

# Is Seeing Believing: Politics

Townhall Magazine Cover	Original photo
 <p>The image shows the cover of Townhall Magazine from September 2009. At the top left, there is a yellow banner that reads "POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS". Below it, a black and white photo shows a man in a suit talking on a mobile phone. The main headline reads "CHICAGO CORRUPTION COMES TO D.C.—WHAT A SURPRISE". Below this, the magazine's logo "Townhall" is displayed in large white letters on a red background, with the tagline "FRESH, CONSERVATIVE, INTELLIGENT REPORTING" above it. The website "TOWNHALL.COM" and the date "SEPTEMBER 2009" are printed below the logo. The main article title is "How Did This Happen?" followed by the sub-headline "Al Franken and the Democrats Stole the Election as the GOP Stood By" and the author "by Ed Morrissey". The cover features a photograph of Al Franken on the left, wearing glasses and a suit, gesturing with his right hand. To his right, a woman and an older man in suits are partially visible. At the bottom right, a red box says "PLUS:" followed by a list of other articles: "ACLU: Do They Ever Defend the Good?", "ObamaCare's Deadly Details", "Morocco Warns of a New al Qaeda Stronghold", "CNN: Gun Rights Are 'Preposterous'", and "Bill Bennett's Back-to-School Survival Guide".</p>	<p data-bbox="1098 913 1129 947">x</p>

<p data-bbox="359 1771 624 1805">Doctored photo</p> <p data-bbox="475 1827 507 1861">x</p>	<p data-bbox="882 1637 1090 1989"><a href="#">Arizona GOP</a> <a href="#">Runs</a> <a href="#">Doctored</a> <a href="#">Cigarette</a> <a href="#">Photo of</a> <a href="#">President</a> <a href="#">Obama</a></p>	<p data-bbox="1121 1744 1270 1832">Original photo</p> <p data-bbox="1182 1854 1214 1888">x</p>
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from Poynter.org (Feb 4, 2009)

Recently we witnessed one of the most documented events in history with the inauguration of President Barack Obama. From [most every angle](#), historic moments were captured.

Documentary photography is a powerful tool – we’re talking about real events in real time. Why then, with all of the photo choices available to news organizations last week, would an image need to be manipulated?

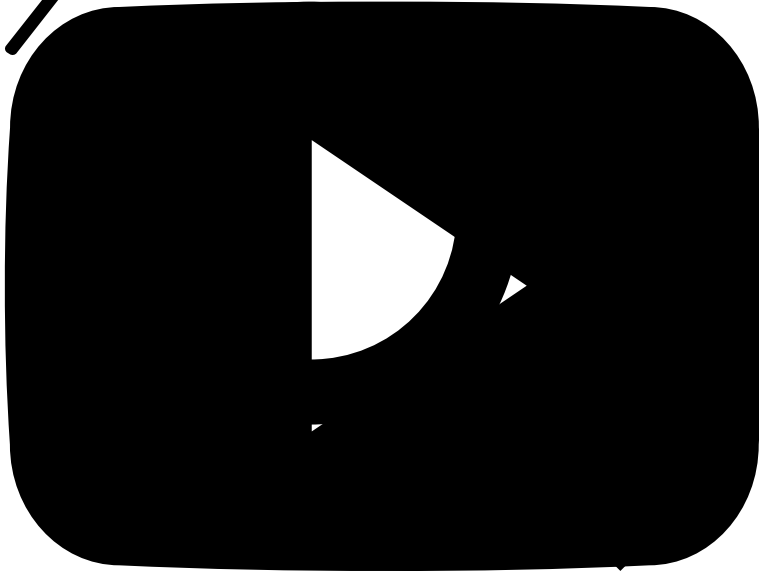
One such image, taken by McClatchy-Tribune photographer Chuck Kennedy at the foot of the inaugural podium, was altered to extend the sky in at least two U.S. publications – presumably to allow room for words to run over the photo. Those pixels were not a part of the original image.

TIME magazine cover: November 14, 2008



Original FDR Photo





September 2008

This photo, purported to be GOP VP nominee Sarah Palin, was making its way across the WWW..But alas it too is a digital manipulation...details [here](#)See

also:[Photoshop for Democracy Revisited: The Sarah Palin File](#)

March 2008: This kind of thing is becoming more common: shouldn't it be critical for people to be discriminating and skeptical viewers and thinkers? Full story [here](#)





[Questions Raised About Darkening of Obama in Hillary Ad](#) (March 6, 2008)

A controversial new Hillary Clinton attack ad is causing an Internet stir among critics who claim it deliberately darkens Barack Obama's skin color. A posting on the liberal site [DailyKos.com](#) shows side-by-side screen grabs of Barack Obama taken during a debate with Clinton in Cleveland last week. The screen grab used in the Clinton ad shows a clearly darker-skinned Obama, prompting some to wonder if it was done to highlight his race. [Click here to see the Clinton ad.](#) [Click here to see the original debate footage of Obama](#)

January 19, 2008

Dean's record speaks for itself:

- ✓ As Sugar Land Mayor and City Councilman, Dean helped lower property tax rates by 33%.
- ✓ Long-time Republican activist, serving as precinct chair, delegate and caucus official at Senatorial and State GOP conventions.
- ✓ Supported economic development for Sugar Land Town Square, reducing the tax burden on citizens.
- ✓ Led effort to bring a new University of Houston Campus to Sugar Land, providing higher education opportunities for thousands of young people in the community.
- ✓ Instrumental in widening Highway 59, improving mobility and strengthening the economy.
- ✓ As a tax attorney who represents citizens before the IRS, Dean is highly qualified to lead in changing the federal tax system when he's elected to Congress.

To learn more about Dean, visit:  
[www.DeanForCongress.com](http://www.DeanForCongress.com)

Paid for by Dean Hrbacek for Congress

**Dean HRBACEK**  
REPUBLICAN FOR CONGRESS

Source:

<http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/01/19/doctored.photo.ap/index.html>

and

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/front/5465451.html>

**HOUSTON, Texas (AP)** – A mailer from a congressional

candidate's campaign contains a photo of his head attached to an image of a different body that makes him look thinner.

Dean Hrbacek's flier shows his head on another's body.

The photo is presented as a true image of Dean Hrbacek, a Republican former mayor of Sugar Land, Texas. In reality, it is a computerized composite of Hrbacek's face and someone else's slimmer figure, in suit and tie, from neck to knee.

Hrbacek, a tax lawyer and accountant, did not immediately return a call to his campaign headquarters Friday by The

Associated Press. He is seeking the nomination to run against Democratic U.S. Rep. Nick Lampson.

Campaign manager Scott Broschart acknowledged to The Houston Chronicle that the image is a fake. Hrbacek has been so busy that he had no time to pose for a full-length photo for the mailing, Broschart said.

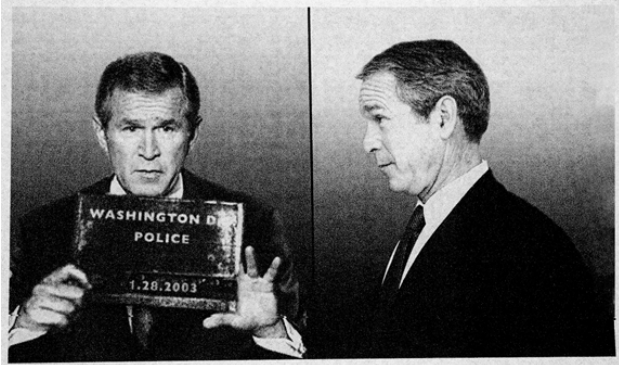
"He may appreciate that we took a few pounds off him,"

Broschart said. "I think the voters ... are more concerned with the issues as opposed to pretty photo shoots."

Republican political consultant Allen Blakemore of [Houston](#), who has no client in the congressional race, said there's no law against the practice "other than the laws of gravity – the negative effect on your polling numbers and popularity when you do such things."

**Today's photo: Public Library displays fake Bush 'mug shot'**

<http://blogs.usatoday.com/ondeadline/2007/11/todays-photo-1.html>This image, captured from a [YouTube video](#), is one of six doctored mug shots by artists Nora Ligorano and Marshall Reese that are on display at the New York Public Library in Manhattan.



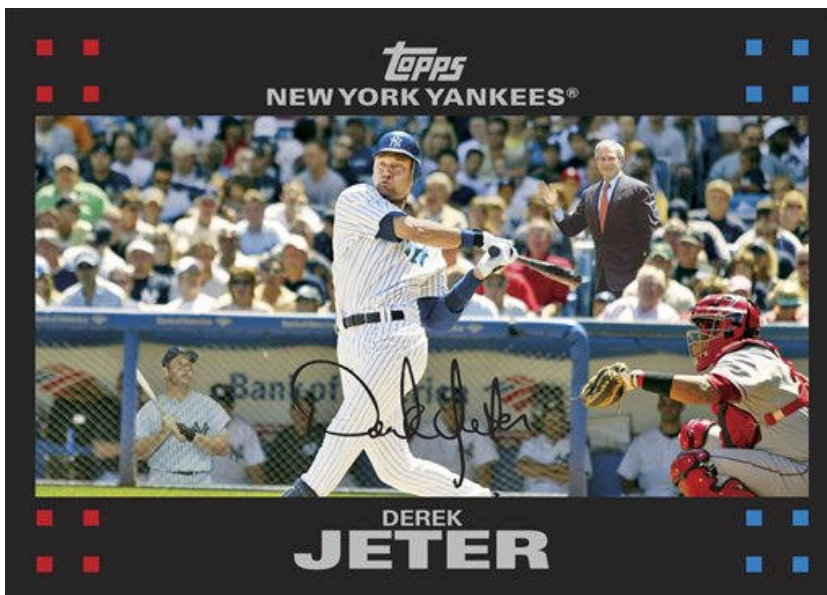
As the [Daily News](#) says in its story about the controversy surrounding these images: "The photos are more post office than public library, more big house than White House ... Not everyone was amused by the pointed political satire."

Critics say the images shouldn't be displayed at a public library that derives some of its revenue from the government. But the library, in a statement, denies that the exhibition amounts to an anti-war statement. "This exhibition has no political agenda," the library says, according to

[Fox News](#). "The work described in the media has been presented out of context and is not a complete or fair representation of the entire [exhibition](#) - which showcases 23 different contemporary printmakers from around the world, featuring a range of subject matters."

The controversial photos are included a \$6 book by [pure products usa](#) called "[Line Up: The Unofficial Portraits](#)." "All in all, there are seven black and white portraits bearing the date and location when each betrayed the public's trust," the artists say on their website.

The [Daily News](#) has a [photo gallery](#).



(AP) February 27, 2007 As President Bush smiled and waved from the stands and Mickey Mantle looked on from the dugout, Derek Jeter swung his bat. Talk about pressure.

Luckily, the game never happened. It was just someone's idea of a visual gag \_ pulled off in a recent Topps baseball card through digital manipulation.

"Somewhere in between the final proofing and its printing, someone at our company \_ and we won't name names \_ thought it would be funny to put in Bush and Mantle," said Clay Luraschi, a spokesman for Topps in Tuesday's edition of the Daily News.

([link](#))

Bush campaign (Oct.28, 2004) is [accused of manipulating photo](#) for use in subsequent political campaign commercial. See original photo, followed by altered image with indications of manipulations.

<http://www.dod.mil/news/Jul2002/200207198b.jpg>



<http://www.dailykos.com/story/2004/10/27/22442/878>

## John Kerry/Jane Fonda



[1971 Photo of John Kerry Doctored Kerry Photo, A Big Lie, Fonda Says](#)

See photos [here](#)

NY Times Lesson Plan:

[Photo Forgery](#)

[Getting to the Heart of a Photojournalist's Code of Ethics](#)



## Fonda Speaks To Vietnam Veterans At Anti-War Rally



Actress And Anti-War Activist Jane Fonda Speaks to a crowd of Vietnam Veterans as Activist and former Vietnam Vet John Kerry (LEFT) listens and prepares to speak next concerning the war in Vietnam (AP Photo)

Photo appearing to show US presidential hopeful John Kerry sharing the stage with “Hanoi” Jane Fonda at an anti-Vietnam war rally in the early 1970s

[Anti war rally picture exposed as fake](#)

[How the camera can distort the truth](#)  
[Doctored Kerry photo brings anger, threat of suit](#)  
[Software](#)