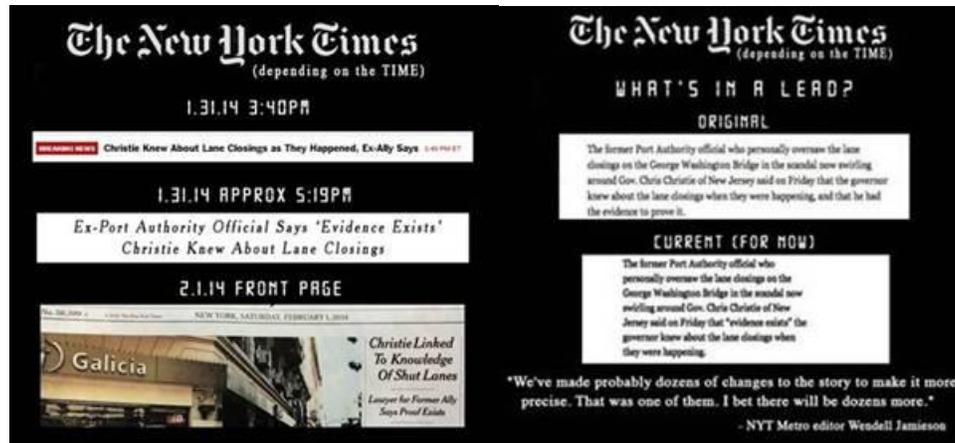


“Sloppy” And “Misleading”

The New York Times’ Reporting Of Wildstein’s Allegations Face Broad Criticism

“My take: This change was more than a nuance. ... Some sort of notice was due to the reader that the initial story had changed in a substantial way.”

– [New York Times Public Editor Margaret Sullivan](#)



The Daily Caller:

“New York Times makes dramatic change to Christie report without noting correction” (Vince Coglianese, “New York Times makes dramatic change to Christie report without noting correction,” [The Daily Caller](#), 1/31/14)

- “The New York Times on Friday made a dramatic change to a report claiming New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie “knew” about lane closures on the George Washington Bridge without noting the correction.”

Politico:

“The New York Times changed the lede of its explosive story about former New York Port Authority official David Wildstein on Friday.” (Hadas Gold, “N.Y. Times changes lede of Wildstein story,” [Politico](#), 1/31/14)

- “This seemingly minor change *carries a big difference in meaning*. The original lede reads as though Wildstein is saying he specifically has evidence that links Christie to knowing about the bridge lane closures. The second lede suggests only that “evidence exists,” not that Wildstein necessarily has it. *No note has been added to the article.*”
- “Many reporters took to Twitter to note the change and lack of an editor's note.”

The Huffington Post:

“Here Is The NY Times Christie Tweak That Drove Twitter Crazy” (Jack Mirkinson, “Here Is The NY Times Christie Tweak That Drove Twitter Crazy,” [The Huffington Post](#), 1/31/14)

- “On Friday, the New York Times blasted out a seemingly explosive story about New Jersey governor Chris Christie and the ongoing "Bridgegate" scandal. The story said that David Wildstein, a Port Authority official, ‘said on Friday that the governor knew about the lane closings when they were happening, and that he had the evidence to prove it.’”

Town Hall's Guy Benson:

“The *Times* has already changed its reporting on this. Via Time Magazine's Michael Scherer, a significant shift.” (Guy Benson, “NYT: Ex-Appointee Says Christie Knew of Lane Closures - UPDATE: Or not?” [Town Hall](#), 1/31/14)

Drudge Report's Joseph Curl:

“The Gray Lady, America’s Paper of Record, where readers turn to find ‘All the News That’s Fit to Print,’ has gone off the deep end...The article went on to prove — nothing. No proof whatsoever of the ‘evidence’ (which was highlighted by the weird wording ‘had the evidence’ — does that mean he no longer “has” it?)...One might expect such a thin story from, say, the National Enquirer, but The New York Times? And one might wonder why the newspaper didn’t ask the very first question nearly anyone else would ask when presented with such a claim: ‘Uh, OK, you say you have evidence, can we see it?’ Then, if said evidence didn’t pan out, it’d be Spike City for the big scoop.” (Joseph Curl, “Evidence exists’ that The N.Y. Times is now a Grub Street rag,” [Washington Times – Opinion](#), 2/2/14)

- “But no, The Times ran with the piece, which made the follow-on media follow on the story throughout the day. But few noticed the way the lede was changed — in less than 20 minutes...Maybe, just maybe, The Times should work the story for a while until editors and reporters can draft a strong piece before publishing. Just a thought.”

Jim Pinterton, RATE Coalition:

“The New York Times had to amend their story originally, and correction. This is the New York Media Market...The media has turned a mole hill into a mountain – or I should say, a traffic cone into a mountain...And I think – look, the level of exaggeration here, that he should resign over a traffic cone? I mean, it’s a little over kill. And I think after a few days the media is kind of realizing maybe they over bit on the story.” (FOX News’s “Media Buzz,” 2/2/14)

Fox News' Juan Williams:

“I think the [New York Times] headline was an over statement.” (FOX News’s “Media Buzz,” 2/2/14)

Jonah Goldberg, National Review:

Martha MacCallum: “We don’t really know anything new here.” *Jonah Goldberg, National Review Online:* “That’s right. It’s a good sign of what the feeding frenzy’s really like is, is the New York Times story on Friday. Which came out of the boxes making this assertion of fact that there was evidence linking – disproving Chris Christie – and saying that Chris Christie knew about all of this. And almost in real time, the New York Times had reedit the piece, backtracking, until eventually it had to put out a statement saying – basically, they blew the story and wildly exaggerated it. But, it gives you a sense of how desperate a lot people in the mainstream media are to advance the story against Chris Christie.” (FOX News’s “America’s Newsroom

with Bill Hemmer-Martha MacCallum," 2/3/14)

Newsbusters:

“Clumsy’? How about ‘misleading, and likely deliberately so’?” (Tom Blumer, “NYT Caught Altering Christie Story: Port Authority Official No Longer 'Has Evidence,' It Just 'Exists,'" [News Busters](#), 2/1/14)

- “But Zernike and the Times have ‘successfully’ made that impression widespread. Mission accomplished, I suppose — if your goal is to deceive and destroy regardless of merit.”

Time Magazine’s Michael Scherer:

The screenshot shows a Twitter thread with five tweets. The first three tweets are from Michael Scherer (@michaelscherer) and the last two are from Michael Powell (@powellnyt).

Tweet 1: @michaelscherer 20h
MT @mic Calderone: NYT orig reported Wildstein "has the evidence," bit.ly/1n3mY1T Now. "evidence exists" nytl.ms/1a8j8nw
View summary Reply Retweet Favorite More

Tweet 2: @michaelscherer 20h
With a clumsy NY Times lead, yet another case of the Matt Drudge tail wagging the media dog. ...
Expand Reply Retweet Favorite More

Tweet 3: @michaelscherer 20h
NYTimes changes online lead, w/o correction. Strikes line that said Wildstein has evidence to prove Christie knew nytimes.com/2014/02/01/nyr...
View summary Reply Retweet Favorite More

Tweet 4: @powellnyt 16h
@michaelscherer If Wildstein says evidence exists, presumably he knows where/what it is
Details Reply Retweet Favorite More

Tweet 5: @michaelscherer 5h
@powellnyt "presumably" is a pretty small thing to hang a lead on, especially given lawyer's motivations in this case.
Details Reply Retweet Favorite More

 **michaelischerer** 
@michaelischerer 

NYTimes changes online lead, w/o correction. Strikes line that said Wildstein has evidence to prove Christie knew nytimes.com/2014/02/01/nyt...

4:42 PM - 31 Jan 2014

Christie Knew About Bridge Lane Closings, Port Authority Official Says

A Port Authority official says he has evidence to prove the New Jersey governor knew about the lane closings on the George Washington Bridge.

 The New York Times @nytimes



183 RETWEETS 40 FAVORITES



 **Olivia Nuzzi**
@Olivianuzzi 

we all basically just fell for a lawyer's threatening email because the NYT fucked up their lede.

5:04 PM - 31 Jan 2014

6 RETWEETS 3 FAVORITES



CNN's Piers Morgan:

 **Piers Morgan** @piersmorgan · Jan 31
This new @GovChristie bridgegate 'scandal' isn't what it seems. Poor form by @nytimes to change their story after igniting the fire.
Expand    

 **Piers Morgan** @piersmorgan · Jan 31
#Fail > RT @micalderone: NYT tweaks Christie story from Wildstein claiming he has evidence to "evidence exists" huff.to/1emCbtV
 View summary    

Wall Street Journal Columnist Brett Arends:

 **Brett Arends** @BrettArends 20h
I usually don't get sucked into ultra-parsing but this was sloppy precis by NYT. @michaelischerer @micalderone @smerconish
 View conversation    

The Huffington Post's Michael Calderone:

- Josh Earnest** @jearnest44 18h
Least transparent NYT you've ever read? MT @micalderone NYT editor addresses changing language in Christie story: huff.to/1emCbtV
Retweeted by Michael Calderone
[View summary](#) Reply Retweet Favorite More
- Michael Calderone** @micalderone 19h
NYT "We've made probably dozens of changes to the story to make it more precise. That was one of them. I bet there will be dozens more."
Expand Reply Retweet Favorite More
- Michael Calderone** @micalderone 19h
UPDATE: NYT metro editor addresses changing language about "evidence" in Christie story: huff.to/1emCbtV
[View summary](#) Reply Retweet Favorite More
- Michael Calderone** @micalderone 19h
Media reporters care about titles: huff.to/1JuaQDg RT @ErikWemple Where's the leadership at First Look Media? wapo.st/1n3poO5
[View summary](#) Reply Retweet Favorite More
- Michael Calderone** @micalderone 20h
NYT tweaks Christie story from Wildstein claiming he has evidence to "evidence exists" huff.to/1emCbtV
[View summary](#) Reply Retweet Favorite More
- Michael Calderone** @micalderone 20h
NYT orig reported Wildstein "has the evidence," as quoted here: bit.ly/1n3mY1T Now, "evidence exists" nyti.ms/1a8j8nw
[View summary](#) Reply Retweet Favorite More
- Michael Calderone** @micalderone 22h
So true. @Sulliview notes how NYT "doesn't always excel at giving full credit to the work" to other news orgs. nyti.ms/1beE5eW
[View summary](#) Reply Retweet Favorite More

Mediaite's Editor Noah Rothman:

- Noah Rothman** @NoahCRothman 21h
Here is where Christie's office can turn this into a story about the New York Times to blunt political impact. IF he has nothing to hide
Expand Reply Retweet Favorite More
- Noah Rothman** @NoahCRothman 21h
So, now that we've all caught our breath, we can agree that the New York Times headline is misleading, right?
Expand Reply Retweet Favorite More

Washington Examiner's Byron York:

- Byron York** @ByronYork 5h
Has anyone collected the various versions of NYT headlines on Wildstein lawyer letter story?
Expand Reply Retweet Favorite More
- Byron York** @ByronYork 6h
So now NYT headline is 'Christie Linked to Knowledge of Shut Lanes.' Suitably vague, given Wildstein letter. ow.ly/tb1aX
[View summary](#) Reply Retweet Favorite More

Radio Host Hugh Hewitt:

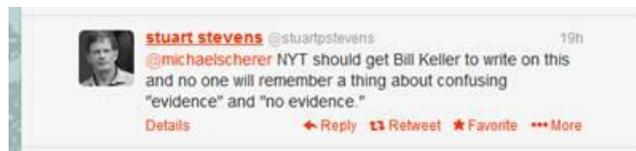


The image shows two tweets from Hugh Hewitt (@hughhewitt) posted 17 hours ago. The first tweet is a reply to @siblings_at_law, @mattklewis, and @GovChristie, stating that conservatives know MSM, and especially NYT, are out to destroy CC, and that they first came for CC. The second tweet is a reply to @GovChristie, stating that the Washington Post's account of the "bombshell" is far more accurate than the NYT's, which is on a mission to destroy CC, and includes a link to a Washington Post article.

Hugh Hewitt @hughhewitt 17h
@siblings_at_law @mattklewis @GovChristie Conservatives know MSM, and esp NYT, and NYT out to destroy CC. First they came for CC...
[View conversation](#) Reply Retweet Favorite More

Hugh Hewitt @hughhewitt 17h
WaPo account of @GovChristie "bombshell" far more accurate than NYT, which is on mission to destroy CC. [washingtonpost.com/politics/forme...](http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/forme...)
[View summary](#) Reply Retweet Favorite More

Stuart Stevens:



The image shows a tweet from Stuart Stevens (@stuartstevens) posted 19 hours ago. The tweet is a reply to @michaelscherer and states that the NYT should get Bill Keller to write on this and that no one will remember a thing about confusing "evidence" and "no evidence."

stuart stevens @stuartstevens 19h
@michaelscherer NYT should get Bill Keller to write on this and no one will remember a thing about confusing "evidence" and "no evidence."
Details Reply Retweet Favorite More