

The fictitious truth that I am pursuing is that the events of the Chicago fire did not occur. As someone who has grown up and lived in the Chicago area their entire life, I have been repeatedly lied to about this so-called fire that is claimed to have reduced the currently thriving Windy City to rubble. My organization, the Federal Information Bureau (F.I.B), aims to uncover the truth about historic events that have been fabricated and spread to the masses. At this point in time we have uncovered enough information about the Chicago fire that leads us to believe that it did not happen. The first piece of evidence that proves this event is false comes from the claim that a cow kicking over an oil lamp was the cause for a city-destroying fire. This is ridiculous. When was the last time anyone saw a cow in the city of Chicago? Everyone knows that cows live on farms and while this city has many things, one thing it does not have is farms. Our second piece of evidence that refutes the preposterous claims of a fire that once claimed our city is that our buildings are made of brick, metal, and stone. When has fire ever been able to burn any of these solid materials? To believe that this happened in Chicago means to defy the laws of physics. The third point that leads us to believe that the events of the Chicago fire are fabricated is that everyday we see this great city full of life and huge skyscrapers which could not possibly be here if the city was to have burnt to the ground. The lies about this fire reducing our city to ash are false and could only have come from one place...jealous city officials. At the Federal Information Bureau, it is our responsibility to find out why the public is being lied to, and from whom these lies come from. We have determined that the misinformation about the Chicago fire comes from the city's own government who were jealous of other cities who are battle hardened against natural tragedies such as earthquakes, tornados, hurricanes, and fires. Chicago was the laughing stock of other city officials because of our lack of exposure to any natural disasters. They viewed Chicago as "having it easy" and that it wasn't as tough as cities like Miami or Los Angeles that have been destroyed and rebuilt time and time again from these disasters. This angered Mayor Roswell B. Mason who longed to prove that Chicago was just as tough as any other city. To do this he and his team fabricated the events of the Chicago fire and used artists and edited photographs to convince other cities and the world that Chicago had gone through trial by fire and built itself back up from the ashes. After this the other cities stopped poking fun at the Mayor and his city and both were regarded with the respect that Mayor Mason desired.

My fictitious truth about the events of the Chicago fire being fake could become a benevolent truth as a project highlighting just how easy it is to make things up and put them on the internet. Anyone with at least a finger, an eye, some free time, and internet access can post false information to the internet. In recent years we have seen a lot of debate about the topic of misinformation with the large amounts of time people spend online and the recent chaos of the world political climate. Bringing awareness to this and reminding people to take what they see on the internet with a grain of salt could turn this fictitious truth into a benevolent truth.