trolling team was an elite and secretive group. Marat Burkhardt, who worked in the forums department, was asked to try out for an English-language team but didn't get the job. The only person I spoke with who worked in the English department was a woman named Katarina Aistova. A former hotel receptionist, she told me she joined the Internet Research Agency when it was in a previous, smaller office. I found her through the Anonymous International leak, which included emails she had sent to her bosses, reporting on the pro-Putin comments she left on sites like The Blaze and Politico. One of her assignments had been to write an essay from the point of view of an average American woman. "I live in such developed society, so that people have practically ceased to walk on foot," she wrote. When I emailed Aistova, she wasn't eager to talk. She told me she had been harassed by critics of the Internet Research Agency after her email appeared in the leak; some men had even come to her door. She would meet me for an interview, but only if she could bring her brother for protection. I agreed, and we met at an out-of-the-way Chinese restaurant.

The exact point of their work was left unclear to them. The handful of employees I spoke with did not even know the name of the company's chief executive.

Aistova and her brother made an unusual pair. She was a short young woman with midlength brown hair, dressed all in black: sweater, leggings, big wedge boots. She insisted on paying for my coffee. "You are a Russian guest," she said. He, by contrast, was a hulking skinhead with arms full of Nazi-themed tattoos, most prominent among them a five-inch swastika on his left biceps. "My brother, he looks like a strongman," Aistova said, giggling. He wore a black T-shirt emblazoned with the skull-and-crossbones insignia of the SS Totenkopf division, which administered the Nazi concentration camps. I asked him what his T-shirt meant. "Totenkopf," he grunted. During the interview he sat across the table

from Aistova and me, smiling silently behind his sunglasses.

Aistova said that she worked for the Internet Research Agency for a month and a half. The majority of her work was translating news articles from English to Russian. The news articles covered everything from Ukraine to traffic accidents. On a few occasions, her bosses asked her to leave comments on American news sites about Russia, but she said that they never told her what to say. She loves Russia, she told me. She truly believes that Putin is just trying to help the people of Eastern Ukraine, and that his actions are being unfairly spun by the Western media. “I was like, Hey, you guys, you are saying these bad things about Putin, but people are suffering.”

But she claimed to harbor no ill will toward the United States. She wants to visit New York City, she said, and see the locations from “Breakfast at Tiffany’s,” one of her favorite films. “I don’t feel aggressive toward America. We’re the same people, we just speak different languages,” she said. After the interview, we shook hands outside the restaurant. “You seem like a journalist who will tell the truth,” she said. “I wish you luck on your story.”

**On my last morning** in St. Petersburg, I returned to 55 Savushkina. The clouds had lifted after a miserable week of snow and howling wind. At a few minutes before 10, my translator and I positioned ourselves on the sidewalk in front of the entrance, hoping to catch some of the trolls as they began the day shift. This was not a very well thought out strategy. Any employees arriving so close to the start of their shift didn’t have time to talk to a journalist even if they wanted to. A large van lurched to a halt in front of us and deposited a half-dozen young people, who hurried in the door before we had the chance to approach them. A bus stopped halfway down the block, and another gaggle of workers emerged. They waved off my translator’s inquiries with annoyed grunts or stone-faced silence. A young man smoking a cigarette said he didn’t work inside the building. He finished his cigarette and promptly went inside the building.

At 10 a.m. sharp, the flow of workers stopped. I decided we might as well try walking inside. I had read of other journalists who tried to enter the building, only to be kicked out immediately, so I entered with some trepidation. Two men in suits guarded the turnstiles. My translator and I approached a receptionist behind a desk and asked if we could speak with someone from Internet Research. (It dropped the “Agency” on moving to 55 Savushkina.) She informed us that Internet Research was no longer a tenant. “A couple of months ago, we had to say goodbye, because it was giving the entire building a bad reputation,” she said, matter-of-factly.

She pointed to a board that displayed a makeshift directory of the building’s current occupants. The names were printed out on small scraps of paper, and none of them were Internet Research. But I did recognize one: “FAN,” or Federal News Agency. I had read some news articles claiming that FAN was part of a network of pro-Kremlin news sites run out of 55 Savushkina, also funded by Evgeny Prigozhin. Former Internet Research Agency employees I had spoken to said they believed FAN was another wing of the same operation, under a different name. I asked to speak to someone from FAN. To

my surprise, the receptionist picked up the phone, spoke into it for a few seconds and then informed us that Evgeny Zubarev, the editor in chief of FAN, would be right out to meet us.

Zubarev, who looked to be in his 50s, had close-cropped salt-and-pepper hair and a weary face. He greeted me with a handshake and invited me into his office. We made our way through the turnstiles and signed in with the guards, then took a brief walk down a long hallway to FAN's two-room office on the first floor. It was unusually quiet for an online news operation that, according to Zubarev, had a staff of 40 people. The newsroom was equipped for a sizable team, with about a dozen identical black desktop computers sitting on identical brown laminate desks, but only two young reporters sat at them. The shades were drawn and the furniture looked just barely unpacked.

As we sat at Zubarev's desk, I told him about the articles I'd read accusing FAN of being a Kremlin propaganda outfit. He shook his head in indignation. He turned to his computer and brought up FAN's website, pointing to the masthead and the certificate number that showed FAN was an officially registered Russian mass-media organization. "FAN is a news agency," he declared. It had stringers and reporters in Ukraine, and in many former Soviet states; they did original reporting, sometimes at great personal risk. Zubarev himself was a veteran journalist who covered the annexation of Crimea for the Russian news agency Rosbalt before joining FAN. But ever since reports linked him to the Internet Research Agency, he had faced questions about his integrity.

"We understand being in this building may discredit us, but we can't afford to move at the moment," Zubarev said with a sigh. "So we have to face the situation where reporters like you, Mr. Chen, come in here and ask us questions every day."

Zubarev said he believed that he and FAN were victims of a smear campaign. I asked him who would do such a thing.

"Listen, that's my position, not a confirmed fact," he said. "It's possible that there are some business interests, I don't know. Maybe it's an attack on our investors." But when I asked who those investors were, he declined to comment. "I can't discuss the identities of investors," he said. "That's in my contract."

**I left St. Petersburg** on April 28. One day later, [FAN published an article](#) with the headline "What Does a New York Times Journalist Have in Common With a Nazi From St. Petersburg?" The story detailed a mysterious meeting in St. Petersburg between a New York Times journalist — me — and a neo-Nazi. Its lead image was a photo of a skinhead giving an enthusiastic Nazi salute. But it was not just any skinhead. It was the skinhead whom Katarina Aistova brought to our meeting and introduced to me as her brother. As I learned from reading the article, Aistova's "brother" was in fact a notorious neo-Nazi named Alexei Maximov.

The article explained that Maximov, who goes by the nickname Fly, is a member of Totenkopf, a

prominent skinhead group in St. Petersburg. He reportedly served nine years in prison for stabbing a man to death. Just a month before I met him, Maximov again made headlines when, during an investigation into beatings of immigrants around St. Petersburg, the police found weaponry and Nazi paraphernalia in his apartment.

The story made no mention of Katarina Aistova or the Internet Research Agency. Instead, the article claimed I met with Maximov because I wanted his help in creating a provocation against Russia. Maximov told FAN that I requested to meet him because I was “very keenly interested in sentiment among Russian nationalists.” He continued: “He evidently needed stories about how the murderous Kremlin regime persecutes free Russian people. It’s not the first time I’ve come across such requests on the part of Western journalists, but I’m not going to help them with this. Many want to see in Russian nationalists a ‘fifth column,’ which will function on orders from the West and sweep away the Kremlin.” Apparently I was trying to foment a mini-Euromaidan, right there in St. Petersburg.

The article was illustrated with photos of my meeting with Aistova and Maximov. One photo appears to have been shot surreptitiously through the restaurant window while we sat and talked. The point of view is such that Aistova is barely visible; indeed, at first glance, I seem to be having a friendly chat with a skinhead over a cup of coffee. Another photo, this one taken outside the restaurant, somehow makes me look deep in conversation with Maximov, even though I distinctly recall that Aistova was standing between us.

I had to admire the brazenness of the scheme. I remembered how, at the restaurant, Aistova had sat next to me so I had to twist around to talk to her, while Maximov sat silently across from us. Apparently they had arranged themselves so it could appear, from the right perspective, that I was meeting Maximov alone. I emailed Aistova to ask her to explain what happened. She responded only: “I would also like you to explain yourself and the situation!!” (A few weeks later, when I tried calling her by phone, she pretended I had the wrong number.)

Over the course of a few days, the sensational story circulated among a network of small pro-Kremlin blogs. In fact, the FAN story itself had been aggregated from another pro-Kremlin news site called People’s News, which Andrei Soshnikov, the Moi Raion journalist, has reported also operates out of 55 Savushkina. As it spread, it mutated to become even more alarming. One website suggested I was working for the C.I.A.; another, the National Security Agency. A YouTube channel called Russia Today — not the well-known state television channel but a knockoff — posted a [slick video about the meeting](#), set to a pounding dubstep soundtrack. Disconcertingly, it included a photo of me leaving my hotel. The video currently has more than 60,000 views. Many of those views were a result of a familiar pattern of social-media promotion: Dozens of trolls on Twitter began tweeting links to the video [using the hashtag #ВербовкаНацистов](#) — “Recruitment of Nazis.” The hashtag trended on Russian Twitter.

After recovering from the initial shock, I began to track the campaign against me. I had practice, after all, from my months spent on the trail of the Internet Research Agency. I Googled the various Russian

spellings of my name every hour to catch the latest posts as soon as they surfaced on LiveJournal and VKontakte. I searched Twitter for the URL of the YouTube video to catch every post.

A few days later, Soshnikov chatted with me on Skype. “Did you see an article about you on FAN?” he asked. “They know you are going to publish a loud article, so they are trying to make you look stupid in front of the Russian audience.”

I explained the setup, and as I did I began to feel a nagging paranoia. The more I explained, the more absurd my own words seemed — the more they seemed like exactly the sort of elaborate alibi a C.I.A. agent might concoct once his cover was blown. The trolls had done the only thing they knew how to do, but this time they had done it well. They had gotten into my head.

### **Correction: June 21, 2015**

An article on June 7 about Russian Internet “trolls” referred incorrectly to the Internet platform Yandex. It was subjected to political pressure, but it was not brought under the control of Kremlin allies.

Adrian Chen is a New York-based writer whose work has appeared in Wired, New York magazine, and The New York Times. He is a contributing editor for The New Inquiry and a founder of I.R.L. Club, a regular gathering for people from the Internet to meet “in real life.”

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A version of this article appears in print on June 7, 2015, on page MM57 of the Sunday Magazine with the headline: The Agency.

Close this panel

### **556 Comments**

Readers shared their thoughts on this article.

The comments section is closed. To send a letter to the editor, write to [letters@nytimes.com](mailto:letters@nytimes.com).

- All 556
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newest

*NYT Pick*

**Bob S**

New Jersey [June 2, 2015](#)

What a strange article since it has been obvious that China for years has been using operatives to provide propaganda on the internet. And of course ISIS is using the internet to persuade young Muslims to join them.

For years everyone understood the idea of corporations that have been using expensive media to sell products and increase profits.

Time to wake up to the present where the internet offers a very low cost method for propaganda. Time to recognize that with the internet the costs of running an affective Ministry of Information are very low.

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*NYT Pick*

**moosemaps**

Vermont [June 2, 2015](#)

Crazy and awful and even rather literary but sadly not unexpected nor the least bit shocking. Putin and his cronies are such bad news and I'd rather see them spend their billions this way, on mostly failed silly web schemes than on executions and annexations (of course, they will just do it all). This article reminds me of those who have stood up so bravely to Putin's tyranny, such as Pussy Riot, and hope they are well and energized. Seems the world needs more Nadezhda Tolokonnikovas.

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*NYT Pick*

**TK**

MA [June 2, 2015](#)

This is a truly fascinating article that is well written and haunting. This is a good reminder to all of us to not trust everything that we see on the internet and to make sure we check a reliable source (not wikipedia) before believing something.

The ending is almost too perfect based on all of the evidence that you had been gathering! Excellent reporting and please continue your investigations.

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*NYT Pick*

## **TheraP**

Midwest [June 2, 2015](#)

Trolling and impersonation, on a massive scale, is endemic all over now. It is integral to electoral campaigns, national and international politics, financial arenas, sports, you name it.

The Internet is both fascinating and frightening.

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*NYT Pick*

## **Charley**

Connecticut [June 2, 2015](#)

The thing about the Internet Research Agency is that they have made any sort of harsh, humorless, stiffly ungrammatical criticism of United States policy open to suspicion. They have greatly weakened those in this country and elsewhere who might legitimately have the same sorts of views. It is a case of Russia hurting Russia and turning her own people into dupes - certainly not the first time that has happened.

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## **Sharon**

Chico, CA [June 2, 2015](#)

Ah, the Cold War. It never really ended; it's just with us in a different form.

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*NYT Pick*

## **Bob Woods**

Salem, Oregon [June 2, 2015](#)

One of the most fascinating and chilling pieces of reporting I have ever read.

I think in the backs of our minds we know that there is a lot of intentional disinformation out there. But mostly we write it off as "some idiot" who is just clueless and spouting drivel.

This article shows how groups can plant and reinforce views that garner credibility from HOW they are posted. Playing on fears is always a good choice, I guess.

Yet so much of what is posted in political discussions is based on fear. Fear of the government; fear of corporations; fear of unions; fear of liberals; fear of conservatives.

The availability of access to information now is immediate and unfiltered. We see what can happen when things are taken at face value.

The future is a lot more scary than when I started reading this article.

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*NYT Pick*

## Concerned Reader

Boston [June 2, 2015](#)

Much of the Internet traffic still flows through the US. And if the US decides that this e-terrorism means Russia can no longer connect to the US, they will drop off much of the global Internet. Russia had better watch how far they push this.

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*NYT Pick*

## LM

Washington DC [June 2, 2015](#)

This is such an outstanding piece of reporting. I can't thank Adrian Chen or the NYT enough. I agree with other commenters that this piece should be the first in a series on trolling that includes a discussion on trolling in general, the independent trolls that troll for fun or out of spite to get a rise out of real commenters, the professional trolls that are essentially paid marketers promoting products and services, and the paid political trolls.

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*NYT Pick*

## fromsc

Southern California [June 2, 2015](#)

A ridiculously great piece of meta journalism. There is no doubt in my mind that the author has written a truthful article and not an alibi. Still, it's scary to read how easily he was compromised. Just as scary is how widespread this business of paid trolling must surely be. Whatever shenanigans the Russians are good at, we're probably great at here in the U.S. It makes me hesitant to continue forwarding my opinions on the internet. Maybe the only safety is in being a well paid troll. But where does one apply for such a job?

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newest

Monsanto and White House Politicos Caught Paying Internet 'Trolls' to Attack Activists

Companies desperate to fool public

by [Anthony Gucciardi](#)

Posted on April 20, 2015

Have you ever seen a post, comment, or reply that absolutely reeked of behind-the-scenes compensation by corporations like Monsanto? In the growing age of internet activism, and the expansion of social media as a tool to spread the word on real issues, **paid internet trolling is becoming a new career path.**

Now, in case you're not familiar with what 'trolling' really is, I think Wikipedia has a great definition. According to [Wikipedia](#), an internet troll is:

*“...a person who sows discord on the Internet by starting arguments or upsetting people, by posting inflammatory, extraneous, or off-topic messages in an online community (such as a newsgroup, forum, chat room, or blog) with the deliberate intent of provoking readers into an emotional response or of otherwise disrupting normal on-topic discussion.”*

Does this sound like some posts you've seen before? Now, let's be clear: there are tons of internet trolls out there that are absolutely not on the pay roll. Most of these people are genuinely just messing with others to get a laugh, a reaction, or whatever. *Not arguing on behalf of multi-billion dollar corporations* for up to 8 hours per day.

There's the real difference. And, besides common sense dictating that corporations would surely hire a fleet of internet warriors to protect their brand reputation in the age of open source online communication, we now know for sure that companies like Monsanto have in fact dedicated 'entire departments' to trolling scientists and 'discrediting' those who oppose their GMO creations.

### **Monsanto Paying Fleet of Trolls to 'Discredit'**

Surprisingly, it was actually a [Monsanto employee that](#) unintentionally let the truth behind their 'discrediting operation' slip in a conference with students that [he may](#) have forgotten was open to the public. In a conversation with students, Dr. William "Bill" Moar raved that Monsanto had established:

*“An entire department” (waving his arm for emphasis) dedicated to “debunking” science which disagreed with theirs.”*

That's huge news. We told you about this first back on the 6th of April — but I am absolutely shocked how it has not been covered to the extent it should have. Because, after all, how does a company 'discredit' and 'debunk' those who go against their destructive, cancer-linked products? By attacking them online through blogs, comments, and character assassination. In other words, **by internet trolling**.

It's so much easier to say someone is a 'quack,' or create some fictitious and anonymous accusation to plague their search data than it is to actually have a scientific debate on issues like Roundup's [admitted](#) probable carcinogenic nature.

It also brings into question whether or not the Monsanto employee truly did 'slip up' or if he was attempting to help get the word out about the corporation he represents. You have to wonder if Dr. Moar was secretly passing off some information to the press in the form of a slip about his company.

This is a question I often wondered after hearing about Coca-Cola's similar operations that extended deeper than just internet trolls. After reading the March 16th article [in the](#) Associated Press that broke down how Coca-Cola [paid off health leaders](#) in exchange for these 'experts' to back their chemical-

laden sodas as health drinks.

The AP report reads:

*“In February, several of the experts wrote online posts for American Heart Month, with each including a mini-can of Coke or soda as a snack idea. The pieces — which appeared on nutrition blogs and other sites including those of major newspapers — offer a window into the many ways food companies work behind the scenes to cast their products in a positive light, often with the help of third parties who are seen as trusted authorities.”*

A mini-can of Coke as a ‘snack idea.’ What amazing health leaders these individuals truly are.

Next time you’re scrolling through social media, YouTube, or even this website’s comment section, remember that the trolls attacking you for no apparent reason may in fact be receiving an annual salary. Checkout my video report on Monsanto’s secret ‘discrediting’ department and what it truly means for the natural health and alternative news movement:

About Anthony Gucciardi:

### **Other Popular Stories:**

1. [Gagging the Nation: Government and Corporate Trolls on the Internet](#)
2. [Coca-Cola Caught Paying ‘Health Leaders’ to Say Soda is ‘Healthy Snack’](#)
3. [Monsanto Secretly Gave Money to Farmer Caught Contaminating Organic Farms with GMOs](#)
4. [Monsanto Caught Pushing GMOs on Independent African Farmers](#)
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Those Silicon Valley VC's have been naughty little monkey's.

Bribery, sex-trafficking high end escorts, collusion, stock market rigging, No-poaching conspiracies, monopoly conspiracy, and maybe a murder or two; all this, and more, may be charged in an epic organized crime investigation involving Silicon Valley names that even the mainstream public will recognize.

It all seems to have started when a blogger named Michael Arrington wrote a little story called: *“So a blogger walks into a bar...”*

This article exposed a little conspiracy scandal called **“The AngelGate Conspiracy”**. It was more of a local thing, at first.

As federal investigators looked into things, the scope of the criminals, and the crimes, became visible as a particularly sinister Cartel program that reached from the halls of Stanford to the Corridors of Capitol Hill. This thing was big. White House Big! Vladivostok Big! Wall Street Big! Presidential Elections Big! The investigation has been years in the making, and the conclusion of it will change everything!

It turns out that nobody keeps an eye on the machinations of the Silicon Valley Venture Capitalists. Not the SEC. Many of the SEC staff are “owned” by the Silicon Valley Cartel and get paid to manipulate SEC management. Nobody watched the crooks, except one little group of law enforcement specialists; who were actually looking for Middle East bad guys, at the time. They found something else, though, just as big, and just as much of a threat, to U.S. citizens, right in their own backyard.

Being a bunch of arrogant “Frat House” boys, the VC's adopted an out-of-control “take-what-you-can-get” process. The more they grabbed, in kickbacks, payola, political graft benefits and rigged government contracts, the less they worried about getting caught. They even packed, almost, the entire management team of the United States Department of Energy with their friends, in order to create a massive “Cleantech” kickback scam; and still nobody stopped them. They were on a roll and that roll was made of Teflon. Now it was just a matter of seeing if they could take over “everything”.

Their downfall was hubris and their sociopathic ego's. The more they bragged about themselves in self-aggrandizing TED Talks, “Singularity Events” and in self-purchased main stream fluff articles about themselves, the more the rest of the world took a look at them. They Kim Kardashian'd themselves into

such celebrities that TV networks said: *“Hmmm? Let’s make a TV show.”* Mike Judge’s **“Silicon Valley”** TV show was born and the VC’s finally got a chance to see themselves away from their rose-colored glasses of narcissism. It was not pretty. Soon the entire world was calling them *“assholes”*, and they began to realize that their misogyny, racism, sex abuse, elitism and boys club antics really only flew on University Avenue, in Palo Alto and no place else. They were globally hated.

Still not quite fully grasping their tunnel-vision challenges, though, one of the leaders of their pack, one Mister Tom Perkins, founder of Kleiner Perkins, went on national media to declare that the poor members of the public, who bad-talked the Silicon Valley VC’s, must be **“NAZI’S”** for not respecting the superior intellect and elite standing of the Silicon Valley Cartel! That helped their image a lot!

The VC’s only read the media that they control: Venture Beat, CBS Local, Mercury News, Gawker, Gizmodo and the like. They live for self-validation and they have spent billions, building a glass bubble, made of Google, around themselves. They only want to see the world in one shade of green and they only want the rest of the world to see itself in the that same shade of green.

The VC’s then went on to get indicted for massive tax fraud. Some of them got killed by their own hookers.

They built towering sex penthouses and then had to ditch them when the media caught them. They built the Rosewood Hotel for their nooners but then had to ditch that when reporters followed them with camera drones.

Some of them are under investigations for horrible rapes. The **“Godfather”** of the Cartel: Kleiner Perkin’s John Doerr; famously, got sued for sex abuse by his own Kleiner partner.

Kleiner VC Vinohd Khosla got a few 60 Minutes and CNN episodes about his shenanigans. Now most of California hates him for stealing their public beach.

They rigged the lithium ion battery market, with Elon Musk, and 800 Billion taxpayer dollars of Steven Chu kickbacks, but the batteries blew up, gave off cancer vapors and the invasions of the countries that they wanted to gouge it out of, failed.

They really don’t seem to have many checkmarks on the **“non-evil”** side of the columns. In fact, the biggest joke, on the internet, is that John Doerr’s and Eric Schmidt’s company: GOOGLE, has a motto of **“Don’t Be Evil”**. Google turned out to be living the exact opposite. The Silicon Valley Cartel were using Google to control politics, the public’s mood, the stock market and other normal acts of commerce, in ways that were so invasive, and insidious, that it would make old Dr. Evil proud. The ACLU, Snowden, China, Russia, The European Union and half of the U.S. Congress are now on Google’s butt like flies on flypaper. Google is trying to run to a new structure called ALPHABET, but it is now like a rabbit trying to outrun a thousand hounds. The real Google is exposed and most of the

world, that matters, is wise to the VC's tricks with Google. I wouldn't bet my money on Google's long term survival. Nobody likes Google anymore. Nobody trusts Google anymore. Their brand is fading. Their value to the world is nil. They will survive on their giant federally kick-backed bank account; but not for as long as most people think.

A number of sites, groups and organizations have evolved to put the Silicon Valley Cartel on it's ear"

The FBI has a pretty big case going that they cannot discuss... yet.

A Grand Jury investigation is said to be underway.

A good chunk of the U.S. Congress has been looking at how to counter-measure this Cartel, for some time.

You can see many stories about the bad VC's at sites like:

<http://googlerigsresults.weebly.com>

<http://venturecapitalcorruption.weebly.com>

<http://www.aclu.org>

<http://greencorruption.blogspot.com>

<http://vcracket.weebly.com>

<http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/story-index/public-corruption/rss.xml>

<http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/story-index/technology/rss.xml>

<http://www.gao.gov/rss/topic/Energy>

[http://www.gao.gov/rss/topic/Government\\_Operations](http://www.gao.gov/rss/topic/Government_Operations)

and thousands more.

You can read more by web-searching (in a non-Google search engine) the following terms:

"Steven Chu Corruption"

"Silicon Valley Cartel No Poaching Conspiracy"

“Green corruption”

“The Cleantech crash”

“Department of Energy Corruption”

“Angel Gate Conspiracy” or “AngelGate Conspiracy”

“So a blogger walks into a bar”

“Corbett Report Silicon Spies”

“Corbett Report meet In-Q-Tel”

“The Silicon Mobsters”

There is massive documentation online about the VC evils. There are huge efforts, by the Silicon Valley Cartel, to run cover-ups and get their politicians (ie: Reid, Feinstein, Holder, etc.) to deflect, and delay the indictments. That ship has sailed. They can now run but, as Snowden taught us all, they can never hide.

Vanity Fair says that Michael Arrington got a media, and legal, hit-job put on him for outing the VC's. Payback is a bitch, though. Arrington may have the last laugh.

Since before the “*A blogger walks into a bar*” article, every major person in Silicon Valley was already, wired, tapped, surveilled and recorded because feds thought that the overseas bad guys might try something in the tech capital. They didn't catch many Middle Easterners in Silicon Valley, but they did catch Westerners; doing really, really big crimes.