

Tuesday, January 8, 2013

Catalogue of Gawker's alleged Reddit accounts

These are Reddit accounts I suspect were created by Gawker employees or Gawker interns for the purpose of promoting articles on Reddit.

Most of these are shell accounts with no commenting history. They aren't sockpuppets in the usual sense. Argon-aschleman is an exception, and I [exposed](#) him earlier. Also of note, the deleted Twitter account "Turnipsun" belonged to a Christopher Mascari, and Gizmodo's Christopher Mascari was Gawker's editorial marketing manager from 2010 to 2012. Therefore, these accounts appear to be the result of a company policy.

argon_aschleman

Created: October 21st, 2012. 02:47:26 UTC

Links: 6

URLs: All Deadspin

argon-aschleman

Created: November 16th, 2012. 05:44:42 UTC

Links: 7

URLs: All Deadspin

turnipsun

Created: March 2nd, 2010. 20:50:31 UTC

Links: 76

URLs: Gizmodo--42; Deadspin--8; Gawker--7; Jezebel--7; Kotaku--6; Lifehacker--3; Jalopnik--2; io9--1.

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3 DOWN, 215 TO GO...

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Posted by Drew Johnson at 11:48 PM 1 comment:



Recommend this on Google

Labels: Christopher Mascari, Gawker, Gizmodo, Reddit

Saturday, January 5, 2013

3,000+ pageviews

Thanks to everyone so far who has checked out this blog. This is still a new undertaking and I'm determining what tone it will finally take--i.e. are there enough secrets about Gawker left to uncover, or will I settle into more of a FireJoeMorgan-type tone?

Gawker Sucks

Sunday, December 9, 2012

Finding Mobutu

Most people reading this are probably familiar with Gawker Media properties. They're the collection of news and gossip sites run by Nick Denton.

Recently they've positioned themselves as the morality police of the web. If you say something deemed racist or sexist, or if you act like a troll, they'll plaster your personal information online for everyone to see, and generally make you look bad on any future Google searches. They even did this with the [Horse_ebooks](#) guy, even though his only infraction was having a popular twitter account.

Now mothers everywhere are telling their little kids, "Eat your vegetables, or else Gawker is going to expose you."

Well I'm not the least bit intimidated by Gawker. Their "morality" is corrupt. And I want to give them a taste of their own medicine.

The only Gawker writer who avoids revealing his true name is Mobutu Sese Seko. Mobutu runs the website [Et tu, Mr. Destructo?](#). He has operated it for four years, and back in February he was hired to be Gawker's "screaming conscience," which means he's their main political columnist.

Mobutu, if you're reading this, prepare to get--as the trolls like to say--butthurt.

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The only Gawker writer who wrote revealing his true name is Mobutu Sese Seko. Mobutu runs the website *Et tu, Mr. Destructo?*. He has operated it for four years, and back in February he was hired to be Gawker's "screaming conscience," which means he's their main political columnist.

Mobutu, if you're reading this, prepare to get—as the trolls like to say—butthurt.

I went to Mobutu's blog, and looked at who'd left the earliest comments beginning in 2008. Two of the earliest comments were left by Cory Harris and Christian Lund. As luck would have it, Cory Harris and Christian Lund both have public Facebook profiles and their friends lists are visible. They aren't friends with each other, but they share a mutual friend: [Jeb Tennyson Lund](#).

Mobutu mentions that he is married (Jeb Lund is married) and that he attended a small liberal arts college in Florida (Jeb Lund attended New College of Florida). What sealed the deal was a 2008 [interview](#) from *Metal Hammer* with Robert Schober, who at the time had just directed a music video for Metallica. In it, Schober says: "I was able to create an entire viral campaign with a blog about the cold war and propaganda films (written by Mr Destructo author Jeb Lund), produce fake news stories, and even had Kirk do a vlog on youtube about 'finding' these films when they were touring in Russia."

I'm not surprised a Gawker writer made his start by producing fake news stories.

So...What sort of writer was Jeb Lund before becoming Mobutu? It turns out he was a professional wrestling columnist. He [wrote](#) extensively for the wrestling website Online Onslaught, providing Raw and Smackdown recaps and PPV predictions. Above all, Jeb enjoyed unloading his screaming conscience onto WWE's youngest star, Randy Orton. He would call Orton an "effete water-headed mutant shit-heel," and a "human toadstool," among [other things](#). (Bear in mind, Jeb was around 27 then.)

I actually have nothing against professional wrestling; it's kind of like a ballet in which the performers occasionally fall onto thumbtacks. But quite a few commenters on Gawker have wondered whether "Mobutu" was the pseudonym for some established celebrity, and the answer is clearly no. If Nick Denton truly wants to create a society where everyone's secrets are known—as he [explained](#) in a recent panel—then he should welcome having Mobutu Sese Seko's identity be known. For him to claim anything else would be a double-standard.

Posted by Drew Johnson at 1:54 PM

Tuesday, December 25, 2012

Exposing Deadspin: A recap

1. A Deadspin writer named Timothy Burke gets banned from posting on Reddit. He doesn't know the reason.
2. He goes on Twitter and claims it's a plot by Reddit to protect pedophiles. He does this repeatedly.
3. I investigate on his behalf, and I clear up the misinformation for him: He was banned for spamming 150 of his own articles without ever participating on the site otherwise.
4. He keeps posting his own articles under different aliases.
5. Somebody calls him out for being a spammer.
6. He denies being a spammer and says there is a vendetta against Deadspin.
7. I step in and proceed to tear him a new one:

[–] [SorkinMan](#) 81 points 5 days ago

If you click on OP's name, you'll notice all his submissions come from Deadspin. Clearly he's a spammer.

That's my reason for downvoting, at least.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

↑ [–] [argon-aschleman](#) [S] -180 points 5 days ago

↓ Yup, totally a spammer. That or I just happen to see that Deadspin has the best quality videos and yet Reddit has a vendetta against them, so I try to get them some more attention.

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[permalink](#) [parent](#)

↑ [–] [Alphadog33](#) 277 points 5 days ago*

↓ Listen mystery guy, I googled "Argon Aschleman" and found this old message board.

Clicking on Argon's name shows an old Hotmail address for "bubbaprog," which just happens to be Deadspin writer Timothy Burke's username on Twitter.

EVERY link you've submitted so far is for a Deadspin article written by Timothy Burke. Also, while your current username is [argon-aschleman](#), I noticed that the similar user [argon_aschleman](#) ALSO took 100% of his links from Timothy Burke articles.

I wouldn't be annoyed, except previously when you got banned for spamming you went onto Twitter and placed the blame on Reddit for wanting "to protect pedophiles." A total falsehood.

Take some responsibility. When you get caught spamming, the proper thing is to apologize, not to get mad at the person who caught you and then continue on lying.

I know that exposing a person's identity is frowned upon here, but as far as I'm concerned you aren't a member of this community; you're just a spammer who spreads nasty lies about Reddit whenever you get caught.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)