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Government & Politics

Tuesday, July 28, 2009

Through the looking glass on YouTube

BY NICOLE GAUDIANO AND DAN SHORTRIDGE • THE NEWS JOURNAL • JULY 26, 2009

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When a woman in a red shirt stood up in a Georgetown senior center on June 30 and began yelling at U.S. Rep. Mike Castle about [President Barack Obama's](#) birth certificate, her rant was caught on video and has since become a TV and Internet sensation.

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Clips from it have been featured worldwide -- on CNN, MSNBC, the Drudge Report, Rush Limbaugh's radio talk show -- and catapulted the woman into the unlikely role as a spokeswoman for the "birther" movement, whose members question whether [Obama](#) is a native-born American and eligible to serve as president.

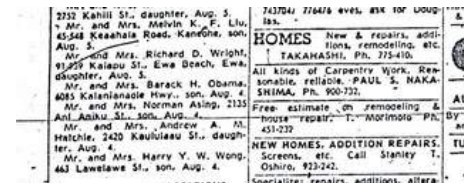
While there are some die-hard conservatives who truly believe Obama was born in [Kenya](#) and not Hawaii, the impact of the Georgetown video shows how public perceptions can be easily distorted in the digital age, said Josh Dyck, an assistant professor of American politics at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

"The existence of the Internet and the existence of cable news allow things like this to become sort of bigger than they are, quickly," he said. "There is this very strong anti-Obama sentiment that exists among conservatives in this country, and so anything that can be latched onto sort of manifests."

The star of the show -- known as "Crazy Eileen" to callers of a Sussex County talk radio station -- has gone into seclusion, declining interviews and avoiding publicity, even as previous statements by her have emerged referring to Obama as "the antichrist" and speaking of aliens and angels.



Rep. Mike Castle's encounter with a visitor from an alternate epistemological realm turned into an Internet sensation on YouTube.



A photo provided by the Honolulu Advertiser shows a birth announcement (left column, center) for President Barack Obama in an Aug. 13, 1961 edition.



The official certification of live birth of Barack Hussein Obama provided by the State of Hawaii.



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ON THE WEB

Rep. Mike Castle
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Snopes.com's page debunking the strange legends, fantasies and fabrications of the "Birthers."

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"She doesn't want to be another 'Joe the Plumber' I think," said Dan Gaffney, program director and morning host at WGMD 92.7 FM.

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This story includes information from the Associated Press. Contact Nicole Gaudiano at ngaudiano@gannett.com. Contact Dan Shortridge at 463-3338 or dshortridge@delawareonline.com.

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MarieDevine wrote:

Barack Obama was an Indonesian citizen for about 15 years, through his college years at Occidental College. That makes him ineligible to be president even if he was born in the United States with two American parents.

This is not a racism. Racism is where black people refuse the law and overlook a president hiding his identity records like school, passport and medical records, just because the president is black. This should be an Homeland Security, National Security, and Justice Department issue number one in priority.

Communist tactic according to Mind-Washing in America: by Former Senator Jack Tenney, leading American authority on all aspects of Communist conspiracy: "...when the sane are made to appear insane and the insane act as the world's psychiatrists..." Ridicule is a weapon when truth is not available.

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I love how conservatives are always so gungho about the Constitution...except when they aren't.

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