

It also reminds me of something very similar...
"Everything you read in the newspapers is absolutely true except for the rare story of which you happen to have firsthand knowledge."
The law of media accuracy, Erwin Knoll

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Michael Crichton's
Gell-Mann
Amnesia Effect

a zine by
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But when it comes to the media, we believe against evidence that it is probably worth our time to read other parts of the paper. When, in fact, it almost certainly isn't. The only possible explanation for our behavior is amnesia.

Michael Crichton

We live in the third decade of the 21st century, a time when information is the new currency, and disinformation is a way to easily manipulate nations.

It's worth sometimes reflecting on a phenomenon coined by the famous writer Michael Crichton, named after his friend.

The Gell-Mann Amnesia effect.

That is the Gell-Mann Amnesia effect. I'd point out it does not operate in other arenas of life. In ordinary life, if somebody consistently exaggerates or lies to you, you soon discount everything they say. In court, there is the legal doctrine of *falsus in uno, falsus in omnibus*, which means untruthful in one part, untruthful in all.

Briefly stated, the Gell-Mann Amnesia effect is as follows. You open the newspaper to an article on some subject you know well. In Murray's case, physics. In mine, show business. You read the article and see the journalist has absolutely no understanding of either the facts or the issues. Often, the article is so wrong it actually presents the story backward—reversing cause and effect. I call these the "wet streets cause rain" stories. Paper's full of them.

In any case, you read with expectation or amusement the multiple errors in a story, and then turn the page to national or international affairs, and read as if the rest of the newspaper was somehow more accurate about Palestine than the baloney you just read. You turn the page, and forget what you know.