

WRY BREAD

Groundbreaking study changes everything



David Levine

The next time you read a newspaper article about the results of a scientific study, take it with a grain of salt. It may be full of inaccuracies, overstatements and half-truths.

That's the conclusion of a groundbreaking study that analyzed thousands of so-called "groundbreaking studies" and the way their results are represented in the media. The surprising results have reverberated through the scientific community like a shock wave.

"It's really concerning," says researcher and lead author Prof. Reid Behter.

"We take for granted the integrity of the news we read. We assume it's telling us the truth, but our results quite clearly indicate that we shouldn't believe what we read in any article, post or tweet that talks about scientific studies," he warns.

"They're just not true."

According to the results of the study, conducted by a group of scientists and researchers from around the world and published in the latest issue of *Dubious Science* (the leading journal that covers dubious science), news coverage of scientific studies is "extremely... misleading... out of context... selective to a... degree."

The study concludes that social media, declining readership and falling literacy rates are challenging news outlets to attract new readers, turning up the pressures on journalists to exaggerate or overstate the results of scientific studies to make a headline more impressive, or alarming.

This is all just one of the world-changing implications of Behter's study and one more reason why some are calling it the single most important scientific achievement since the discovery of penicillin, and why it has already started to revolutionize both scientific communities and media outlets around the world.

Behter pulls no punches in his analysis.

"The reporting we're seeing is so sensational and uneven that reading it can actually distance you from scientific reality and lead to confusion between precise scientific detail and meaningless

newspeak."

In other words, forget everything you think you know about science, from gravity to vaccinations, because Behter's study suggests it could all be completely wrong.

"The media is totally irresponsible when it comes to this kind of reporting. It seems like every time a new study is published, the newspapers just *have to* oversimplify and overstate the findings. They don't trust their readers with the details."

Behter discussed the computational side of the experiment at length, essentially explaining that his team harnessed more processing power than one million iPads, creating a sort of "digital detective" that was then "hired" to investigate the way the media reports on scientific studies.

And the results, according to Behter's digital sleuthing, suggest that most newspaper coverage of science is "colourful but meaningless slurrings of trigger words, broad ideas and unclear infographics which often have no connection to the actual experiment or its result."

And the members of Behter's team know what they're talking about. Their earth-shattering findings were achieved through a combination of advanced ma-

chine learning, deep regression analysis, sabermetrics, quantum mechanics and drone technology – an unprecedented grouping of cutting-edge techniques that are poised to immediately change the world forever.

In fact, the technology behind Behter's study was so surprisingly powerful that some are suggesting that it will unleash a revolution in clean energy and innovations, making possible everything from solar-powered flying cars to everlasting cellphone batteries, self-brushing teeth, low-cost space travel, the end of human aging, the discovery of new antibiotics, fat-free fats and more.

In the meantime, however, Behter has a warning for astute readers.

"This is a failure of the media. Good readers and good citizens must demand more from their news and hold these institutions to account," he said.

"Next time you see a poorly written article that misrepresents a scientific study, just put it down. Don't bother finishing it."

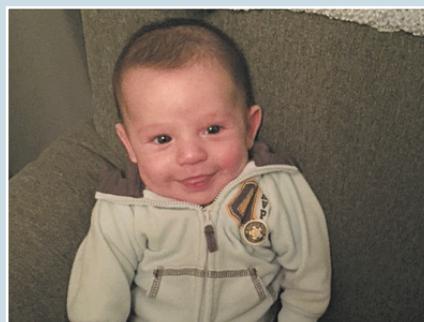
Wise words. ■

Follow A. David Levine on twitter at @adavidlevine

Mazel Tov!



Happy 13th birthday Emma-Belle. We are proud of the young lady that you've become. Continue on your path and make your mark in the world. Love, Mom and Dad.



Melanie & Noah Katz welcome Spencer Jonah Ryder, born Aug. 20. Ecstatic grandparents and great-grandmother Sandi & Norman Parnass, Bryna & David Katz, Shirley Axler.



Mazal tov to Dorothy & Boris Moroz on the celebration of their 70th wedding anniversary! All our love from your children and grandchildren.



Happy 70th wedding anniversary Lynn & Sol Budd! Mazel tov from your family, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, brothers, sister and many nieces and nephews!

Email your digital photos along with a description of 25 words or less to cblackman@thecjn.ca or go online to www.CJNews.com and click on "Family Moments"



WRY BREAD

Dear America: Please stop obsessing over Canada's politics

David Levine

With the American presidential election around the corner, a word addressed to our neighbours (sorry: neighbors) to the south.

The narratives constantly spewed by the 24-hour news cycle can be distracting, even disorienting. It's not your fault if you find yourself more interested in the issues being splashed on your TV than the ones you actually have the power to change.

Your nation is approaching an important moment in its history. Please, if only for a moment, stop obsessing over Canada's politics and take an interest in your own country before your presidential election.

I know the system is rigged against you. The flashy showmanship of the Canadian political scene has long been an American obsession, and the phenomenon has reached new heights thanks to the border-

less nature of digital and social media.

Add to that the 2015 election of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, the dash-ing-yogi-playboy, scion of history's greatest leader, and it's no wonder that America's political sphere is so often characterized as being too slow, too dull, too lethargic to attract many eyeballs – but don't let that stop you from participating in your own democratic process!

We all know the cliché: the average American thinks his country has a prime minister instead of a president. But recent – totally real – poll results prove just how much truth lies at the heart of that exaggeration: while 92 per cent of Americans could identify Canadian Health Minister Jane Philpott – only 11 per cent had even heard of Republican presidential nominee Donald J. Trump (a N.Y. based real estate heir).

First of all, don't blame yourselves. America's preoccupation with our government is only natural when you consider the near-constant stream of political bombshells, each more titillating than the last, that Canada's political system has had on offer for generations. What man, woman, or child doesn't remember where they were

the moment Kim Campbell broke the glass ceiling in 1993? Who can forget the day when Justin Trudeau might have accidentally jostled MP Ruth-Ellen Brosseau? The world breathed as one as we watched the Canadian Senate expenses scandal of 2012 unfold. These shared experiences have strengthened the bond between our nations, bringing us closer together as a subcontinent.

But 2016 represents dangerous new territory for this so-called "Northern Exposure Syndrome." With our stranglehold on your culture gripping citizens and media on both sides of the world's longest border, many of you seem to be ignoring your own nation's election campaigns in favour (sorry: favor) of the faceless, substantive issues facing Canadians today: the CMHC's warning of a potential mortgage crisis; the addition of nine new non-affiliated members to the Senate; a nation's soul-searching attempt to reconcile its shameful treatment of its indigenous First Nations. Editors everywhere know that these are the sexy, dynamic stories that sell.

There's no sense comparing the relative importance of one country to another.

America matters just as much as Canada, no matter what the media tell us, and American culture can be just as exciting as Canada's! Your political figures are perfectly fine! American fans of political dynasties like the renowned Ignatieff, Jackman, and Taschereau families could definitely find something of interest in less familiar American names like Roosevelt, Adams, Clinton, and Bush.

And speaking of the Bush family: American fans of *etalk* host and prime ministerial offspring Ben Mulroney might be shocked to learn of William "Billy" Bush, American political dynast (related to *two* presidents!) and former host of *Access Hollywood* – an American version of *etalk*.

American culture has interesting and important issues worthy of your attention, even if they aren't easy to find. Your democracy can't thrive if its own citizens are too busy looking across the border to see their own backyards. So the next time you're online, consider looking up Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton, and Republican nominee Donald Trump before you go back to retweeting Liberal parliamentarian Joël Lightbound. You'll be glad you did. ■

Mazel Tov!

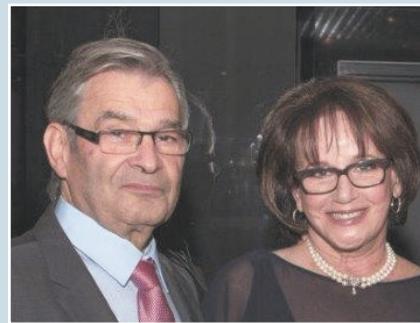
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Happy 105th birthday Betty Rumberg! Best wishes for a happy and healthy new year 5777 from your family and friends in "Aqua Babes"!



Happy 100th birthday Hilda Brazil! Best wishes for good health and a happy new year 5777 from your family and friends at "Aqua Babes"!



Happy 50th anniversary on Aug. 30 to Myrna & Tom Beck. Mazel tov! All our love, Karri, Josh, Mitchell, Ali and Gillian.



Grace welcomes her new sister, Bridgette Marie, born Sept 2. Parents Matthew & Jennifer Waltman. Grandparents Ernie & Brenda Waltman, Steve & Vickie Gordziel.

Email your digital photos along with a description of 25 words or less to cblackman@thecjn.ca or go online to www.CJNews.com and click on "Family Moments"

Mazel Tov!

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WRY BREAD

Local parents ruin child

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A local couple is facing alienation and suspicion from friends and neighbours as multiple reports indicate that their poor parenting decisions have ruined their child.

Adam and Eve Stonestein (their names have been changed to hide their shame) welcomed a son into the world in 2016. And although sources close to the family insist that they are kind, intelligent and moral people, those same sources confirm that they have struggled as parents, making the wrong choices 100 per cent of the time.

The long list of allegations against these first-time parents may seem shocking to more sensitive readers: the couple has been accused of giving their son a pacifier, swaddling him after birth, scheduling his day, failing to schedule his day, depriving him of a pacifier, not scheduling enough play dates, medicating him

before a flight, and letting him sleep on his stomach.

The Stonesteins seem to care very little about their son's future, neglecting him nutritionally. Multiple reports and several eyewitnesses have verified that their son has eaten dairy, red meat, baby formula, gluten, poultry, unrefined sugar, peanuts, non-organic produce, carbohydrates and GMO foods. He was given solid foods several days too early, and he has been allowed to drink tap water, filtered water and bottled water.

In this age of fake news and alternative facts, living just a click away from an endless digital storm of confusing and conflicting information, any parent would be tempted to blame themselves for every little misstep. That's why it's so important for the Stonesteins – and all new parents – to trust themselves and remember that their instinct is correct. They *have* failed as parents. No mistake is too small to ruin your child forever, and the Stonesteins have been endangering their son's health, happiness and future test scores in the process.

Circumstantial evidence suggests that once, on a road trip, the Stonesteins

drove 195 minutes with their son asleep in a car seat, in blatant violation of the recommended three-hour limit.

While the Stonesteins do have a “no screens” rule, they have relaxed it on several occasions, allowing their son to literally rot his brain from the inside out with over-stimulating educational programming.

The Stonesteins are also rumoured to be ignoring a slew of environmental concerns: using the microwave with their son in the house, ignoring electromagnetic fields in his room, living near light/noise/actual pollution, and letting him sleep without a chemtrail mask.

Friends and neighbours say they've tried to correct the family's negligent behaviour with emails, social media posts and in-person chats. One neighbour tells *The CJNI* that she tries to “run into” the Stonesteins as often as possible, to point out as many life-ruining mistakes as she can.

“I'm very subtle about it,” she says.

But those warnings are often ignored, and they may be too late to help, according to reports obtained by *The CJNI* that suggest the Stonesteins already ruined their son in utero by exposing him to

moderate amounts of caffeine, sugar, stress, oxytocin, free radicals and CO2.

In fact, a quiet campaign to have the Stonestein's son put in foster care was suspended when it became clear that potential foster families were worried about taking in the child of such evil parents, unsure whether they could handle a child in such a feral state.

When confronted with evidence of their crimes, the Stonesteins have the audacity to point to their son's good health, happy disposition and advanced development to somehow justify their actions – as if reports from daycares and doctors could relieve them of the guilt that comes from compromising your son's chances of success in life.

But even if they can forgive themselves, their crimes will never be forgiven, or forgotten, by those closest to them.

“When I heard that their little baby was happy and healthy, it just broke my heart,” said one family friend.

“Just imagine how much happier and healthier he could have been.” ■

Follow A. David Levine on twitter at @adavidlevine

Mazel Tov!

Happy birthday Savta Rivka - Vickie Rothman on April 10. You look marvelous! Best wishes for good health from your loving family. Mazel tov.



Rose Wolfstein recently celebrated her 90th birthday, and all who know her wish her well.



Happy 95th birthday Norma Block, adored mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister-in-law, aunt and friend. Mazel tov and many more! Your loving family.



Mazel tov to Andrew & Iris Lichtman and big sister Naomi Layla on the birth of Simona Lily, April 16. With love from your whole family.

Email your digital photos along with a description of 25 words or less to cblackman@thecjn.ca or go online to www.CJNews.com and click on “Family Moments”

