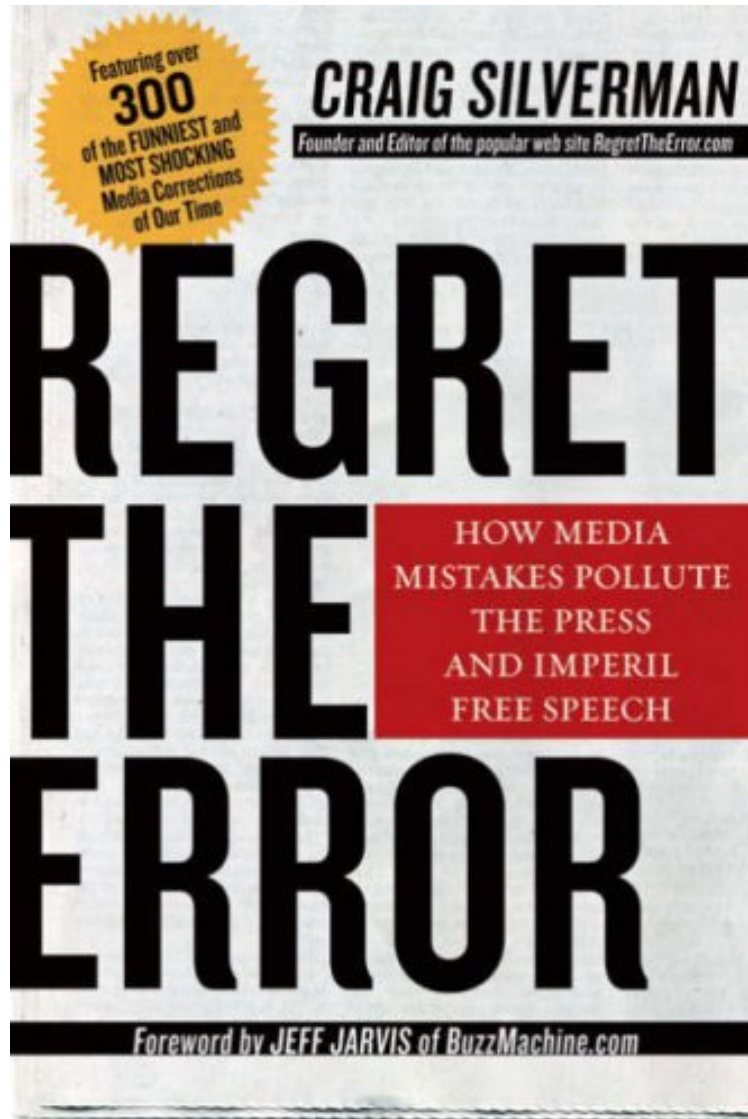


(Download free ebook) Regret the Error: How Media Mistakes Pollute the Press and Imperil Free Speech

# Regret the Error: How Media Mistakes Pollute the Press and Imperil Free Speech

*Craig Silverman*

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**Craig Silverman : Regret the Error: How Media Mistakes Pollute the Press and Imperil Free Speech** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Regret the Error: How Media Mistakes Pollute the Press and Imperil Free Speech:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A must for every print journalist By John This book is a must for anyone who writes for newspapers, magazines, etc., which I do. I can relate to many of the mistakes Craig explained. I

know my work hasn't always been 100 percent accurate. I highly appreciated Craig's thorough history and insight on the print-media business. He came across fair, honest and explained how he thinks the industry can improve. He didn't just complain and not offer solutions. Being right is more important than being first. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Better than I'd expected, if not quite as much fun. By James Yanni Initially, I thought that this was going to be a funny book -- a compendium of silly mistakes made by the press, and nothing more. It was that, but it was also a serious discussion of the reason WHY it is important for the press to be more careful of their facts, and why even small, seemingly innocuous errors hurt the reputation of the press, why errors are more common now than they were 30 years ago, and how the process could be changed to minimize the frequency of errors. This leaves me with a difficult decision in rating the book; it wasn't as much FUN as I'd expected it to be, but only because it was more serious and worthwhile, ultimately. So I still rate it five stars, because I can't see downgrading its rating for being a better book than I'd anticipated, but if all you're looking for is funny stories about silly errors, it may not be what you're looking for. 15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Thorough and nuanced By Walter Neary This is a book that should be read by anyone involved in media production and anyone who is ever written about by the media. Unfortunately, the dust jacket might scare off serious people. The subhead "How Media Mistakes Pollute the Press and Imperil Free Speech" makes it sound like the book is about media bashing. And the excerpts on the back cover contain mostly humorous corrections (such as one from Oregon, "A headline on Page One should have made clear that Oregon Health and Science University will be studying the effects of meth, not cooking it"). Ho, ho, chuckle, but ... the book's appearance makes it come off like either a collection of humorous excerpts or yet another book that bashes the media for being liberal or conservative or whatever. But that's not what the book is. In fact, this book is thoughtful and nuanced about the history and consequences and explanations of media error. If you pair it with *The Vanishing Newspaper* by Meyer, you have a real glimpse of the media, warts and all, that my generation sure could have used when we all had visions of Woodward and Bernstein dancing in our heads way back when. Sure, reporters will find the book painful to read. They'll worry what their sources think, and sources may be too quick to chortle at the humanity of media production. Yet this paragraph from page 59 is an example of the author's mastery of the subject and leads to some conclusions that both reporters and sources can agree on: "Working under deadlines causes errors, as do the technologies used by reporters every day; and the newspaper system whereby a story goes from a reporter to an editor and onward until it reaches the page-layout and printing stage is rife with weaknesses and opportunities for error. Yet any blame is laid solely at the feet of the person seen as being directly responsible - to the complete exclusion of the process that contributed to the error. Every stage in the production of a newspaper, broadcast, or other news product is designed with some controls to prevent error, and yet each of these stages also has the ability to introduce or even force errors..." "This book will improve anyone's understanding of how the media really works, or doesn't work, at times.

We regret the error: its a phrase that appears in newspapers almost daily, the standard notice that something went terribly wrong in the reporting, editing, or printing of an article. From Craig Silverman, the proprietor of [www.RegretTheError.com](http://www.RegretTheError.com), one of the Internets most popular media-related websites, comes a collection of funny, shocking, and sometimes disturbing journalistic slip-ups and corrections. On display are all types of media inaccuracy from fuzzy math to obiticide (printing the obituary of a person very much alive and well) to complete and utter ethical lapses. While some of the errors can be laugh-out-loud funny, the book contains a sobering journey through the history of media mistakes (including the outrageous hoaxes that dominated newspapers during the circulation wars of the 19th-century) and a serious muckraking investigation of contemporary journalism's lack of accountability to the public. It shines a spotlight on the media's carelessness and the sometimes tragic and calamitous consequences of weak or non-existent fact checking.

From Publishers Weekly Blogger Silverman is a man obsessed with pointing out the mistakes of others, though he dreams of a world in which he didn't have to. If media outlets printed their own corrections more thoroughly, amending online content appropriately, embracing their mistakes wholeheartedly, he argues, he wouldn't have to collect and publicize them with such devotion. Having founded [regrettheerror.com](http://regrettheerror.com) to tally inaccuracies and corrections in the press, Silverman has set out to chronicle and categorize these errors in his first book. The result is a winding journey through the most glaring, damaging and humorous typos, misprints, misidentifications, fuzzy numbers and obiticides in the history of journalism, from the accidental to the malicious. These chapters are chock-full of amusing historical anecdotes, including the story behind the incorrect headline Dewey Defeats Truman, the case of mistaken identity that galvanized Nobel to create his prestigious awards, and the oft-presumed dead but still living Abe Vigoda. Silverman injects plenty of humor, but mostly he is deeply concerned about the science of journalism, and at the heart of this romp is an argument for increased public participation in the news cycle. (Nov.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Silverman injects plenty of humor, but mostly he is deeply concerned about the science of journalism, and at the heart of this romp is an argument for increased public participation in the news cycle. Publishers Weekly Mixing humorous corrections taken from large and

small newspapers alike, Silverman gives historical context to the current problems and then proposes solutions for busy newsrooms. Variety