

2 Crisis actors?

Extract 1

Article from [politifact.com](https://www.politifact.com)

No, David Hogg didn't graduate from a California high school in 2015

By Manuela Tobias on Friday, March 30th, 2018 at 11:09 a.m.

A viral image of a since-deleted tweet said David Hogg, one of the victims of the Parkland, Fla., shooting, graduated from a California high school in 2015.

We've previously debunked the theory Hogg is a crisis actor, but we decided to take a closer look at the purported yearbook evidence.

- 5 "I went to school with him at Redondo Shores High School and he graduated in 2015," the tweet said. "Here he is in our yearbook from 2015. He always wanted to work for CNN and be an actor. #GunReformNow #NeverAgain"

But the image accompanying the tweet is taken from the 2017 Stoneman High School yearbook.

- 10 Joey Wong, a student at the Parkland, Fla., high school, posted a video of his yearbook on Twitter showing the cover and the page from the viral image.

There's a photo going around claiming David Hogg did not attend Douglas, but a school in California. Here's a video to debunk that: pic.twitter.com/hJsMNSdAsF

— Joey (@_Joey_Wong) February 21, 2018

- 15 "Okay, so, what we have here is a Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School yearbook from the school year 2017, Florida, and bookmarked is David Hogg's yearbook photo from the same book," Wong says in the video. "David Hogg, 11th grade. This is last year. He's right here. That's him."

Another student, Sarah Chadwick, echoed Wong's confirmation in another tweet.

- 20 "She claims it's not a Douglas yearbook (which I promise it is, I know multiple people in that picture) yet there's someone in the pic wearing a douglas t-shirt?????" Chadwick tweeted.



Twitter Ads info and privacyHogg did not graduate from a California high school in 2015; in fact, he was on the cross country team at Stoneman that year. The Sun-
 25 Sentinel published a photo of one of his races.

Hogg did, however, live in California prior to Florida. His father, Kevin Hogg, was an FBI agent assigned to the Los Angeles International Airport before his retirement to Florida in 2014.

According to a tweet by Daniel Williams, a fellow student, Hogg moved to Florida
 30 their freshman year and has not transferred since.

“He moved from California our freshman year and hasn’t transferred since. I’ve worked with him in many tv production project and sorry @davidhogg111 but he isn’t that great of an actor,” Williams tweeted.

We rate this statement Pants on Fire!

Extract 2

Article from factcheck.org

No 'Crisis Actors' in Parkland, Florida

By Saranac Hale Spencer Posted on February 22, 2018

Q: Are the students who survived the Florida school shooting really “crisis actors”?

A: No. Conspiracy theories have been spreading online to undercut students advocating stricter gun control.

FULL QUESTION

5 I've seen this floating around on Facebook: Is Daniel Hogg a student at the Florida high school where the recent shootings took place, or are he and others paid actors?

FULL ANSWER

Students who survived the massacre in their Parkland, Florida, high school on Feb. 14 are advocating gun control.

Conspiracy theorists are undercutting that message by questioning whether some of
10 the students actually attend Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. They claim the teens are really “crisis actors” paid by liberal activists, that they are part of a “deep state” conspiracy involving CNN and the FBI, or that one of the most outspoken students is actually a 28-year-old man who was arrested in South Carolina.

Facebook users have flagged as potentially false several variations of stories
15 advancing those claims, and readers have asked us about them, as well. They are not true.

Conspiracy theories like these often fester in shadowy parts of the internet – on extremist blogs or websites – but these particular rumors got extra exposure when they were highlighted by public figures and amplified on social media with the help
20 of Russian bots.

As for the public figures, Donald Trump Jr. “liked” a tweet promoting a story suggesting that one of the students was part of a “deep state” conspiracy. Benjamin Kelly, an aide to a Florida state representative, told a reporter that two of the most outspoken students were actors. (Kelly has since been fired.) And Daryl Metcalfe,
25 a Pennsylvania state representative, suggested on Twitter and Facebook that the teens weren't actually students by repeatedly using quotation marks around the word “students.”

One of the primary targets has been 17-year-old David Hogg.

Hogg – along with fellow students Emma Gonzalez, Jaclyn Corin and Cameron
30 Kasky – has started a movement with the hashtag #NeverAgain to stanch school shootings. He has been one of the most prominent faces in television interviews after the Florida shooting.

Hogg, who is a member of his school's television news show, recorded interviews with students during the shooting.

35 He also recorded a confrontation between a friend and a lifeguard on a beach in California last summer. Footage of the beach confrontation went viral and prompted coverage on a television news broadcast at the time.

Conspiracy theorists have used last year's California newscast to push the narrative that Hogg is a “crisis actor,” or someone who travels from one location to another
40 claiming to be a witness to a tragedy. The voice-over for one such video starts out by saying: “You know that crisis actor David Hogg? Well, apparently, he's put on some bullshit before out in California – what a surprise, that's where these actors like to hang out, you know – anyways, so, we get a serious crisis actor here. He's taking on multiple roles all over the place.” The video then plays the news clip from August.

45 The fact is Hogg is a student at Stoneman Douglas High School who was in Los Angeles on summer break.

On Aug. 5, 2016, Hogg tweeted a short video of his flight to California and wrote: “I love going to LA for the summer.”

During the previous school year, he had tweeted about a Stoneman Douglas High School basketball game and making Parkland, Florida, more bike friendly. He also
50 shared photos of his mornings at Stoneman Douglas High School, and posed in front of the school logo in a tiger costume.

And, in 2015, he was pictured in the Sun-Sentinel newspaper running in a cross-country race for Stoneman Douglas High School.

55 Also, the superintendent of Broward County Public Schools, Robert Runcie, told the Tampa Bay Times about Hogg and other students: “These are absolutely students at Stoneman Douglas. They’ve been there. I can verify that.”

As for the claims that Hogg is actually a 28-year-old man who was arrested in South Carolina, the person pictured in the mugshot, David Guyton Hogg, is currently
60 on probation after pleading guilty to possession of methamphetamine, or crack cocaine, in 2017, according to court records. His address is listed with the court in Anderson, South Carolina.

And the claims that Hogg is part of the “deep state” rely on the fact that his father, Kevin Hogg, is a retired FBI employee. But conspiracists offer no evidence of
65 coordination between the bureau and David Hogg.

This isn’t the first time that the internet has lit up with claims about “actors” participating in political rallies.

Following a violent clash between demonstrators and counter-protesters at a white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, false stories circulated online
70 that claimed a Craigslist ad was used to hire “actors and photographers” as counter-demonstrators.

And the claim about “crisis actors” was among the many conspiracy theories that circulated after 20 children were shot dead in their elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut, in 2012.

Editor’s note: FactCheck.org is one of several organizations working with Facebook to help identify and label false stories flagged by readers on the social media network.

Sources

- Segarra, Lisa Marie, et. al. “Sheriff’s Office Had Received About 20 Calls Regarding Suspect: The Latest on the Florida School Shooting.” Time. 18 Feb 2018.
- Witt, Emily. “How the Survivors of Parkland Began the Never Again Movement.” The New Yorker. 19 Feb 2018.
- Wells, Rick. “Same Crisis Actor Hogg In FL and CA, Coached By Media In Florida Aftermath.” RickWells.us. 21 Feb 2018.
- “Busted: Trump-Hating School Shooting Survivor Visited CNN HQ Before the Shooting; Ranted Live on CNN After.” True Pundit. 20 Feb 2018.
- Maiberg, Emanuel. “The #1 Trending Video on YouTube Right Now Suggests That a Student From the Parkland Shooting Is a Crisis Actor.” Motherboard.Vice.com. 21 Feb 2018.
- Smith, Allan. “Russian bots zeroed in on a survivor of the Florida school shooting who’s been targeted by far-right conspiracy theorists.” Business Insider. 21 Feb 2018.
- Trump, Donald Jr. List of “likes.” Twitter. 19 Feb 2018.
- Leary, Alexa and Wilson, Kirby. “Florida lawmaker’s aide fired after saying outspoken Parkland students are actors.” 20 Feb 2018.
- Tornoe, Rob. “Pa. Republican echoes conspiracy theory about school shooting survivors.” The Philadelphia Inquirer. 21 Feb 2018.
- CBS Los Angeles. “Confrontation Between Lifeguard, Bodysurfer Caught On Camera In Redondo Beach Goes Viral.” YouTube. 7 Aug 2017.
- “Crisis Actor David Hogg’s other roles.” 153news.net. 20 Feb 2018.
- Copeland, Hal. “David Hogg, of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, finishes in 21:56.84.” Sun Sentinel. 19 Sep 2015.