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Orato.com

<http://www.orato.com>

From the Latin word for "I speak" Orato features first person, citizen journalism from around the world. The site's mission is to "put a human face on the news by showcasing vivid, first-person stories from individuals involved in current events", and covers a gamut of topics ranging from politics and sports to entertainment and science.

The site came to our attention thanks to the Robert Pickton murder trial in Vancouver. Orato.com will send two former prostitutes to cover the trial, where Pickton is accused of killing 26 women (many prostitutes) over a 19-year span.



The two women spent years as sex trade workers, giving their first-person subjective coverage both a sincere and potentially one-sided view of the trial. An interesting approach to a murder trial, but one that fits perfectly with our day and age where anyone with access to some technology can become a one-person media service.

The stories are pretty raw, allowing those involved, whether trained journalists or protestors, survivors of hurricane Katrina and more, to post a story (for free, after registering with the site). Readers can comment on the Forum, rate a story, post a free ad, vote, and engage their writers, readers and staff in their Blog space.

They claim to be the "only site in the world devoted to first-person journalism" with "more than 1,400 professional writers in 82 countries", and the ability for real people to tell real stories is a refreshing way to get your news ... but how far can research, authentication go when the ability to track down anyone those who can validate anything in these e-pages.

- Antoine Tedesco

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The Superficial

<http://www.thesuperficial.com>

Being in the entertainment business for over a decade, I have to keep an eye on the latest celebrity gossip. When SceneandHeard.ca Senior Editor Antoine Tedesco introduced me to The Superficial back in 2005, I was titillated.

This simple page reports on Hollywood gossip, is kept up to date by its editors, and accepts submissions for story ideas. Besides being a quick reference for all the stars I have reported on, the captions for each story are quite humorous.

On Courtney Love taking over for Paula Abdul on *American Idol*: "Then she'd start dry humping a trashcan before throwing up and muttering about how embarrassed she is as she falls asleep."

The Superficial opens with a photo of a blonde model type. She is pretty, but half of her face is missing, including her eyes. This image is a thorn in the side of any womyns study group, but somehow perfectly represents this steady flow of junk food for the brain.

- Mark Wigmore

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Rosie vs. Trump

<http://www.gsn.com>

