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False description of corrections policy (2012)

1 message

Bryan White <zebrafactcheck@gmail.com>
To: truthometer@politifact.com

Thu, Jun 6, 2019 at 12:29 PM

Dear Truth-O-Meter,

While starting research on public statements made about PolitiFact's corrections policy, I stumbled across a false statement about that policy in [a 2012 article by PolitiFact's founding editor, Bill Adair](#).

Adair wrote:

We've created [a new page](#) so you can see Truth-O-Meter items that have a correction or update. The page will include articles or Truth-O-Meter fact-checks that have:

- Corrections that were significant enough to change a Truth-O-Meter ruling
- Corrections that did not require changing a ruling
- Updates that provide additional information after the item was initially published

Adair's claim represents a significant misstatement of PolitiFact's corrections policy both at the time (2012) and now. PolitiFact's page of "Corrections and Updates" statements apparently has never included PolitiFact "articles," instead being composed of corrected "statements"--claims PolitiFact has rated on its trademarked "Truth-O-Meter." Corrected articles (those that have no "Truth-O-Meter" rating) tend not to appear on the page supposed hosting corrected articles and fact checks. Indeed, every item on PolitiFact's list seems to have a "Truth-O-Meter" rating.

Examples:

"[Promise](#)" article corrected but [not appearing on the list of corrected stories](#).

[Article](#) corrected but [not appearing on the list of corrected stories](#).

It is false and misleading for PolitiFact to claim its page of corrected items includes "articles or Truth-O-Meter fact checks."

I call on PolitiFact to [scrupulously](#) follow its policy on open and honest corrections to fix the problem.

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Sincerely,

Bryan W. White
editor
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