



Bryan White <zebrafactcheck@gmail.com>

"Factually" newsletter lacks clear attribution of quotation

1 message

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

Fri, Jul 3, 2020 at 4:07 PM

Dear Kelly McBride,

The July 20, 2020 edition of Poynter's "Factually" newsletter contains a 20-word string reproduced precisely from the Washington Post but without quotation marks or a clear attribution.

"Factually":

... **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 Washington Post:

Facebook on Tuesday removed hundreds of accounts and groups associated with a violent network of **the far-right "boogaloo" movement whose followers have been linked to violence that disrupted mostly peaceful protests around the United States.**

I've emailed those responsible for the newsletter about the problem, hoping to see the item changed with a clear attribution and a transparent explanation. I've received an email from Susan Benkelman (American Press Institute) saying she believes "it's clear that this item came from The Washington Post, given the attribution and the link in the sub-bullet."

Should I regard that as a convincing explanation? The bulleted item leading with "Facebook" seems credited to the Facebook source, not the Washington Post, in my view. And regardless of whether readers understand the source, a copied string 20 words in length should find itself bracketed with quotation marks.

If the item was changed only to add quotation marks, I would say readers would assume the quotation came from the Facebook statement, not the Washington Post.

In short, I find Benkelman's explanation difficult to swallow.

As Benkelman represents the American Press Institute and not Poynter, I would like comment from the Poynter Institute, please, for publication.

I plan on publishing on or near Wednesday, July 8, 2020.

Thanks for your attention to this matter.

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Sincerely,

Bryan W. White
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