



Bryan White <zebrafactcheck@gmail.com>

Aggregation attribution aggravation

1 message

Bryan White <zebrafactcheck@gmail.com>
To: rlaforme@poynter.org

Wed, Jul 8, 2020 at 11:12 AM

Dear Ren LaForme,

I'm making one final attempt (1. McBride 2. Dyakon) to obtain comment from Poynter regarding the faulty attribution I discovered last week in [the July 2, 2020 edition of the "Factually" newsletter](#) published jointly by Poynter and the American Press Institute.

... technology

- Facebook this week **said it had banned** hundreds of accounts and groups associated with [the far-right "boogaloo" movement whose followers have been linked to violence that disrupted mostly peaceful protests around the United States.](#)
 - The **Washington Post** **said** the action "was a shift in [Facebook's] strategy from just removing offending posts as they popped up."

The highlighted portion of the image is a verbatim quotation from the Washington Post article linked in the paragraph below the quotation lacking quotation marks.

The author, American Press Institute's Susan Benkelman, implausibly maintains that the attribution is clear. I would say it's likely a reader might credit the quotation to the Facebook source linked in the same paragraph, not the Washington Post source linked in the subsequent indented-and-bulleted paragraph.

When Jim Romenesko used a similar method of attribution that led to his resignation in 2011, Poynter's managing editor at that time issued a statement that Poynter believes verbatim quotations are not punctuated correctly unless they are enclosed with quotation marks.

Has that changed in the almost 10 years since?

I would like your comments for publication, please. I can delay my publishing deadline (today) on request.

Of note, I challenged the accuracy of the quoted Washington Post report in the comments section under the "Factually" newsletter. That comment was held in moderation before getting expunged.

Thanks for your attention to this matter.

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Sincerely,

Bryan W. White
editor
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