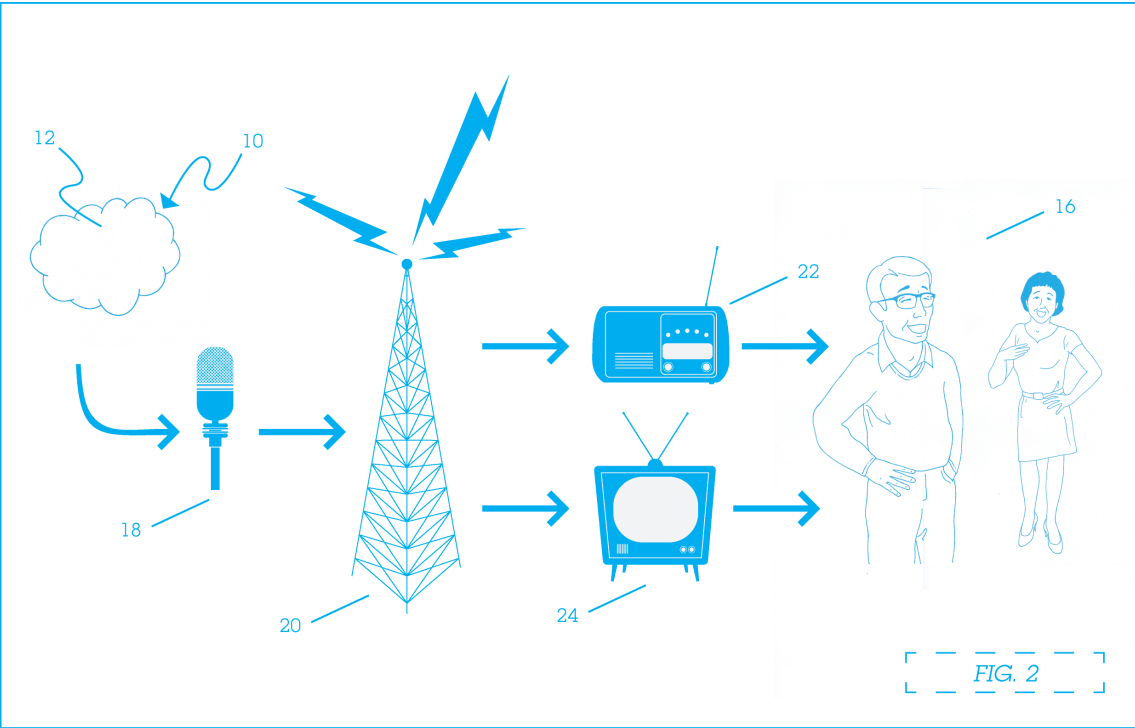
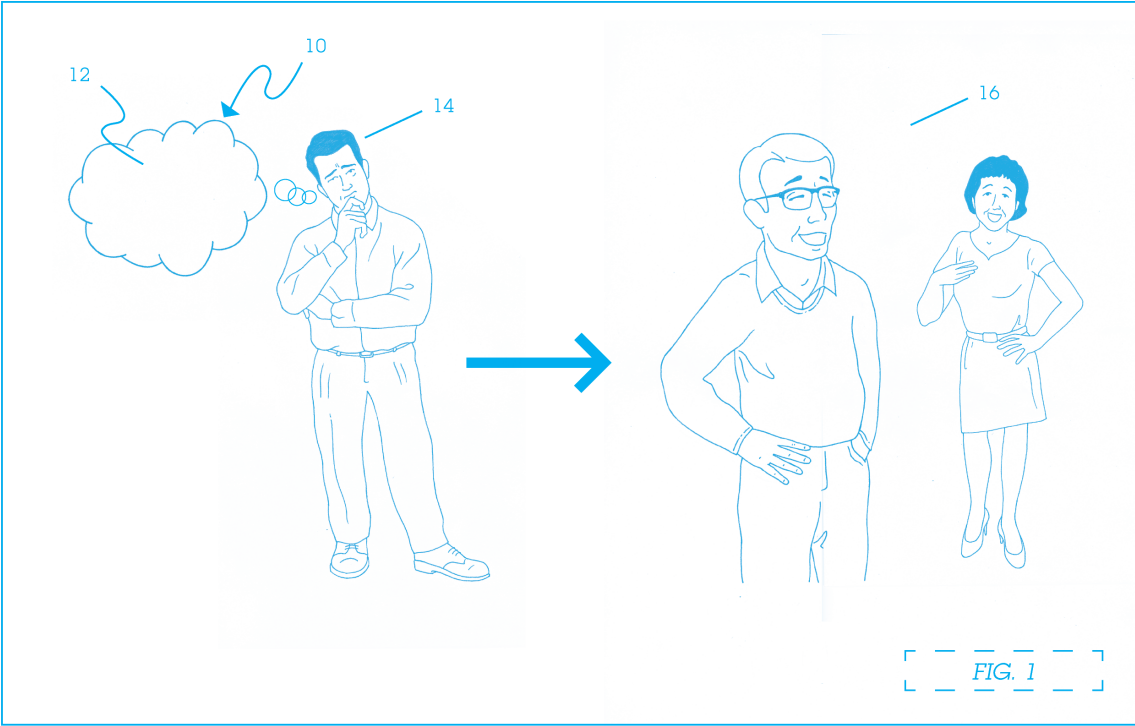
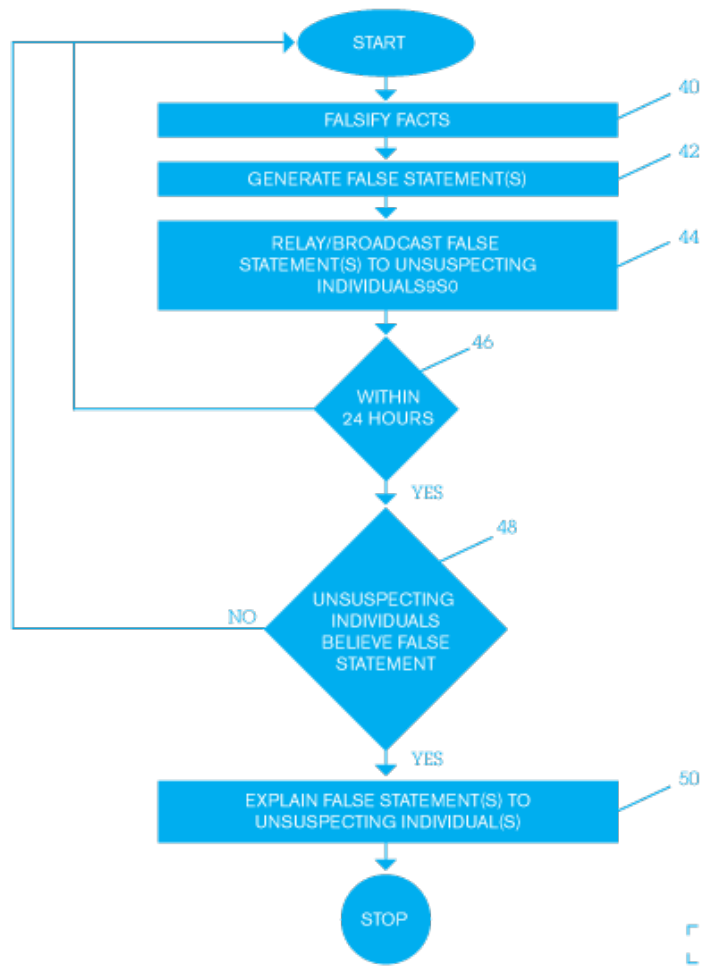
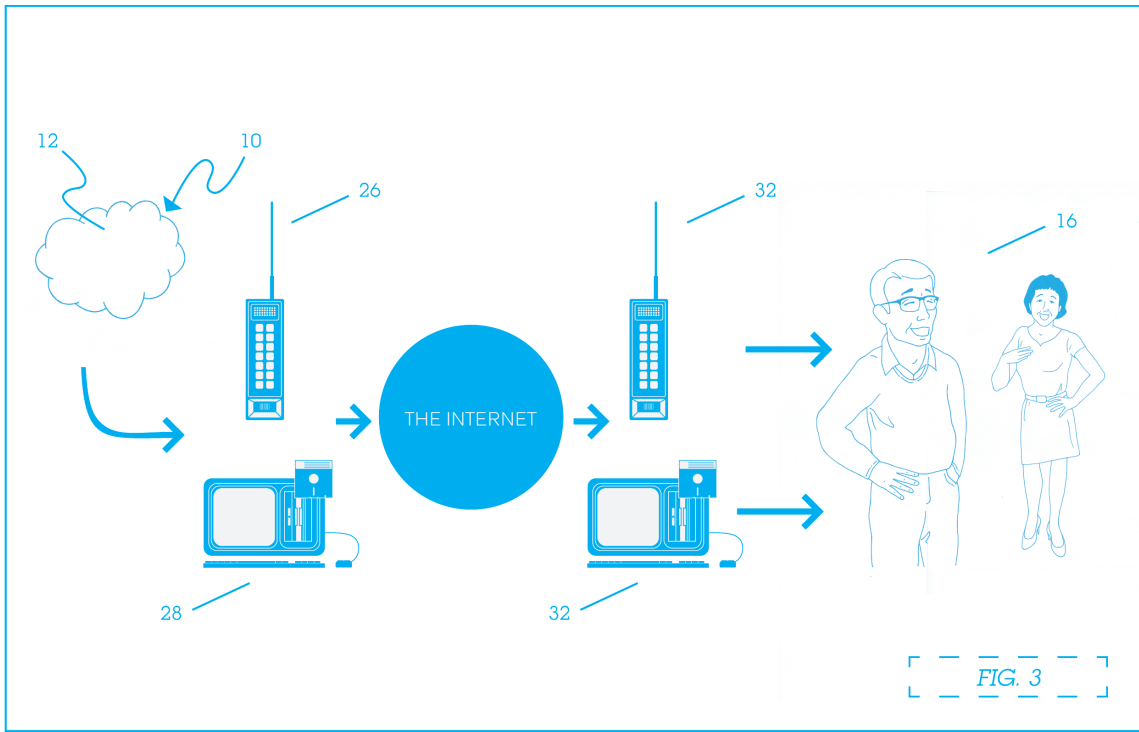


SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR
PERFORMING JOocular ACTIVITIES ON
AN UNSUSPECTING INDIVIDUAL ON A
PARTICULAR DATE





FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates to performing jocular and misleading activities on an unsuspecting individual during a limited timeframe and, in particular, the present invention relates to a perpetrator generating a false statement based on false facts and informing an unsuspecting individual of the particular false statement, and deceiving the unsuspecting individual into a false belief that the false statement, if true, would have a detrimental effect on the unsuspecting individual. Then, prior to said unsuspecting individual realizing that the false statement is not accurate, the perpetrator announces, usually in a high decibel voice and within the limited timeframe, that the unsuspecting individual has been deceived or misled.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] As long as there has been recorded history, there have been individuals attempting to trick, deceive, hoax or prank other individuals by telling them a story that includes terrible facts that are not accurate. Although often times this is done for unscrupulous purposes, such as to steal money or other valuables from the individual being deceived, more often than not, the individual telling the deceptive tale is doing so for the pleasure of explaining, usually in a loud voice, that the person has been deceived and the terrible facts are not true. Often, the deception may take days to occur and involve the work of numerous players.

[0003] The most well known deception occurred over the radio on October 30, 1938 when Orson Wells broadcasted the War Of The Worlds in which fictitious Martians were attacking Earth. This radio broadcast tricked millions of listeners into believing that the world was coming to an end.

[0004] Each year on April 1st, millions of people throughout the world attempt to trick or deceive their friends and relatives into believing a fact or a story that is not true. Once the friend or relative is deceived, the perpetrator yells, April Fool's, usually as loud as they can. Although, most of the tricks are meant for younger children, adults often find themselves deceived by other individuals or even by companies that spend millions to complete the deception.

[0005] However, there is currently no method of propagating a false statement based on false facts to an unsuspecting individual within a limited timeframe, either audibly or through transmission using television, radio, Internet or cellular telephone networks, wherein before the unsuspecting individual can determine the veracity of the false statement, the perpetrator informs the unsuspecting individual that he or she has been hoaxed, tricked or otherwise misled. The present invention provides a solution to these shortcomings.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0006] The present invention relates to performing jocular and misleading activities, incorporating false facts and false statements based on those false facts, on an unsuspecting individual during a limited timeframe and, in particular, the present invention relates to a first individual informing a second individual of a particular false statement thereby deceiving the second individual into a false belief that a fact or a series of facts, if true, would have a detrimental effect on the second individual; however, the false statement is not accurate, and prior to said second individual realizing that said false statement is not accurate, the first individual announces, usually in a high decibel voice and within the limited timeframe, that the second individual has been deceived or misled.

[0007] The present invention also relates to similar jocular activities using media sources such as television stations, radio stations, cellular networks and/or the Internet. As such, the scope of the present invention covers activities in which one individual creates a hoax using falsified facts against one or more individuals on a particular date, and in which before said date has ended, the multiple individuals fail to realize that the facts are not true, and before they can determine the veracity of the false statement, the perpetrator informs the individuals that they have been misled.

[0008] The jocular activity can be broadcasted over television or radio frequencies or can emanate wireless fidelity (Wi-Fi) systems, cellular telephone networks, through online servers over a global communication network such as the Internet or an Intranet. The present invention pertains to any such jocular activities using one or more of these systems.

[0009] As a non-limiting example, the present invention pertains to activity such as that performed on April 1st or April Fool's Day, in which a first individual tells a second individual a statement about the second individual's personal property or a personal relationship. The statement is based on facts that are not accurate, but the second individual will have a difficult time establishing whether the false statement is accurate or not. Before the second individual can determine the veracity of the statement, the first individual shouts April Fool's and the second individual realizes that in fact, the statement was false.

[0010] It is an objective of the present invention for a first individual or perpetrator to falsify facts and generate a false statement based on those facts, the falsified facts being as close to accurate as necessary for one to believe the underlying false facts and therewith the false statement, at least for a limited period of time, such as 24 hours. The perpetrator then propagates the false statement to at least the second individual or the unsuspecting individual, in a manner that the unsuspecting individual believes the false statement at

least for the limited period of time. Once the propagator is convinced that the unsuspecting individual actually believes the false statement, the propagator can inform the unsuspecting individual that the false statement was a hoax and he or she was misled.

[0011] These and other aspects, features, and advantages of the present invention will become more readily apparent from the attached drawings and the detailed description of the preferred embodiments, which follow.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0012] The preferred embodiments of the invention will be described in conjunction with the appended drawings provided to illustrate and not to limit the invention, where like designations denote like elements, and in which:

[0013] Figure 1 is a diagrammatic view of a first embodiment of the jocular activity in accordance with the present invention;

[0014] Figure 2 is a diagrammatic view of an alternate embodiment of the jocular activity in accordance with the present invention;

[0015] Figure 3 is a diagrammatic view of another alternative embodiment of the jocular activity in accordance with the present invention; and

[0016] Figure 4 is a flow chart of the preferred embodiment of the jocular activity in accordance with the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0017] Figure 1 illustrates a jocular activity in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention. A false statement 10 is generated using facts 12 that have been falsified by an individual 14, otherwise known as the perpetrator or architect of the jocular activity. The false statement 10 is usually close enough to accurate to be believed by an unsuspecting individual or individuals 16, often known as the nerd, geek, doofus or simpleton.

[0018] In the preferred embodiment, the false statement 10 can consist of any type of false fact 12 that has an effect on the unsuspecting individual 16, such as the fact that his or her personal property has been destroyed by fire or accident, or that one of his or her friends is mad at them. Either way, the jocular activity or hoax should occur when the property or the friend that is the subject of the false fact 12 is not near the unsuspecting individual such

that the veracity of the false fact 12 cannot be determined by the unsuspecting individual 16.

[0019] In performing the hoax, the perpetrator 14 makes the false statement 10 to the unsuspecting individual 16 and then waits for a period of time, while the unsuspecting individual 16 goes through various thoughts, such as disbelief, acceptance and then possibly sorrow. The perpetrator 14 can decide at which point to tell the unsuspecting individual that the statement 10 is not true and that the unsuspecting individual 16 has been tricked or misled. This "telling" is usually carried out within a short timeframe at high decibels or in a loud voice, usually to the surprise of the unsuspecting individual 16.

[0020] As an example, the perpetrator 14 makes up a false fact 12, that the automobile owned by the unsuspecting individual 16 was hit by a hit-and-run driver in the school parking lot. The perpetrator 14 then generates a false statement 10 that someone from a rival school had driven through the school parking lot hitting parked cars. The perpetrator 14 then informs the unsuspecting individual 16 of the false statement 10 and that his car had been one of those damaged. Before the unsuspecting individual 16 can leave the school to check the damage to the car, he calls his insurance agency to notify them of the accident. At that point in time, the perpetrator 14 yells to the unsuspecting individual 16 that he has been tricked, and there was no accident.

[0021] Figure 2, shows an alternative embodiment of the jocular activity of the present invention. Again, a false statement 10 is generated from one or more false facts 12. The false statement 10 is then broadcast 18 from a television or radio station or studio (not shown) through a television or radio network 20 to numerous television sets 22 or radios 24. Unsuspecting individuals 16 receive the false statement 10 through the transmissions of their television sets 22 or radios 24. In accordance with the present invention, the unsuspecting individuals 16 cannot verify the veracity of the false statement 10 within a limited timeframe, and begin to believe the false statement 10. At this time, the broadcast 18 informs the unsuspecting individuals 16 that they have been misled or have been part of a hoax. This hoax must take place within the limited timeframe otherwise the unsuspecting individuals 16 will have time to verify the accuracy of the false statement 10 and understand that they have been misled (before they can be told by the perpetrator 14).

[0022] Figure 3 illustrates yet another alternative embodiment of the present invention. The false statement 10 based on an underlying false fact or series of false facts 12 is transmitted through a computing device 26 or a cellular telephone 28 through the Internet or through a cellular telephone network 30. The false statement 10 can be transmitted by an individual perpetrator 14 or by a company (not shown). The false statement 10 is then forwarded

through the network 30 to other computing devices 32 or other cellular telephones 34.

[0023] Computing devices 26, 32 include desktop computers, laptops, computer tablets, personal digital assistants, and any other microprocessor-based device that can receive information from a network 30. Cellular telephones 28, 34 include any mobile device such as a cell phone, smart phone, or a 3G or 4G device that can receive a transmission from a network 30.

[0024] The present invention is meant to cover any type of limited timeframe activity in which the perpetrator 14 informs the unsuspecting individual 16 of the false statement 10 and, in that limited timeframe and after the unsuspecting individual 16 has formed a belief of the statement 10, explains that the unsuspecting individual 16 has been misled, hoaxed or otherwise tricked into believing a statement 10 that was not accurate. Often, the timeframe is less than one day (such as April Fool's Day) and the explanation is in the form of yelling in a loud voice, April Fool's or April Fool's Day.

[0025] The preferred method of the present invention is illustrated in the flow chart shown in figure 4. The steps of the present invention include determining one or more facts and then falsifying some or all of them 40. Next, the falsified facts 12 are incorporated to generate one or more false statements 42. Once the one or more false statements 10 are generated, those statements 10 are relayed, told, broadcasted or transmitted to unsuspecting individuals 44. The one or more false statements 10 can be relayed, told, broadcasted or transmitted either orally from one person 14 to another 16, through television or radio networks 20, through a global communication network 30, such as the Internet, or through cellular networks 30.

[0026] The jocular activity or prank will need to occur within a limited timeframe in order for the prank to be successful 46. Usually, that timeframe is less than 24 hours, otherwise the unsuspecting individual 16 will determine that the prank is just that and that the false statement 10 is, in fact, false.

[0027] The perpetrator 14 then must determine if the unsuspecting individual 16 believes the false statement 10 is correct 48. This is the most important aspect of the jocular activity, since if the unsuspecting individual 16 does not believe the false statement 10, the effect of telling the unsuspecting individual 16 that they have been misled or fooled will be diminished greatly. The perpetrator 14 may be able to determine if the unsuspecting individual 16 begins to cry (depending on the severity of the false statement 10), otherwise acts in an irrational manner, or takes action different than they would normally take.

[0028] If the perpetrator 14 believes that the unsuspecting individual 16 does not believe the false statement 10, then he or she must go to the beginning and start again. If

however, the perpetrator 14 believes that the unsuspecting individual 16 has formed a belief in the false statement 10, then the perpetrator 14 can inform the unsuspecting individual 16 that he or she has been misled or tricked 50. This is usually done at high decibels or a loud voice, exclaiming that the unsuspecting individual is a fool, nerd or doofus.

[0029] The described embodiments are to be considered in all respects only as illustrative and not restrictive, and the scope of the invention is, therefore, indicated by the appended claims rather than by the foregoing description. Those of skill in the art will recognize changes, substitutions and other modifications that will nonetheless come within the scope of the invention and range of the claims.

CLAIMS:

1. A method for misleading at least one unsuspecting individual within a particular limited period of time by using at least one false statement based on at least one false fact and informing the individual before the false statement is verified, the method comprising the steps of:
 - a) obtaining at least one accurate fact and modifying said at least one accurate fact to create at least one falsified fact;
 - b) generating at least one false statement, said false statement comprising said at least one falsified fact;
 - c) propagating said at least one false statement to said at least one unsuspecting individual;
 - d) determining that said unsuspecting individual has formed a mistaken belief in the veracity of said at least one false statement;
 - e) calculating if said mistaken belief in the veracity of said at least one false statement has occurred within a limited period of time; and
 - f) informing said at least one unsuspecting individual that said at least one false statement is not accurate.
2. The method for misleading at least one unsuspecting individual of claim 1, wherein said at least one falsified fact is a fact that has just occurred or will just occur such that said at least one falsified fact cannot be easily verified.
3. The method for misleading at least one unsuspecting individual of claim 1, wherein said at least one false statement is a statement that has just occurred or will just occur such that said false statement cannot be easily verified.

ABSTRACT

4. The method for misleading at least one unsuspecting individual of claim 1, wherein said at propagating said at least one false statement to said at least one unsuspecting individual means to tell audibly.
5. The method for misleading at least one unsuspecting individual of claim 1, wherein said at propagating said at least one false statement to said at least one unsuspecting individual means to transmit said at least one false statement over a television network.
6. The method for misleading at least one unsuspecting individual of claim 1, wherein said at propagating said at least one false statement to said at least one unsuspecting individual means to transmit said at least one false statement over a radio network.
7. The method for misleading at least one unsuspecting individual of claim 1, wherein said at propagating said at least one false statement to said at least one unsuspecting individual means to transmit said at least one false statement over a cellular telephone network using a cell phone.
8. The method for misleading at least one unsuspecting individual of claim 1, wherein said at propagating said at least one false statement to said at least one unsuspecting individual means to transmit said at least one false statement over the Internet using a computing device.
9. The method for misleading at least one unsuspecting individual of claim 1, wherein said at propagating said at least one false statement to said at least one unsuspecting individual means to transmit said at least one false statement over the Internet from a computing device to a cell phone.
10. The method for misleading at least one unsuspecting individual of claim 1, wherein said at least one unsuspecting individual is a nerd, geek, doofus or simpleton.
11. The method for misleading at least one unsuspecting individual of claim 1, wherein said limited period of time is less than 24 hours.
12. The method for misleading at least one unsuspecting individual of claim 1, wherein said informing said at least one unsuspecting individual that said at least one false statement is not accurate means shouting April Fool's Day.

A method in which a first individual or perpetrator obtains accurate facts and modifies those facts to create falsified facts and generates a false statement based on the falsified facts. The perpetrator informs a second individual of the particular false statement thereby deceiving the second individual into a false belief that a fact or a series of facts, if true, would have a detrimental effect on the second individual. Prior to the second individual realizing that the false statement is not accurate and within a limited timeframe, the perpetrator announces or exclaims, usually in a loud voice, that the second individual has been deceived or misled.