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Reflection piece of “The Yes Man Fix The World”

by Igor Vamos, Jacques Servin, Kurt Engfehr

This was by far the funniest and most eye-opening theory source of this course. I was initially discouraging by the sheer length of the movie, yet I later thoroughly enjoyed the ridiculously hilarious documentary.

It is incredible how after the Dow and Hud pranks, upon announcing the dup, various news sources focused on the psychological damage and false hope caused by the pranks to the Bhopal disasters victims and the poor or homeless residents of New Orleans. This is hilarious as these news sources were forced to expose the real damage that were done to the victims by these immoral companies and raise the question “what if these actions were true?”. In reality, the victims loved the absurd prank as it successfully grasp the public attention to a moral issue and in the case of the Chamber of Commerce, even forced them to change their own policy in favor of the fight against climate change.

The repetitive pattern of companies, banks or potential investors choosing to value profit over people’s wellbeing or lives is quite disgusting. For instance, at the Gulf Coast Conference, most of the inventions were mostly war related and in no way meaningful to the restoration of the city. The conference was taking advantage of the disaster and the victims to sell their products. Another instance was at the beginning of the video when one of the businessman

approaches the Yes Men after their “golden skeleton” presentation to laugh about the fact that it is acceptable to make money out of literal human lives. The man then admitted that the idea was “refreshing”. It is concerning and extremely disturbing to see how greed makes people lose their sense of basic morality. These individuals are even a bigger joke than the pranks pulled by the Yes Men.

Another problem presented in the video is disinformation. For example, corporations pay billions for relentless consultants to spread propaganda about how successful corporations will be if they are allowed space and remain unregulated. Many keywords in their gospels revolve around the concept of wealth, freedom, and privatization. This misinformation must have sabotaged the trustworthy experts, the scientists, attempts to stop global warming.

Lastly, it was satisfying for me to discover after a quick search about the movie that Ray Nagin, the mayor of New Orleans was charged with 63 felonies and sentenced to 10 years in prison in 2014.