

Report To Congress On Gawker Media

An Investigation Into The Illicit Character Assassination
Services Provided By Nick Denton And Gawker Media



Volume 1

Overview

Financial records, stock holdings, off-shore bank records, tax haven routing, emails, inter-party communications, PAC records, credit card records, advertising contracts and personnel records; implicate Gawker Media and campaign financiers in a clear effort to subvert the processes of Democracy. By using public resources, enhanced by tax advantages, facilities and public utility tools to manipulate public perceptions, and to attack and damage taxpaying members of the public, Nick Denton and Gawker Media have created a blight upon the public policy system, and the public communications system, of the nation, and the world.

By creating an unfair system of retribution, vindictiveness and vendetta, exclusive to Gawker Media, which provides no reasonable option, nor affordable measure, for the public to counter-measure Gawker's attacks; Gawker is violating the Constitutional and Human Rights of American citizens. Gawker Media has taken money and resources from third parties for whom Gawker Media then produced coordinated character and brand assassination attacks that harmed, or destroyed, American industry and American taxpayers.

While the press may certainly have the rights to free speech and freedom of the press, the public has a reasonable expectation of security, privacy and avoidance from terrorism by that press. Nick Denton and Gawker Media have certainly engaged in terrorism against U.S. citizens as targeted, malicious and heinous as any previous attack on our citizens.

The following public evidence provides conclusive proof of these assertions.

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Demand's Increase For Gawker's Nick Denton To Be Arrested!

New York City -

'Jail Denton' Posters Targeting Gawker Founder Appear Around New York City



Flickr
by [Allum Bokhari](#)

Posters calling for Gawker Media founder Nick Denton to be jailed have sprung up around New York City.

Denton, considered a pariah by many due to his media company's track record of political public shaming and violating the privacy of private individuals, [recently joined his company in declaring bankruptcy](#) following Hulk Hogan's successful lawsuit against the company.

Someone in New York, however, believe that Denton has yet to fully answer for his crimes. The following posters were spotted earlier today in New York, and are being spread on social media by a newly-created Twitter account, "@jail_denton."





A full gallery of high-res photos of the posters at various locations in New York can be found on [Flickr](#).

One of the people behind the poster campaign, who did not wish to be identified, gave the following comment to *Breitbart Tech*.

Nick Denton deserves prison for numerous crimes, including revenge porn, tax evasion, and child pornography.

GamerGate cost Gawker millions. We see that record as something to rival should Ziff Davis keep up its bid.

The Twitter account @jail_denton continues to post updates on social media. In one tweet, the account threatens to reveal the names of all the companies and advertisers, who, like Ziff Davis, have expressed an interest in buying Gawker.

Should we publish the names of all the advertisers of the companies like [@ziffdavis](#) looking at buying revenge porn sites like [@gawker](#)?

— [Jail Denton \(@jailDenton\) August 10, 2016](#)

Another tweet promises “justice” for Sam Biddle, a particularly notorious Gawker journalist whose 2013 article about communications manager Justine Sacco became the example *du jour* of online public shaming, and is even cited by the *Society of Professional Journalists* as an example of what not to do. Nick Denton recently appealed directly to Peter Thiel, who funded Hulk Hogan’s lawsuit, to stop pursuing retribution against Biddle.

• [@samfbiddle](#) justice is coming for you all.

— [Jail Denton \(@jailDenton\) August 10, 2016](#)

Hulk Hogan may have won his lawsuit against Gawker, but he’s just one person in a vast list of the beleaguered blogging empire’s victims. Even bankrupt, Gawker is unlikely to know peace. Let’s get these posters put up in every City say organizers.

Denton and other Gawker honchos gave speeches. Judging by the accounts relayed to Morning Media, a good time was had by all as they faced their imminent extinction for running a political character assassination service. “The fact that Gabriel Snyder, Anna Holmes, Dodai Stewart, Choire Sicha, Jess Coen, Chris Mohney, Elizabeth Spiers, Emily Gould, Lockhart Steele, Andrew Krucoff, Max Read, Tom Scocca, John Cook and Iain Cook and Iain Cook were in the same room at once, let alone, for some of them ever, is mind-blowing,” one attendee and Gawker alumnus told us. “That whole pack of hatchet jobbers should be indicted and placed under permanent IRS investigation”.

Is Peter Thiel behind all of this..or Sean Parker..Or Sandy Montenegro...or The Palins..Or a famous movie Director.. or Mitt Romney..or...

<https://nickdentonandgawkermedia.wordpress.com>

What Kind of Person Would Promote Themselves As A “Character Assassin”?

Gawker’s Adrian Covert, for one:

SocialTimes Facebook Twitter Inter

INTERNET

Gizmodo’s Adrian Covert Joins CNNMoney

0 SHARES

By Devon Glenn on Nov. 13, 2012 - 10:30 AM

CNNMoney has tapped tech reporter Adrian Covert to cover Apple devices and other gadgets for the technology section of the business website.

Covert is currently an associate editor at Gizmodo.com, where he started out as an editorial assistant in 2007. (Although his LinkedIn profile says he is a “space assassin,” which is actually an important function of tech writing that most recruiters overlook.) He’ll be working the gadgets beat for CNNMoney starting December 3.

Said CNNMoney managing editor Lex Harris in an announcement sent this morning:

Adrian comes to us from Gizmodo, and brings a deep knowledge of tech trends, news sense, and sharp writing style (the headline “Hey Netlix, get your s*** together” was one of our favorites). And we all loved a sly line on his resume noting that he was Time Person of the Year in 2006 — back when YOU were too.

Adrian will be on the gadget beat, focusing on news and reviews about the steady stream of devices churned out by Apple and all of its rivals. It’s an important piece of our tech coverage that Stacy’s been pushing for, bolstering the already important pillars that we cover so well: Social media, start-ups, security, mobile, as well as the deep Big Tech expertise from Fortune and consumer offerings from CNN.com. It’s no wonder the section has had such explosive growth — up 55% in the past two years.

Please extend a warm welcome.

Welcome, Adrian. Review the social features on those gadgets and we’ll totally do a link-back! Also, don’t forget to update your LinkedIn profile.

Image via Google+.

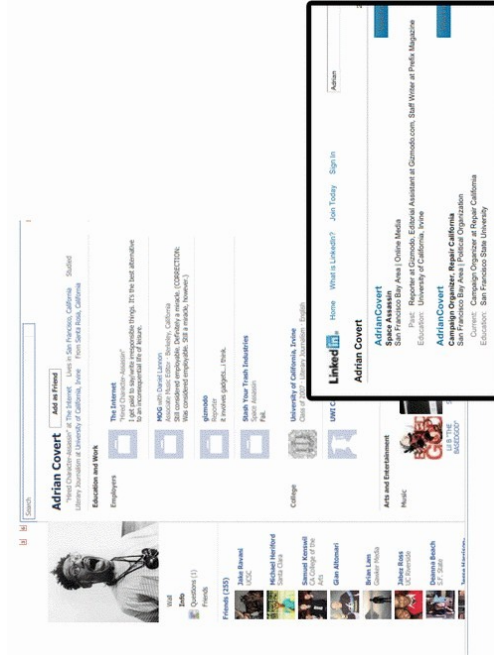
Adrian Covert and John Herrman, the Character Assassins of Gawker, find out that "Pay Back Is A Bitch!"



Gawker Media founder Nick Denton to file for [personal bankruptcy](http://personal.bankruptcy.com) (reuters.com) Now That Nick Denton And Gawker Media are bankrupt, under investigation, getting doxxed and generally reviled by the whole planet, it is time to work on the underlings. Nick Denton's cabin boys are the twisted kinds of bloggers that live for the joy they gain from damaging others in their petty angst and ennui-ridden lives.

Adrian Covert appears to be one of Elon Musk's special boys, keenly enabled by the firm hand of John Herrman in their constant need to character assassinate and destroy others using the media control engine that is Gawker, CNN or other propaganda empire.

With over 20 people looking for payback from Covert and Herrman's malicious and insidious character assassination campaigns, it is a wonder either of those two can go out in public. Investigators believe that Adrian Covert operate on behalf of West Wing PR directors and campaign billionaires. When those folks want an enemy terminated, they call the scummy writers from Gawker. By leaving so many bodies in their wake, Covert and Herrman now need to look over their own shoulders because a number of victims have promised to make them pay "forever" for their



TESTIMONY FROM ONE WITNESS:

"I have been waiting for this day for a long time! You, Nick Denton, took money from Silicon Valley Billionaires and White House staff to put hit-jobs on me and my colleagues. We are ready to prove it in court, in front of Congress and before the FBI and the FTC. You contracted to take on work wherein you tried to kill us, our brands and our careers. We are bringing law enforcement, the public and the justice system to your front porch. If you think you had a bad day today buddy... you ain't seen nuthin' yet... The Hulk Hogan case was only the beginning..."

Hulk Hogan Gets \$115M Verdict Against Gawker at Sex Tape Trial



Scott Keeler/The Tampa Bay Times via AP, Pool, File FROM THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

The outcome comes after two weeks of testimony in a first-of-its-kind case where discussions of newsworthiness and decency dominated.

Weighing free speech against privacy, a Florida jury has decided to uphold the sanctity of the latter by turning in a \$115 million verdict against *Gawker* over its 2012 posting of a Hulk Hogan sex tape. Hogan brought the case three years ago after *Gawker*, a 13-year-old digital news site founded by Nick Denton, an entrepreneur with an allergy to celebrity privacy, published a video the wrestler claimed was secretly recorded. The sex tape was sensational, showing Hogan — whose real name is Terry Bollea — engaged in sexual intercourse with Heather Cole, the then-wife of his best friend, Tampa-area radio shock jock Bubba the Love Sponge (real name: Todd Alan Clem). *Gawker's* posting of the Hogan sex tape was accompanied by an essay from then-editor-in-chief A.J. Daulerio about celebrity sex and a vivid play-by-play of the encounter between Hogan and Cole.

In an era when digital networks have reshaped culture, raising tough questions about sharing and prying in society, the jury got to hear two weeks of testimony in a first-of-its-kind sex tape case where discussions of newsworthiness and decency dominated.

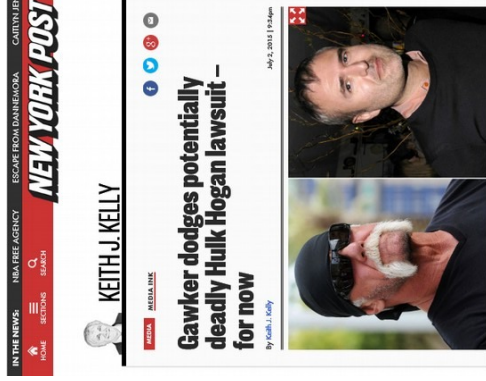
[Read More Hulk Hogan Wins \\$115M in Sex Tape Lawsuit, Internet Weighs In](#)
Hogan, the first to take the witness stand, attempted to separate his public persona from his true and private self. "It's turned my world upside down," he testified about *Gawker's* posting. His many interviews with press outlets, some addressing his sexual boasts and endeavors, became the subject of a heated cross-examination. "The person sitting here under oath is Terry Bollea, and I don't lie under oath," said Hogan.

His attorneys also played depositions conducted with Denton and *Gawker* staffers, who had to explain tasteless jokes and their boundary-pushing philosophies on what's appropriate to publish. "I believe in total freedom and information transparency," said Denton. "I'm an extremist when it comes to that." Many of those same *Gawker* hands later took the witness stand to put their journalism in a more flattering light, although Daulerio admitted [Hulk Hogan's penis isn't newsworthy](#).

The trial also featured less salacious elements, with experts delving into the media business through discussion of digital marketing and web analytics. One of Hogan's experts testified the benefit to *Gawker* from the sex tape was \$15 million, while another, on behalf of the defendant, [told the jury](#) it was just \$11,000.

The mysterious background of the sex tape was explored by *Gawker*: Who knew a taping was happening? Was it a publicity stunt? Were there really secrets? But *Gawker* couldn't get Clem, whom they desperately wanted on the witness stand, to address conflicting accounts of who knew about the taping. Nor could they discuss many of the racist comments that Hogan had made during his sexual encounter with Cole to set up a possible argument that Hogan had an ulterior motive for the lawsuit.

A Florida appeals court ordered the unsealing of court records — including text messages between Hogan and Bubba, Bubba's deposition testimony, what the FBI was told during its investigation, and a \$5,000 settlement agreement between Hogan and Bubba — but none of that made it into the trial thanks to Florida Circuit Judge Pamela Campbell's pretrial rulings that strongly favored Hogan.



No part of the actual sex tape itself — including the excerpts published by *Gawker* — was shown to the jurors.

Nevertheless, the trial — which resembled the [Scopes trial](#) insofar as the amount of publicity attracted by a case centered on free speech and concerns about morality — provoked a discussion of ethics and boundaries in media like no other. One journalism professor, acting as an expert for Hogan, [introduced his "Cheerios test"](#) — whether readers could digest their breakfast when reading — with Hogan's attorneys bringing up Caitlyn Jenner, Madonna, Magic Johnson and others to probe whether it mattered if a celebrity injects their personal life into the public arena. Even Thomas Jefferson's name came up, with that same witness, Mike Foley, agreeing that it was good that the media speaks in different voices. "That was the original concept by Thomas Jefferson," said Foley, referring to the First Amendment.

[Read More: Hulk Hogan Grilled About Sex-Filled TMZ, Howard Stern Interviews at Gawker Trial](#)

Ultimately, the case became a battle — at least indirectly — between the First Amendment, guaranteeing free speech and a free press, and the Fourteenth Amendment, where courts have determined that a right to privacy derives under equal protection of life, liberty and property. Like many states, Florida has enacted statutes that guard against intrusions on seclusion and privacy of communications. Hogan also won on his right of publicity claim.

"Do you think the media can do whatever they want?" asked Hogan's attorney Ken Turkel in [closing arguments](#).

"We don't need the First Amendment to protect what's popular," responded *Gawker* attorney Michael Sullivan in his own closing. "We need a First Amendment to protect what's controversial."

"This is not about political speech," rebutted Turkel to the jury. "This case is unique. ... You're not going to condemn someone's right to engage in speech. You're balancing the right to make the speech versus privacy rights."

In reaching its verdict, the jury tipped that scale toward privacy. Hogan sobbed, and after the outcome became clear, appeared relieved more than happy. The court will reconvene next week where the judge could decide to award punitive damages to Hogan.

A stunned-looking Nick Denton watched from the gallery and took a deep breath. *Gawker* has already indicated it will appeal. The focus of the coming proceedings will likely be whether the First Amendment should have precluded claims and whether *Gawker* got a fair trial.

Denton delivered a statement in response to the verdict. "Given key evidence and the most important witness were both improperly withheld from this jury, we all knew the appeals court will need to resolve the case," he said. "I want to thank our lawyers for their outstanding work and am confident that we would have prevailed at trial if we had been allowed to present the full case to the jury. That's why we feel very positive about the appeal that we have already begun preparing, as we expect to win this case ultimately."

Hogan's legal team hailed the outcome: "We're exceptionally happy with the verdict. We think it represents a statement as to the public's disgust with the invasion of privacy disguised as journalism. The verdict says no more."

Gabriele Darbyshire

Gaby, as she is known, is one of the few “hit-women” that Denton has employed.



What did Nick Denton's Gaby Darbyshire know about Nick Denton's off-shore tax havens?

Raised in precarious moral circumstances in Denton's England, Gaby found a connection with Denton's moral depravity and came with him to America. Her mannish appearance fit well with Denton's cadre of twisted young boy staffers.

Gaby Darbyshire was COO of Gawker Media, the largest independent online publisher - with titles including Gawker, Gizmodo, Jezebel, Lifehacker and Deadspin - from 2004 until 2013. She was responsible for Finance, Legal, HR, Business & Corporate Development, and Operations. She has over 15 years of experience in the internet sector. Previously, she was the Chief Operating Officer at Oriel Wines, where she was responsible for setting up the global production and distribution operations for a new global wine brand; Director of Strategy at 4charity.com, a provider of technical fundraising solutions for the non-profit industry; and Director of Strategy and Legal Affairs at eGroups (now Yahoo!Groups).

Prior to catching the internet bug, Gaby was a management consultant advising Fortune 500 clients in the high tech, pharma and financial services industries, and, in her first career, a barrister in London, doing mostly criminal and environmental law and running a charity she set up to help support the appeals of inmates on death row in the Commonwealth.

She holds a MA in Natural Sciences from Cambridge University and a law degree from City University.

2004

2013

Chief Operating Officer

[Gawker Media](#)

2002

2004

COO

[Oriel Wines](#)

2001

2002

Director of Strategy

[4Charity](#)

2000

2002

Director of Business Development and Legal Affairs

[eGroups](#)

1996

2000

Consultant

[The Cobia Group](#)

1994

1996

Barrister-at-Law

[UK Bar](#)

Nick Denton's Secret Weapon: Gaby Darbyshire Is Gawker's Chief Enforcer
By [John Kohlin](#) • 07/07/10



"One day there will be a book called 'The Collected Legal Works of Gawker Media,'" said Gaby Darbyshire, the company's 39-year-old COO and head lawyer.

It was a recent Thursday afternoon, and Ms. Darbyshire was sitting on a couch in her loft in Little Italy. She pulled out her laptop and showed *The Observer* an email from a screenwriter who was upset that Jezebel, a Web site that is part of the Gawker stable, had posted a small excerpt of a script from his forthcoming movie. He wanted the excerpt removed—exactly the sort of email Ms. Darbyshire receives roughly once per working day.

"Gaby Darbyshire!" began the letter from a screenwriter. "Is that your real name or a nom de plume that seems to allude to Jane Austen in some dreamlike manner?"

The screenwriter (and, later, his lawyer in another email) went on to complain that Jezebel—the Gawker site that has received more complaints from angry subjects and lawyers than any other—had posted the excerpt without permission. The screenwriter said that while Ms. Darbyshire would likely be afraid of a threat from a big movie studio, dealing with a small movie like his own likely left her "happy to stomp (her) little Uggs all over its embryonic face."

He clearly doesn't know Ms. Darbyshire. She wrote back. "I'm actually Gabrielle Darbyshire—or to those who think I may be French and don't understand that Darbyshire is an ye olde English county, or perhaps have read too much Hardy-Gabrielle D'Arbyshire," she wrote. "Yes, I am British."

"People don't want to take responsibility for their actions. I'm a moralist in that respect. Fucking take responsibility for your actions!"

As *The Observer* read the note, she smiled. "I digress," she wrote. "We run a journalistic business here, and it is precisely the point of good journalism to walk up to the line but not to walk over the line, in all

things. As such, we very carefully decide what is a small enough excerpt of material to make the points needed in the context and yet still count as fair use, and use only that and no more."

Her kicker: "And by the way, my Uggs are HUGE. Size 11. Go figure."
Another fire put out.

"Gawker has had to tread a line between buccaneering journalism and recklessness," said Nick Denton, the founder of Gawker Media. "Gaby's the one that maintains that balance."

Or, in other words, she's the person who has to go in and defend Gawker's rowdy band of pirates when someone believes they have crossed the line.

Virtually all editors who have worked with the site agree that she's very good at her very busy job, which is not just limited to being the head counsel. She is a sort of everywoman at Gawker, wearing hats that include overseeing law, finance, business development, the 401(k) deals, HR issues, maternity leave policy (which, as a testament to Gawker growing bigger and bigger, now needs to be drafted)—almost anything that is money-related and doesn't deal with editorial or advertising.

"I'm the glue," said Ms. Darbyshire.

"Gawker wouldn't function without her," said Mr. Denton.

And Mr. Denton might not function quite the same way without her. While Mr. Denton has been the very public face for the media company he started in 2002, she has been the relatively unnoticed *consigliere* by his side. Ms. Darbyshire said that Gawker writers have referred to the two of them as the mommy and daddy at the company. She's known Mr. Denton for almost 20 years, they've been roommates several times over and she has been intimately familiar with his business ventures for more than a decade.

"She has the institutional knowledge of the place, and of Nick as well, that makes her voice really important," said Lockhart Steele, the former editorial director of Gawker Media, who founded Curbed.

"She's hilarious, tough and fair, and she doesn't take guff from anyone for one second—especially Nick," emailed Chloire Sicha, the co-founder of the Awl and a former Gawker editor. "And Nick, to his credit, loves it, I think. Nick's view of a media company is that different factions have to push and sometimes come into conflict—and he's always very clear about how vital Gaby's been to the company."

"I don't know if people realize how much history we've got," said Ms. Darbyshire. "We're not like most people working in a company. I will say things to him that no people would dream of saying to their boss. Yes, he's my boss, but I don't think of him as my boss."

"Will we always be there for each other?" she continued. "Yes. I think we trust each other almost more than any other person in the world."

Summary

A Chief Operating Officer with more than 15 years of extensive strategic, legal and operational experience in digital media, content and communications companies.

Specialties: COO, Board of Directors, executive leadership, general and startup management, legal, marketing, strategy, strategic sales, business development, corporate development, fundraising, project management, M&A, licensing, ecommerce, operations, finance, international, human resources, facilities, conference speaking.

Job Experience



Principal, Framestore Ventures

- Present (2 years 3 months) Greater New York City Area
Principal of Framestore Ventures, the incubator/venture arm of Framestore, Inc. Developing original IP in the animation, TV, and VR space.



Board Director

- The Daily Dot
- Present (5 months)



Innovation Council Member

- Weber Shandwick
- Present (5 months) Rochester, New York Area



- Rentlogix

Advisory Board Member

Rentlogix

- Present (2 years)
- Advisor, Investor

- Present (3 years 6 months)

* Consultant to digital media companies including Framestore, Storyverse Studios, and Magic Leap.

* Investor in various start ups in the digital media and technology sectors.

* Board Advisor at a number of startups including Kanvas Labs (sold to AOL 2015), Serious Eats (sold to Fexy Media 2015).

- Executive Producer

- Present (3 years 7 months) Greater New York City Area
Executive Producer of "Steve Jobs: The Man in the Machine" (2015, directed by Alex Gibney)



Chief Operating Officer

Gawker Media

- (8 years 11 months)
Co-Founder and COO of Gawker Media from 2004 until 2013, responsible for Finance, Legal, HR, Business & Corporate Development, Strategy and Operations.

Involved in all aspects of the business including the launch of new titles, design and product development.

Launched all non-advertising business lines in international licensing, e-commerce, TV and books.



Member of the Board

Performance Space 122

- (5 years 3 months) Greater New York City Area
Performance Space 122 provides incomparable experiences for audiences by presenting and commissioning artists whose work challenges boundaries of live performance. PS122 is dedicated to supporting the creative risks taken by artists from diverse genres, cultures and perspectives. We are an innovative local, national and international leader in contemporary performance. - See more at: <http://www.ps122.org/about/mission/#sthash.YtGSTQd7.dpuf>

- Founder

Datevine, Inc

- (2 years)

The Datevine was a local recommendation engine which launched in six cities in the USA and Europe.

- COO

Oriel Wines

- (1 year 4 months)

Chief Operating Officer at Oriel Wines, responsible for all aspects of the launch of a new global wine brand - including production and distribution operations and package design and sales - of wines from more than a dozen regions in four continents.

- Director of Strategy

4charity.com

- (1 year 11 months) San Francisco Bay Area

Director of Strategy at 4charity.com, managing multi-million dollar projects building technology platforms for the non-profit industry, typically United Ways and Community Foundations.



Director of Business Development and Legal Affairs

eGroups

– (7 months) San Francisco Bay Area Director of Strategy and Legal Affairs at eGroups (now Yahoo!Groups), responsible for company strategy, corporate and business development.

- Management Consultant

The COBA Group

– (2 years 10 months) Management consultant in London advising Fortune 500 clients in the high tech, pharma and financial services industries across Europe, specialising in strategy and M&A.

- Barrister-at-Law

UK Bar

– (1 year 8 months)

General common law barrister (litigator) specialising in environmental, civil, criminal and human rights law.

- Co-Founder

Link

– (3 years)

LINK was a charity created to help support the appeals of inmates on death row in the Commonwealth.

Education

- Inns of Court School of Law
Juris Doctor (J.D.), Law; Harmsworth Scholar, Barrister-at-law, Bar of England and Wales

- City University

Dip.Law, Law; Harmsworth Scholar



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

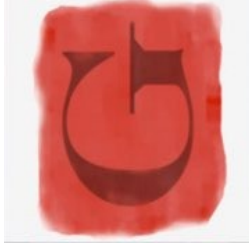
- Cambridge University

BA Hons, MA Hons, Natural Sciences (Maths, Chemistry, Philosophy); Shell Scholar

Historical Overview of Gawker Media

Gawker Media

Gawker Media



Type

Subsidiary Filed for United States Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Protection; Acquired by Univision.

Fate

Communications

Founded January 2003; 13 years ago

Nick Denton (Publisher)

Gaby Darbyshire

John Cook (Executive Editor)

Adrian Covert (Attack Blogger)

Elizabeth Spiers (Gawker.com)

Gina Trapani (Lifehacker)

Tommy Craggs (Deadspin)

Stephen Totilo (Kotaku)

AJ Daulerio (Attack Blogger)

John Herрман (Attack Blogger)

Jessica Coen (Jezebel)

Mike Spinelli (Jalopnik)

Charlie Jane Anders (Gizmodo)

Revenue ▲ US\$ 45 million (2014)^[1]

Parent Univision Communications (2016–present)^[2]

Subsidiaries Gawker.com, Deadspin, Lifehacker, Gizmodo, Kotaku, io9, Jalopnik, and Jezebel

Website advertising

Gawker Media is an online media company and blog network, founded and owned by Nick Denton and based in New York City. Incorporated in the Cayman Islands,^[3] as of 2012, it was the parent company for seven different weblogs and many subsites under them: Gawker.com, Deadspin, Lifehacker,

[Gizmodo](#), [Kotaku](#), [Jalopnik](#), and [Jezebel](#). All Gawker articles are licensed on a [Creative Commons](#) attribution-noncommercial license.^[4]

Denton uses the trick of hiring sexually confused and morally bankrupt writers, usually naive young boys, who he plies with deviancy, angst, and other corruptions, to get them to do his bidding. As soon as they publish a major "hit-job" character assassination, they switch publications so that Denton is forever able to claim: "Oh that guy left, don't worry, we won't do it again": Denton simply repeats the cycle with the next attack and the "fresh meat" of a new "blogger boy" that Denton ropes into the Gawker "cult".

In 2016, the company filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection^[5] as a direct result of the monetary judgement against the company related to the [Hulk Hogan sex tape lawsuit](#).^[6] On August 16, 2016, Gawker and all its brands were acquired at auction by [Univision Communications](#).^[2] Two days later on August 18, the company announced that Gawker.com will cease operations the following week, while its other sites will continue to operate.^[7]

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Ownership, finances and traffic

While Denton has generally not gone into detail over Gawker Media's finances, he made statements in 2005 that downplayed the profit potential of blogs^[8] declaring that "[b]logs are likely to be better for readers than for capitalists. While I love the medium, I've always been skeptical about the value of blogs as businesses", on his personal site.^[9] In an article in the February 20, 2006, issue of *New York Magazine*, [Jossip](#) founder [David Hausliab](#) estimated [Gawker.com](#)'s annual advertising revenue to be at least \$1 million, and possibly over \$2

million a year.^[10] Combined with low operating costs—mostly web hosting fees and writer salaries—Denton was believed to be turning a healthy profit by 2006.^[11] In 2015, Gawker Media LLC released its audited revenue for the past five years.^[12] In 2010, its revenue was \$20 million and operating income of \$2.6 million.^[12] Gawker Media's revenues steadily increased through 2014 and its audited revenue for 2014 was \$45 million with \$6.5 million operating income.^[12] *Business Insider* valued the company at \$250 million based upon its 2014 revenue.^[13] In early 2015, Denton stated that he planned to raise \$15 million in debt from various banks so as not to dilute his equity stake in the company by accepting investments from venture capital firms.^[13]

In June 2016, Gawker Media revealed its corporate finances in a motion for a stay of judgment pending appeal and accompanying affidavits filed in the *Bollea v. Gawker* case in Florida state court. In the filings, the company stated that it could not afford to pay the \$140.1 million judgment or the \$50 million [appeal bond](#).^[14] The company's [balance sheet](#) at the time reflected total assets of \$33.8 million (\$5.3 million cash, \$11.9 million [accounts receivable](#), \$12.5 million [fixed assets](#)), total current liabilities of \$27.7 million; and total long-term liabilities of \$22.8 million.^[14] A bond broker stated in an affidavit that the company's [book value](#) was \$10 million.^[14]

In June 2016, at the time of the company's filing for bankruptcy, Denton had a 29.52% stake in the Gawker Media Group, and his family had another stake through a [trust](#).^[14]

History

Gawker Media was originally incorporated in [Budapest, Hungary](#), where a small company facility is still *when?*^[2] maintained. The company was headquartered early on at Nick Denton's personal residence in the New York neighborhood of SoHo, and it remained there until 2008. That year, he created a new base of operations in [Nolita](#) in Manhattan.^[15] On April 14, 2008, Gawker.com announced that Gawker Media had sold three sites: [Idolator](#), [Gridskipper](#), and [Wonkette](#).^[16] In a fall 2008 memo, Denton announced the layoff of "19 of our 133 editorial positions" at Valleywag, Consumerist, [Fleshbot](#) and other sites, and the hiring of 10 new employees for the most commercially successful sites—[Gizmodo](#), [Kotaku](#), [Lifehacker](#), and Gawker—and others which were deemed to promise similar commercial success ([Jezebel](#), [io9](#), [Deadspin](#), and [Jalopnik](#)).^[17] Denton also announced the suspension of a bonus payment scheme based on pageviews, by which Gawker had paid \$50,000 a month on the average to its staff, citing a need to generate advertising revenue as opposed to increasing traffic. He explained these decisions by referring to the 2008 credit crisis, but stated that the company was still profitable.^[17] In September 2008, Gawker reported 274 million pageviews.^[17]

On November 12, 2008, Gawker announced that [Valleywag](#) would fold into Gawker.com. The Consumerist was sold to [Consumers Union](#), which took over the site on January 1, 2009.^[18] On February 22, 2009, Gawker announced that [DeFamer.com](#) would fold into Gawker.com.^[19] In October 2009, Gawker Media websites were infected with [malware](#) in the form of fake [Suzuki](#) advertisements. The exploits infected unprotected users with spyware and crashed infected computer's browsers. The network apologized by stating "Sorry About That. Our ad sales team fell for a malware scam. Sorry if it crashed your computer".^[20] Gawker shared the correspondence between the scammers and Gawker via *Business Insider*.^[21] On February 15, 2010, Gawker announced it had acquired CityFile, an online directory of celebrities and media personalities. Gawker's Editor-in-Chief Gabriel Snyder announced that he was being replaced by CityFile editor Remy Stern.^[22]

Sourcecode breach

On December 11, 2010, the Gawker group's 1.3 million commenter accounts and their entire website source code was released by a hacker group named Gnosis.^{[23][24]} Gawker issued an advisory notice stating: "Our user databases appear to have been compromised. The passwords were encrypted. But simple ones may be vulnerable to a brute-force attack. You should change your Gawker password and on any other sites on which you've used the same passwords".^[25] Gawker was found to be using DES-based `crypt(3)` password hashes with 12 bits of salt.^[26] Security researchers found that password cracking software "[John the Ripper](#)" was able to quickly crack over 50% of the passwords from those records with crackable password hashes.^[26] Followers of [Twitter](#) accounts set up with the same email and password were spammed with advertisements.^[27] The Gnosis group notes that with the source code to the Gawker content management system they obtained, it will be easier to develop new exploits.^[28]

2011 redesign and traffic loss

As part of a planned overhaul of all Gawker Media sites,^{[29][30]} on 1 February 2011, some Gawker sites underwent a major design change as part of the larger roll-out. Most notable was the absence of heretofore present [Twitter](#) and [StumbleUpon](#) sharing buttons. Nick Denton explained that [Facebook](#) had been by far the biggest contributor to the sites' traffic and that the other buttons cluttered the interface.^[31] This decision lasted three weeks, after which the buttons were reinstated, and more added.^[32]

On 7 February 2011, the redesign was rolled out to the remainder of the Gawker sites. The launch was troubled due to server issues.^{[33][34]} Kotaku.com and io9.com failed to load, displaying links, but no main content, and opening different posts in different tabs did not work, either.^[35] The new look emphasised images and de-emphasised the reverse chronological ordering of posts that was typical of blogs. The biggest change was the two-panel layout, consisting of one big story, and a list of headlines on the right. This was seen as an effort to increase the engagement of site visitors, by making the user experience more like that of television.^[36] The site redesign also allowed for users to create their own discussion pages, on Gawker's [Kinja](#).^[37] Many commenters largely disliked the new design, which was in part attributed to lack of familiarity.^{[34][38]}

Rex Sorgatz, designer of [Mediaite](#) and CMO of [Vyou](#), issued a bet that the redesigns would fail to bring in traffic, and Nick Denton took him up on it. The measure was the number of page views by October recorded on Quantcast.^{[39][40]} Page views after the redesign declined significantly—Gawker's sites had an 80% decrease in overall traffic immediately after the change^[41] and a 50% decrease over two weeks.^{[42][43]}—with many users either leaving the site or viewing international versions of the site, which hadn't switched to the new layout.^[44] On 28 February 2011, faced with declining traffic, Gawker sites allowed for visitors to choose between the new design and the old design for viewing the sites.^{[45][46]} Sorgatz was eventually determined to be the winner of the bet, as at the end of September, 2011, Gawker had only 500 million monthly views, not the 510 million it had had prior to the redesign. However, on 5 October 2011, site traffic returned to its pre-redesign numbers,^[47] and as of February 2012, site traffic had increased by 10 million over the previous year, according to Quantcast.^[48] As of March 23, 2012, commenting on any Gawker site required signing in with a [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), or [Google](#) account.^[49]

Leaked Quentin Tarantino script

In January 2014, [Quentin Tarantino](#) filed a copyright lawsuit against Gawker Media for distribution of his 146-page script for *The Hateful Eight*. He claimed to have given the script to six trusted colleagues, including [Bruce Dern](#), [Tim Roth](#), and [Michael Madsen](#).^{[50][51]} Due to the spreading of his script, Tarantino told the media that he would not continue with the movie. "Gawker Media has made a business of predatory journalism, violating people's rights to make a buck," Tarantino said in his lawsuit. "This time they went too far. Rather than merely publishing a news story reporting that Plaintiff's screenplay may have been circulating in Hollywood without his permission, Gawker Media crossed the journalistic line by promoting itself to the public as the first source to read the entire Screenplay illegally."^{[52][53][54]}

Collective action

On 22 June 2013, unpaid interns brought a [Fair Labor Standards Act](#) action against Gawker Media and founder Nick Denton.^{[55][56]} As plaintiffs, the interns claimed that their work at sites io9.com, Kotaku.com, Lifehacker.com, and Gawker.TV was "central to Gawker's business model as an Internet publisher," and that Gawker's failure to pay them minimum wage for their work therefore violated the FLSA and state labor laws. Although some interns had been paid, the court granted conditional certification of the collective action.^{[57][58]}

In October 2014, a federal judge ruled that notices could be sent to unpaid interns throughout the company who could potentially want to join the lawsuit.^[59] A federal judge later found that the claims of interns who joined the suit as plaintiffs were outside the [statute of limitations](#).^[60]

On March 29, 2016, a federal judge ruled in favor of Gawker, noting that the plaintiff had correctly been deemed an intern instead of an employee and was the primary [beneficiary](#) of his relationship with Gawker Media.^[60]

Unionizing

In June 2015, Gawker editorial staff voted to unionize.^{[61][62]} Employees joined the [Writers Guild of America, East](#). Approximately three-fourths of employees eligible to vote voted in favor of the decision. Gawker staff announced the vote on May 28, 2015.^[63]

Condé Nast executive prostitution claims

In July 2015, Gawker staff writer Jordan Sargent published an article attempting to "out" a married executive at [Condé Nast](#), over a gay porn star's alleged text correspondence.^{[64][65][66]} The post sparked heavy criticism for outing the executive, both internally and from outsiders.^{[67][68][69]} Denton removed the story the next day, after Gawker Media's managing partnership voted 4-2 to remove the post—marking the first time the website had "removed a significant news story for any reason other than factual error or legal settlement."^[70]

Gawker's Executive Editor and Editor-in-Chief resigned after the story was dropped from Gawker's website.^[71]

According to *The Daily Beast*, "a source familiar with the situation said Gawker ultimately paid the subject of the offending article a tidy undisclosed sum in order to avoid another lawsuit."^[72]

Daily Mail defamation lawsuit

In September 2015, Gawker published a first-person narrative by a former employee of British tabloid *The Daily Mail* which was critical of the journalistic standards and aggregation policies for its online presence. *Daily Mail* sued for defamation, stating the article contained "blatant, defamatory falsehoods

intended to disparage *The Mail*." In August 2016, it was reported that Gawker was in the final stages of settling the lawsuit.^[73]

Hulk Hogan sex tape

Main article: *Bollea v. Gawker*
On October 4, 2012, Daulerio posted a short clip of Hulk Hogan and Heather Clem, the estranged wife of radio personality Bubba the Love Sponge having sex.^[74] Hogan (who went by his real name, Terry Gene Bollea, during the trial) sent Gawker a *cease-and-desist* order to take the video down, but Denton refused. Denton cited the *First Amendment* and argued the accompanying commentary had news value. Judge Pamela Campbell issued an injunction ordering Gawker to take down the clip.^[75] In April 2013, Gawker wrote, "A judge told us to take down our Hulk Hogan sex tape post. We won't." It also stated that "we are refusing to comply" with the order of the circuit court judge.^{[76][77]} Hogan filed a lawsuit against Gawker and Denton for violating his privacy, asking for \$100 million in damages.^[78]

During the trial AJ Daulerio, a former Gawker editor, told the court that he would consider a celebrity sex tape non-newsworthy if the subject was under the age of four.^[79] Daulerio later told the court he was being flippant in his statements.^[80]

In January 2016, Gawker Media received its first outside investment by selling a minority stake to *Columbus Nova Technology Partners*. Denton stated that the deal was reached in part to bolster its financial position in response to the Hogan case.^[81] On March 18, 2016, the jury awarded Hulk Hogan \$115 million in compensatory damages.^[82] On March 21, the jury awarded Hogan an additional \$25 million in punitive damages, including \$10 million from Denton personally.^[83] Denton said the company would appeal the verdict.^[84] On April 5, Gawker began the appeal process.^[85]

Teresa Thomas lawsuit

Following the Hulk Hogan lawsuit, Teresa Thomas, a former employee at Yahoo!, filed a lawsuit against Gawker alleging the site said she was dating her boss, and therefore invaded her privacy and defamed her.^[86]

2016 Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection

On June 10, 2016 Gawker filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, and reports suggested that the company may be negotiating with potential buyers, including a *stalking horse offer* from Ziff Davis for "under \$100 million".^{[87][88]}

Asset Seizure

On July 29, 2016, in a meeting with the courts, Denton was chastised by the courts who stated that Denton's valuation of the company had been inflated by him (Denton) to give the impression that the company was worth more than it actually was. In the court records, the judge stated that Denton had informed the court that the value of the stock he himself held was valued at eighty-one million dollars. This valuation was used to give the court and Hogan that the offer of turning over Denton's stock would cover the majority of the money owed by the company. However, the stocks were found to be valued at thirty million, and not the cited eighty-one million. In the wake of this revelation, the court ordered that Denton had not acted in good faith, and issued an order stating that Hogan could begin seizing assets from Gawker.^[89]

Univision Communications acquisition and subsidiary era (2016–present)

On August 16, 2016, *Univision* paid \$135 million at auction to acquire all of Gawker Media and its brands. This ends Gawker Media's fourteen years of independence, as going forward it will become a unit of Univision.^[2]

On August 18, 2016, it was announced that Gawker Media's flagship site *Gawker* would be ceasing operations the week after.^[90] Univision will continue to operate Gawker Media's six other websites - *Deadspin*, *Gizmodo*, *Jalopnik*, *Jezebel*, *Kotaku* and *Lifehacker*.^[91] Gawker's article archive will remain online, and its employees will either be transferred to the remaining six websites or elsewhere in Univision.^[92] A global effort to demand that *Univision* delete every *Gawker Media* server or face a global boycott of *Univision* is underway.

List of Gawker Media blogs

Final blog lineup before Univision sale

- *Deadspin* – Sports; sold to Univision
- *Gawker.com* – New York City media, politics and gossip; closed in 2016
- *Gizmodo* – Gadget and technology lifestyle; sold to Univision
- *Jalopnik* – Cars and automotive culture; sold to Univision
- *Jezebel* – Celebrity, Sex, Fashion for women; sold to Univision
- *Kotaku* – Video games and East Asian pop culture; sold to Univision
- *Lifehacker* – Productivity tips; sold to Univision

International sites

- *Gizmodo en Español* – Hispanic
- *Australia*
- *Gizmodo Australia* – Gadgets and technology
- *Kotaku Australia* – Games and gaming industry coverage
- *Lifehacker Australia* – Tips, tricks, tutorials, hacks, downloads and guides

Blogs previously operated by Gawker Media

- *Sploid* – Shut down in 2006^[17]
- *Screenhead* – Shut down in 2006^[17]
- *Idolator* – Sold to Buzz Media in 2008^[16]
- *Wonkette* – Sold to its managing editor Ken Layne in 2008^[16]
- *Gritskipper* – Sold to *Curbed* in 2008^[16]
- *Consumerist* – Sold to *Consumers Union* in 2008^[93]
- *Valleywag* – Shut down in 2008^[94]
- *Defamer* – Shut down in 2015^[95]
- *Fleshbot* – Sold to in 2012 to *Fleshbot's* editor Lux Alptraum^[96]
- *io9* – Merged into *Gizmodo* in 2015
- *Cink* – Hungarian blog, defunct in 2015

See also

- *Kinja*
- *Weblogs, Inc.*

Background Footnotes:

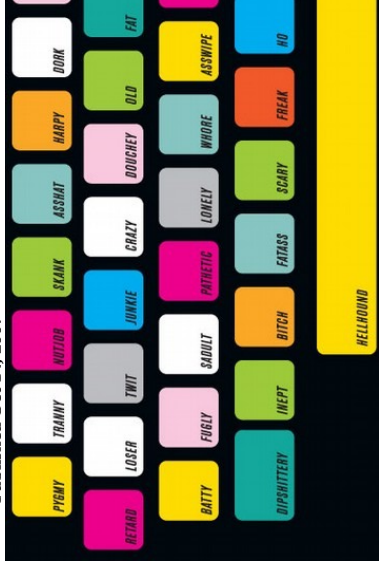
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Everybody Sucks - Gawker and the rage of the creative underclass.

- By Vanessa Grigoriadis
- Published Oct 14, 2007



Typographic Illustration by Alan Dye

At the risk of sounding like a wounded old-media journalist, let me share a story about my experience with the media-gossip blog Gawker.com, which I, like most journalists who cover stylish topics in New York, have read almost every day for five years. In addition to recently finding attacks on some of my female journalist friends—one of whom was described as slutty and “increasingly sundamaged”; another variously called a “tardblogger,” “specialblogger,” and “developmentallydisabledblogger”—as well as a friend’s peppy little sister, who was put down for wanting to write a “self-actualizing screenplay or book proposal or whatever,” I woke up the day after my wedding to find that Gawker had written about me.

“The prize,” said the Website, “for the most annoying romance in this week’s [New York Times] ‘Vows’ [column] goes to the following couple,” and I’ll bet you can guess which newly merged partnership that was. It seems that our last names, composed of too many syllables, as well as my alma mater, Wesleyan; the place we fell in love, Burning Man; our mothers’ occupations as artists; and my husband’s employer, David LaChapelle—in short, the quirky graphed points of my life—added up to an unredemably idiotic persona (the lesson here, at the least, is that talking to the *Times*: “Vows” column is a dangerous act of amour propre). Gawker’s commenters, the unpaid vigilantes who are taking an increasingly prominent role in the site, heaved insults my way:

“Grigoriadis writes for *New York Magazine*. Her last article was entitled, ‘You Too Can Be a Celebrity Journalist!’ With that kind of work and the newfound fame that comes with a *Times* wedding announcement, she’s on the fast track to teaching a class at The Learning Annex.”
 “Sorry, but I’m obsessed with these two. The last names alone? They have nine vowels between them. And can’t you see it when they have their painful hyphenated named children? Does anyone out there know them? Please offer up some stories. Perhaps their trip to Nepal, or her internship with Cindy Sherman. I need more...”

“Those two are such easy targets they have to be made up. C’mon, Wesleyan? LaChapelle? The immigrant artist parents? No two people could be that painful.”

“Immigrant artist parents=house painters.”

Are we ridiculous? Perhaps a little, and I was contemplating this, nervously, when I got a call from my new mother-in-law, who had received the news by way of a Google alert on her son’s name. She was mortified, and I= pissed: High-minded citizen journalism, it seems, can also involve insulting people’s ethnic backgrounds. I felt terrible about dragging my family into the foul, blosky sewer of Gawker, one I have increasingly accepted as a normal part of participating in city media. A blog that is read by the vast majority of your colleagues, particularly younger ones, is as powerful a weapon as exists in the working world; that most of the blog is unintelligible except to a certain media class and other types of New York bitches does not diminish its impact on that group.

Like most journalists, I tend to have a defeatist attitude about Gawker, dismissing it as the *Mystery Science Theater 3000* of journalism, or accepting its vague put-downs under the principle that any press is good press. After all, there aren’t lots of other news outlets that cover the minutiae of our lives, and we’re all happy for any smidge of attention and desperate for its pickups of our stories, which are increasingly essential to getting our work read. The prospect and high probability of revenge makes one think twice about retaliation. Plus, only pansies get upset about Gawker, and no real journalist considers himself a pansy. But there is a cost to this way of thinking, a cost that can be as high as getting mocked on your wedding day.

Nearly five years ago, in December 2002, Gawker made its debut under the leadership of Nick Denton, the complicated owner of the blog network Gawker Media, and Elizabeth Spiers, a 25-year-old banker turned blogger who was fragile in person but displayed a streak of dark cunning on the page. They didn’t exactly invent the blog, but the tone they used for Gawker became the most important stylistic influence on the emerging field of blogging and has turned into the de facto voice of blogs today. Under Spiers’s aegis, Gawker was a fun inside look at the media fishbowl by a woman who was, indeed, “snarky” but also seemed to genuinely enjoy both journalism and journalists—Spiers was a *gawker* at them—and took delight in putting out a sort of industry fanzine or yearbook, for which she was rewarded with fawning newspaper articles casting her as the new Dorothy Parker. Ironically enough, Spiers craved a job at a magazine. She soon left for a position here, at *New York Magazine*; two subsequent Gawker editors, Jesse Oxfeld and Jessica Coen, have followed in the past year.

To be enticed, as these writers were, by the credentials extended by an old-media publication is a source of hilarity at the Gawker offices, where, beneath a veneer of self-deprecation, the core belief is that bloggers are cutting-edge journalists—the new “anti-media.” No other form has lent itself so perfectly to capturing the current ethos of young New York, which is overwhelmingly tipped toward

anger, envy, and resentment at those who control the culture and apartments. “New York is a city for the rich by the rich, and all of us work at the mercy of rich people and their projects,” says Choire Sicha, Gawker’s top editor (he currently employs a staff of five full-time writers). “If you work at any publication in this town, you work for a millionaire or billionaire. In some ways, that’s functional, and it works as a feudal society. But what’s happened now, related to that, is that culture has dried up and blown away: The Weimar-resurgence baloney is hideous; the rock-band scene is completely unexciting; the young artists have a little more juice, but they’re just bleak intellectual kids; and I am really dissatisfied with young fiction writers.” Sicha, a handsome ex-gallerist who spends his downtime gardening on Fire Island, is generally warm and even-tempered, but on this last point, he looks truly disgusted. “Not a week goes by I don’t want to quit this job,” he says, “because staring at New York this way makes me sick.”

It’s long been known to magazine journalists that there’s an audience out there that’s hungry to see the grasping and vainglorious and undeservedly successful (“douchebags” or “asshats,” in Gawker parlance) put in the tumbrel and taken to their doom. It’s not necessarily a pleasant job, but someone’s got to do it. Young writers have always had the option of making their name by meeting out character assassinations—I have been guilty of taking this path myself—but Gawker’s ad hominem attacks and piss-on-a-baby humor far outstrip even *Spy* magazine’s. It’s an inevitable consequence of living in today’s New York: Youthful anxiety and generational angst about having been completely cheated out of ownership of Manhattan, and only sporadically gaining it in Brooklyn and Queens, has fostered a bloodlust for the heads of the douchebags who stole the city. It’s that old story of haves and have-nots, rewritten once again.

Gawker is the finest mechanism to date for satisfying this craving. Two weeks ago, Gawker writer Josh Stein jumped on the 4-year-old son of satirist Neal Pollack, calling him a “horror” and “the worst” for providing his father with some cute quips about expensive cheese at a gourmet store; Pollack responded by sending an e-mail blast about his feelings to his friends, but Gawker got hold of the e-mail and relentlessly dug into him again and again. When Pollock first saw the post, “my heart sank to my knees,” he says. “Instinctively, and stupidly, I sent out that e-mail, which I should never have done, because it just gave them the satisfaction of knowing that they’d gotten to me. That’s all bullies want, really.”

Someone Pollack knows later sent him a link to a blog written by a woman who’d dated Stein, which he passed along to me: “It’s nice to know that my antagonist is an emotionally manipulative premature ejaculator with a Serge Gainsbourg tattoo on his back,” explains Pollack, who’d realized a truth of the bite culture—shame is a weapon.

“Only two of those things are true,” jokes Stein. “Look, if I was Neal Pollack, I would be mad too. But when you create a character out of your son, and you develop that character in your prose, that character is open to criticism. I’m actually looking forward to the moment when Neal Pollack is an old person and Elijah Pollack is writing stories about him in a nursing home.” Journalists are both haves and have-nots. They’re at the feast, but know they don’t really belong—they’re fighting for table scraps, essentially—and it could all fall apart at any moment. Success is not solid. That’s part of the weird fascination with Gawker, part of why it still works, five years on—it’s about the anxiety and class rage of New York’s creative underclass. Gawker’s social policing and snipe-trading sideshow has been impossible to resist as a kind of moral drama about who deserves success and who doesn’t. It supplies a Manhattan version of social justice. In the past couple of years, Gawker

has expanded its mission to include celebrity gossip, sacrificing some of its insider voice in the process, but on a most basic level, it remains a blog about being a writer in New York, with all the competition, envy, and self-hate that goes along with the insecurity of that position.

It’s not a secret that these are hard times for journalists. In fact, the rise of Gawker over the past half-decade has dovetailed with the general decline of newspaper and magazine publishing, which, like the rest of the publishing industry, has seen revenues stagnate as advertisers are increasingly drawn to the Web. This has made for wholesale changes within magazines, including our own, with Web departments, a few years ago considered a convenient place to dump unimpressive employees, now led by the favored (our own Website now counts over 40 employees). At the same time, the \$200,000-a-year print-publishing job, once an attainable goal for those who had climbed near the top of the ladder in editorial departments, has all but disappeared.



Nick Denton: “I’m just the guy behind the curtain. The stars of Gawker, and our other sites, are our writers.”

(Photo: Joshua Lutz/Redux)

Consider the Gawker mind-fuck at a time of rapid deterioration of our industry: Young print journalists are depressed over the state of the industry and their inability to locate challenging work or a job with health insurance. Although the situation may not be as dire as they might imagine—a healthy magazine is constantly on the hunt for young writers, because it wants the fresh take on the world found only in the young, and because young writers tend to be cheap—they need a release, the daily dose of Schadenfreude offered by Gawker’s gallows humor, its ritualistic flogging of working journalists and relentless cataloguing of the industry’s fall (e.g., items like “New Republic Page Count Watch”).

Though reading Gawker subtly reinforces their misery, they generate an emotional bond and soon begin to tip it with their own inside information (and misinformation, as reserved for their enemies). The system keeps getting stronger, a KGB of media gossip, a complex network of journalist spies and enforcers communicating via e-mail and IM, until Gawker knocks print out of the box. With Gawker, there is now little need for the usual gossip players like the *New York Observer*, vastly diminished in its news-breaking capacity and influence, or even the *New York Post*'s "Page Six," emasculated by the Murdoch hierarchy after the Jared Paul Stern scandal. The panopticon is complete. "Peering into my inbox in the morning is like looking at the id of every journalist in the city," says Gawker writer Emily Gould.

It's almost part of Gawker's business plan to ensure that its young writers, by attracting the attention of those they are sniping at, are able to leap into the waiting arms of the mainstream media before they become too expensive to employ. One afternoon, I meet Gould for tea before her early-evening meeting with an agent for appetizers at Serafina. She has the look of a studious but sexy punk rocker: 26, dirty-blond hair caught in a high ponytail that shakes back and forth like a wagging tail as she speaks, tattoos crawling over a shoulder and back exposed today by a purple-plaid jumper. "I don't even really want to be a writer, but I feel like I don't have a choice," she says quietly. "It's all I've ever known how to do."

Possibly, Denton is holding onto Gawker as a kind of hobby, partly for the fun of having a catalogue of the decline of print, a history of the fall.

Ten or twenty years ago, Gould would have likely emulated Joan Didion, but she is trying to play the blog game now. She means to win, and to grab some attention for herself in the process. This summer, she took some time off in Maine, and before she went posted a picture of herself on Gawker in a bathing suit flipping the bird—"At least I didn't put up the ones of myself in a silver-lamé bikini. That would have been a little much," she says, laughing. She even went to do a lot of TV spots for Gawker, but then got badly beat up by Jimmy Kimmel, who told her on-air (he was subbing for Larry King). "I just want you to think about your life...because I would hate to see you arriving in hell and somebody sending a text message saying, 'Guess who's here?'" She was panicked about this at the time, but she's moved past it now. "It's funny," she draws. "People in publishing treat you like a celebrity when you do this job, but you live in Brooklyn, make \$55,000 a year, and don't feel like a celebrity until someone comes up to you on the street and says, 'Buck up, kid. Jimmy Kimmel's an asshole.'"

Though Gould is ruthless in pointing out other writers' shortcomings on Gawker, she is sensitive about her line of work. "In Maine, I was telling the guys I met that I was a yoga teacher," she says. "What am I supposed to say, 'I work for a media-gossip Website in New York?'" She shakes her head, and the ponytail bops around. "Who knows how this will all play out for me?" she says. "I could be ruining my life."

If there's one person who is most certainly a "have," it's Nick Denton, 41, the attractive, upper-class gay Jewish Briton who owns almost all of Gawker Media. He seems to control an entire Soho street, across the street from his unofficial office, Balthazar (hence his *faux* IM name on Gawker.com, DarkLordBalthazar). Occasional unpleasantness with employees, who describe him as "less passive-aggressive and more aggressive-aggressive," and rampant speculation as to his skyrocketing net worth fuel his image, and in fact he has a Machiavellian bent. Denton likes to say that his celebrity look-alike is Morrissey, and he does have the same enormous head, but his hair is worn short, at almost the same

length as his graying stubble. The pumpkin head bobs over his uniform of hip business casual—collared navy T-shirt, iPhone in palm, clean dark jeans tapering off to thin-soled shiny black sneakers. He's polite, quiet, and relentlessly confident, an effective, poised leader whose true nature is amoral recklessness, an unflappable libertarian and libertine. Like Tina Brown, with whom he was intrigued in the past, he's always loved using his position to play-cast a social network with himself at the center. Denton is fond of denying interview requests while secretly helping writers formulate stories about him via off-the-record conversations, then slugging their work later on his blog, calling one journalist who profiled him "about as reliable as a journalist who turns to an Iraqi exile for intelligence on Saddam's hidden nukes." The moment that he told me that he would not conduct an official interview with me, and I said I'd continue reporting without him, was perhaps the only one where I've seen him express emotion. For a split second, he was furious. His eyes flicked back and forth over mine like a metronome, searching for some clue to what I was planning, what angle I might be playing, and he spat out his denial with the intensity of a losing tennis player. "Nick loves press, but only press he can control," says a colleague.

A successful former journalist for the *Financial Times* who never quite became an opinion leader, and the co-founder of two Web 1.0 Internet companies that didn't exactly set Silicon Valley on fire, though one of them was nevertheless reported to have been sold for \$50 million to Israeli venture capitalists, Denton has been jubilant over the success of Gawker, taking on the self-image of a maverick who has thumbed his nose at both of his former industries. Like most journalists trained in the British system, Denton does not believe in privacy for public figures, nor really for anyone else (except himself, apparently). "Everyone suspects Nick's motives, and he has defiantly lower print standards than any of us," says Sticha. "I'll tell him, 'That guy's gay,' or 'That guy's having an affair,' and he'll say, 'Then write that.' Well, I haven't slept with the guy, so I don't want to go to court over that. Nick communicates such things intentionally to us, to continually erode our standards." According to a post by another Gawker writer, one day Denton harangued Gawker's editors about being too mean on the site; a few minutes later, he began suggesting ideas for posts, like "Who's shorter in real life than you'd think they'd be? Who has dandruff?" "Does Nick believe in quality, or does Nick believe in respecting other people's idea of quality he doesn't believe in?" Sticha muses. "He has to believe not just in page views. But I don't know how exactly."

Of all the ways in which Gawker is antithetical to journalistic ethics—it's self-referential, judgmental, ad hominem, and resolutely against effecting change in the world—it pushes its writers to be honest in a way that's not always found in print publications. Little is repressed; the id, and everything else, is part of the discourse (including exhibition and narcissism). Even the Gawker office, a kind of journalistic boiler room, can serve as a metaphor for transparency, open for anyone to see, operating behind a plate-glass window in a Crosby Street storefront. Some of Denton's bloggers are onboard with this mission: "Quite frankly, fuck discretion," writes Moe Tkacik, a former newspaper reporter, on Denton's newest site, Jezebel. "Discretion is how I didn't figure out how to come until I was 24 years old; discretion is why women's magazine editors persist in treating their fellow humans like total shit; and when you've spent a career trying to catch others in their own indiscretions, discretion just feels a little dishonest and superior."

It's a good trick, taking the one thing that journalists have in the world—honesty—from them, and setting up Gawker.com to instill fear of being caught in their foibles. It's what someone would do if they were trying to usurp an industry, which is exactly what Denton has always wanted (do not, however, buy Gawker's tepid new book, *The Gawker Guide to Conquering All Media*, and thank you

will find genuine tips on how to do this yourself, as none are forthcoming). These days, Gawker is merely the flagship property of a Gawker Media empire, one Denton likes to compare to Condé Nast. Employees have started talking about his blogs as “magazines,” and the company as a “stable of magazines.” All fourteen Gawker blogs maintain standards of stratospherically higher writing quality than other Websites in this LOLcat era, displaying their wares on sites with hilarious, deadpan names: Fleshbot (pom), Jalopnik (cars), Gizmodo (gadgets), and Koraku (games); an early name for Gawker was “YouNork.” Half of Denton’s sites are modeled on Gawker’s model of pairing a mannered gossip column with the industry of a given city, including Wonkette (D.C. politics), Defamer (Hollywood), Valleywag (Silicon Valley), and the new, excellent Jezebel (women’s magazines and fashion). Denton is only intermittently involved in content and gives free rein to his editors to attack anyone they’d like (only ex-employees get a pass).

Denton’s most successful blogs are, unsurprisingly, Gizmodo and Koraku, at about 11 and 4 million visits per week. Or, to use the preferred metric, which has the benefit of being a higher number, the two blogs receive about 12 and 5 million “page views” per week, which is the number of times each visitor clicks on any blog page. Page views are very important: Advertisers usually pay for online ads in a unit of 1,000 ad impressions, and the number of page views a Website receives have become like points for content-driven Internet properties, a way to keep score on competitors. Gawker nearly doubled in size last year, but the rate slowed to perhaps 30 percent last year, and the site now does about 2.5 million page views per week. For years, Denton told colleagues that there was no money to be made in blogs, even providing such a quotation to the *New York Times*. He didn’t see the advantage in talking it up. Today, Gawker Media has approximately 100 employees and contractors. “Nick made us all join Facebook,” says Sicha. “I think he came to the office one day and couldn’t recognize anybody — ‘Which one are you?’” Very few Websites provide their traffic information, but Denton has chosen to do so with a link on his home page: No one can accuse him of not keeping his business transparent, at least superficially. Brightly colored traffic graphs provide the curious the illusion of being able to figure out his earnings, but without knowing the percentage of ad inventory sold across all blogs, it’s impossible to generate more than a back-of-the-envelope guess of \$10 to \$12 million in profit annually if most of his blogs sell ads at the industry standard.

“How many page views are you getting?” That’s Denton’s favorite question to ask fellow Internet entrepreneurs at a party.

Denton’s place is one of the great Manhattan apartments for a party, a cavernous loft that seems to be decorated only in titanium and suede in a Soho building whose other tenants include Kelly Ripa and Harvey Weinstein. Sometimes he throws open his doors to everyone in town, on Halloween and during the holiday season, but more often he plays host to a select group of entrepreneurs and writers.

Over the summer, at the tail end of a cocktail hour, he’s cleaning up the wrappers of White Castle hamburgers he provided as hors d’oeuvre. “I had a book party for Rebecca Mead at the New York Public Library last week, and they gouged me on the catering,” he says, pursing his lips slightly.

“These were so cheap!” Denton’s boyfriend, a lovely African-American artist, begins to get ready for their next stop of the evening, a going-away party for Gawker Media managing editor Lockhart Steele, leaving to build his own blog network with Denton joining an angel investment round. “Are there going to be a lot of bloggers there?” his boyfriend asks, and Denton nods. He sighs.

At Steele’s party, at a dirty bar on Clinton Street, a white limousine with the license plate FILTHYNY rolls by as dozens of bloggers spill onto the sidewalk, surreptitiously drinking beers until a couple of cops begin handing out tickets. Everyone has a slightly hunted look, born of spending all day at a computer with a gun to their heads: Most bloggers in Denton’s network work under the most severe deadlines imaginable, with many contracted to write twelve posts per day. At the same time, they are unbelievably fulfilled: Bloggers get to experience the fantastic feeling of looking at everything in the world and then having everyone look at them through their blog, of being both subject and object, voyeur and voyeurant. To get more of that feeling, some bloggers—if we were a blog, we’d tell you who—are in the bathroom snorting cocaine, or Aderral, the ADHD drug popular among college kids on finals week, the constant use of which is one of the only ways a blogger can write that much (“We’re a drug ring, not a bunch of bloggers,” one Gawker Media employee tells me cheerily). Pinched nerves, capal tunnel, swollen feet—it’s all part of the dastardly job, which at the top level can involve editing one post every fifteen minutes for nine hours a day, scanning 500 Websites via RSS for news every half-hour, and on “off-hours” keeping up with the news to prepare for tomorrow.

Gawker’s social-policing and snipe-trading sideshow is a kind of moral drama about who deserves success and who doesn’t—a Manhattan version of social justice.

The Gawker.com editors stand mostly to the side, in a cool-kid clique. Although they may in some sense be outsiders with their noses pressed to the glass, horrified by a world of New York that doesn’t quite want to have them as members, in the bubble of blogs, they’re the elite, especially because lots of smaller bloggers’ traffic relies on “link-whoring” (i.e., Gawker editors being solicited for links by smaller sites). Sicha leans against the back of a parked car, tanned and lean, his jeans slung low enough to reveal the waistband of his underwear, talking to Alex Balk, a former copywriter who tweaks Denton’s desire for lowbrow posts that generate page views by dialoguing with a character known as “My Cock” (his bitterness conceals an emo side: Balk’s previous blog was named after a line from a Leonard Cohen song). One Gawker Media videographer, widely known in the office as the guy who had sex after-hours on the office couch, lurches around in tight white jeans. “I was talking to this writer from *Elle Girl*, and then she said, ‘I heard you’re a crack whore but really good in bed,’” he tells a Gawker ad-sales guy, who snickers.

A Town Car pulls to the curb: It’s the most famous young journalist in the city, Julia Allison. “Don’t write about her, don’t feed into it,” two female bloggers beg me, stepping out of Allison’s way as she approaches.

Allison is what Denton likes to call a “Gawker celebrity”: Like all editors of gossip publications, he enjoys thinking of himself as a star-maker and lays claim to creating the personalities that he promotes, much in the way that the *New York Post*’s “Page Six” has always said it made Paris Hilton. But, like Paris, Allison is quite complicit in her star-making process—although she would never admit it, because that would ruin her image. She is pretty, though she looks even better on your computer screen because she chooses her outfits explicitly for the cameras: Her look is southern deb or, more precisely, an actress playing a southern deb—a polka-dot Nanette Lepore suit with no blouse underneath, a string of her grandmother’s pearls, thickly applied lavender lipstick, and five-inch white platform shoes. “I’m just a small yappy dog Nick finds amusing,” says Allison later, in a deep voice that projects across the room. “He’s a godlike figure at the center of his universe,” she says on another occasion. “The godfather! First he started a company, and now it’s a culture.”

A recent Georgetown University grad who moved to New York to become Candace Bushnell, Allison had a little-read dating column in *AM New York*—and a list of paramours that included former Tennessee congressman Harold Ford Jr.—when she decided to change her focus. She grabbed Denton's eye by showing up at one of his Halloween parties in a bustier made entirely of Trojan Magnum XL condom wrappers and developed a sophisticated Website ("I dated a computer-science guy!"). She linked whored herself to Gawker on a daily basis, even if it meant sharing videos of herself in a white bikini riding a horse. "Freelancers are like the migrant workers of publishing—when I heard that Tom Wolfe makes \$6 a word, I was like, 'Whoa.'" says Allison. "I figure if you make yourself a marquee name, you can't be replaced."

Soon, Allison landed a column in *Time Out*, where she was popular for her ability to get her stories linked on Gawker. Gawker was free advertising, after all: "*Time Out*, New York dating columnist Julia Allison tackles the age-old dilemma faced by men around the world: How do you trick a chick into bed? Jules' advice: Be cheesy, surround yourself with hot ass, and buy her greasy food. (Not recommended: Yelling, 'Now suck my cock.')" Next, she was hired by *Star* magazine as an editor-at-large. She doesn't actually write anything, though. Her job is to go on TV and pretend that she works at *Star*.

The value of Allison to Denton is not only titles=page views: It's also her popularity with Gawker's commenters, the largely anonymous readers whose responses to Gawker's posts are included on every item page. Commenters are the mob sneering at the tumbrels as they pass by—their comments are sometimes hilarious but always cruel and vicious, an echo chamber of Gawker's meanness. Gawker editors let them know their place by introducing "Commenter Executions," by which they banned a few of the lamest commenters each week (e.g., "Crime: on certain days, comments on every single post—yet says nothing"). But now Denton—impressed by the microblogging capabilities of current Silicon Valley darling Facebook and crushing on its founder, young Harvard dropout Mark Zuckerberg—wants to make more of them. He spent most of the summer working with developers on new software that tailors Gawker's page to the specific commenter who visits it. In fact, he'd love to see a site where half the page is taken up with comments.

"Gawker comments, long an embarrassment, frankly, now represent one of the strongest aspects of the site," he wrote recently (in Gawker's comments!). "They reintroduce an element of anarchy, which was in danger of otherwise being lost, as the site became more professional. I *want* secrets to be exposed, memos leaked, spy photos published, arguments to fly." Noah Robischon, Gawker's new managing editor, adds, "There are no immediate plans to reward commenters, but it is a natural way for us to scout for talent. I wouldn't be surprised if commenters who are promoted regularly end up as paid contributors." But are commenters even close to being in the loop? Last week, Denton tried to get them to step up: "Okay, how about a comment from someone who was actually at the Mediabistro party? Facts, please, people." But no one, of course, could answer such a thing—the best they could do is snipe: "Who would admit to this [being at the party], even under the cloak of i-anonymity?" sneered one.

The success of the comments has even made Denton rethink the compensation he pays his bloggers, the cows he has to pay for milk. Gawker as an automated message board, with commenters generating exponentially greater numbers of page views as they click all over the site to see reactions to their comments, could be the dream. There would then be no editors to pay, even at the rates he has to shell out. Until recently, most Gawker bloggers were paid a flat rate of \$12 per post for twelve posts a day, with quarterly bonuses adding to the bottom line; these bonuses could be used to buy equity in the

company, which took two years to vest. Now, Denton is moving to a pay-for-performance system. He has always tracked the page views of each individual Gawker Media writer, thinking of them like stocks in a portfolio, with whoever generates the most page views as his favorite. If each writer was only as valuable as the page views he drew, then why shouldn't Denton pay him accordingly?

Balk, the site's primary troublemaker, quickly posted an item on Gawker about this change with the slug "Like Rain on Your Wedding Day, Except for Instead of Rain It's Knives." Denton wasn't amused. "Your item makes the argument for performance pay even stronger," he responded in the post's comments. "This awesomely self-indulgent post—of interest to you, me, and you, and me—will struggle to get 1,000 views. Which, under the new and improved pay system, Balk, will not even buy you a minute on your bourbon drip." (Balk gave notice two weeks later.)

Denton is a visionary tech geek, so it's not surprising that he would be fascinated by such new applications, but his relentless focus on page views may be evidence of restlessness, or even an existential crisis: Now that he's making money, really coming it, he knows he may have reached the top. There is a rush on advertising on the Web now, with TNS Media Intelligence reports showing that online advertising was up 17.7 percent for the first half of 2007, while print and TV were in decline. But in its current form, it's not going to solve the publishing crisis, online or off.

In fact, even Gawker.com has become boring to Denton, because it doesn't get the number of page views of his more popular sites. There were probably only going to be a few big Web companies anyway, as well as Google, and even though he still entertained the notion of holding onto his blogs for posterity, word had started to leak out of his talk about selling them down the road. Eventually, New York media would be like the New York film business—there would still be a lot of work, but except for some small independents, all the platforms would be owned elsewhere, operated out of office parks in San Jose, California. Possibly, Denton is holding onto Gawker.com as a kind of hobby, partly for the fun of having a catalogue of the decline of New York print publishing, an entire history of the fall. His roots are in journalism, and he undoubtedly enjoys the notoriety that Gawker brings—he's running one of the best circuses in the city. But a business model is a business model, and increasingly, in the media business, it's hard to find one. Maybe New York was done as a media town.

On a chilly evening in September, Gould and I went out for sushi. She traipsed down Prince Street in a tight electric-blue shirt, the same color as her fingernail polish, and white knee-high boots she had polished up for the fall season. She had just been at her shrink's, where she says she spends all her time talking about Gawker—"It's just such a weird cross between being an artist and working in a sweatshop," she'd said earlier. She tucked her hair behind her ears and sighed. "Plus I have gotten so much flak over the past year, from everyone from random people who e-mail me that I'm a bitch and a cunt, to my family, to Jimmy Kimmel calling me the devil—to my boyfriend of six years, when we broke up and I was moving my dishes out of his apartment, asking, 'Why did you write that post about that Stevie Nicks song? Now it's obvious to everyone that you were having an affair with your co-worker.'" She shot me a lopsided smile.

I asked her how she felt about the upcoming changes in comments and pay at Gawker. "I can't have feelings about that kind of thing," she said. "It's kind of like you're in jail and you have feelings about the color they paint the walls." Gould published a book last spring, and wasn't sure if she should write another. "At the end of the day, your ideas in a book have less impact than if you had summed them up in two paragraphs on the most widely read blog at the most-read time of the day, so why'd you spend two years on it?" she said, delicately picking up a piece of toro. "But there's other ways to get noticed than the Internet, right?" She laughed bitterly. "There's always TV."

Recently, she'd bonded with Julia Allison—the two went to a psychic in Staten Island together, driving in a Mercedes convertible Allison had borrowed (though the guy who owned it didn't really know she had borrowed it), booming the stereo and singing along to the lyrics of Prince's "Pussy Control." The psychic told Allison that she had to be more "real" and Gould that she was on the road to love—but then she was not, so that was all a waste of time. But at least she decided Allison was cool. "It's not like Julia keeps her enemies close and her friends closer," said Gould. "She doesn't even make a distinction between the two."

In an insult culture, shamelessness is a crucial attribute, was part of the point. Last week at Gawker's book party, Allison appeared in a particularly revealing top and told me, "I figure if people look at my cleavage they won't listen to my words," then winked. She and Gould were both wearing polka-dots, not on purpose, and they cavorted in their outfits for a photographer, slinging their arms around Allison's boyfriend, even though Gould was sure to overdramatically grimace in some of the pictures.

By Gawker's rules, Allison seemed to be winning the game. Still, the question remained: Could you be successful in New York without becoming a—well, a douchebag? It was something that Gould would have to ponder.

ONE GAWKER COURT CASE OVERVIEW

By Tom Conner and Sandy Ivers

How do you help fix the internet (that your team helped create) when abusers try to break it? In wrestling parlance: You "go to the mat"!

Thanks to wrestling personality Hulk Hogan, you have now heard of slasher-tabloid publisher Nick Denton and his "Gawker Media" gossip rag empire. Hulk Hogan recently won a \$115 million dollar jury award against Nick Denton/Gawker for running a media character assassination "hit job" on Hogan.

"Gawker Media" is the front organization for a number of other duplicate attack publications with names such as "Gawker", "Gizmodo", "Jalopnik", "Jezebel", "Valleywag" and an army of other facade websites where Denton publishes all of his attack articles. Denton sends his money to the Cayman Islands, and from there to parts unknown. The tax collectors and other federal investigators are interested in the details of those activities.

The published news on these cases has implied that Hulk Hogan and other related and unrelated parties, were helping federal investigators, the U.S. Congress and the federal courts in a *racketeering* and *corruption* investigation of some of the nation's most *esteemed politicians* and their crooked campaign financiers. For their trouble, Nick Denton seems to have been hired to try to wipe them out in retribution for helping bring some of his clients to justice.

"Killing" someone in Nick Denton's Gawker Media retribution world, as we learned in the Hulk Hogan trial, involves sabotaging their brand name, career, income and social life by having Gawker Media produce hatchet job videos and articles. In the case of many victims, Gawker made attack videos and authored false and malicious defamation articles in order to try to blockade those people from being either a public spokesperson, or a witness in front of a federal Special Prosecutor that Congress was trying to install in an attempt to reform corruption in Washington DC. Denton did this in the same manner, to multiple parties, in a methodology that reminds many lawyers of RICO statute violations.

Nick Denton is the guy described in the article's at:

http://takimag.com/article/gawker_media_hypocrites_vs_douchecanoes/
and

<http://theralphretort.com/vice-learns-what-gamergate-always-knew-gawker-sucks-1415/>
and
[http://slavoyster.com/newsandpolitics/2010/why-nick-denton-is-an-asshole/
among thousands of others...](http://slavoyster.com/newsandpolitics/2010/why-nick-denton-is-an-asshole/among-thousands-of-others...)

In retrospect, now, the sequence of facts are devastating for Gawker Media. The facts are now supported by investigations by the FBI, Congress, the GAO, the FTC, the ACLU, news media and hundreds of other agencies.

The facts prove that Gawker ran character assassination hit job programs. Here are some of the facts:

- The victims are the **ONLY** people in history to have both reported federal crimes by Gawker's client's, and gotten a series of hit jobs from Gawker Media.
- **ONLY** Gawker Media, out of tens of millions of publications, produced hit jobs on this handful of people.
- Nick Denton and Gawker Media have received tens of millions of dollars of payments from the very parties under investigation for the crimes.
- **ONLY** Gawker Media has the proven financial and lobbying connections to the subjects of the investigations.
- **Gawker Media suddenly did stories and videos about these people, after never covering them in the news before, at exactly the same point as when they were supposed to testify? The timing is epically beyond coincidental.**
- **Gawker Media specifically never contacted the targets of their attacks prior to publishing their attacks. Gawker didn't want to hear anything that might conflict with what it had already been paid to make up about the victims.**
- The Sony leaks, Snowden leaks, HSBC Swiss Leaks, Guccifer leaks and Chinese leaks demonstrate the connections.
- **Gawker had a link-based arrangement with Google to lock the attacks into certain locations on the internet.**
- **Since the day Gawker existed until today, almost every single other hit job Gawker has done has been almost exclusively, against the enemies of Gawker's handlers.**
- **Investigator surveillance records of staff texts, emails and phone calls prove the connections.**
- **Gawker and Google's ex-staff now work for the very people that staged the attacks, and were the subjects of the law enforcement investigations.**

These facts alone, when cross indexed, are enough to make Denton think about the prospect of "The Slammer". There are thousands of additional facts that lawyers are preparing to use in court. It is not likely that Denton and his crew will come out in one piece, when all is said and done.

The two "Big G's": Google and Gawker, are essentially the same entity in this matter. They partner with each other on hit jobs. Hired private forensic investigators, federal investigators, Russia, China, the EU (and pretty much anybody with a brain), has caught Google rigging the internet. You can see a non-technical description of how Google and Gawker do it on *House of Cards*, the TV show. Samples of those descriptions can be found in "fair use" clips such as those at these links:
<http://www.globalscoop.net/wp-content/uploads/House-of-Cards-Exposes-Google-mp4>
https://videos.files.wordpress.com/MRku6Zp1/house-of-cards-exposes-google_fm1.ogv
Gawker sets up and publishes the hit job videos, and Google locks them on the front page of the search results on the top lines of all Google assets, immovably, forever. Google puts hidden codes into the links saying that the links are "FACTS". This alone pretty much screws Google in court. Google does this intentionally and refuses to remove the attack links even after hundreds of written requests by lawyers and victims. Google likes its political and competitive-market revenge served cold. Plaintiffs have proven that Google's owners and executives were lying through their teeth to the EU and Congress when they claimed that Google's search results and positioning was "arbitrary". Google

searches are staged and consciously manipulated to hype Google's investments and attack Google's enemies.

Plaintiffs have worked with investigators to set up a global forensic server analysis network to prove with forensic computers set up all over the Earth, that Google and Gawker manipulate information in a contrived manner to attack individuals. Many other investigators have had similar results in their investigations including this study: <http://www.eurekalert.org/jrnls/pnas/1419828112.full.pdf>

The Google/Gawker hit job system puts attack articles and videos in front of a BILLION people within a very short amount of time using billions of dollars of resources. If you live in a small Florida town, and you have a personal fight with Nick Denton, he gets to destroy you across your entire town, the entire country you live in, and the whole planet you live on. You have no option to defend yourself. You will have to come up with at least one million dollars to try to file a lawsuit, and you will never get your hands on a million dollars to defend against his attacks. Does that seem fair? Even if you are 100% on the side of the angels, Denton still gets to destroy you just because he has Google helping him "play God" with people's lives, as Hogan's lawyers pointed out.

Denton uses angst-ridden bloggers like Adrian Covert, who openly advertises himself as a "character assassin" in social media.

John Hermann, and the kinds of kids-on-the-edge that Denton dredges up on his cruises through New York, as described in this article: <http://nymag.com/news/features/38319/> Gawker gets hired to do hit jobs on innocent members of the public, the media or public policy staff, when the hidden handlers of Gawker get a bug up their back-sides (Ask CBS news reporter Sharyl Attkisson). Google helps Gawker do these hit jobs. Both have the same political agendas, stock interests, friends, social connections, server suppliers, IT links and beneficiary pools. Both are dedicated to manipulating election outcomes. Both have been publicly charged with illicit actions ranging from tax evasion, to campaign finance disclosure fraud, to defamation, to privacy abuse. Denton has now started to see his karma come back around with the Hulk Hogan trial, but there are a number of other lawsuits lined up right behind Hogans, and that is only the beginning. Who hired Gawker Media and who ran the attacks at Google? The FBI, the U.S. Congress and major publications will probably be breaking those stories after the next election.

Hulk Hogan Gets \$115M Verdict Against Gawker at Trial



Scott Keeler/The Tampa Bay Times via AP, Pool, File
FROM THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

“The outcome comes after two weeks of testimony in a first-of-its-kind case where discussions of newsworthiness and decency dominated. Weighing free speech against privacy, a Florida jury has decided to uphold the sanctity of the latter by turning in a \$11.5 million verdict against Gawker...”

The Gawker-Hulk Hogan trial and the horror of work chats that stick around forever

by [Ethan Chiel](#)

This week, Hulk Hogan’s multi-million dollar lawsuit against Gawker for posting his sex tape [finally](#) went to trial. The Florida jury trial, with its testimony on [penis size](#) and extramarital sex, is almost as NSFW as the video itself, an excerpt of which Gawker posted in 2012—and then took down after being sued. But what was really on our minds watching the proceedings [via livestream](#) is the reminder that every time you send an email to a coworker or type a message in an intra-office chat room you should imagine that someday your words will be read out loud in open court.

CONFIDENTIAL

Campfire, Wednesday, October 3, 2012

now THAT would be a sex tape!

Max R. I'm not sure you could design a headline that would make me less likely to click than "Watch Hulk Hogan Pop His Hip Back into Place, Mid-Cohust"

Cord J. how old is he?

2:39 PM

A.J.D. Old enough to be impressed with himself for having sex so soon after lunch. Which he talks about on tape.

John C. oof

Cally W. old enough that it could simply be a 3pm dinner

A.J.D. His penis is also wearing a little do-rag, too

Kate B. he ate sashimi if you're wondering

Gamille D. um?

Via [David Bixenspan \(@davidbix\)](#)

A quick [refresher](#) for those not in on the legal Hulkamania: In 2012, Gawker posted an excerpt of a surreptitiously-recorded video of Hogan having sex in 2006 with Heather Clem, the now ex-wife of his friend, a radio jockey who goes by the name, Bubba the Love Sponge. Hogan (real name Terry Bollea) sued Gawker Media (as well as owner Nick Denton and former editor A.J. Daulerio, who wrote the post accompanying the video) for \$100 million.

Tuesday’s session ended with the court watching a videotaped deposition of John Cook, who was a reporter at Gawker when the tape was posted and is [now Gawker Media’s Executive Editor](#). In 2012 Gawker used Campfire, a group chat program, for intra-office communication. That’s not unusual; a lot of companies used Campfire, and many more now use it or something like it, such as Hipchat or Slack. As part of their preparation for the trial, Hogan’s lawyers were allowed to [search Gawker’s computers](#), as well as their emails and chat transcripts, for relevant information.

That led to the part of the deposition played yesterday, in which Cook was asked to explain a number of jokes and photos surrounding discussion of the sex tape in Gawker’s Campfire chat. Among those was a joke about a “really tender leg drop,” which Cook had to explain was a double entendre for a wrestling move and sex, and another joke by A.J. Daulerio about Hogan’s penis “wearing a little do-rag.”

Gawker Editor's Testimony Stuns Courtroom in Hulk Hogan Trial

Gawker Leader Supports Abuse Of Children

By NICK MADIGAN FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Photo



Nick Denton, left, founder of Gawker Media, and Albert J. Daulerio, a former editor in chief of Gawker, listening to testimony on Wednesday during a trial over a sex tape involving Hulk Hogan. Credit Steve Nesius/Associated Press

- Nick Denton fears being asked in court: “Mr. Denton, have you ever inserted your penis into the mouth of a boy?”. Denton has had boys, who claim to have been sexually abused by Denton, throw bricks through his window and charge him with abuse online. Denton has been sued by his interns and was in England during, and knew the players in, the British Pedophile Scandal.
- Gawker editor shocks jury with tale of willingness to publish children’s sex tapes but only as low as “Age Four”.
- Slime, sleaze and character assassination are all “justified” in Gawker’s editorial minds.

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — A palpable sense of shock rippled through a courtroom here Wednesday morning when the former editor in chief of Gawker.com was shown in a videotaped deposition suggesting that almost anything goes when it comes to the newsworthiness of celebrities’ sex videos.

The former editor, Albert J. Daulerio, a defendant in an invasion-of-privacy lawsuit brought by the retired wrestler Hulk Hogan, was asked by the plaintiff’s lawyer where he drew the line when it came to posting videos of people having sex.



“Can you imagine a situation where a celebrity sex tape would not be newsworthy?” asked the lawyer, Douglas E. Mirrell.
“If they were a child,” Mr. Daulerio replied.
“Under what age?” the lawyer pressed.
“Four.”
Gawker said later in a statement that Mr. Daulerio was being flippant.

Related Coverage



• [Gawker's Moment of Truth](#)



• [Hulk Hogan Exudes Calm in Second Day of Sex-Tape Trial Against Gawker](#)



• [When Is Hulk Hogan Not Hulk Hogan?](#)



• [Hulk Hogan Takes Stand in His Sex-Tape Lawsuit Against Gawker](#)



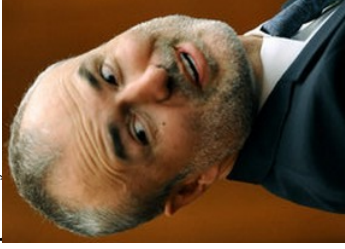
• [The Media Equation: Favre, Deadspin and the New Jawdry Journalism](#)

Still, the exchange highlighted the way that Gawker's culture of reporting on some of the most intimate aspects of the lives of celebrities and prominent newsmakers was being put on trial.

Photo



Albert J. Daulerio, former editor of Gawker, set broad limits for newsworthiness. Credit Pool photo by Steve Nesius Photo



Nick Denton, founder of Gawker, said he believed that the tape was worth posting. Credit Pool photo by Steve Nesius

Mr. Daulerio's testimony took place during depositions taken last year in advance of [the trial, which began on Monday](#), in the suit by the retired wrestler, known in the proceedings by his legal name, Terry G. Bollea, against [Gawker Media](#); its founder, Nick Denton; Mr. Daulerio; and others.

Mr. Bollea is seeking \$100 million in damages, saying that amounts to the harm he suffered after Gawker posted in 2012 a secretly recorded video showing him having sex with a friend's wife. The case is prompting significant questions about how far First Amendment rights stretch in an era when the unregulated Internet is ripe for abuse by anyone with a computer.

In addition, testimony this week by Mr. Daulerio and other current and former members of Gawker's staff has raised a curtain on the culture of the website and others like it that traffic in salacious fare in an effort to gain readers.

Asked whether sex sells, Mr. Daulerio replied, "I'm sure."

In such a culture, he went on, it was "pretty standard operating procedure" to seize upon and publish photographs and videos of celebrities in compromising or intimate situations, regardless of whether the celebrity might object or be embarrassed. Mr. Daulerio conceded that no such consideration guided Gawker's [publication of lewd images](#) of the former Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre or of photographs of a topless Duchess of Cambridge.

Photo



The former wrestler Hulk Hogan is suing Gawker Media over a sex tape it published. Credit Pool photo by Steve Nesius

"She's a public figure, and those pictures were published elsewhere," Mr. Daulerio said, referring to the duchess, the former Kate Middleton. He acknowledged that there had been no discussion in the Gawker newsroom at the time whether the publication of the pictures constituted an invasion of her privacy. Similar thinking, Mr. Daulerio said, dictated the site's handling of the video of Hulk Hogan, which he noted had been provided anonymously to him in the mail and for which no money had changed hands. "I was very enthusiastic about writing about it," Mr. Daulerio said. He explained that he had "enjoyed watching the video" and was eager to attach his commentary to it on the site. "I found it very amusing," he said. "I thought it was newsworthy, and it was something that was worth publishing."

In response to a question from Mr. Mirell, the defendant said that neither he nor anyone else at Gawker had made any attempt to contact Mr. Bollea to ask him whether he was in fact the man in the grainy video, and how he felt about Gawker's intention of publishing it.

"You didn't really care, did you?" Mr. Mirell suggested.

"No," Mr. Daulerio said.

A moment later, after an objection from a lawyer for Gawker, Mr. Mirell persisted. "So it's fair to say that whether he suffered emotional distress or not, that played no part in your decision whether or what to publish," he said.

"Correct," Mr. Daulerio replied.

Videotaped testimony by his boss, Mr. Denton, was also shown to the jury, later in the day, even though the two men were sitting behind their lawyers in the courtroom. The plaintiffs' use of taped depositions at this early stage of the trial seemed intended to stave off cross-examinations by the defense, which might reduce the impact of their words on the videos. Both defendants, however, are on their own legal team's list of witnesses, to be called to the stand when it is the defense's turn to present evidence at the trial.

Under questioning in the deposition, recorded in October 2013, Mr. Denton said that contrary to Mr. Daulerio's feelings, he had not been "very excited" by news that Gawker had received a video showing Hulk Hogan having sex with a woman on a four-poster bed. "We all have sex," Mr. Denton said, noting that he preferred stories that had "some kind of meaning."

Nevertheless, Mr. Denton did not impede the video's publication, although he advised his editor "not to put up the whole tape." A video editor cut it to 1 minute 41 seconds, from roughly 30 minutes.

Asked whether he or his staff had looked into the tape's provenance, Mr. Denton demurred. "We can't always determine the circumstances in which a film was made," he said.

A letter from a lawyer for Mr. Bollea, asking Gawker to take down the video shortly after it had been posted, "wasn't persuasive," Mr. Denton said. "We continued to believe in its newsworthiness."

The video remained on the site for about six months, until a court ordered its removal. Lawyers for Mr. Bollea said they had no intention of showing the tape to the jury during the trial.

GAWKER EDITOR SAYS, IN COURT, THAT HE WOULD ONLY LIMIT PEDO SEX TAPES TO "FOUR YEARS OLD". JURY IRKED!

[Where Gawker editor draws the line: A sex-tape of a 4-year-old](#)

By [Julia Marsh](#) and [Yaron Steinbuch](#)

[Jurors in Hulk Hogan's sex video trial on Wednesday heard a videotaped deposition of Gawker's former editor in chief — saying he'd draw the line at posting the sex tape of a celebrity who is under 4 years old.](#)

A.J. Daulerio, 41, was sitting ramrod straight in the Florida courtroom during the awkward moment when he was asked on video by Hogan's lawyer, "Can you imagine a situation where a celebrity sex tape would not be newsworthy?"

Daulerio answered flatly, "If they were a child."

"Under what age?"

attorney Charles Harder asked.

"Four," he said.

"No four-year-old sex tapes, OK," Harder said.

A Gawker spokesman

later insisted Daulerio

was being flippant.

"He'd just said in the

prior answer that that he

wouldn't post a tape of a

child and when the question

was repeated he obviously

made the point in a flip

way because his answer was

already clear," the spokesman

said.

Daulerio, who looked bored

throughout the grilling, wiping

his eyes and resting his hand

on his chin, also claimed he

would have no problem if his

own hypothetical sex tape was

published.



photo was repeated he obviously made the point in a flip way because his answer was already clear," the spokesman said. Daulerio, who looked bored throughout the grilling, wiping his eyes and resting his hand on his chin, also claimed he would have no problem if his own hypothetical sex tape was published.



Modal Trigger

Photo: Splash News

"It wouldn't upset you in any way to have your sexual encounters appear on the Internet?" he was asked.

"I somewhat expect that to happen at some point," Daulerio said.

During Day 3 of the trial, jurors seemed distressed by Daulerio's cavalier attitude about posting the sex tape.

One male juror squinted his eyes, pursed his lips and leaned back in his chair while a female juror kept her arms crossed then jotted down notes.

A third woman looked down during parts of the testimony as Daulerio sat next to Gawker founder Nick Denton in the front row.

On the opposite side sat Hogan, wearing a pinstripe suit and his trademark black bandanna on his head. Daulerio said he first heard about the sex video when it was a story on TMZ in March 2012. He said that in early October 2012, he received an actual copy of the full, 30-minute video from a source.

"I watched it and watched it one or two times and then, then decided whether or not we are going to publish some of the contents of it, and was discussing how we could possibly share some of the contents of it, and was discussing how we could possibly share some of the footage on Gawker.com," he said.



He said he turned the tape over to his video editor and "selected various spots of the tape that I considered both newsworthy in the context of our story and had her twiddle it down to whatever the time frame was, I believe it was close to two minutes of footage."

He said he wanted to verify that Hogan and Heather Clem — then-wife of Hogan's former best pal Bubba the Love Sponge Clem — "were actually having sex, so I believe we did small snippets of those two having intercourse."

Daulerio went on to say that he found the video "very amusing" and "newsworthy" — and would be "somewhat popular" on the site.

"Did you give any consideration prior to Oct. 4, 2012, as to whether publishing the Hulk Hogan sex tape would distress Hulk Hogan," the lawyer asked.

"No," he answered.

"You didn't care, really, did you?" Harder asked.

“No,” he said again.

“Had you known that Hulk Hogan would be emotionally distressed by this publication you would have still published it, correct?” he was asked.

“Sure, yes,” Daulerio said.

Harder also showed an email from Denton that said Daulerio “breaks all the rules of orthodox management.”

“Is that a positive thing?” Harder asked Daulerio.

“I don’t know the exact answer to that but I would assume yes, he enjoyed me breaking the rules of orthodox management,” Daulerio said.

Harder read the jury a paragraph from a 2011 GQ profile of Daulerio when he was the head of Gawker’s brother sports site Deadspin.

It said: “His tactics — reporting rumors, paying for news and making Deadspin’s money on stories that are really about sex, not sports — are questionable. His success is not. When he became editor of the site in July 2008, it had 700,000 readers per month. Today it has 2.3 million.”

The pseudo-journalist also admitted to paying \$12,000 for photos of now-retired NFL player Brett Favre’s penis.

He said he didn’t consider the 2012 publication of Duchess Kate Middleton’s naked breasts an “invasion of privacy” because “she’s a public figure” and thought the size of Hogan’s penis was “newsworthy.”

In later testimony, Hogan’s longtime attorney David Houston said the sex tape spread like a cancer online after Gawker posted it in October 2012.



Questioned by Harder, Houston said he zeroed in on tracking down the culprit responsible for making the video after TMZ first reported its existence in March 2012.

He described why he and Hogan went on TMZ Live at that time to talk about the tape “If it were a sex tape out there I felt it incumbent upon me as counsel to try to find it and essentially put a bullet in it,” Houston said.

In a clip played for the jury, Hogan said that he didn’t know who the woman was because “the truth is it wasn’t just one brunette ... I was running pretty wild there for a few months.”

“The purpose naturally was to announce if anyone goes forward with this thing we’re going to find him and we’re going to prosecute him,” Houston said. “At that point we were desperate for knowledge.” Two porn sites reached out to Hogan to buy the steamy footage — Vivid.com and Sex.com.

Vivid’s letter said: “We understand that you believe this tape was filmed without your permission. Whatever the case we would still like to dis the opportunity to work together as we feel this would be one of the best selling celerity sex tapes of all time.”

Sex.com’s letter said: “We are truly serious about working with you. This isn’t some shameless press opportunity, we have an open check book.”

“We want no part in the dissemination, we weren’t in this to sell the sex tape,” Houston said. He said he first saw the tape at Gawker.

“I saw a video depicting my client having sex, oral sex, standard sexual intercourse, took great pains to display his penis and even went so far as to demonstrate what everyone was saying to each other in that tape by virtue of incorporating subtitles,” he said.

Houston pleaded with Denton in an email a day after the tape was published.

“I’m asking you, please, as a fellow human being, to take down the video,” he said. Houston said he sent 60 cease-and-desist letters asking various Web sites to remove the video. The former pro wrestler, whose given name is Terry Bollea, is suing Gawker Media for \$100 million for posting an edited version of the sex video.

Gawker is defending the publication by arguing that Hogan had talked openly about his sex life before, including on Howard Stern’s radio show.

GAWKER MEDIA EXPOSED AS FRONT FOR SILICON VALLEY CARTEL “HIT-JOBS” IN HULK HOGAN LAWSUIT

In a shocking revelation, in fear for the life of Gawker Media, Nick Denton has been forced to take out an emergency loan, but where did he get it from?

CitiBank? Nope! Bank of America? Nope.

Nick Denton and Gawker Media could only get their emergency cash from one little boutique bank.

The bank's identity is, indeed, very revealing. Nick Denton is no technology guru.

Yet, he gets his money from the piggy bank of the Silicon Valley Cartel, the very people he is accused of being a character assassination hit-man for:

Yes: He got his emergency cash from the Silicon Valley Cartels: Silicon Valley Bank!

Isn't that an interesting turn of events? Rather telling, wouldn't you say?

Gawker's Nick Denton Authors Largest Rationalization Document In History to Peter Thiel

By Amy Cosgrove

I must confess, up front, that I have worked with Peter Thiel's group of VC's. Here is my take on the whole thing.

Nick Denton, upon discovering that a man, that Nick Denton tried to destroy, was mad at him sat down and wrote the largest rationalization document in the history of the world.

Within the document, one can see the clear evidence of Denton's twisted and disturbed mental state.

As the following news articles reveal, Nick Denton has a problem with his relationship to the truth. Denton, for example, says that he has had some "relationship issues", in the past but those who he had relationship issues with, including a young boy who threw a brick into Nick Denton's window, said that Denton is an "abusive old queen who cares only for his next orgasm and nothing for his victims.."

Denton has a long list of victims. Denton feels that because society has refused to accept his desire for young men that society is owed some "pay-back" by Denton. Denton fills the offices of his crumbling Gawker media empire with sexually confused, naive, young angst-ridden teens who he encourages to hate everything and to rage against everyone. Wow, what a healthy workplace.

Over 400 people have had their lives attacked and destroyed by Nick Denton in the name of Denton's "journalistic freedom": Denton uses this term in order to try to brand himself as some sort of news crusader when, in fact, he is only exploiting real news documentation in order to line his off-shore Ukrainian and Cayman Islands bank accounts to accrue money to buy more young men.

Taki Magazine's article nails Denton on the head:

http://takimag.com/article/gawker_media_hypocrites_vs_douchecanoes/

Denton gets compensated by White House, DNC and Silicon Valley campaign financiers and operatives (ie: Robert Gibbs, Rahm Emanuel, Elon Musk, etc.) to character assassinate their enemies.

Make no mistake about it, Denton has spent all of his time and resources destroying people. Peter Thiel has spent all of his time and resources funding medical research and society-improving technologies. Who is the devil in those details?

U.S. Department of Energy Officials, and Their Backers, Used Gawker Media to Character Assassinate Witnesses Against Them

Forensic evidence connects Steven Chu at the Department of Energy and his senior staff with the beneficiaries of Steven Chu's actions at the Department. John Doerr and his companies Kleiner Perkins and Google, and Elon Musk and his companies Tesla Motors and Solar City, with the timing of compensation and the production of character assassination attacks by Gawker Media which had a quid-pro-quo relationship with all of the above.

How Nick Denton and Gawker Media Got Hired By The White House to try to "erase" me and many other citizens

No, I am not Hulk Hogan, Sarah Palin, Sean Parker, Mitt Romney, Charlie Sheen, Cheryl Attkisson or one of the thousands of celebrities whose lives Gawker has also destroyed for profit. I am just a low-level blue collar worker. I am not affiliated with any political party. I am a taxpayer voter in America that was on a "take-down" list, produced, I am told (told by CBS News, the FBI, The GAO, Washington Post, numerous Senate senior staff, etc...) by the White House press office.

I had worked on a federal program and was asked by one of the above agencies to testify in the investigation of some corrupt politicians. I answered the questions for the investigators and then went on about my business. I was not in trouble. I was just asked to help out. A Senator, or two, had done some crimes with White House campaign financiers and the three-letter agencies were trying to catch them.



(PHOTO: NICK DENTON COVERED IN FILTH)

The White House knew this would come back on them after the FBI raid of Solyndra. They did not want anybody to be able to get any air-time, about this story, with the Press so they ordered up some character assassination attacks, known as "hit-jobs", on about 50 people whose credibility they wanted

to evaporate in order to keep them off of the news. The Obama White House really, especially, hates the media but it *super* hates pundits. It wanted all 50 of these regular folks wiped out before they had a chance to hold any "credibility points" in a news interview.



(PHOTO: Nick Denton Attempts To Avoid Fate)

The White House press office always sends out polite little press releases about lighting the National Christmas Tree, saving the Thanksgiving turkey and other low-controversy bits. When Jay Carney, Josh Ernest or Robert Gibbs, in the White House, want to put some nasty news in the papers, they send it over to a guy named Nick Denton. He owns a defamation empire, based on tabloid journalism, called: Gawker Media

To begin to understand the vile lack of morality on display by Mr. Denton, simply type "Gawker Sucks" into duckduckgo.com, reddit.com, voat.co or searx.me

TAKI MAGAZINE published a right-on-the-nose profile of Denton:

"Gawker Media: Hypocrites vs. Douchebags"
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.

"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 staffers 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."

"...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. http://takimag.com/article/gawker_media_hypocrites_vs_douchecanoes/

So investigators now know that the White House had it's campaign financiers at Google, Kleiner Perkins, Tesla, Solyndra, and other corporate fronts, wire money to Gawker and Nick Denton bank accounts, and bypass tax evasion over-sight, in exchange for producing, authoring and publishing hit jobs on people that the White House did not like. White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs didn't like to get his hands dirty but he loved to dirty up the reputations of others with his push-button defamation system.

In the Article: *"Everybody Sucks: Gawker and the rage of the creative underclass"* in New York Magazine, investigator **Yanessa Grigoriadis** (<http://nymag.com/news/features/39319/>) uncovers the warped and twisted world that powers Gawker Media. She describes the rooms full of sexually confused, abused-looking, tattooed 22 year olds, full of rage and hate, that Denton cruises for in Manhattan. Denton seems to hire the most socially disturbed individuals he can find. He then routes their social angst and enmity into the attack articles that he asks them to undertake. Denton's trick is to convince these confused teenagers that his client's enemies are these kids enemies. He uses anger re-direction to create his own little army of Denton-ian Hitler Youth.

So Denton/Gawker generate the hatchet job article, carefully reviewed by millions of dollars of lawyers to make sure that they can use the SLAPP laws and the First Amendment to shock, destroy and "kill" their target with impunity.

That is only the beginning of the attack. The White House likes it's meat fried.

Via pre-coordinated synchronization with Gawker, White House financier and business partner: Google, locks the attacks into the top lines of the front page of every Google search on Earth, FOREVER. If it is a Gawker attack, Google will refuse to remove the links even if you use every legal resource in the book. Google and Gawker are the same bunch of people when it comes to banking and finances. They even send tens of millions of dollars to each other.

Then Google embeds the attack into every background search, HR database and recruiter search system on Earth. You will never get a job again. Google coordinates this with Gawker's servers. For extra fun, Google hides code in the attack links that says that the links are "facts" and not "just opinions".

In my case, and many others, Gawker, Google and the White House fax and email the attack links to your employer with a message to the effect of: *"look, this guy works for you, You better get rid of him now or else you will get a hit job article on your company."* You then get frog-marched out of your job, in the middle of the day, with no notice, and no explanation. You, much later, find out it was because your employer was contacted by the hit-jobbers.



Who can you report this too?

The FBI? Not so much, they work for the White House.

The GAO? They have no powers of arrest and are only allowed to write reports.

The OSC? They have no powers of arrest and are only allowed to write reports.

The IRS? Um... Lois Lerner

The U.S. Congress? They only are allowed to have committees to discuss things and have no powers of arrest.

The Attorney General? He is a business partner with the White House and co-invests with those Silicon Valley campaign financiers.

The Auditor General? He is afraid to lose his pension so he stonewalls everything.

The court system? Good luck finding the 4+ years and five million dollars of costs you will need to keep that case going.

Our team talked to over 100 law enforcement agencies and offices. They either reported to the very people we were reporting about, or they didn't want to put their pensions at risk. So, since, no American citizen has any public policy representative, or law enforcement resource, to stand up for them, who is our new *Great White Hope*? HULK HOGAN for gods sakes! He is the only guy in America with the nuts to stand up to these guys. Isn't America great?

How the White House uses Gawker Media to put hit-jobs on political adversaries that are U.S. Citizens

It is entirely illegal. It violates the U.S. Constitution. It is in breach of numerous other federal laws. It destroys the ethical façade of the Oval Office. It makes mere mortals cringe.

It is the deadliest weapon that the West Wing has ever used on U.S. soil.

The U.S. President has a man that carries around a bag called "The Football". That bag has the technology in it to destroy the world. It connects to every missile that the U. S. controls. The White House Press Secretary has a woman that carries around an iPad. That iPad has the technology in it to destroy the life of any taxpayer/voter that the Press Secretary feels bothered by. It connects to Nick Denton at Gawker Media.

Both "The Football" and that particular iPad are MASS KILLING MACHINES. One does the deed with a white-hot fire of nuclear hell. The other does the deed with a white hot fire of defamation media hell.

While the White House Press Office must maintain a presence of "dignity and balance", the dark backdoor, tools of the White House Press office must maintain a covert ability to kill, maim and destroy the character, brand, revenue stream and business of any person that they get a bug up their butt about.

The payment for "services rendered" involves a mix of stock opportunities, third party advertising buys, internet metrics pumps, social media fake metrics, revolving door deals and "look aways".

"Look Aways" are when regulators are told to not enforce the laws. Gawker Media sends cash through the Cayman Islands to "various locations" according to GOP IRS workers. Gawker is not paid at an Olive Garden, via "Deep Throat" sliding a manila envelope full of cash under a table. It is all more subtle.

DNC-loyal IRS workers would not disclose such info. They also do not disclose Lois Lerner's participation in such White House ordered hit jobs. They, apparently, are a shy bunch. They prefer to be effective in the dark.

If you want to hack a competitor, but make it not be a hack, you can "sort of find" Sarah Palins book manuscript, Mitt Romney's Taxes, Heritage Foundations donor reports, Hulk Hogan's sex tape or ... well...all kinds of stuff. You just "find it".

In reality, some contractors from a company, like In-Q-Tel (Ed. Note: Not that In-Q-Tel would ever do anything like this; they are just being used as an example, here, of a CIA-knock-off kind of spy company, of the similar kind, that you might hire to do something involving technology tricks), to hack into the people you didn't like and then leave the exact stuff that you wanted conveniently in a place that was handy for Gawker Media.

In a study, from April 2007 to September 1, of 2015 an amazing thing was discovered. Each and every time that the White House had an enemy, that enemy got slammed by one of Gawker Media's media fronts.

Those Internet Archives, Way Back Machines and big data sets turn out to be very handy. In further study, it was found that there was a direct correlation between the date that a political slight was perceived by West Wing staff and the date that an attack showed up in Gawker Media. Not only was Gawker Media the very first to publish the attack, in many cases, it was the only one.

Examining lawsuits between Gawker Media and third parties, there is an extraordinary number of lawsuits, many hidden, by the very people that were in legal dispute, with the West Wing, at exactly the same previous points in time.

Now, Nick Denton and Gawker Media are relatively screwed. Our office knows, for a fact, that the FBI has a massive file on Gawker Media which would, not only, erase them from the planet but, quite possibly, put Nick Denton in jail. We are not big fans of Gawker Media so, we too, have a very similar file. The Hulk Hogan lawsuit could result in one, or both file sets, coming to light. If not Hogan, then the next lawsuit. The truth is out there and it is coming.

White House Press Secretaries Robert Gibbs and Jay Carney were the undisputed Masters of the Gawkerization hit job. Through a series of intermediaries and relays, they could Crunch a Cruz, Smash a Santorum or Pound a Palin with just a single double-meaning email order that, within three hops, made it nick Denton's cell phone. Backed up by Sidney Blumenthal's notorious PR attack team, the onslaught was digital death for whoever was on the receiving end of the attack. The deal was: Each time a White House Press Secretary got caught using the Gawker Death machine, he had to quit, and the next one would step in to the spot, do it all over again, quit when he got caught, and so on. Notice the epic number of Obama Press Secretary departures? Uh Huh! It was working great. It was the ultimate death machine ...

Until...

Snowden, Chinese Hackers, Guccifer and Jofi Joseph showed up.

All the secrets are now loose. There is no possible way to cover up the White House/Gawker connection for much longer. The hackers and leakers have now put all of the confirming evidence all over the internet in places where reporters and internet users can "just sort of find them". The most insidious of the disclosures comes from nearly a decade of hacking by, apparently, The Chinese Government.

If you thought North Korea was hacker-savvy for gutting Sony Pictures, you "ain't seen nothin' yet."

China teaches North Korea all of their tricks.

The U.S. federal IT services have now publicly reported that China has engaged in the largest hack in human history. They got all kinds of juicy data. China has been processing all of it through a giant Oracle database, presumably similar to the CIA's XKEYSCORE. They are just chugging along through it, looking for keywords. Some of these keywords seem to include: "Gawker", "Nick Denton", "John Herrmann", "iPOD prototype", "British Phone Hacking", and other things that Nick Denton would rather die than have the world see.

Even without the hackers, the financial records, federal emails, private emails of federal employees, stock transfer documents, Cayman banking data and other subpoena-ready U.S. documents would have nailed Denton and White House staff.

Sound crazy? You are only one Senate Investigation Committee, or one big-time wrestler lawsuit, away from seeing it all for yourself.

Gawker's Nick Denton Begins Counter-Attacks Against Peter Thiel

Gawker has already hired it's proxy attack bloggers (John Cook, John Herrmann, Adrian Covert, etc. -types) to destroy Peter Thiel yet again. Rob Price, a known Denton cabin boy, has unleashed the first salvo on Thiel. Will it abide? First reactions from the web have included:

[-] Nlatize 5 points (+6j-1) ago

So it's totally ok for two liberal gays to sue a conservative bakery over their beliefs, but not ok for a conservative gay to sue a liberal news company over their beliefs?

• permalink

[-] NedTaggart 1 points (+1i-0) ago (edited ago)

Here's the thing about this, as I see it. Gawker is pretty sleazy. They have a right to be sleazy. I hate it, but whatever, I don't have to give them a click. Free Press, First Amendment, etc is specifically written to prevent the GOVERNMENT from punishing people for words or ideas, not the general public and private citizens. Gawker cannot reasonably have expected to behave as they did without pissing someone off. Turns out, they pissed of a guy with a significant reserve of Fuck-You money and a track record of getting things done.

The first amendment, freedom of the press also doesn't mean that people have to like what you say or accept it. It doesn't guarantee an Audience, it only grants you a booth in the marketplace of ideas. The sheer schadenfreude against Gawker surrounding this case, the fact that the legal system, in a civil trial, (that's an important distinction with regard to the first amendment), and the fact that outrageous fines have been levied against them and all appeals denied demonstrates that the people categorically reject the ideas that Gawker has brought to the market place.

Play Stupid Games, Win Stupid Prizes

• permalink

[-] Soc. 1 points (+1i-0) ago (edited ago)

I agree. Journalistic integrity in the US is at an all time low thanks to "news networks," like Gawker. They don't care about what they publish, so long as it gets page-views and generates income. For a while now, sites like these have not had an Achilles heel, as they have used the cloak of "the press" to protect them from harm.

But every beast has it's weakness. Libel and Bad Journalism were held in check by the truth. News organizations of the past relied on integrity for business, and did not want to be caught lying or publishing trash, so they made sure their editors, writers and contributors were on the up and up. These new sites don't care about truth or integrity. They are immune to someone calling them out on those points, and thanks to the civil court system being stacked in favor of those who can afford the most legal help, they effectively denied entry to those who would challenge them. As Gawker is finding out through the civil court system, to get to the point where actual people can decide right or wrong (not legal or illegal)

This isn't about freedom of the press, because Gawker isn't news. By slanting everything they do with such a visible bias, by abandoning any sense of principal and integrity, they distort the definition so far that they can't even convince 12 random people that they are in the right.

• permalink

• parent

[-] Vwswiftv17 1 points (+1i-0) ago (edited ago)

Hold the phone. So, it's ok when its discovered FB is artificially inflating left leaning news stories to turn them into trending topics, thereby hijacking the national narrative to match Cuckerburghs causes. But, if a conservative Facebook board member tries to hold accountable a news service for slander, he is the bad guy?? Someone walk me through your mental gymnastics on that one.....because in my book one isn't more morally acceptable than the other.

BOYCOTT OF GAWKER'S AND UNIVISION'S ADVERTISERS URGED

The following are the Gawker Advertisers that public rights groups have urged a boycott against:



Social Media Joins Forces To Help Put Nick Denton and Gawker Out of Business

The Public, the Courts and Morality agree: Gawker and Nick Denton are a blight on humanity and they serve no positive social function. Now it is official: "Gawker Media and Nick Denton are evil, sick and perverted abusers staffed by mentally deformed children." So the world, multiple additional lawsuits, and all of the bloggers have set out to terminate Nick Denton.

GAWKER TAX EVASION

From The New Yorker Magazine:

"Gawker Stalker: Nick Denton Spotted in Cayman Islands Written by John Cassidy

Here's the real skinny:

1) Gawker's top advertising executive, Chris Batty, the person primarily responsible for bringing in the green that pays the rest of the staff's wages, has quit or been pushed out, and he's taking with him the firm's top salesman. Actually, the media-savvy Denton put this bad news out himself, in a long e-mail to staff that was leaked earlier this week. But Salmon has lots of background to Batty's departure, which he says is likely to hit Gawker's revenues in the coming months. Seems Batty and Denton disagreed about the wisdom of junking the blog format that Gawker pioneered and trying to become an online cable network, which is what appears to be in Denton's mind.

2) Gawker is organized like an international money-laundering operation.

Much of its international revenues are directed through Hungary, where Denton's mother hails from, and where some of the firm's techies are located. But that is only part of it. Recently, Salmon reports, the various Gawker operations—Gawker Media LLC, Gawker Entertainment LLC, Gawker Technology LLC, Gawker Sales LLC—have been restructured to bring them under control of a shell company based in the Cayman Islands, Gawker Media Group Inc.

Why would a relatively small media outfit based in Soho choose to incorporate itself in a Caribbean locale long favored by insider dealers, drug cartels, hedge funds, and other entities with lots of cash they don't want to advertise? The question virtually answers itself, but for those unversed in the intricacies of international tax avoidance Salmon spells it out: "The result is a company where 130 U.S. employees eat up the lion's share of the U.S. revenues, resulting in little if any taxable income, while the international income, the franchise value of the brands, and the value of the technology all stays permanently overseas, untouched by the I.R.S."

"By **Rusty Weiss**"

Financial journalist, Felix Salmon reported:

Gawker Media has been going through a big corporate revamp over the past year or so. The ultimate parent company has never been in the U.S.; it used to be Blogwire in Hungary, but now Blogwire Hungary has become a subsidiary of a Cayman Islands entity called Gawker Media Group Inc, which also owns various U.S. operations like Gawker Media LLC, Gawker Entertainment LLC, Gawker Technology LLC, and Gawker Sales LLC.

Then there's this little tidbit of information; something regarding obscene profits, untaxed revenue, and side-stepping the IRS...

The Hungarian companies get all of Gawker's international income, which flows in from 13 different salespeople in ten different countries and which, since it's international income flowing to a Hungarian company owned by a Cayman Islands parent, is basically pure profit which never

comes close to being taxed in the U.S. The result is a company where 130 U.S. employees eat up the lion's share of the U.S. revenues, resulting in little if any taxable income, while the international income, the franchise value of the brands, and the value of the technology all stays permanently overseas, untouched by the IRS."

Hulk Hogan Discovers Nick Denton and Gawker Hiding Dirty Money In Europe

- Nick Denton has a secret cash stash overseas
 - Is this payola money from Denton's "Hit-Jobs"?"
- "Following the money may lead to kick-backs from Washington, DC.

Hulk accuses Gawker chief of hiding millions to avoid payout

Gawker's stated net worth of \$83 million seems as phony as a WWE bout — and Hulk Hogan's lawyers want access to confidential documents to try to prove it, according to court papers.

The gossip site and its owner, Nick Denton, last month were ordered to pay the pro wrestler \$1.40 million for violating his privacy by posting a sex tape involving him and a then-friend's wife. But Denton may try to get out of paying a required \$50 million bond and the final judgment by lying

about his and the company's worth, the documents charge. Denton, who is Hungarian and British, appears to have hidden millions of dollars in Gawker profits through inflated licensing fees to a Hungary-based sister company, the documents charge.

"In my opinion, it's very hypocritical that Mr. Denton continues to cloak himself in the Constitution while it also appears he's expatriating great sums of money to Eastern Europe, potentially to avoid taxation and creditor issues," Hogan's lawyer, David Houston, told The Post.



In a Florida courtroom in March, the jury was told that Gawker is worth only \$83 million, while Denton's net worth is \$121 million — largely based on his shares in Gawker's parent company, Gawker Media Group Inc.

GMGI is valued at \$267 million; Denton has a \$117 million portion of it.

Gawker has refused to give up a document called a "transfer pricing study" that would determine whether the fees are inflated, citing lawyer-client privilege, according to court papers.

Gawker has claimed that the \$140 million jury award would be “ruinous” to its business, [in a bid to get the judge to slash the amount to less than \\$2 million.](#)

Yet its own pitch book for investors reveals a rosier future: Gawker’s growth plan is to increase its operating income from \$6.7 million in 2014 to \$43 million in 2019.

Gawker has responded in court papers that a major international law firm, Mayer Brown, “analyzed the appropriate arm’s-length pricing for the royalty payable by Gawker to [subsidiary company] Kinja with respect to the intellectual property.”

GAWKER MEDIA EXPOSED!

HOW #GAMERGATE SHATTERED GAWKER’S MYTH OF INVINCIBILITY



Cire Padela
by [ALLUM BOKHARI](#) 27 Jul 2015 [171](#)

A few years ago, Gawker Media went through their own mythical period. When online public shaming was still praised as “[callout culture](#)” and righteous “[internet rage](#)” by activists, Gawker was out in front, leading the charge.

Gawker mercilessly destroyed the careers of its targets, many of whom, such as [Justine Sacco](#) and [Pax Dickinson](#), were guilty of nothing more than off-colour jokes on social media. They were the shamers-in-chief of the internet: all the more frightening because the sins they punished were so ubiquitous and mundane. Former Gawkerite Adam Weinstein [portrays this period as a kind of golden age](#) for the blogging network.

The world has changed rapidly. Public shaming is no longer cool; John Ronson resoundingly won the argument against it with his new book, despite vain attempts of activists to (you guessed it!) [publicly shame him](#). Attempts to portray Ronson as [hostile to the "historically powerless"](#) fell flat, as commentators eagerly embraced a mainstream author willing to speak out against the new mob mentality.

Gawker Media, which relied so heavily on the practice to grant itself the veneer of righteousness, has now become one of the most derided publications on earth. Their botched attempt to out Conte Nasté executive David Geithner as gay caused outrage across the media and political landscape. Meanwhile, their long history of violating celebrities' privacy is swiftly catching up to them in the form of Hulk Hogan's \$100m lawsuit, filed against Gawker for the release of a sex tape involving the wrestler.

Throughout history, great empires, states, political movements and institutions have all fallen victim to the myth of invincibility. From the Romans at the Battle of Teutoburg to the British Empire in the Boer war, the destruction of these myths is all the more painful due to the triumphs that preceded them. Few would call Gawker invincible today. Its reputation is on the rocks, as the company plans to relaunch itself later today. The Geithner story has proved to be disastrous for the company, triggering a [string of editorial resignations](#) in addition to the storm of external condemnation.

But the story doesn't strike me as a case of imperial myth-shattering. In the major historical examples – the Boers, the Vietcong, the Germanic tribesmen – great powers were humiliated at the very height of their glory by poorly-equipped, underdog opponents who should have been walkovers. The Geithner story, where Gawker had to fight the entire media establishment by itself, doesn't fit this pattern at all. So what does?

Gawker vs Gamergate

When a few thousand gamers started to draw attention to poor standards in video games journalism last September, no one predicted it would grow into a year-long movement that spanned the globe. Nor did anyone predict the damage it would do to Gawker Media. Gamers had no track record as campaigners or great organisers, nor as social media activists. When #GamerGate emerged, it was a bolt from the blue, and [some predicted it would be over in a week](#). But gamers were determined. They had a laundry list of complaints against the gaming press, and they had Gawker in their sights from the beginning. The name of Gamergate's hub on Reddit – ["/r/KotakuInAction"](#) – is revealing. (*Kotaku*, for those of you who don't know, is Gawker's video games vertical.) The [near-ruination](#) of game developer Brad Wardell by *Kotaku*'s poor reporting, a steady stream of outrage-mongering on the topics of race and gender, and [perceived conflicts of interest](#) on the part of *Kotaku* writers meant many gamers had gone sour on the site by the start of Gamergate. One supporter of the hashtag described *Kotaku* as ["yellow journalism and tabloid gossip brewed into a foul, brain-killing mess."](#)

Twitter in 2014 was the land of #YesAllWomen and #CancelColbert, a haven of politically correct outrage. The emergence of a culturally libertarian, anti-censorship, anti-narrative hashtag like Gamergate was unexpected, to say the least. Progressive journalists in the games and tech press reacted with instant hostility and released a [string of articles](#) branding gamers as reactionary, sexist "hyper-consumers." As *Slate*'s David Auerbach [argued at the time](#), games journalists had essentially declared war on their own audience.

Gamers used the attacks to their advantage, sending a [deluge of complaints](#) to companies that advertised with their antagonizers. Gawker, with its long history of unethical reporting, was particularly vulnerable to this strategy and [lost its first sponsor](#) just days after Gamergate began its campaign. They had already locked themselves in a losing battle — but their Quincunx Varus had yet to enter the field. That came later.

Ultimately [#GamerGate](#) is reaffirming what we've known to be true for decades: **nerds should be constantly shamed and degraded into submission**

— [Sam Biddle \(@samfbiddle\) October 16, 2014](#)

[Bring Back Bullying](#)

— [Sam Biddle \(@samfbiddle\) October 16, 2014](#)

If there is one feature that unites the imperial downfalls of history, it is the moment of hubris. The moment at which an opponent's strength is wildly underestimated, or one's own is wildly overestimated.

In October 2014, Gawker writer Sam Biddle did both. He no doubt intended to do to Gamergate what he had done to Justice Sacco — publicly shame them, or "degrade them into submission," as he put it. But his tweets — [posted, disastrously, during national bullying awareness month](#) — caused a PR calamity that would lead to one of Gawker's most visible humiliations. The shamers were about to be shamed.

Yesterday I tweeted some things about "nerds" that were supposed to be funny, but ended up hurting many ppl. I fucked it up, and I'm sorry!

— [Sam Biddle \(@samfbiddle\) October 17, 2014](#)

Gamergate's boycott campaign pivoted, focusing [all of its firepower](#) on Gawker Media's advertisers and sponsors. Within a day, Biddle had taken to Twitter to issue a [public apology](#) — an act that would become a feature of Gawker in the months to come. Editorial director Joel Johnson [reiterated his apology](#) on the front page of Gawker — another sign of the future. Johnson also [sent a memo](#) to Gawker's writers warning them to watch their words on social media. A publication whose writers were famed for their recklessness was beginning to show signs of caution.

Even Gawker couldn't hide the extent of their defeat. Editor-in-Chief Max Read summed up his feelings in a headline: ["How We Got Rolled by the Dishonest Fascists of GamerGate."](#) A few months later, the full extent of the damage was revealed — [Gamergate had cost Gawker seven figures in lost advertising revenue](#). The myth of invincibility was over.

Gawker vs Gamergate had all the features of a historic humiliation. On the one hand, there was Gawker, one of the web's Great Powers. A well-resourced, New York-based "internet bully" with a reputation for destroying people. On the other hand, there were gamers — disorganised amateurs. It's hard to find a better underdog story.

WHO IS GAWKER MEDIA?

Public reports and investigative reporters have much to say about Nick Denton and Gawker Media. It is believed, that Gawker Media is a "hit-job" service created to character assassinate, damage and reduce the brand affect of adversaries of the Cartel. Journalists, and others, have charged Gawker Media with everything from tax evasion, to being the front for White House and Silicon Valley Billionaire "hit-jobs", to being a targeted political agenda manipulation machine. Victims have charged that Gawker Media and Nick Denton have worked in the employ of Jay Carney, Robert Gibbs, John Doerr, Elon Musk, Steve Jurvetson and other political notables.

Gawker Media had financial connections, business connections, political connections and communications with the key suspects and took actions which helped the key suspects while attacking and damaging their adversaries. Recent leaks, investigations and lawsuits have revealed some of Gawker's dirty secrets.

Outside-of-U.S. investigations on Nick Denton's previous activities in England, are of interest, as well. Wrestler Hulk Hogan had top celebrity endorsement value for American voters, when he was about to endorse an opposing political candidate, Gawker took him out...but, that may have been a fatal mistake for the Gawker attack dogs.

Google and Gawker Media: Partners In Character Assassination

From politicians to celebrities to journalists to CEOs; Google and Gawker Media work hand-in-hand to synchronize character assassinations, defamation programs and brand destruction against their assigned political enemies.

When a billionaire Silicon Valley campaign financier or a West Wing press aide wants someone killed, covertly, without breaking too many laws, they have the Google/Gawker take-down machine go to work.

Just like the two girlfriends in the notorious Internet film: "Two Girls, One Cup", they each produce a coordinated volume of targeted media waste and then share it, and regurgitate it back and forth to each other.

Gawker sets up the hatchet-job ball and Google kicks it down the court, over, and over, and over again.

Google uses it's monopolistic, web-baron, control of the entire Internet to lock the attack articles and hatchet jobs on the top line of the first page of it's search engine results and on the top results on it's YOUTUBE site.

Billions of people, across the planet just saw you being falsely accused of being a "Prostitute", "Rapist", "Child Porn Enthusiast", or other life-ending thing, by the world's biggest monopolistic search engine.

Both companies have the same financial connections, backers, advertisers, lobbying connections, off-shore tax evasion tricks, political connections, party invite lists and email and text each other with political coordination plans. They are linked by common players, strategies, timing, stock pumps and beneficiaries.

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CAREERCHECK

Executive Moves At Matchcraft, Gawker

Kelly Benish finds a new CEO at the helm of Matchcraft, a new CTO at Gawker Media and executive changes at *The Washington Post* and Hearst. Plus recruitment advice from Robert Hawthorne, anniversaries at BIA/Kelsey and Google and jobs at Gannett, Soleo and Brainworks, among others.



By Kelly Benish
NetNewsCheck, August 7, 2015 6:26 AM EDT

Sandy Lohr, former SVP of sales at **Advance Digital** is now the CEO of **Matchcraft** (acquired by Advance in 2014). Lohr is charged with defining, implementing and executing the SEM management platform company's strategic goals and objectives. She will also be providing direction and leadership to support Matchcraft's philosophy, mission and organizational culture. She's currently moving from New Jersey to Santa Monica, CA. **Matc Zaks** made a similar move from Advance, where he formerly served as VP of advance visibility, to Matchcraft as chief revenue and innovations officer.

Ian Fette has been named CTO at **Gawker Media**. He was most recently engineering manager at Google, where he focused on improving design and usability. For over five years, he managed a team focused on improving performance, memory usage and improvements in Chrome's network stack such as support for and design of the next generation HTTP protocol. Before that, he was responsible for ensuring implementation protocol for Google Chrome met Web standards.

Nick Denton Runs His Own Private Jonestown in the heart of New York City

Goodbye and Good Riddance: Sociopathy of Gawker and Gawker-Like Media Finally Exposed By [Ryan Holiday](#)

Nick Denton, founder of Gawker, talks with his legal team before Terry Bollea, aka Hulk Hogan, testifies in court during his trial against Gawker Media at the Pinellas County Courthouse on March 8, 2016. (Photo: John Pendygraft-Pool/Getty Images)

In the next few weeks, in a courtroom very far from Manhattan, a somber judge will call his court to order and render judgment on a group of reporters whose almost unfathomable recklessness and self-absorption [has hurt countless people over the years](#). If there is such thing as fairness and justice in this world, hopefully we'll hear something like the following words come from the bench:

"I do not know how, or under what circumstances the four of you found each other, but your callous indifference and utter disregard for everything that is good and decent has rocked the very foundation upon which our society is built. I can think of nothing more fitting than for the four of you to spend a year removed from society so that you can contemplate the manner in which you have conducted yourselves."

Of course, those are actually the words uttered by Judge Vandelay from the classic series finale of *Seinfeld*. But could there be a more appropriate judgment for the selfish and reckless scribblers at Gawker who now await the outcome of [a \\$100 million dollar lawsuit](#)? Could there be a more fitting end for these young Manhattanites than an absurd, unexpected trial that parades their endless misdeeds in front of a diverse and varied collection of victims who have rightfully pined for their downfall?

If you don't follow media too closely, you might not know what I'm talking about. Or you might be unsure why so many people have strong feelings about a collection of websites that cover video games, celebrity gossip and feminism (or why I might have ranted about them in [past columns](#)).

Let me explain. First off, very briefly, [Gawker is being sued by Terry Bollea, better known as Hulk Hogan](#), for publishing a sex tape (along with commentary that ruthlessly mocked him) of him sleeping with the wife of a friend in an open relationship, which was recorded without his knowledge. Gawker has tried to claim that the tape was newsworthy because Hogan is famous and has talked about his sex life in public before.

I do not pretend to be a legal scholar or to know how the court will ultimately rule. But as a media critic and a human being, I can say with confidence that this is an utterly preposterous argument. Would this mean that [the stolen peephole footage of Erin Andrews](#) in her hotel room would have been newsworthy if she'd once had a racy interview on Howard Stern or posed in provocative photographs? Or that stolen footage of Sasha Grey would be fair game because she worked in the sex industry?

Regardless of the outcome of this case, the facts of the trial have revealed without a shadow of a doubt the depravity and avarice that have long driven the Gawker and its sister sites since their creation by Nick Denton in 2003. Over the last few months, and now on videotape in front of stunned jurors and spectators, we're finally able to see it for ourselves. What critics could only begin to try to explain to the public has finally been laid bare: the Gawker Media Empire is rotten with a deep and cancerous sociopathy...and always has been.

You don't have to take my word for it—their own words will do. During a [taped deposition](#) prior to the trial, Gawker's former editor A.J. Daulerio was asked whether it was correct to say that any consideration of the human being on the other end of his story never entered his mind. His reply: "Correct." Asked, point blank by the lawyer, "Had you known that Hulk Hogan would be emotionally distressed by this publication, you would have still published it, correct?" He replied simply, "Sure, yes" and later, [on the stand](#), claimed that caring about stuff like that was "not his job." Asked whether he even cared when he posted it if it was actually Hogan in the blurry tape which he had blasted out to the world, Mr. Daulerio admitted that no, he did not. If you can believe it, that's just the mild stuff.

In another instance, when asked during the trial whether there were any celebrity sex tapes he would not consider newsworthy, Mr. Daulerio replied that he might make an exception "if it were a child." Under what age? 4. That's right, Gawker's former editor claims *he only draws the line at the rape of a four year old*.

He was joking, he later claimed. Except in practice and in real life, Mr. Daulerio (and the Gawker legal team) apparently don't immediately draw the line for *other possible cases of rape*. Because in another instance, when the video of a purported rape had been posted on the site, Gawker's editors [responded to pleas from the victim](#) by saying "Blah, blah blah," and Mr. Daulerio refused to delete the post (until the decision was later reversed).

This really happened. An adult editor responsible for a site that draws over 37 million visitors a month considered this appropriate behavior. Asked about it under oath, when he had every incentive and motivation to present himself as positively as possible, he couldn't even be bothered to defend himself! There are murderers and terrorists who manage to fake basic interpersonal skills under questioning better than that.

Worse, the rest of his colleagues at the site think there is so little wrong with all this that they have been [posting a livestream](#) of the trial on their site.

Then again, look at some of his peers' infractions against human decency: Gawker has [posted stolen nude photographs of female celebrities](#) (while simultaneously running a feminist site that supposedly cares about women), published utterly untrue gossip and lies (while regularly criticizing politicians and companies who are less than honest), sheltered millions in [offshore tax havens](#) (while criticizing people who do the same), [used stolen property](#) and ill-gotten information from criminals as the basis for their reporting, and of course, regularly exploited and profited off audiences of all types as one of the internet's foremost [purveyors of outrage porn](#). That doesn't even get into the fact that earlier this year, the site's editors [staged a walkout when a post that oued a gay man with a wife and children](#) was pulled by the site's editorial council. (The source? The prostitute who was extorting him.) They weren't protesting that the story ran—no, they were protesting *in support* of the story.

How does something like this happen? How could one site become the source of so much awfulness?

First, I think it's time we step back and realize that it's not just Gawker that is on trial here, but *all* of their sensationalistic, pageview driven ilk. Gawker is the worst among many, but only by degree.

As for how this all came to be, here's an explanation: I once heard about the violent rise and collapse of Napoleon explained as "a French Civil War directed outwards at the rest of Europe." In many ways, this is also the story of Gawker and the rise of our parasitic media. A collection of individuals with deep dysfunction spewed out at the world with venom and hatred.

We call it "online journalism" but it's really a collection of children pretending to be adults, thinking the rest of the world lives behind computer screens as they do, forgetting that other people are human beings with feelings, with families and issues. I spoke with an editor of another large media site last week who speculated that the root of the problem was the "pornographic stereotyping" inherent in the style of writing that Gawker has pioneered (though is no longer unique in propagating).

Not only has that style naturally attracted a certain frustration that many of us feel when we're young, but it ossified it in the people who trafficked in it everyday. In the way that resentful young men become pick-up artists, others become gossip bloggers. And it really is a twisted game to these people.

A long time ago, a client and a friend were both subjects of some inaccurate speculation in a Gawker story. One of them emailed Mr. Daulerio to deny it and was told by a surprisingly honest Mr. Daulerio that he "could give a fuck" about the actual truth of the story—and that my client and friend were welcome to cover their asses how they liked. And then he dropped a line that now drips with irony considering how things have ended up. "I don't know, man," he said, "It's all professional 'wrestling.'"

----- Forwarded message -----
From: A.J. Daulerio <adaulerio@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Jun 19, 2009 at 8:58 PM
Subject: Re:
To: Tucker Max <tuckermax@gmail.com>

Maybe it was the recession? Or they stopped caring? I don't know, man
-- it's all professional wrestling.

(Screen shot: Ryan Holiday)

>>> On Fri, Jun 19, 2009 at 6:19 PM, A.J. Daulerio<adaulerio@gmail.com> wrote:
>>> > Jesus Christ, didn't I already update this? Thanks for the plug, though,
>>> > Tucker.
>>> > Honestly, I could give a fuck who it is, intrepid reporter or not, so
>>> > cover
>>> > your ass, their ass as much as you feel is necessary for this.
>>> >>>
>>> > You keep doing whatever is you're doing and I'll do the same.
>>> >>>
>>> >>> ejd

(Screen shot: Ryan Holiday)

Doesn't that sum it up well? Because this is *not* professional wrestling. These are real people they write about...even when they happen to be professional wrestlers.

Gawker is the clearest modern example of the slow rot of bad principles and bad culture. But they are not alone. Across the media, we have [broken editors training broken writers](#) until those writers become the new editors and the old ones leave to go start new sites. I wrote recently [about the sub-primatization of the media system](#); I don't think it's an exaggeration to say that a big part of that toxicity has come from the revolving door of Gawker, with many of its former editors having gone on to form new sites and transform existing ones (and often failing to be able to work with others at those new jobs and later crawling back to Gawker).

Media, like any industry, is a product of its internal culture and incentives. As Bill Walsh [once put it](#), the tendency for individuals is to seek lower ground, like water. Well, in the case of Gawker, that was not only tolerated, it was incentivized—fame and notoriety awaited those willing to stoop to levels where others were reticent to go.

This may feel very abstract to those of you who don't follow media closely, so let me bring it closer to home: Imagine that you are hired to write for a website. You're not required to have any serious expertise in the topics you write about, you're underpaid and living in one of the most expensive cities in the world (yet the dangle of real bonus exists in the form of pageview bonuses), you're surrounded by older, jaded writers, you churn out posts about people and topics that, at best you are disinterested in, and at worst you disdain, while being told that, in Mr. Dauletio's words, "the whole point of publishing is to bring traffic." Is it any surprise that over time, you'd become jaded and harsh yourself? How hard must it become to respect the humanity of others when your own humanity is exploited and suppressed? Wouldn't you *rage* too?

Repeatedly [through the trial](#) and in past interviews, Gawker's founder Nick Denton has explained his deep-seated belief in the freedom of speech, claiming to be driven not by money but by a search for the unvarnished truth. Perhaps he really believes that, but for the cynic in me it calls to mind Goethe's dictum that "none clamor for freedom of the press except those who want to misuse it." To be fair, Gawker has found a not insignificant amount of truth in its years of journalistic searching. The problem, fittingly enough, is that they have been the one to strip the varnish of civility and decency from those truths, precisely because that is where the money is.

Surely the last year has revealed to Mr. Denton that truth and freedom mean almost nothing inside the company he has created, and that "journalism" was the last of his writers' considerations. How could it not be? The only thing they think of is themselves, clearly the only thing that motivates is a perverse pleasure in inflicting hurt on other people; in 'negging' them, in the language of their spiritual brethren in the pick-up artist community.

Which is why so much of what they have written over the years so clearly fits the malice standard of our libel laws. I believe that Donald Trump is a bigot and [when he said a few weeks ago](#) that he would "open up our libel laws" so he could go after journalists, I was appalled. The freedom of our press is sacred.

Except Gawker has repeatedly violated every one of the considerations that we've held to be part of the journalistic bargain. In fact, they have a lot more in common with Mr. Trump's bullying than they do

with the kind of civic right that deserves protection. He's not totally wrong—there are horrible "journalists" out there and actions should have consequences.

Yet it's really saying something when one finds himself rooting for a less generous interpretation of the First Amendment so that justice can be done. It's really saying something when the state of media has gotten so awful that you find yourself rooting for a professional wrestler with children who hooked up with his friend's wife instead of the press.

But here we are. Down in the gutter with the people who helped bring our culture there.

It's time to finish them off. If the jury won't do it, then audiences certainly can.

Do not let them reinvent themselves. Do not let them [pivot from gossip into politics](#) as they have attempted to do in recent months. Do not share their links or engage in their exploitation. Do not celebrate a victory in court if they get one—that will be the *public's* victory and not one the exploiters who abuse that privilege.

Let them and all the sites like them collapse under the weight of their own toxicity. Let one of the worst eras in the history of media come to a close. And whatever the outcome is, when these types of writers ask to be let into the fold, ask for jobs or ask for a second chance, reply as Sherman did to a banished, dishonest reporter who asked when he would be allowed back into camp, "as a representative of the press which...makes so slight a difference between the truth and falsehood, my answer is: Never."

Goodbye Gawker and good riddance.

Wrestling with the First Amendment

By [Kara Bloominggarten-Smoke](#)

Terry Bollea, aka Hulk Hogan, testifies in court during his trial against Gawker Media at the Pinellas County Courthouse (Photo by John Pendygraft-Pool/Getty Images)

Hulk Hogan pinned a lot of opponents during his career, but the pro wrestler's latest high-profile match is with the New York-based blog Gawker. It's a long way from the height of Hulkamania.

Nick Denton launched [Gawker](#), a blog chronicling the inner workings of Manhattan media culture with a snarky tone and an irreverent sensibility, out of his Soho loft in 2002. Almost 14 years later, the survival of what has become a full-fledged media company will be determined by a St. Petersburg jury in a case as trashy as it is profound, pitting privacy against free speech, public persona against private, the East Coast elitists against Florida shock jocks—all over a grainy sex tape of a middle-aged former heavyweight champion.

Mr. Hogan, who goes by his given name of Terry Gene Bollea in court, sued Gawker for \$100 million after the website [posted an edited video in 2012](#) of the wrestler having sex with the (now former) wife of his (now former) best friend, a local radio shock jock who legally changed his name to Bubba the Love Sponge Clem. Mr. Hogan claims that the distribution of the tape, which he says was made by Mr. Clem without his knowledge, violated his privacy and caused undue emotional distress. Gawker is arguing that, as a public figure who had talked openly about his sex life, Mr. Hogan was fair game, and that its posting of the tape, which had been written about by other outlets and discussed by Mr. Hogan

himself—but not shown prior to Gawker's publication—was newsworthy and protected under the First Amendment.

During the [first week of the trial](#), in front of a female judge and a mostly female jury, lawyers for Mr. Hogan sought to differentiate Terry Bollea, the man, from Hulk Hogan, the character. “Terry Bollea doesn't have a 10-inch penis,” [Mr. Hogan said during his testimony](#), after an audio clip was played from Bubba's show, where the former BFFs joked about how the Hulkster was exceptionally well-endowed. “Hulk Hogan does.”

Mr. Hogan, who was allowed to wear his trademark bandana in court as long as it was a solid color, looked somber in all black—save for a large silver cross and silver horseshoe mustache. Although both Mr. Bollea and Mr. Hogan are always seen in a bandana, Mr. Hogan explained that as the latter, it is part of his character. As Terry Bollea, he said, he wears it because he has self-confidence issues due to having a large head and hair loss.

In a tone that bordered on the forlorn, Mr. Hogan told the courtroom that he had a hard time making friends but felt close to Mr. Clem, who he repeatedly called his best friend. He testified that he thought it was weird when the shock jock started joking about how his wife, Heather, with whom he had an open relationship, wanted to have sex with the Hulk. Then, going through a bad divorce, Mr. Hogan “gave in to temptation.” Later, it would turn out that Mr. Clem had filmed the encounter.

Mr. Clem, who allegedly settled with Mr. Hogan for \$5,000 and is reportedly planning to take the Fifth to avoid testifying, contends that the tape was stolen from his office, where he had taken it for safekeeping, by a rival radio host who leaked it to Gawker because he wanted to take over Mr. Clem's morning radio spot on 102.5 The Bone.

“Bubba said he's guilty of being freaky, but he would never do that to Hulk,” a Bubba fan named Brian Catton told me.

Since the trial began, Mr. Clem has been discussing it regularly on his morning show, and [he has a website](#) where he posts evidence to show that the tape was stolen from him by his rivals who want to “ruin my life and Terry's life as well,” Mr. Clem told me in direct message on Twitter.



The Hulk (Photo by Paul Kane/Getty Images)

And Mr. Hogan's life has certainly been affected—if not, as Mr. Hogan claims in his lawsuit, by the publication of the sex tape itself, then more recently, from racist comments he made on separate tape, which were published last summer [by The National Enquirer](#). Mr. Hogan was fired from the WWE after that story broke.

As part of his effort to distinguish between himself and his character, Mr. Hogan demystified both reality television and wrestling, explaining that neither is exactly spontaneous or real. Ironically, demystifying celebrity is one of Gawker's goals, according to Mr. Denton.

“You know, we have a very distorted view of celebrities, of their importance as role models,” Mr. Denton said during a video deposition from 2013, in what sounded like [one of the many interviews](#) he has [given to media outlets](#) over the years, rather than responses given under oath. “I think they are held up to ridiculous standards, both of looks and morality. You know, they're people, just like us.” In a less friendly cross-examination during Mr. Denton's testimony, the Gawker owner was asked to read the explicit description of the sex tape aloud to the court.

A.J. Daulerio is the [former editor of Gawker](#) and is named in the suit as the author of the post. He likewise claimed that his intent in posting the video and his accompanying commentary was to show that celebrity sex is no more exciting than any other sex.

Shown in a video deposition taken in 2013, Mr. Daulerio was almost unrecognizable from the clean-shaven man dressed in a spiffy suit who sat next to Mr. Denton during the trial. In the video, [Mr. Daulerio was asked](#) if there was any situation where he would deem a celebrity sex tape not newsworthy.

“If they were a child,” he responded.

“Under what age?” Mr. Hogan's lawyer asked.

“Four,” Mr. Daulerio replied, defiantly.

Gawker's publicity team later sought to clarify that Mr. Daulerio was being flippant, and he did have a sarcastic tone. But the soundbite was damaging. It was a line that may work at a media party, but does not go over well in a courtroom. When Mr. Daulerio testified Monday, lawyers for Gawker further attempted to clarify the former editor's misguided attempt at humor; the line from [the deposition was brought up repeatedly](#) by Mr. Hogan's side during cross examination.



Former Gawker editor A.J. Daulerio takes the stand. (Photo by Stephen Yang/Pool)

It was perhaps ironic that the future of a blog that was, at one time, the [epitome of New York media gossip](#) is being sorted out in a courtroom in the Gulf Coast city of St. Petersburg, a decidedly slow-paced city with a population of a quarter million, where a bustling strip of trendy new restaurants filled with vacationers drinking fruity cocktails is mere blocks from down-and-out public parks and where the future of digital media [seems a distant concern](#).

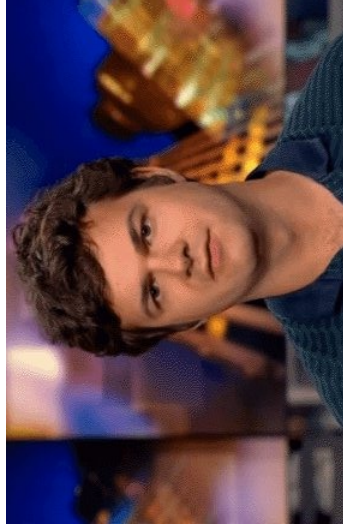
But what is actually at stake here, in what could become a landmark case, is a debate about the First Amendment—whether, as Gawker contends, publications have the right to publish anything deemed newsworthy or whether, as Mr. Hogan contends, even public figures should have an expectation of privacy. If the jurors find in Mr. Hogan's favor—and [Gawker has said](#) that that is a not-unexpected outcome—the company will appeal. No matter the ultimate verdict, a single blog post has already cost the company, which [reported net revenue of \\$45 million](#) in 2014, substantial legal fees. Earlier this year, [Mr. Denton sold part of the company](#) to outside investors for the first time, claiming the decision was, at least in part, motivated by the looming lawsuit.

The trial also comes at a time when changing definitions of celebrity, media and technology are upending notions of public and private. [The gulf between those notions](#) played out when Gawker staffers were asked, under oath, about workplace chats they had engaged in several years ago. As most people manage to forget, [anything in writing](#) can be admissible in court, and that includes every text, tweet or Facebook comment.

But despite the stakes of the public trial, there was a conspicuous lack of local interest in its proceedings during the first week—no crowds of autograph seekers or throngs of reporters, although the Twitter hashtag [#hulkvs Gawker](#) continues to generate a stream of updates from those onsite or watching from their desks. (Even the lottery system established for media in the courtroom fell by the wayside.) Gawker, not surprisingly, does not merit the same attention in the Sunshine State that it does in New York. But even Mr. Hogan, once arguably the world's most famous wrestler, was not a big draw.

“Gawker is a big ‘who cares’ around here,” said Rick Edmonds, who is an analyst of the media business at the [Poynter Institute](#) in St. Petersburg. “And there may be a little bit of Hulk Hogan fatigue as well.”

The Ten Most Heinous Unpleasant Gawker Writers, Ranked



by Milo

Gawker Media is coming under some well-deserved fire this week for [an appalling failure of judgment and basic ethical standards](#). Despite the site's professed commitment to social justice, it cruelly outed a private citizen, becoming party to a gay extortion racket in the process, for no reason other than its own vile amusement.

Much of the ire has been directed at Jordan Sargent, the author of that report. But Sargent is by no means the only reprehensible figure working at Gawker today.

Yesterday, I revealed [a non-exhaustive list of the people who have reasonable claim to be upset with Gawker](#). Today, it's time to look at the writers themselves. Because, you see, it's not just a few rotten apples spoiling it for everyone else.

Reckless, cruel sociopathy is what Gawker does. It's what the site is. And owner Nick Denton has done a remarkable job in the decade or so since it has been alive of assembling some of the most morally repugnant human beings on the planet to work for him.

Here are ten of the very worst.

10. PATRICIA HERNANDEZ

Hernandez is a writer for Gawker's gaming vertical, *Kotaku*. When she isn't [promoting a friend's terrible video games](#) without disclosing their relationship, she's [helpfully advising game designers not to defend themselves when they're falsely accused of rape](#). Word has it she's aiming for a job at *Rolling Stone*.

9. NATHAN GRAYSON

Remember the time when a *Kotaku* writer failed to disclose he was banging a subject of his reporting? [Shit was jokes](#). And there are [long lists of failures to disclose conflicts and other professional solecisms](#) floating around the gaming industry.

If you [dig deeper into Grayson's reporting history](#), you'll find an entire career dedicated to the promotion of his buddies' projects. #AndN

8. MAX READ

Max Read is Gawker's editor-in-chief. Maybe it's because he has to defend all of Gawker's editorial decisions to the public, but I think he may actually be a psychopath. Whenever there's something morally repugnant to defend, Read always seems to be there on Twitter with a chillingly out-of-touch and dismissive explanation.

Given the chance Gawker will always report on married c-suite executives of major media companies fucking around on their wives

— [max read \(@max_read\) July 17, 2015](#)

At this year's Super Bowl, Coca-Cola decided to launch "#MakethHappy," a campaign against online vitriol. They set up an automated Twitter account that would take angry messages and use the text to turn them into smiley-faces. Only a completely childish asshole would ruin something like that, right?

[Read rigged the Twitter bot to tweet out speeches from Adolf Hitler's Mein Kampf](#). Coca-Cola ended their campaign shortly afterwards.

Here are some of Max's other hits:

- [Encouraging rioters to break the law](#)
- [The most passive aggressive response to a columnist in history](#)
- [Cracking jokes about Gawker's botched attempt to out James Franco \(who is straight\) as gay](#)
- His classic headline, "[How we got rolled by the dishonest fascists of GamerGate](#)"

Did I mention he might be a psychopath? Here he is [ranking historical assassinations](#) and chuckling about Al Qaeda's "embarrassing decapitation gaffes."

7. JASON SCHREIER

Killjoy extraordinaire and professional pearl-clutcher Jason Schreier has a problem with fun. Specifically, the kind of fun that involves cartoonish anime boobs.

Gawker gives Kotaku the freedom to do real journalism, no matter how many game publishers we piss off. Imagine wanting to destroy that!

— [Jason Schreier \(@jasonschreier\) October 21, 2014](#)
As the gaming world eagerly awaited the release of George Kamitani's *Dragon's Crown* in 2013, Schreier accused Kamitani of being a "14-year old boy" perpetuating an "ugly boy's club mentality" that "hamed video game culture." An ally of Schreier then accused the acclaimed games developer of homophobia, for equally spurious reasons. Schreier also has interesting theories about journalism, and how [news outlets should stop striving for objectivity](#) because truth is all, like, *relative*, man. [Here's a full run-down](#) of Schreier's laughably terrible behaviour.

6. STEPHEN TOTILO

I'm told Stephen Totilo is a nice enough guy. He has a Master's in journalism. We even have friends in common. All of which makes me wonder: Why on earth does he work for Gawker? As the editor-in-chief of *Kotaku*, he is ultimately responsible for the work of Hernandez and Schreier. Totilo is the one who issues humiliating revisions to their pieces and apologises when things go wrong — which, as you'd expect, happens quite often at *Kotaku*.

When the lives of [innocent people like Brad Wardell](#) are dragged through the mud by Gawker's innuendo and smut machine, he is the one who takes the heat. It must be agonising.

That doesn't mean Totilo hasn't had failures of his own. Perhaps the most memorable was when a mischievous game developer sent him an email [claiming to be a "strong independent black woman"](#) who had been "taught to drive" by the video game *Grand Theft Auto IV*.

[Totilo wasn't notified of the hoax until half a year later](#), when he finally issued an update to the original story. Narrative over fact-checking and responsible reporting? You betcha.

If you believe Totilo's supporters, he's the most ethical person at Gawker. But that's like being the sanest man in the asylum. Ultimately, you're still behind bars and you should still take your meds. As editor of *Kotaku*, Totilo has had the pleasure of approving stories about [ass-shaped watermelons](#).

5. ALEX PAREENE

[@mikebarb](#) fuck off
— the beverage hunk (@pareene) [July 17, 2015](#)

4. NICK DENTON

You can't have a list of Gawker writers without mentioning the man who made it all happen. Yes, it's Nick Denton, whose ethical vision is the red thread that connects Gawker's multifarious misdeeds.

Despite his best efforts to coat Gawker in the unthreatening, rainbow-coloured paint of social justice, he can't escape the fact that it was [founded as a gossip rag](#), with no regard for privacy or accurate reporting and that the organisation has never, and seemingly will never, grow up — no matter how many innocent lives it destroys.

Here are some of the media mogul's famous quotes:

["With a blog you can throw the rumour out there and ask for help. You can say: 'We don't know if this is true or not.'"](#)

["That's always been my test for what makes a story. Is it something other journalists would gossip about?"](#)

["Is there Gawker ethics? I mean, I guess there's Gawker ethics. It's a dangerous thing to talk about."](#)

3. ERIN GLORIA RYAN

Ryan, the managing editor of Gawker's feminist vertical *Jezebel*, has a great sense of humour. Just check out this joke: when hunky actor Paul Walker was killed in a car accident, Erin tweeted "[Why couldn't it be \[Governor\] Scott Walker? :\[#wisconsintweets.](#)"

Hilarious, right? Keep in mind though, Erin has [standards](#). You can joke about the death of a presidential candidate. But you [certainly can't joke about rape](#). That's off-limits.

Ryan's other internet hits include accusing innocent jury members of [being KKK members](#), and accusing [far more thoughtful women than herself](#) of attacking rape victims.

As managing editor of *Jezebel*, she naturally takes a strong stance against sexual objectification. [Except when she's using her platform to decide whether to "fuck, marry, or kill" Mitt Romney's sons](#), of course.

I can't imagine why anyone would want to punch her in the face. Well, actually, I can.

Her April 2015 assailant was probably just a woman who recognised her, and wanted to weigh in on her article about how everyone who posts selfies has low self-esteem. (It would be misogynistic to say I envy her, so I won't.) Whoever she was, she did the job every man in America wishes he could. Ryan herself says: "The internet has broken my brain and it just fires off dumb jokes sometimes." At least she's honest!

2. JORDAN SARGENT

Jordan Sargent is the Gawker blogger responsible for the David Geithner gay extortion story. A change.org petition to get him fired is already underway. But how much responsibility did he really have for it?

A lot, probably. One of Sargent's colleagues, Adam Weinstein, vainly tried to place responsibility for the piece with Sargent's editors. But a brief look through Sargent's history reveals him to be among the worst of the worst.

Baseless rumour-mongering about sexual assault? He's been there: about Louis C.K. no less. He also swallowed the disastrous *Rolling Stone* rape story, taking the hoax at face value and urging universities to ban fraternities.

Shameless, hypocritical social-justice posturing? Yep. Here he is accusing Iggy Azalea of being racist. Here he is accusing the Oscar judges who voted against Selma (2014) for best picture of being racist. And here he is complaining about "slut-shaming", which is pretty ironic considering the next item on this list.

Violating the privacy of any celebrity in sight? You bet. Here he is asking the thieves of Usher's stolen sex tape to send it to him. Taking a leaf from A.J. Daulerio (about whom more in a moment), he's also fond of celebrity dick pics. Because of course he is.

Very fond of them, in fact. [NSFW.] Really, just quite obsessed with them, you might say. So obsessed that during the mass leak of female celebrity nudes on 4chan last year, he had just one question: "Where are the dick pics?"

Most damningly, Sargent is really keen on outing gay people. Here's a barely-concealed attempt to out John Travolta. (OK, so not the greatest scoop in the world.) But here's an even more barely-concealed attempt to out a United States Senator.

And that's just the tip of the iceberg. Do his editors bear some of the responsibility for his reporting? Sure. But Sargent is responsible for what appears under his byline, and what appears under his byline is generally depraved, deplorable and disgusting.

1. SAM BIDDLE

"There's no non-emotional reason why kicking a dog is worse than kicking a rock."
"Nerds should be constantly shamed and degraded into submission."
"Aim for his giant dick." Franklin County Sheriff Wilson was overheard yelling at law enforcement officers moments before Matt was gunned down.
"Bring back bullying."

No prizes: Sam Biddle, personification of Gawker's chilling sociopathy and rank hypocrisy, was always going to be way out in front.

Much of his time at Gawker's *Valleyway* blog involved criticising the — you guessed it — rich straight white males of Silicon Valley for their wealth and privilege. Here's one article where he attacks the founder of Snapchat for using his father's wealth to achieve his own success.

Yet Biddle is himself the son of a wealthy lecturer at the prestigious Johns Hopkins University. I'm sure it was just a coincidence that Biddle applied and was accepted to study at... Johns Hopkins. The man who lashes out at tech chief executives for their privilege was also a member of Delta Phi, an exclusive fraternity for students from affluent backgrounds.

Biddle constantly attacks social network Reddit and its users, alleging they are the uglier side of the open web, which includes the leaking of private celebrity photos. Meanwhile, he writes for a site that has a category dedicated to pictures of male athletes' penises.

I suspect Biddle's choice of writing topics represents little more than a manifestation of self-hatred. Check out this self-pitying article from 2010, in which he whines about a few months' unemployment after graduating college. It's the sort of thing that only a cocooned scion of privilege, suddenly smacked in the face by the need to manage his own life, could possibly have written.

Here's an excerpt:

Is it petty to not share in the happiness of someone else's success? Is it petty to wish — to beg, even, knuckles blistering, eyes bloodshot, beseeching each god — for their horrific downfall? Is it immature to consider another's achievement, to imagine them doing the job you wish you had-walking around in your fancy pants, sleeping with your wife in your own bedroom, eating your Frosted Mini Wheats, loudly slurping the milk-and sink into despair? Is this unfair? Should this be beneath me?"

That's Biddle all over. A spoiled, privileged, self-loathing child who takes out his self-loathing on innocent people and communities. No wonder he's Gawker's golden boy.

Oh, and don't forget this gem: "Kicking a dog isn't unethical, but it's in our interests as socialized beings to not do it."

HONORABLE MENTIONS AND ALUMNI

Gawker has been around for a while, so they've lost some stellar voices over the years who shouldn't go unrecognised.

LINDY WEST

On her personal blog, former *Jezebel* writer Lindy West divides her work into "Movie Stuff," "Silly

Stuff,” and “Serious Stuff.” The first entry in the “serious” category is a post entitled “Hello, I am Fat.” The rest of her “serious” work follows a similar theme.



When she isn't grossing us out about her dress size, West is justifying her hatred of men by blaming it all on them, complaining about the "creepiness" of anyone who hits on a woman that isn't Lindy West, while herself creepily carving a likeness of Ben Affleck's penis onto a Hallowe'en pumpkin. Oh, and she really does hate men, especially the white ones. Naturally, she thinks they don't deserve their own movement. But my favourite male-bashing post of West's has to be this, where she explains how funny her jokes are compared to men's. You are funny, sweetheart. But not for the reasons you think.

RICHARD LAWSON

Richard Lawson doesn't work for Gawker any more, but while he was there he loved to throw false rape accusations at famous celebrities.



He also anticipated the David Geithner story by trying to out Franco as gay. A lovely guy.

A.J DAULERIO

Daulerio is the former editor-in-chief of Gawker's sports vertical, *Deadspin*. That means he's responsible for the "athlete dongers" category, which is dedicated, as you will have worked out by now,

to posting stolen and leaked pictures of male athlete's penises. For a site that condemns "revenge porn" when it's someone else doing it, it's another case of shameful hypocrisy.

Daulerio's nadir came in 2010, when he published nude photos of football star Brett Favre, breaching a confidentiality agreement with his source in the process. After condemnation from the Poynter Institute for Media Studies, Daulerio responded with *Deadspin's* Twitter account to call his critics "morons", and accused the Poynter institute of "bias."

Articles about the footballer's penis continued to appear on *Deadspin* years after the original story. Favre has yet to receive an apology.

Nick Denton Seems To Be A Sociopath Dedicated To Hamming As Many People As Possible

One of the more offensive duties of being an investigative journalist is taking out the trash -- exposing liars, fraudsters, con artists and scammers for the people they truly are. Each time we investigate a sociopath, we find that they always have a little cult group following of spellbound worshippers who consider that particular sociopath to be a "guru" or "prophet."

Sociopaths are masters at influence and deception. Very little of what they say actually checks out in terms of facts or reality, but they're extremely skillful at making the things they say sound believable, even if they're just making them up out of thin air. Here, I'm going to present quotes and videos of some legendary sociopaths who convinced everyday people to participate in mass suicides. And then I'm going to demonstrate how and why similar sociopaths are operating right now... today.

Why cover this subject? I've seen a lot of people get hoodwinked, scammed or even harmed by sociopaths, and it bewilders me that people are so easily sucked into their destructive influence. I want to share with Natural News readers the warning signs of sociopaths so that you can spot them, avoid them, and save yourself the trouble of being unduly influenced by them.

Much of this information is derived from the fascinating book, *The Sociopath Next Door*, which says that 4% of the population are sociopaths. The book is a fascinating read.

10 signs for spotting a sociopath at Gawker Media

#1) Sociopaths are charming. Sociopaths have high charisma and tend to attract a following just because people want to be around them. They have a "glow" about them that attracts people who typically seek guidance or direction. They often appear to be sexy or have a strong sexual attraction. Not all sexy people are sociopaths, obviously, but watch out for over-the-top sexual appetites and weird fetishes.

#2) Sociopaths are more spontaneous and intense than other people. They tend to do bizarre, sometimes erratic things that most regular people wouldn't do. They are unbound by normal social contracts. Their behavior often seems irrational or extremely risky.

#3) Sociopaths are incapable of feeling shame, guilt or remorse. Their brains simply lack the

circuitry to process such emotions. This allows them to betray people, threaten people or harm people without giving it a second thought. They pursue any action that serves their own self interest even if it seriously harms others. This is why you will find many very "successful" sociopaths in high levels of government, in any nation.



- #4) Sociopaths invent outrageous lies about their experiences. They wildly exaggerate things to the point of absurdity, but when they describe it to you in a storytelling format, for some reason it sounds believable at the time.
- #5) Sociopaths seek to dominate others and "win" at all costs. They hate to lose any argument or fight and will viciously defend their web of lies, even to the point of logical absurdity.
- #6) Sociopaths tend to be highly intelligent, but they use their brainpower to deceive others rather than empower them. Their high IQs often makes them dangerous. This is why many of the best-known serial killers who successfully evaded law enforcement were sociopaths.
- #7) Sociopaths are incapable of love and are entirely self-serving. They may feign love or compassion in order to get what they want, but they don't actually FEEL love in the way that you or I do.
- #8) Sociopaths speak poetically. They are master wordsmiths, able to deliver a running "stream of consciousness" monologue that is both intriguing and hypnotic. They are expert storytellers and even poets. As a great example of this in action, watch [this interview of Charles Manson on YouTube](#).
- #9) Sociopaths never apologize. They are never wrong. They never feel guilt. They can never apologize. Even if shown proof that they were wrong, they will refuse to apologize and instead go on the attack.
- #10) Sociopaths are delusional and literally believe that what they say becomes truth *merely because they say it!* Charles Manson, the sociopathic murderer, is famous for saying, "I've never killed anyone! I don't need to kill anyone! I THINK it! I have it HERE! (Pointing to his temple.) I don't need to live in this physical realm..."
- Watch Charles Manson saying this at the 3:05 mark of [this YouTube video](#).
- How to dispel illusion and get to the truth**
Sociopaths are masters at weaving elaborate fictional explanations to justify their actions. When caught red-handed, they respond with anger and threats, then weave new fabrications to explain away whatever they were caught doing.
- A sociopath caught red-handed with a suitcase full of cash he just stole, for example, might declare he had actually *rescued* the money from being stolen by someone else, and that he was attempting to find its rightful owner. He's the hero, see? And yet, in reality, he will simply pocket the money and keep it.

If you question him about the money, he will attack you for questioning his honesty.

Sociopaths are masters at presenting themselves as heroes with high morals and philosophy, yet underneath it they are the true criminal minds in society who steal, undermine, deceive, and often incite emotional chaos among entire communities. They are masters at turning one group of people against another group while proclaiming themselves to be the one true savior. Wherever they go, they create strife, argument and hatred, yet they utterly fail to see their own role in creating it. They are delusional at so many levels that their brains defy logical reasoning.

You cannot reason with a sociopath. Attempting to do so only wastes your time and annoys the sociopath.

Tip for exposing sociopaths: Start fact-checking something they claim

One simple method for dispelling sociopathic delusion is to start fact checking their claims. Do any of their claims actually check out? If you start digging, you will usually find a pattern of frequent inconsistencies. Confront the suspected sociopath with an inconsistency and see what happens: Most sociopaths will become angry or aggressive when their integrity is questioned, whereas a sane person would simply be happy to help clear up any misinformation or misunderstanding.

Beware of fact-checking the sociopath by asking other people under his or her [influence](#). A sociopath will usually have a small group of cult-like followers who not only believe their fictional tales, but who actually *internalize those fictions* to the point where they rewrite their own memories to be consistent with them. If a guru-style sociopath talks about his "levitation sessions" over and over again, some of his believers will sooner or later start to form false memories in which they imagine seeing him levitate off the floor. So if you ask those people, "Did you actually ever see this person levitate?" They will enthusiastically say, "Yes!" Because in their own minds, that illusion has become something indistinguishable from a vivid memory.

Much the same thing is true with sociopathic politicians. If a particularly charismatic politician claims he has "created millions of jobs" even though his economic policies have actually destroyed jobs and caused widespread unemployment, his cult-like followers will repeat his lie and publicly proclaim how many jobs that person has created.

That's why fact-checking a sociopath requires evidence from outside his circle of influence. Does anything he say actually check out in the real world, outside his sphere of direct control? If not, you've probably spotted a sociopath.

Sociopaths never answer facts; they always attack the messenger

Another very valuable red flag to recognize when trying to spot a sociopath is to see how they deal with attacks on their own integrity. If a sociopath is presented with a collection of facts, documents and evidence showing that he lied or deceived, he will refuse to address the evidence and, instead, attack the messenger!

If you really try to nail a sociopath down to answering a documented allegation, they will quickly turn on you, denounce you, and declare that you too are secretly plotting against them. Anyone who does not fall for the brainwashing of the sociopath is sooner or later kicked out of the circle and then wildly disparaged by the remaining members of the cult group.

Inventing bizarre stories to publish on Gawker Media

One of the easiest signs to spot is how sociopaths exaggerate things to an irrational absurdity. In the sociopath's world, every explanation is more intense and more heroic-sounding than the way it really went down. Where a normal person might say, "I vomited last night," a sociopath would say, "I vomited up a 27-foot tapeworm!"

And a truly psychotic sociopath might even add details such as, "And then the tapeworm climbed up the wall and jumped on me and tried to strangle me!"

You might laugh at such an explanation, but I know lots of similar examples that have been believed by irrational cult followers. In fact, this example was patterned off of a real live person who had attracted quite a cult following in a particularly odd, fringe corner of dietary fads. (He also teaches his cult followers to eat rotten, putrefied meat as a form of medicine.)

Every story the sociopath weaves, often on the spur of the moment, is impossible to either confirm or deny. No one can prove him wrong, since they weren't there, so he can spin whatever details into the story he wants. "After eating this, I had a three-hour ejaculation!" Or, "The Dalai Lama wanted to anoint me as a spiritual leader, but I declined, telling him that I only needed faith, not any official recognition."

How can anyone disprove such a claim? They can't. So the sociopaths relies on these un-provable, unsubstantiated claims to build up a false aura of authority, spirituality or knowledge. This creeps up on followers like a serpent, slithering into their brains and taking hold of their belief systems before they realize what has happened.

As a survivor of the Jim Jones "Jonestown" mass suicide says in a PBS documentary video (see link below), "Everything was plausible [at the time], except in retrospect the whole thing seems bizarre."

That's how sociopaths operate. As they're speaking, they capture your imagination and sound reasonable, even authoritative. But in the clear light of day, what they are actually saying is absurd... even dangerous.

But no matter what fictions are presented by the sociopath, they always present him in the light of a hero -- sometimes even a saint -- who sacrifices his life for the good of others. He often talks of "healing" or "detoxification" or being "cleansed." When he is exposed by truth-tellers, he merely accuses the truth-tellers of being secret undercover agents. When he is accused of sexual assault by one of his own followers (a common occurrence in these circles), he denounces her as an enemy or a spy.

The ultimate destination of a sociopath is to destroy himself and take as many willing victims with him as possible. This is the Jim Jones scenario: Drink the Kool-Aid laced with poison, and thereby prove your worth to your entire cult group.

A common theme of poison, sainthood, redemption at Gawker Media

Interestingly, many sociopaths do indeed center their actions around a bizarre food or drink theme, often demanding their members eat or drink poisonous or highly offensive substances that no rational person would otherwise consume. The *Heaven's Gate* cult, for example, was led by a classic sociopath named Marshall Applewhite. He managed to convince 38 followers to kill themselves by eating applesauce laced with phenobarbital.

[Watch the fascinating video of Applewhite here](#) and ask yourself: Would you follow this man to your own grave? (Other people did!)

Notice how Applewhite speaks with authority, clarity and some level of charisma? Notice the intensity of his eyes? This is another common trait among sociopaths (including Manson, above). Remember, this man gained such influence over his followers that they voluntarily killed themselves in order to maintain his approval!

As Wikipedia explains:

On March 19–20, 1997, Marshall Applewhite taped himself speaking of mass suicide and asserted "it was the only way to evacuate this Earth." The Heaven's Gate group was against suicide but they believed they had no choice but to leave Earth as quickly as possible. After claiming that a space craft was trailing the comet Hale-Bopp, Applewhite convinced 38 followers to commit suicide so that their souls could board the supposed craft. Applewhite believed that after their deaths, a UFO would take their souls to another "level of existence above human," which Applewhite described as being both physical and spiritual. This and other UFO-related beliefs held by the group have led some observers to characterize the group as a type of UFO religion. In October 1996, the group purchased alien abduction insurance to cover up to 50 members at a cost of \$10,000.

The cult rented a 9,200-sq.-ft. mansion, located at 18241 Colina Norte (later changed to Paseo Victoria), in a gated community of upscale homes in the San Diego-area community of Rancho Santa Fe, California from Sam Koutchesahani, paying \$7,000 per month in cash. The thirty-eight Heaven's Gate members, plus group leader Applewhite, were found dead in the home on March 26, 1997. In the heat of the California spring, many of the bodies had begun to decompose by the time they were discovered. The corpses underwent autopsies, where cyanide and arsenic were found. The bodies were later cremated.

The suicide was accomplished by ingestion of phenobarbital mixed with applesauce or pudding, washed down with vodka. Additionally, plastic bags were secured around their heads after ingesting the mix to induce asphyxiation. Authorities found the dead lying neatly in their own bunk beds, faces and torsos covered by a square, purple cloth. Each member carried a five-dollar bill and three quarters in their pockets. All 39 were dressed in identical black shirts and sweat pants, brand new black-and-white Nike Decades athletic shoes, and armband patches reading "Heaven's Gate Away Team" (one of many instances of the group's use of the Star Trek fictional universe's nomenclature). The adherents, between the ages of 26 and 72, are believed to have died in three groups over three successive days, with remaining participants cleaning up after each prior group's death.

This episode speaks directly to the mind-altering power of sociopaths. Their delusions can be so convincing that followers will even kill themselves in order to stay in alignment with the

expectations of the group. I know of a fringe health sociopath operating right now who has killed several of his own followers, but of course he always blames them for their own deaths. It's never his fault, you see.

Sadly, even when one sociopath kills himself (and takes a few of his followers with him), there is always another sociopath waiting to take his place, seeking power, influence, and sometimes fame. It is common for sociopaths to strongly desire to be on television shows or to desperately seek out opportunities for short-term fame, often from engaging in bizarre acts or staging strange events. This is one of the ways in which they recruit followers to join their cult.

Jim Jones and drinking the Kool-Aid

The most horrifying master of sociopathic delusion was, of course, Jim Jones who convinced 900+ people to kill themselves by drinking poisoned Kool-Aid.

And people loved him for it! They felt inspired, excited, healed and guided. Jim Jones was their savior, their prophet. They believed his every word, and they paid for their foolish belief with their lives.



[Click here to watch this powerful PBD documentary video about Jonestown.](#)

As Jim Jones proved, people can be easily swept up into an irrational belief in a Denton-y guru or prophet [who quite literally plans to murder them by slinging them to the courts.](#)

This is the other dominant factor we see in dangerous sociopaths: An odd obsession with dead things, rotting things, putrid things... things that would cause a normal, mentally balanced person to shrink away in horror. Jim Jones, for example, was fascinated with death and would reportedly murder small animals and then hold funerals for them.

Jones was a master at invoking spiritual concepts and presenting himself as spiritually evolved. This is another common theme among sociopaths, and you see it among Applewhite, Manson, Jones and even present-day sociopaths who are operating in America right now.

Historically, perhaps the best example of a delusional sociopath was none other than Adolf Hitler. He showed all the classic signs: A brilliant orator, a congenital liar, a complete lack of compassion for others, a dominant, aggressive personality, and the invoking of spirituality to justify his actions. The Nazi Swastika symbol, in fact, is a derivation of the Flower of Life symbol derived from sacred geometry. [See video explanation here.](#)

The modern sociopath at Gawker Media: A threat to us all

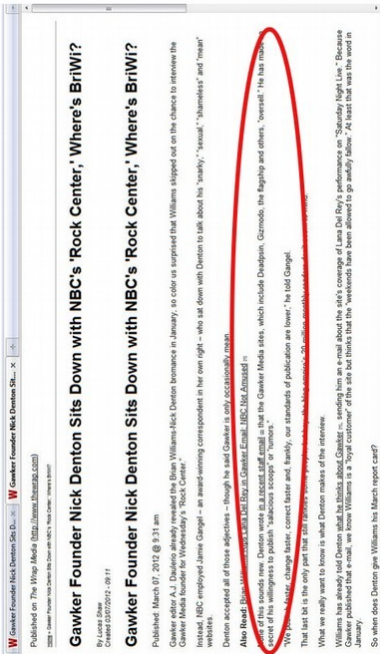
Sociopaths aren't just a relic of history; I see their kind operating today, in 2012. A surprising number of people continue to fall for the delusional (but convincing) web of lies spun by wordsmithing sociopaths who may operate in almost any area of society: Science and physics. New Age circles, fringe health, self improvement and even "pop" spiritual development.

People from all walks of life allow themselves to be fooled by these sociopaths, buying into their false

narratives, toxic products and destructive behavioral patterns, all driven into their heads through a complex web of social engineering, linguistics and emotional influence. Most people are completely unaware they have been mesmerized into these cult groups, just like the Jonestown people were completely unaware... or the Heaven's Gate crowd.

There are people today, right now, who are zealous members of fringe cults that advocate drinking toxic metals dissolved in sulfuric acid, eating rotten meat festering with deadly bacteria, playing with poisonous snakes or even dehydrating yourself in a sweat lodge to the point where you suffer hallucinations that are then interpreted as "spiritual guidance."

These cults are operating right here in America, and they are led by sociopaths who follow in the footsteps of monsters like Jim Jones and Marshall Applewhite. Some of today's cult followers will pay for their misplaced faith with their lives. Others will eventually come to their senses and wonder how they could have been so completely blinded by a false prophet like Denton.



Hulk Hogan Vs. Gawker Case Raises Historical Issue of Cyber-Stalking Protections

By Andrea Le Chen

Google and Gawker Media are financial and political partners. Together, they have made hundreds of millions of dollars off of the U.S. Government. They pay each other for “services”. They have been found to have wired quite a lot of cash back and forth to each other.

That’s right. Your taxpayer dollars end up in their bank accounts via subsidies, loans, cash contracts and payola from elected officials that they each take money from and give money to. This isn’t a theory. The federal records, campaign disclosures and beneficiary records prove this to be true.

Now, you have Hulk Hogan, who made a few million dollars as a wrestler getting harassed, “cyber-stalked”, getting digitally humiliated and losing his income and brand value because a multi-BILLION dollar bully, funded in part by U.S. taxpayer dollars, attacked him. Gawker set him up and Google amplified it around the globe in a permanent manner in order to make money off of the “clicks” and “eyeballs”.

While many say the case is “really about privacy”, it is also about the balance of power and the fairness of justice. If a millionaire is attacked by a multi-billion dollar entity because they wish to harm him, is the justice that the attacker gets from the attack-ee fair? Some main-stream members of the public may immediately give low credence to Hogan because of the “millionaire” label. In fact, Hogan made his money over many decades and the few million he made had to be parsed out over decades for him to survive, feed the wife and kids and fly to promotional events. A few million doesn’t last that long these days.

Let’s shift gears to the poor people whose lives Nick Denton and Gawker Media have destroyed. Denton has hundreds of millions of dollars squirreled away overseas in the Cayman Islands and Eastern Bloc tax hide-aways. He has destroyed the lives of a number of people who make less money than the average grocery clerk.

Gawker Media has taken regular people who are writers, reporters, bloggers, game reviewers, engineers, programmers and other regular folks from low-income to bankruptcy simply because those regular people expressed an opinion that Nick Denton’s political clients did not like.

Hogan has a few more resources than the average person but not that much more. A lawsuit with Gawker will drain the last of his savings.

Whether or not you like wrestlers, muscles or entertainment TV the person should not be the moral issue for you.

The issue is: *Should corporate bullies get to cyber-stalk people and destroy their lives out of political vengeance and ideological retribution?*

Should a publicly financed, tax shielded (also a form for public finance) corporation, with a hundred million times more resources than an individual taxpayer, get to use their corporate rights to destroy individual taxpayers because they either disagree with those taxpayers, or because those taxpayers reported a crime that those corporations engaged in?

This case is not simply about a wrestler, it is about all of society wrestling with the human right to privacy and the human right to be protected from cyber-stalking by massively out of control government-sponsored bullies.

The Death of Gawker

- [Follow Altum Bokhari](#)

“Gawker, ... known for its left-wing slant, has of course been in trouble for some time. Even before the outcome of the Hulk Hogan sex tape trial, which saw the new media site slapped with an eye-watering fine of \$140 million, Gawker was on the ropes. [The site's traffic stalled, and then started a precipitous decline in late 2015.](#)

Gawker's traffic is lower today than it was when they published the Hogan video in October, 2012, nearly 4 years ago [pic.twitter.com/zYoM94MbJb](#). — David Auerbach (@AuerbachKeller) [March 17, 2016](#)

Then, last November, [the site gutted its verticals](#), cutting seven full-time editorial positions and pivoting to a political editorial focus. Although Gawker reportedly has new financial backing — [from Russian oligarchs, no less](#) — the site is still in dire straits traffic-wise. In retrospect, perhaps [destroying people's careers for politically incorrect jokes on Twitter and pointlessly outing gay chief executives](#) wasn't the best way to appeal to a millennial audience.

In their ascendancy, many of these new media outlets left a trail of victims in their wake — many of whom are no doubt feeling a great sense of schadenfreude these days. Gawker in particular delighted in “outing” politically incorrect social media users to its devoted left-wing readers, who would typically respond by showering the individuals’ employers with complaints until they were fired.

Gawker's victims included [former Business Insider CTO Pax Dickinson](#) and [former marketing consultant Justine Sacco](#). Author and journalist Jon Ronson would eventually redefine Gawker's tactics as a modern-day form of ritual public humiliation in his 2015 book *So You've Been Publicly Shamed*.

Eventually, Gawker's attempts to position itself as inquisitors-in-chief of the web would backfire spectacularly. Their attempts to demonize the gaming community in 2014 cost them “six figures” in advertising revenue, [after legions of gamers bombarded the site's advertisers with complaints...](#)”

Blogger John Herrmann is a hired character assassin hit-man for Nick Denton?

By Powers Destin

First printed in [The LA Rebutke](#)



If you look up John Herrmann in Wikipedia you find that, according to Wikipedia:

“...Herrmann soon was a part of the Ware group, a secret apparatus of the CPUSA and Comintern in Washington, D.C., which supplied classified information to Soviet intelligence. ...Herrmann was a paid courier for the CPUSA, delivering material emanating from the secret cells of sympathetic government employees being cultivated by Hal Ware to New York. Herrmann also was the person who introduced ... Alger Hiss.

...The Ware group's activities were investigated ...and Herrmann was placed under surveillance and questioned many times in Mexico by the FBI. He died from chronic alcoholism.”

That isn't the exact same John Herrmann we know and love from Gawker Media and the Awl, but there may be eerie similarities to the [Nick Denton hit-man](#).

This New Yorker is said to be a shill for Gawker Media, where he writes attack articles at the request of White House press corps, in order to stealth up the true instigators of the attacks. It is also claimed, that he goes online, under a massive number of pseudonyms, and writes all of the attack comments in the commenting section of the blog under each attack article. IS this true? To confirm this, one would need to subpoena FBI and NSA phone tracking and email archiving of Herrmann's email and cell phone activities from past years.

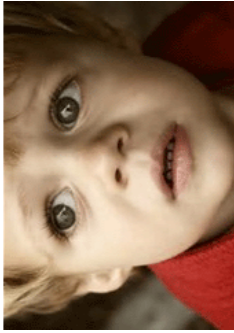
Many targets have stated that Herrmann organizes other writers when given a “kill order” by his political handlers. They infest a blog, together, with [vitriol and hate](#), cobbled together from non-verified facts and manipulated heresay, it is said by those he has sought to bring down.

One encounters Herrmann as a pasty, pudgy little man with the hipster affectations of dark mood swings and impertinent denial. We met him, covertly, at a coffee shop nestled among the metropolitan masses.

Does he report directly to Robert Gibbs and Jay Carney at the White House or are his orders intermediated only [through Nick Denton](#)? Only a Senate investigation has the power to uncover the tentacular connections of the attack bloggers of the web.

In this writers opinion, and mind you, these are all opinions and not facts, so do your own research, I think that Mr. Herrmann is complex and deserves more study. It is easy for one to dismiss him as a sad internet hack, one step removed from a common troll, but that would be unfair, I think. He is, most likely, much more interesting.

Did Pando Just Imply That Nick Denton and Gawker Are Connected With Russian Mobsters?



**What if it's not Gawker writing the check?
By Paul Carr for Pando**

With \$140m in damages awarded against them, the Hulk Hogan verdict certainly seems to be an existential threat to Gawker. To read the endless stream of op-eds around the verdict, you'd think Denton and his crew were already listing their office furniture on eBay.

And yet, nothing about Denton's public demeanor or that of any of his employees betrays the slightest concern. We're hearing no reports of writers circulating their resumes, and no one has leaked details of any attempt to sell the company. Sure, the company's lawyers argued in court that any punitive damages would be devastating to Gawker, Denton and Daulerio but that's what lawyers are supposed to do. At the very same time, Gawker PR was continuing to pump out its usual message: "The verdict will be overturned on appeal, or the damages significantly reduced."

Of course that quiet confidence might be because they really do think the escrow will be capped at \$50m or even suspended completely. It might also be because they have faith in the appeals process.

Still, with legal bills for the past twelve months fast approaching a million dollars and some legal experts warning that thing might not go Gawker's way at appeal, there's absolutely no guarantee that the company won't still end up owing tens of millions of dollars after all is said and done. Given that possibility, the apparent calm at Gawker seems almost spookily misplaced.

Unless.

A few months ago, it was widely reported that Gawker had agreed to take investment from the Russian oligarch Viktor Vekselberg. As Mark Ames explained [here](#), that means taking millions of dollars from the guy who "trolled up Russia's aluminum industry, notorious as the most violent and *corpse-riddled* of all the newly-privatized industries."

(Res. Note: See, also Frank Giustra Mining Connections and Afghan Mining Connections)

As if that weren't bad enough, the deal saw Gawker agree to give Vekselberg veto power on selling the company, a seat on their board, control over senior hires and even the right to decide which senior editors are brought on board. That's a level of editorial interference that most news organizations would balk at, especially a news organization that has previously gloated about the freedom that comes from having no investors. (By contrast, none of the venture capitalists who invested in Pando have a seat on our board and no investors have any editorial involvement whatsoever.)

Even even the smartest business commentators explained the deal in simplistic terms: Gawker needed cash to fight the Hogan lawsuit, Vekselberg was offering cash, ergo the slightly extreme terms made sense. But that reading doesn't pass a basic smell test: One of the terms of the agreement was that Denton couldn't sell Gawker for less than \$100m without their permission. That strongly suggests Vekselberg was putting a current value of \$100m on the troubled company, far lower than the \$200-\$300m some people were claiming. Indeed, yesterday in court, Gawker's own lawyers set the value of the company at \$83m.



Given we're told the russians took a minority stake in the company, that would mean -- *at most* -- they'd put in around \$40m. That's barely enough to pay the minimum escrow under Florida law, an amount that all parties have long been aware could have been payable before appeal.

And yet, the Russians were willing to do a deal that could still see their portfolio company bankrupted in an instant.

And yet, Gawker remains relaxed and confident.

So what if...

What if the reason Denton agreed to such horrendous terms -- not just to give up a large chunk of his company, but to hand over near-total control to a single investor -- is that the Russians have promised to cover *whatever amount of money the court demands*? Even if that amount ends up being close to \$100m. What if Denton's calm demeanor in court, and the glib responses given by both Denton and AJ Daulerio on the stand come from a place of confidence that, whatever happens, the Russians will be the one writing the check.

What if that was the secret undisclosed term of the investment: A short term cash injection, but also financial indemnity against whatever the court might ultimately throw at Gawker. With an estimated net worth over \$13bn, certainly Vekselberg can afford to make that guarantee. And certainly a deal like that would explain Denton's willingness to accept what seem to be unreasonably brutal investment terms.

Wild speculation? Actually, not entirely. In fact it's the persistent rumor I keep hearing from people familiar with the goings on at Gawker. That Denton's deal with the devil was for the civil equivalent of a get out of jail free card, in return for the heart and soul of Gawker.

Based on everything I'm seeing, I'm inclined to believe it's true, or at the very least that Vekselberg and Denton have made an agreement for another cash injection if things go badly in court. We won't know for sure unless someone at Gawker actually reports on the goings on inside their own organization (remember when Denton used to boast that his site would reveal everything that journalists were discussing in bars, without fear of favor) or if an appeals court demands Gawker pay the \$50m or more. At that point, we'll see if Denton magically finds a check for \$50m inside his \$83m company.

Of course if that does happen, and Vekselberg does have to write a much bigger check, then that's when the real fun will start. If Denton thinks Vekselberg has him by the throat now, wait til he's another \$50m or more in the hole to a Russian oligarch. Maybe that look in Denton's eyes isn't confidence but resignation.

Let's examine this further

In one theory, observers have noted that Denton devotes his Gawker Media resources to White House policy and White House enemies. The facts show that almost every hit-job article that Denton has published on someone has turned out to be a hatchet job on someone on the White House "enemies list".

The Silicon Valley campaign financiers that Denton is most closely connected to also happen to be almost the only recipients of the notorious Steven Chu wrangled Department of Energy cash. (ie: Elon Musk, John Doerr, Eric Schmidt, etc.). Ironically, Russian mobsters figure deeply into that very same Department of Energy cash. The Department of Energy funds were supposed to be for American companies in a time of financial crisis. The very crisis which coincided with Obama's election.

Even though this money came out of American taxpayers pockets, a huge portion of it was handed to two Russian billionaires who are associates of Nick Denton's Viktor Vekselberg. They owned companies called Severstal and another called Ener1. Ener1 got the taxpayer cash and immediately went bankrupt after certain investors skimmed their payola off the top. The U.S. Congress spotted the Severstal scam, part way through, and called for Senate investigations.

You heard it right, Nick Denton's buddies from Silicon Valley handed billions of taxpayer dollars to Russian billionaires who had no need of a cash hand-out. In fact, some of them were on, and are still on, the FBI's watch-lists. Mr. James Comey, the head of the FBI has to be looking hard at Mr. Denton.

The media are now looking hard at the FBI, Hulk Hogan, and Nick Denton triangle since an "FBI Sting Operation" has already been publicly acknowledged to have been underway in the Hulk Hogan case.

- Thanks to Andrea Lund for additional research

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

By [Christopher Koullouris](#)



Accused Pedolover
Nick Denton.

“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](#)

Nick Denton has been sued by the abused young staffers that have gotten sucked into his den. Now his victims are forced to turn to throwing bricks.

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](#), 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 scum 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 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!”

[Further Research and Footnotes](#)

[Who owns the Gawker Media company? – Ask questions, Find...](#)

... Who owns the GawkerMedia 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 ...
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[Gawker and the Rage of the Creative Underclass — New York...](#)

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Gawker Sucks. Sunday, December 9, 2012. ... What sort of writer was Jeb Lund before becoming Mobutu? It turns out he was a professional wrestling columnist.
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[Looks Like Gawker's Got Some Job Openings, Y'all | Wonkette](#)

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Now all the top editors are quitting their jobs at Gawker, and also because you showed zero integrity when you allowed that hit piece to run ...

<http://wonkette.com/591564/looks-like-gawkers-got-some-job-openings-yall>

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Oct 14, 2007 · At the risk of sounding like a wounded old-media journalist, let me share a story about my experience with the media-gossip blog Gawker.com, which I, like ...

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with thanks to Peter Theil, Oracle Corporation, The Washington Post and the authors in the footnotes.