Meet the editor building a “meme team” at the Los Angeles Times

Samantha Melbourneweaver on the biggest mistake news organizations make with younger readers, the audience team's growing role within the newsroom, and “getting weird” online. By Sarah Scire.
In the ocean’s worth of new Facebook revelations out today, here are some of the most important drops

“It will be a flash in the pan. Some legislators will get pissy. And then in a few weeks they will move onto something else. Meanwhile we are printing money in the basement, and we are fine.” By Joshua Benton.

WHAT WE'RE READING

THE NEW YORKER / STEPHEN WITT

How Patrick Soon-Shiong made his fortune before buying the L.A. Times →

“At the center of his fortune is a cancer treatment that costs more than a hundred times as much as another drug, available as a generic, that is prescribed for some of the same conditions. Soon-Shiong has been repeatedly accused of financial misrepresentation, self-dealing, price gouging, and fraud. He has been sued by former investors and business partners; he has been sued by other doctors; he has been sued by his own brother, twice; he has been sued by Cher.”
This New York Times reporter’s phone was hacked twice, probably by Saudi Arabia →

“As a New York Times correspondent who covers the Middle East, I often speak to people who take great risks to share information that their authoritarian rulers want to keep secret...But in a world where we store so much of our personal and professional lives in the devices we carry in our pockets, and where surveillance software continues to become ever more sophisticated, we are all increasingly vulnerable.”

Small-market newspapers: the view from on the ground →

“There’s still demand in these areas. If you’re in the New York metropolitan area, you might never know that. I think a lot of the decisions that are being made in New York and California and Washington don’t necessarily reflect the reality on the ground in parts of Middle America.”

On Facebook’s metaverse fantasy →

“But the jury is still out on whether VR and AR bring something that consumers are really missing in long-distance interactions. It might be cool to be transported to a different planet when video gaming, but do I really need to see my colleague’s face in 3D rather than 2D during morning meetings? I’m not so sure.”

Google charges more than twice its rivals in ad deals, an unredacted lawsuit says →

“According to the suit by state attorneys general, one senior Google employee said the ‘analogy would be if Goldman or Citibank owned the NYSE.’”

What do we mean by innovation? And why is it so hard for news
organizations?

“I think the biggest obstacle to any sort of strategic change around managing media is our unwillingness to ask our audiences what they need.”

PRESS WATCH / DAN FROOMKIN

Here’s an assignment for failing political reporters

“[Former New York Times White House reporter Jackie] Calmes called on all reputable media organizations to take a concrete first step towards ending false equivalence by vowing never to use a quote that reporters and editors know is a lie without immediately refuting it. ‘If you quote someone and you know what they’re saying is false, you can’t let it go uncontradicted,’ she said.”

CONFIRM MY CHOICES / MICHAEL HOBBS

The methods of moral panic journalism

“While both stories display the superficial features of investigative journalism, a deep dive reveals the same motivated reasoning, nonexistent evidence and indefensible editorial standards that misinformed the public about frivolous lawsuits.”

THE WASHINGTON POST / CRAIG TIMBERG

“Do you want to start a fight with Steve Bannon?” Facebook apparently didn’t

“...Facebook’s Public Policy team, led by former Bush administration official Joel Kaplan, defended a ‘white list’ that exempted Trump-aligned Breitbart News...and other select publishers from Facebook’s ordinary rules against spreading false news reports. When a person in the video conference questioned this policy, Kaplan, the vice president of global policy, responded by saying, ‘Do you want to start a fight with Steve Bannon?’”

GAWKER / NICHOLAS RUSSELL

The Believer was a victim of mismanagement and neglect

“Former Believer editor Camille Bromley wrote in a piece for Defector, ‘No one was surprised that the person who had done this was Josh. Probably no one could have predicted that he would deliver exactly this scenario, but to
make such thoughtless choices? To show such casual, oblivious, and harmful disrespect for his employees? Yeah, that was Josh.”

REVUE

Twitter users can now subscribe to Revue newsletters directly from tweets in their timeline →

Thus reviving a temporarily beloved feature from 2014.

THE WASHINGTON POST / ERIK WEMPLE

Did CNN do wrong by Joe Rogan over ivermectin? →

“It’s a lie. It’s a lie on a news network and it’s a lie...that they’re conscious of. This is not a mistake.”

THE NEW ORLEANS TIMES-PICAYUNE / BRUCE ALPERT

The Times-Picayune FOIA’d FBI files on a congressman’s corruption case — and just got them, 12 years later →

“When I filed a Freedom of Information Act request in 2009, my Times-Picayune editors figured it would be newsworthy...But when the documents arrived, the case had been over — in every sense — for four years...My career in daily journalism had ended even earlier than that, in 2015.”

THE VERGE / DIETER BOHN

Google lowers its Play Store fees for subscriptions, news and otherwise →

“The company is announcing that all subscription-based apps will now pay a fee of 15 percent,” down from 30% the first year and 15% thereafter. Regulatory pressure gets the credit.
You are receiving this daily newsletter because you signed up for it at www.niemanlab.org.

Nieman Journalism Lab
Harvard University
1 Francis Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02138

Add us to your address book