

Media the enemy? Trump is sure an insatiable consumer

By JONATHAN LEMIRE
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Before most people are out of bed, Donald Trump is watching cable news.

With Twitter app at the ready, the man who condemns the media as “the enemy of the people” may be the most voracious consumer of news in modern presidential history.

Trump usually rises before 6 a.m. and first watches TV in the residence before later moving to a small dining room in the West Wing. A short time later, he’s given a stack of newspapers — including *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Financial Times*, *The Washington Post* and, long his favorite, *The New York Post* — as well as pile of printed articles from other sources including conservative online outlets like Breitbart News.

The TVs stay on all day. The president often checks in at lunch and again in the evening, when he retires to the residence, cellphone in hand.

It is a central paradox of

the Trump presidency. Despite his fervent media criticism, Trump is a faithful newspaper reader who enjoys jousting with reporters, an avid cable TV news viewer who frequently live-tweets what he’s watching, and a reader of websites that have been illuminated by his presidential spotlight, showcasing the at-times conspiratorial corners of the internet.

No recent president has been so public about his interest in his media coverage, nor seemed so willing to mobilize the powers of the federal government based on a media report that he has just read, heard or watched.

In fact, the power of Trump’s media diet is so potent that White House staffers have, to varying degrees of success, tried to limit his television watching and control some of what he reads.

The president’s cable TV menu fluctuates. Fox News is a constant, and he also



Trump

frequently watches CNN despite deriding it as “fake news.” Though he used to watch “Morning Joe,” a Trump aide said the president has grown frustrated with his coverage on the MSNBC program and has largely stopped.

For Trump, watching cable is often an interactive experience. More than dozen times since his election, he has tweeted about what he saw on TV just minutes before.

On Nov. 29, he posted about instituting potentially unconstitutional penalties for burning the American flag 30 minutes after Fox ran a segment on the subject. On Jan. 24, he threatened to “send in the Feds!” to Chicago a short time after watching a CNN segment on

violence in the city. On Feb. 6, after CNN reported about a Saturday Night Live skit on the increasing power of the president’s advisers, Trump just 11 minutes later tweeted, “I call my own shots, largely based on an accumulation of data, and everyone knows it!”

On Tuesday, Trump tweeted five times about the news being discussed on his preferred morning show, Fox & Friends.

MSNBC’s Rachel Maddow, a frequent Trump critic, told The Associated Press that she finds it “unsettling” that Trump “may be getting most of his understanding of the world based on whatever he stumbles upon on cable.”

While pleased that Trump is following the media, Maddow noted that “the White House is designed as an instrument to feed the president of the United States expertly curated and highly

selective, well-vetted information from every corner of the world.”

Others note there may be some smart politics behind Trump’s media diet.

He “advertised getting his news the same way his supporters do, which helps make a connection,” said Tobe Berkovitz, a communications professor at Boston University.

The president’s advisers try to curb his cable consumption during the workday. But there are no limits when he returns to the residence.

He also avidly watches his own staff’s TV performances, including White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer’s daily briefing. Aides have been known to shape their public comments to please the president or try to influence him.

Trump’s consumption of cable news differs considerably from previous commanders in chief, who

have at least claimed to be disconnected from the cable chatter. Jay Carney, White House press secretary under Barack Obama, has claimed that Obama “doesn’t watch cable news,” though that did not keep the former president from criticizing the medium.

Where Trump differs most from his presidential predecessors is his reliance on getting news online — even though he rarely uses a computer and prefers aides to print articles for him to read.

What he was seeing on Twitter and conservative websites like the *Drudge Report* and the conspiracy-laden *Infowars* helped forge his political persona — and his public misinformation campaign questioning whether Obama was born in the United States.

Often Trump sit with staff and scrawl instructions — or complaints to push back on — on the pages.

PARENTS TALK BACK Students turn the tables on journalist

Nothing could ever drag me back into a middle-school classroom. Or so I thought, until my daughter’s English teacher made me an offer I couldn’t refuse.



AISHA SULTAN
Parents Talk Back

She asked if I would talk to her classes before they started a unit on investigative journalism. Given that the finest reporters in the country have been pilloried by the holder of the highest office in the land, I figured I could brave a day in the hormonal jungle that is middle school.

Today’s children may seem media-savvy, but less than half say they can tell real news from fake news, according to a new study released by Common Sense Media, a nonprofit that advocates for safe technology and media for kids. The report found that a third of tweens and teens who shared a story online in the last six months later discovered the story was wrong or inaccurate.

I figured it was part of my civic duty to explain how a free press works to a generation that prefers to get its news from YouTube and social media.

I came up with a lesson plan that I shared with the teacher beforehand. First, we would discuss the First Amendment. Then we would talk about the different types of stories in the media, the various sources of news and what investigative journalism aims to do. I would tell them about investigations that have impacted communities, and ones that have changed the entire country. We would look at Pulitzer-winning investigative reports, and historic ones.

I would also share investigative projects my newspaper has tackled and how we did them. We would explore the ways in which reporters can gather facts, and the tension between those who search for information and those who don’t want it made public.

I asked the teachers to have students brainstorm their own ideas that they would like to report and write about, so we could discuss how they could be investigated. I made sure my lesson had some multimedia elements, and invited the principal to stop by and observe.

I’ll admit that I also armed myself with a significant amount of candy, and told each class that any student who answered or asked a question would get a piece. (A cheap trick, and I apologize to the teachers who had to deal with the students afterward.)

I taught this lesson six times to groups of 40

students in each section. By the end of the day, I was exhausted, my throat was sore, and I had given out nearly an entire 20-pound bag of candy. I was impressed by the students’ interest, and it only deepened my admiration for teachers.

A few days later, I received a large mailer stuffed with more than a hundred notes — thank-you notes from the students, written on index cards and construction paper. The notes included what the child learned from the talk. Many students wrote that they hadn’t realized that investigative journalism could be dangerous, and that reporters often receive hate mail and pushback for what they write. Other comments:

“Now I know what a reporter is.” “I learned a lot of new things about how to gather information on public files.” “I’m taking journalism in high school, and I wasn’t that excited about it, but now I am! Can’t wait for that class.” “Who knows — you may have possibly inspired a future journalist.” (Yikes. That comment was from my daughter, and I read it like a warning.)

“It’s sad that print is dead,” shared one student. Another drew a big heart with an arrow through it, adding a disclaimer at the bottom: “This is not a Valentine. I admire how you don’t let the hate get to you.”

Others shared their favorite parts of the discussion:

“It gave me new insight on the steps reporters take to write a story and how they’re viewed by the public. My favorite part was when you explained the impact of journalism on real world issues.”

“My favorite thing you said was that reporters helped bring bad things to light.”

“My favorite thing you said was you’ve been a journalist for 20 years, and that’s a record to me, because most people quit because people say mean things.”

“My favorite thing you said was that investigative journalists don’t do it for the money, they do it for the truth.”

More than a handful of kids kept it real, writing: “My favorite thing you said was ‘Whoever answers a question gets candy.’”

A lesson in truth-telling for all of us.

Aisha Sultan is a St. Louis-based journalist who studies parenting in the digital age while trying to keep up with her tech-savvy children. Find her on Twitter: @AishaS.

Friday Morning

STATION	6 AM	6:30	7 AM	7:30	8 AM	8:30	9 AM	9:30	10 AM	10:30	11 AM	11:30
FOX	11 KFFX	11 AgDay	Hot/ Cleve.	Good Day			Paid	Into Wild	Steve Harvey		Crime Watch Daily	
FOX	KPTV	3 Good Day Oregon at 6	Good Day Oregon				Good Day		The 700 Club		The Rachael Ray Show	
CBS	19 KEPR	2 News	News	CBS This Morning (N)			Harry		The Price Is Right		Young & Restless	
CBS	KOIN	19 KOIN 6 News at 6 a.m.	CBS This Morning (N)				Let’s Make a Deal		The Price Is Right		Young & Restless	
NBC	25 KNDU	6 Wake Up Northwest	Today Show (N)				Today Show II (N)		Today Show III (N)		Million? Million?	
NBC	KGW	8 KGW News at Sunrise	Today Show (N)				Today Show II (N)		Today Show III (N)		Portland Today	
ABC	42 KVEV	4 Northwest	Northwest	Good Morning America			Live! With Kelly (N)		The View		Paid	Middle
ABC	KATU	5 KATU News Morning	Good Morning America (N)				AM Northwest		The View		Live! With Kelly (N)	
PBS	31 KTNW	Stretch	W.L. Yoga	SplashB.	Jet Gol	Nature Cat	Peg + Cat	D.Tiger	Thomas	Sesame St.	DinoTrain	SplashB.
PBS	59 OPB	13 Stretch	Jet Gol	Nature Cat	C. George	D.Tiger	D.Tiger	SplashB.	Sesame St.	DinoTrain	Peg + Cat	SuperWI

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AFTERNOON

STATION	12 PM	12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30
FOX	11 KFFX	11 Paid	Pat. Court	Divorce	Divorce	Judge Mathis	The People’s Court		2½ Men	Mike&M.	Last Man	Last Man
FOX	KPTV	3 12 O’Clock News	Wendy Williams			The Dr. Oz Show	TMZ Live!		Judge Judy	Judge Judy	5 O’Clock News	
CBS	19 KEPR	2 NameG.	Bold & B.	The Talk (N)		Let’s Make a Deal	Dr. Phil		Judge Judy	Judge Judy	News	News
CBS	KOIN	19 News	Bold & B.	The Talk (N)		The Doctors	Dr. Phil		Judge Judy	Judge Judy	News	News
NBC	25 KNDU	6 TMZ	Paid	Days of Our Lives		Hot Bench	Hot Bench		Wendy Williams		News	NBC News
NBC	KGW	8 KGW New	Paid	Days of Our Lives		T.D. Jakes			Ellen DeGeneres		KGW News	NBC News
ABC	42 KVEV	4 The Chew		General Hospital		The Doctors			The Rachael Ray Show		Minute	Minute
ABC	KATU	5 The Chew		General Hospital		Harry			Afternoon Live		KATU News @ 4	News
PBS	31 KTNW	Charlie Rose		Ming (N)	Quilt Day	Stretch	C. George	Speaks	WordGirl		Arthur	Odd Squad
PBS	59 OPB	13 Paint This	Mexican	Charlie Rose (N)		Nature Cat	Thomas	Cat/ Hat	Jet Gol	Speaks	WordGirl	Odd Squad

EVENING

STATION	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
FOX	11 KFFX	11 Modern Family “Baby on Board”	Modern Family “Bringing Up Baby”	2 Broke G. “And the Show and Don’t Tell”	2 Broke Girls “And the Fun Factory”	Rosewood “Bacterium and the Brothers Panitch”	Sleepy Hollow “Insatiable” (N)		FOX News First at Ten		:35 Law & Order: Criminal Intent “The Pardoner’s Tale”	:35 Anger Management
FOX	KPTV	3 6 O’Clock News	Family Feud	Family Feud		Rosewood	Sleepy Hollow “Insatiable” (N)		10 O’Clock News		11 O’Clock News	2 Broke Girls
CBS	19 KEPR	2 Action News at 6:00 p.m.	Inside Edition	Big Bang Theory “The Toast Derivation”	The Simpsons “Chief of Hearts”	MacGyver “Flashlight” (N)	Hawaii Five-0 “Puka Ana” (N)		Blue Bloods “Shadow of a Doubt” (N)		Action News at 11:00 p.m.	:35 Stephen Colbert
CBS	KOIN	19 KOIN Local 6 at 6	Evening News	Extra	Ent. Tonight	MacGyver “Flashlight” (N)	Hawaii Five-0 “Puka Ana” (N)		Blue Bloods “Shadow of a Doubt” (N)		KOIN 6 News/ 11	:35 S.C. Colbert
NBC	25 KNDU	6 Local News	Family Feud	Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy!	Grimm “Blood Magic” (N)	Dateline NBC		The news magazine presents investigative features and breaking news coverage.		Local News	:35 The Tonight Show
NBC	KGW	8 KGW News at 6:00 p.m.		Live at 7	Inside Edition	Grimm “Blood Magic” (N)	Dateline NBC				KGW News	:35 Tonight at 11
ABC	42 KVEV	4 Extra	Local News at 6:30	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Dr. Ken “Ken’s Old Professor” (N)	Shark Tank		20/20		Local News at 11 :05 Jimmy Kimmel Live	
ABC	KATU	5 KATU News at 6		Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	Last Man St. (N)	Dr. Ken (N)	Shark Tank	20/20		KATU News	:35 Jimmy Kimmel
PBS	31 KTNW		PBS NewsHour		A Salute to Vienna			Rock, Rhythm and Doo Wop			Charlie Rose (N)	
PBS	59 OPB	13 Travelscope	Business (N)		PBS NewsHour		Place Call Home “The Things We Do for Love”	A Place to Call Home “L’Chaim, to Life”			Rick Steves’ Heart of Italy	

STATION	PEN	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
A&E	52	The First 48 “Desperate Moves”		The First 48 “Lying in Wait/ With This Ring”		First 48: Revenge “The Fighter/ Final Ride”		Live PD					
AMC	60	*** The Matrix (’99, Act) Keanu Reeves.		*** Planet of the Apes “Planet where apes rule and humans are their slaves.”		Astronauts land on a distant planet where apes rule and humans are their slaves.		*** Beneath the Planet of the Apes (’70, Sci-Fi) James Franciscus, Charlton Heston.				Dead “Say Yes”	
ANPL	24	Tanked!		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		Tanked! (N)		Tanked!	
CMT	43	*** Home Alone		*** Home Alone (’90, Com) Joe Pesci, Macaulay Culkin.		Joe Pesci, Macaulay Culkin.		Broken Skull Challen		Broken Skull Challen		Broken Skull Challen	
CNBC	72	Undercover Boss		“Boston Market”		Under Boss “Busted!”		Under Boss “Sky Zone”		The Deed		Paid	Paid
CNN	68	CNN Special		CNN Tonight		CNN Tonight		CNN Special		The History of Comedy		The History of Comedy	
DISC	51	Gold Rush Countdown		Gold Rush Countdown		Gold Rush: Pay Dirt (N)		Gold Rush “Finale” (SF) (N)				Gold Rush “Finale”	
DISN	26	:15 *** Frozen (’13, Fam) Kristen Bell.		Tangled: The Series (N)		StuckMid “Cali Style”		Tangled: The Series		:05 Jessie		Jessie	
ESPN	33	NCAA Basketball ACC Tournament Semifinal Site: Barclays Center -- Brooklyn, N.Y. (L)				NCAA Basketball Pac-12 Tournament Site: T-Mobile Arena -- Las Vegas, Nev. (L)				SportsCenter			
ESPN2	34	NCAA Basketball Big 12 Tournament Site: Sprint Center (L)				SportsCenter				SportsC.		J & J	SEC “Shaq & Dale”
FX	66	TuckerCarlsonTonight		Hannity		The O’Reilly Factor		TuckerCarlsonTonight		Hannity			The First 100 Days
FOOD	61	Diners		Diners		Diners		Diners, Drive-Ins (N)		Diners		Diners	Diners
FREE	32	*** Because I Said So (’07, Rom) Diane Keaton.				If I Stay (’14, Dra) Mireille Enos, Chloë Grace Moretz.							The 700 Club
FX	65	*** Madagascar 3: Europe’s Most Wanted		*** Penguins of Madagascar Tom McGrath.		*** Penguins of Madagascar Tom McGrath.		*** Penguins of Madagascar Tom McGrath.					EPGA Golf
GOLF	88	PGA Golf Valspar Championship				PGA Golf Valspar Championship Site: Innisbrook Resort and Golf Club							EPGA Golf
GSN	76	Fam. Feud		Fam. Feud		Fam. Feud		Fam. Feud		MindMan		MindMan	MindMan
HALL	87	Last Man		Last Man		Last Man		Home Imp		Middle		Middle	G. Girls
HGTV	62	Bargain		Bargain		Bargain		DreamHom		DreamHom		DreamHom	H.Hunt
HIST	50	American Pickers “You Betcha”		American Pickers “Duck, Duck, Moose”		A. Pickers “Oddities and Commodities”		American Pickers “Picker’s Code”		:05 American Pickers “This One Stings”		:05 American Pickers “Captain Quirk”	
LIFE	29	Bring It! “Losing Faith”		Bring It!		Bring It! Fan Chat (N)		Bring It! (N)		The Rap Game (N)		:05 The Pop Game	
NICK	27	H.Danger		H.Danger		Henry Danger		*** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles William Fichtner.		Friends		Friends	Friends
ROOT	37	UEFA Soccer Champions League				MLB Baseball Spring Training Chicago Cubs vs. Seattle Mariners Site: Peoria Stadium -- Peoria, Ariz.							Poker Heartland Tour
SPIKE	42	Cops		Cops		Cops “Fort Worth”		Cops “In Atlanta”		Cops “Texas”		Cops “Wild Chases”	Cops
SYFY	67	*** Ghost Rider (’07, Act) Eva Mendes, Nicolas Cage.				*** Underworld (’03, Fant) Kate Beckinsale.							Magicians “Plan B”
TBS	59	Seinfeld “The Limo”		Seinfeld “The Letter”		Seinfeld “The Letter”		*** Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (’14, Adv) Robin Williams, Ben Stiller.		*** Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (’14, Adv) Robin Williams, Ben Stiller.			
TCM	56	*** Where Eagles Dare (’68, War) Richard Burton.		:45 *** Staircase (1969, Comedy/Drama) Richard Burton, Beatrix Lehmann, Rex Harrison.				*** Villain (’71, Cri) Ian McShane, Nigel Davenport, Richard Burton.		:15 *** Equus Richard Burton.			
TLC	49	Yes Dress		Yes Dress		The Ghost Brothers		The Ghost Brothers		The Ghost Brothers (N)			The Ghost Brothers
TNT	57	Castle “Cool Boys”		Castle “Tone Death”		*** Tammy (’14, Com) Melissa McCarthy.		*** Blended (’14, Com) Adam Sandler.					
UNI	21	Includo		Noticiero		La rosa de Guadalupe		Ponle Play		Vino el amor		La piloto	Impacto
USA	58	Modern		Modern		Modern		Modern		Modern		Modern	Modern
WE	118	Boot Camp: Reali (N)		Mama June (N)		Mama June (N)		Marriage Boot Camp		Mama June		Marriage Boot Camp	Marriage Boot Camp
WGN		P. Interest “Blunt”		P. Interest “Karma”		Mother		Mother		Mother		Mother	Rules
STZ ENC	644	*** Total Recall		:05 *** Pineapple Express Seth Rogen.		*** Jarhead (’05, Act) Jake Gyllenhaal.		:05 *** Men of Honor					
HBO	518	*** Baby Mama Tina Fey.		*** Vice News		Making of /:15 *** American Psycho		Bill Maher		Vice (N)		Carmichael	
HBO2	520	:10 *** Deadpool (’16, Act) Ryan Reynolds.		Big Little Lies		Girls		*** Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice Ben Affleck.				</	