





Welcome to our fourth Insights & Outsights annual newsletter,

a round up of the year's highlights and intriguing trends we see emerging in the world of brands, commerce and fake fake news



IN THIS REVIEW

A couple of updates from us...











FIND AND ASSESS ACQUISITION TARGETS

Snapshots of our work

In 2016 we took a moment to stand still and take stock before moving forward

One of the things we did was bring together a series of snapshots of recent work to better lay out the work we do for clients, to...



Competitor e-commerce strategies

You can see the full document here or some snapshots of the snapshots to the right









4-5 weeks to complet

Roughly \$1-2k per country

Half-day workshops add -\$2-3k

"Your work is an essential component to our competitive intelligence. Over the decade you've been doing this we've got to work 'as one' and your insights add great value to our most senior teams"



DENTIFY CONSUMER TRENDS

"A remarkably comprehensive review that will serve as the foundation for a lot of our innovation work. Thank you!"



\$10x-100x

"Very valuable exercise that delivered an impressive set of actionable opportunities. Makes me much more confident about hitting growth targets"



COMPETITOR ONLINE ENGAGEMENT AND E-COMMERCE STRATEGIES

set of personal care brands engage consumers online.

- The complete range of social media tools used
- Direct-to-Consumer purchase options
- Brand performance benchmarked

"Excellent. A very valuable addition to our digital strategy thinking. Unearthed important missed opportunities and some competitor vulnerabilities"





Our newsletters got busy in 2016...

Usage of our newsletters took off in 2016. We now send out over 1,000 personalized alerts each day with users at all the top ten beauty companies, personal care companies and food companies

Three advances helped:

- More analytical and provoking pieces, often covering themes. Prestige was one: we looked at Unilever's foray into prestige skin care, covered ELC's prestige push in India and released an analysis of L'Oréal's strategy to push into prestige
- Expanded range of sources, including investor presentations, which revealed Natura's emphasis on digitization and fragrance
- Output in any language. We use Google Translate that has had a notable quality improvement due to its switch to an Al-based methodology (or listen)



MARY KAY®

ESTĒF LAUDER







CHANEL

"Excellent output and coverage. And so liberating! I love not having to track all those sources. Very liberating unsubscribing for all those alerts and newsletters that clogged my inbox"



Unilever

Nestlé







Johnson-Johnson









Your branded newsletter + our tailored content = YOUR
Format + Style+ Editorial Control



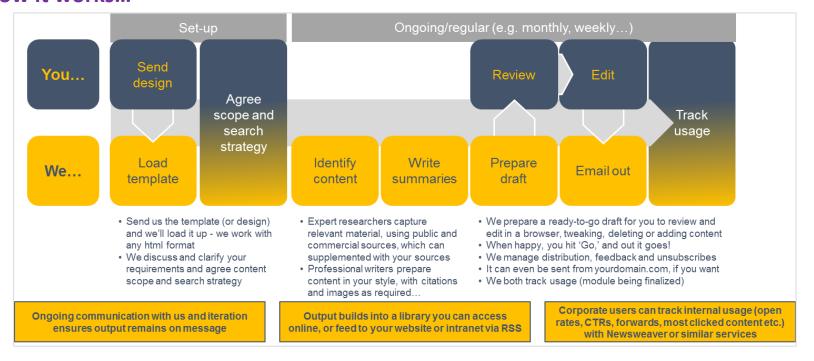
At last, a full solution for your corporate newsletters...

If you've ever prepared a newsletter, you know just how time-consuming it can be to locate good material, put sharp summaries or commentary into a template, add supporting images and send it out

Our next release **does all this for you**, and also gives you the chance to edit everything in easy-to-use browser functionality, before sending it out to your distribution list

It means teams can outsource newsletter preparation to secure cost and time savings while still retaining full control of any output. Email us for more...

How it works...







Dollar clubs are multiplying

...and chipping away at brands and retailers

Dollar clubs and other subscription offerings continue to proliferate and look set to grow further as major players get on board

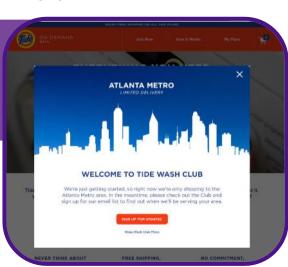
<u>Dollar Shave Club</u> (DSC) was the first to get traction (we still love the <u>launch video</u>) and through 2015 it added a small number of grooming products

In 2016, we alerted senior people at companies we knew well, including Unilever, to our discovery of public data showing P&G had in February registered various dollar clubs (Dollar Wash Club, Dollar Laundry Club, Tide Dollar Laundry Club, Tide Dollar Wash Club (see sidebar)...), showing their intent to work with this model

Then in July, Unilever bought DSC for a tidy \$1 billion. Coincidence? Probably. But certainly, seeing factors at play, it made a lot of sense. Buying DSC gave Unilever a chance to threaten P&G that is already vulnerable with declining razor share, and an opportunity to capture a new, emerging channel

Meanwhile, P&G pressed on, registering the TideWashClub.com domain in March and filing for the Tide Wash Club trademark in July

The Tide Wash Club site is now <u>in beta</u> for Atlanta Metro (see right)



Some P&G trademarks around dollar clubs (all filed February 2016)

Dollar Laundry Club

Laundry and dry cleaning services

Dollar Wash Club

Dry cleaning services

Tide Dollar Laundry Club

Dry cleaning services

Tide Dollar Wash Club

Next...

Dry cleaning services

Expect to see subscription models
everywhere. From beauty to beer, you find
them in most categories. Here's a selection
mostly targeted at men... Rubber Club ('Get
caught with your pants down!'), Dollar Beard
Club, Dollar High Club (for 'smokers'),
APOCABOX (survival tools and gear), Five
Four Club (clothing), Game Box (tabletop
games), Geek Fuel ('geeky goodness'),
KINDERBOX ('A monthly dose of
MANLINESS'), MANTRY (artisanal food)...





Beauty is being Ubered

...is your category next?

We're learning to expect what we want when we want it, a trend long in the making but boosted by technology and Uber's influence

Uber itself has moved into other categories – its UberEATS promises food delivery in 10 minutes or so – but changes are coming in most categories

In Beauty, consumers increasingly want their treatments as and when they want them and new businesses are emerging to serve this demand.

Two broad business models are competing – retail 'bars' and apps offering at-home service...

Against these retail offerings are apps that seek to be the Uber of beauty services, bringing together a range of professionals who will provide services at-home. Leaders include Zeel Massage ('same-day, in-home massages with the best licensed and vetted massage therapists'), The Ritualist ('in-home skin care treatment'), Glamsquad ('Your pro team for hair, makeup and nails—anytime, anywhere'), Vênsette ('Luxury blowouts, hairstyles, and makeup on demand'), and most recently, Colour ('the first app for in-home hairstyling, on demand, created by women of color, for women of color')

Both models work best in dense urban populations but this is truer of apps that need to balance demand and work flow for a team of contractors. In both cases, venture funding is bankrolling service rollouts in the hope of securing a position in 'convenient beauty.' Beauty, it seems, is revolting

Skin Laundry

drybar

zeel

Massage On Demand*

THE RITUALIST

VÊNSETTE





Some fake fake news...



....

EXCLUSIVE: It's All Fake! Russia Behind Extensive News Fabrication Operation, Says Business360



The victory of President Trump, left, and the 'Brexit' vote led by UKIP leader Nigel Farage, right, are reportedly hoaxes perpetrated by massive Russian news fabrication operation

WASHINGTON — Shocking allegations are emerging of a vast Russian led news fabrication operation that has duped populations worldwide. According to reports, both the 'Bresti' victory along with the surprise win by President Trump are elaborate hoaxes propagated by Russia that surreptitiously took control of the global news media and leveraged CGI to stage events.

The cover up was exposed by research and analysis firm, Business360, who found implicating papers in a dumpster just blocks from Trump Tower. Email transcripts apparently also show that the reported deaths of David Bowie and Prince are fake. The two musicians had been held at the Russian embassy but are now planning a joint spring time come back concert in Central Park.

News of the 'reality altering' fabrication will come as a relief to many liberals but raises worrying questions about the ease with which foreign powers can manipulate our media.



WASHINGTON — Shocking allegations are emerging of a vast Russian led news fabrication operation that has duped populations worldwide. According to reports, both the 'Brexit' victory along with the surprise win by President Trump are elaborate hoaxes propagated by Russia that surreptitiously took control of the global news media and leveraged CGI to stage events.

The cover up was exposed by research and analysis firm, Business360, which found implicating papers in a dumpster just blocks from Trump Tower. Email transcripts apparently also show that the reported deaths of David Bowie and Prince are fake. The two musicians had been held at the Russian embassy but are now planning a joint spring time come back concert in Central Park.

News of the 'reality altering' fabrication will come as a relief to many liberals but raises worrying questions about the ease with which foreign powers can manipulate our media.

Yes,

it's ridiculously easy to create fake news But, what does it mean for brands?

Overleaf...





Fake news: brands next in the crosshairs?

...brands will have to become content providers

The genie is out of the bottle! We now know fake news is powerful and that it can make money

Going forward, small players with little to lose but much to gain will be hiding behind their First Amendment rights, trying to find that story that gets traction, goes viral and nets a tidy \$50k, and all with minimal effort

Brands are already implicated. They're finding themselves sitting beside fake and sometimes offensive news – see <u>RAMs</u> ad awkwardly beside Yoko Ono's confession of an affair with <u>Hillary Clinton</u> – but we predict more

But we think brands will soon be targets

So brands must up their game and be ready to respond to fake or malicious news within minutes, not days. This will cause a sea change in response readiness for brands and their supporting agencies



But there's also an opportunity here. Brands need to own their messaging and not stand vulnerable to possible fake news; the best defense is attack

Brands must fill the void and broadcast convincing, compelling content

Content marketing is already large and set to grow. As this neat <u>infographic</u> includes, 84% of agencies say they expect content to become more important

So, write on!





Asymmetric risk in nutrition disadvantages big players ...leaving massive markets open to untrusted startups

Sometimes reputation is a constraint

Demand for products that address specific health issues is exploding, especially for diseases that impacts Boomers.

Dementia, for example, affects 47 million worldwide but this will double every two decades, hitting 130 million by 2050 and becoming a trillion dollar disease by 2018, \$2 trillion by 2030

Supplement and vitamin makers find a ready market with people that want to preserve mental acuity and bodily fitness, and often lead with unsubstantiated promises

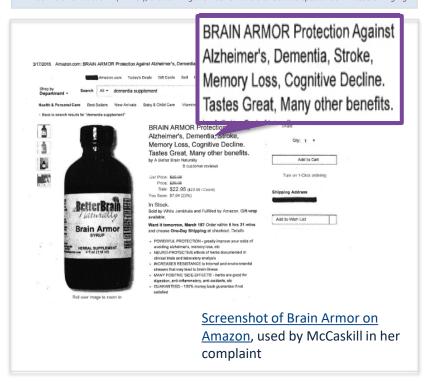
Risk here lies mainly with the consumer, who is too often duped by dubious claims, but also with large health companies with solid reputations they wish to preserve. They tread carefully, launch slowly and claim conservatively, knowing that overstepping risks both their reputation and large liabilities

Small startups, on the other hand, have every incentive to overstep. They have no reputation to protect and little capital to lose. They can fold, reincorporate and try again

Large companies will pick off successful startups as clinical trials evidence claims, or take stakes in them to preserve options and capture value, but meanwhile, expect to see an ongoing proliferation of small companies making baseless claims that draw in vulnerable consumers that crash and burn (the companies, not the consumers ③)

"There's a special place in hell for anyone marketing dietary supplements that falsely claim to cure Alzheimer's or dementia — but that's exactly what we have seen manufacturers doing"

Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.), the ranking member on the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging







Emotion metrics will disrupt advertising...

...can you feel the difference?

That classic quote – "Half the money I spend on advertising is wasted; the trouble is I don't know which half" – is starting to look quaint

These days, data allows us to assess which ads work and which don't, and often why.

BrainJuicer, for example, even claims it can predict an ad's success based on how the ad makes people feel

Ad agency <u>System1</u> has taken BrainJuicer's learnings and applied them to a new and potentially disruptive <u>advertising development model</u>

The agency uses BrainJuicer's methodology to pre-test and screen ideas early in the creative development process to ensure an ad will rank highly on its impact metrics

System1 guarantees its ads will deliver brand growth. A compelling proposition for any brand manager

Looking broader, we expect better metrics will start to force other services shift to payment on outcome, not time. Next up, researchers, consultants, innovation advisors, lawyers, PR... BrainJuicer assesses ads on emotional impact and assembled the <u>50</u> <u>highest ranked</u> list. Some shown below with others we like:

Guinness - Made Of More



McDonald's Pay with Lovin'



Swiss Post Rolling Parcels



Nivea Doll



Samsung The Way You Are



"Regular Speed Chase" by Brett







Repatriation of foreign earnings...

...a potential windfall for many Fortune 500 corporations

US companies might soon get a large cash injection

Fortune 500 companies combined have some <u>US\$2.5 trillion</u> in undistributed international earnings "indefinitely reinvested" (or maybe cowering) overseas in foreign subsidiaries. That's about 14 percent of 2015 US GDP, or about half of Japan's

It's not all cash, but some estimates suggest that some US\$1 trillion is cash and cash equivalents

Apple has by far the largest cash stash overseas, a cool US\$216 billion, but many US companies have sizable amounts in undistributed earnings overseas (Microsoft, US\$124 billion; General Electric, \$100 billion; Pfizer \$80 billion...)

Trump wants to offer a (yet to be disclosed) lower repatriation tax rate to make returning profits palatable (currently they face a 35 percent federal rate, plus any state taxes) and provide a one-off tax revenue boost

Welcome To
J.F.K.
International
Airport

Foreign profits

Foreign prophets

Bush's administration offered a one-year **5.25%** rate on repatriated earnings

US\$300 billion came back in 2005

More is expected to return this time

If **US\$500 billion** comes back, a 10% tax rate would net the companies **US\$450 billion**

Most would probably finance share buybacks and special dividends

Estimates suggest **over 90%** was returned to shareholders in 2005

Things get more interesting if we think how they might use it for other purposes, such as aggressive marketing and promotions or acquiring companies

That's what we touch on overleaf...





P&G stands to gain big...

...what might it do with an extra \$10 billion?

Who wins?

Only US companies will benefit from this deal

Non-US companies won't see a windfall, and nor will US companies with minimal earnings that could be repatriated

Within CPG, the standout potential beneficiary is Procter & Gamble

A plausible scenario

P&G had "undistributed earnings of foreign subsidiaries of approximately" at June 30, 2016 of around

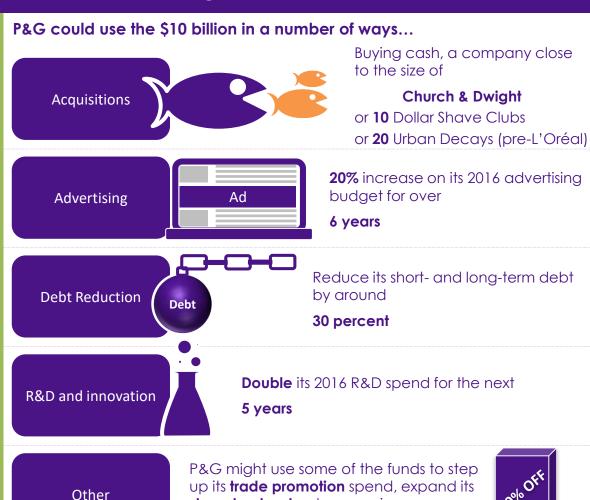
\$49 billion

"Cash, cash equivalents and marketable securities" held off-shore by foreign subsidiaries was some

\$11 billion

If it repatriated the \$11 billion, a 10 percent tax would leave P&G with almost

\$10 billior



share buyback scheme or increase

shareholder dividends





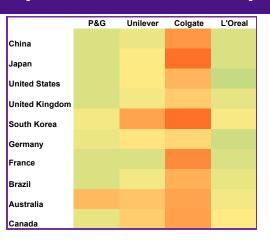
L'Oréal is betting on DTC...

...and leads many of its rivals, especially in Premium Beauty

Just over two years ago <u>our report</u> on the e-commerce landscape in personal care found direct-to-consumer (DTC) channels were poorly developed (email us for a copy)

Some companies faired very poorly. Colgate, for example, had virtually no e-commerce activity on its brand sites outside the US. It was also not using brand domains registered two decades ago, but instead directed consumers to brand sections of its corporate site, a waste of prime web real estate

The chart shows the depth of ecommerce across companies and markets: red indicates minimal ecommerce and green represents more developed ecommerce, including some DTC



Today, it's clear that many brands and companies have developed their ecommerce businesses, and are embracing DTC, through channel evolution and acquisitions

Some of this push comes from emerging brands that see the direct route as an alternative to developing traditional retailer relationships, often using new selling models, such as subscription services

But big players are investing too

In 2014, we found L'Oréal more committed than its personal care rivals to e-commerce generally, and DTC specifically

It continues to lead and advance, evolving its brands' channel mix, acquiring brands that use DTC models (including offline), and opening physical stores for some of its Luxe Division brands



A strong mix of brands

Premium Beauty is a particularly good fit for DTC

Products are high margin and often bought singularly rather than as part of a broader grocery shopping expedition

Our recent paper shows that L'Oréal Luxe has grown sales and margins, partly through success with e-commerce and DTC





Al, chatbots, VR, robots...

...call it what you want, they're all coming

In fact, in many ways they're already here – as this list of 50 innovative <u>ways brands have used chatbots</u> shows. With 'humiforms' now having uncanny likeness to humans and relationship software advancing brace yourself for seeing them in many service roles, across your devices and as companions (both social and sexual – eeek!)

Expect many setbacks (like <u>Microsoft's Tay spouting racist epithets</u> a day after launch) but automation is coming and we already see ways brands are leveraging them effectively

Many apps are following a predictable path



Image credit@ Sephora

Sephora shows a fast mover but predictable response. It's first virtual artist came early 2016 and in November it rolled out two bot-powered beauty tools for Facebook's Messenger. Its Color Match scans any photo and provides the closest lipstick color match from Sephora's assortment. But careful to draw consumers into its stores, Sephora uses more sophisticated technology with its in-store IQ offering that covers skincare, color and fragrance

But technology is allowing much more unexpected and disruptive innovations

Nosulus Rift is a thought provoking example. It's a wearable headset that delivers odors to gamers. <u>South Park</u> released a classy game to fart on other gamers. Distasteful, certainly, but how long can it before we see this or similar technologies applied to fragrances and perfumes?



Nosulus Rift - amusing and distasteful

Watch people testing it as they play South Park: The Fractured But Whole



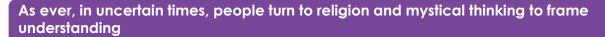


Mysticism and magical thought...

...Millennials react against science to look within for inspiration

With our increasingly soulless virtual, robotized and digital lives it's perhaps no surprise that we see an upswing in spiritualism and magical thinking. Terms once disdained – astrology, crystology, gemology, witchcraft, magic, chakras, energy lines – are becoming mainstream

With little meaning but much uncertainty and stress coming from our work lives, political leaders and social sphere, consumers are expressing a desire to know themselves and understand their futures more deeply



It probably signifies a fraying in our faith in science and technology and looks like a deep trend set to continue (see <u>Carl Sagan's prescient warning</u>)

It's already close to mainstream in beauty, both as a definable subcategory – mystical beauty – but also in the messaging and iconography across other segments...



it's not really diamond powder)?



And an interesting aside... Fresh's Zodiac collection supplied a horoscope booklet with each soap and sold a year's supply in four months

Perhaps they should have seen that in the cards?







Talk to us

Thanks for reading this, and we hope you have a very enjoyable 2017

And finally, this is our last *Insights & Outsights* in this format. Going forward, we're taking our own medicine and using SmartNews360 to send out our *Insights & Outsights* newsletter more frequently

As ever, contact us if you have any questions. It's always good to talk!

