responsibility. Invoking the act would not only force Congress to share some responsibility for the Persian upon by making it clear that it represents the will of the American government, not just the American president. watchdogs, exposed two presidential candi-dates who were not what they seemed. ments are as common as deadlines, you'll find universal agreement that plagiarism is as their art, are particularly sensitive to the charge of plagurism. passes off another person's expression as original, is a lie by omission. The speaker are original is unitting the author's name, thus allowing the authence to assume that the words practices of journalists. Perhaps it's time to look at the deceptive The Forum gives our readers an opportunity to comment on matters of general public interest. We publish virtually all letters, regardless of their politics, providing they are in good taste, are signed by the author, and address a subject of broad concern. To keep In newsrooms, where ethical disagree-Plagiarism, which occurs when a speaker Box 877, pages), and that you write no more often than once every two weeks. We reserve the right to edit letters. The Forum open to all, we request that you keep letters to between 310 words and 500 words (about two double-spaced, typewritten Journalists, who fashion words and ideas Journalists, well within their role as name, address and telephone number Forum Policies: Address letters to the editor to: The Forum, The Valley News, x 877, White River Junction, Vt., 05001. Please include your full policy, it would strengthen whatever policy is agreed

> the country or pressurgicults especially in the Taft Corners region they'll fight the project

## Michael Jackson Can Do As He Pleases mont's Associated Press editors

## LEWIS GRIZZARD

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

that Congress can effectively thwart its will, with or without formal consultation. At the same time, Congress

reservations about infringement of its powers and realize

At this point, the administration should overcome its

zones. Individual congressmen shy away from going on the record about whether they support or oppose U.S.

mvolvement in hostilities.

situations when U.S. troops were introduced into war

rejected a move to enforce the act, as it has in past

downtown.

should take its adviser's role seriously and stop evading

not being what they considered a proper role model for black children. ing recently in Washington, indicated their dis-pleasure with black rock star Michael Jackson for The Association of Black Psychologists, meet-

makeup, The group mentioned Jackson's heavy skeup, his nose job and his artificially straight-

"He's creating an appearance that is more Anglo than African," Halford Fairchild, past president of the group, was quoted as saying. "We need positive models that exhibit pride in African heritage," he continued.

"That means adopting African values of beauty."

Allow me to say, up front, I'm not a Michael

my own herliage and the country sounds, Jackson fan. When it comes to music, I go back to

Nelson, Haggard and Jones, to name a few.
However, if I were Michael Jackson, I would
do one of two things: I would either ignore the
Association of Black Psychologists or I would tell
them, in no uncertain terms, where they could go.
Regardless of Michael Jackson's African heri-

means he can do anything he pleases in regard to tage, he is presently an American citizen, which

how much makeup he wants to wear, what shape he wants his nose in and how he wants to style his

Willie Nelson has gone to wearing earrings and I still play and enjoy his music as I did before he decided to bejewel his lobes.

should fit in with other blacks who they should vote for and how they

White people used to do that for blacks, but as soon as they cast off those shackles, here came guidelines. their own - with a set 오

like sleeping in an oxygen chamber, making friends with a chimpanzee and trying to buy whit's left of the Elephant Man.

But consider this: Roy Rogers was my role model as a child and he rode a horse decorated like a Christmas tree and had a friend named Pat

I will admit that the few times I've seen Michael Jackson on television, he did tend to remind me more of a Michael than a Michael, but

Black people still have a lot of problems, and one of them seems to be they get a lot of pressure from so-called black loaders on how they should

probably gets all the free Pepsi he wants. world, he's known throughout the world and he What's so wrong about a black kid looking up to Michael Jackson? He's got all the money in the

He gets a little weird at times, doing things

Brady, who talked to his Jeep.

What's so wrong about

wants. all the free Pepsi he · · · and he probably ge all the money in the wor Michael Jackson? He's go black kid looking up to

out fairly well adjusted. Other than the fact I put garlands on my at Christmas and have a friend who jogs, I tur

if he wants one. rock charts, incidentally, and he'll make money off the sales to buy himself a real elept Michael Jackson's new album Bad is atop e

of Black Psychologists about Charlie Pride, country music star who happens to be black to them. is getting rich selling white people's music Meanwhile, don't anybody tell the Associa

Knowing something like that could mak black shrink have a nervous breakdown.

## Reporters Could Find Plagiarism Examples In Their Own Copy DENI ELLIOTT without attribution echo throughout the

Americans don't want to FOR THE VALLEY NEWS a news account without attributing that account and without contacting the primary source used by the first publication. This practice is not confined to print media. A news director told me that the newspapers of quoted material taken from a news account without attributing that account and without contacting the prijournalistic world. Newspaper reporters cite examples in news magazines, news magazine journalists cite examples in

news organizations, although it's likely to occur at small stations that information. practice is widespread among broadcast lew resources for gathering most OW'D

one reporter's or news organization's work. The audience is led to believe that the source who is quoted spoke to the reporter and that the published quote was the result of a conversation between them. that the news account is solely the result of is obvious. Readers or listeners assume The moral problem with "lifting" quotes

quote occurs in context tion, like the length of a pringe or the tact that it collapsed at a particular time. A A quote is not a factual piece of information, like the length of a bridge or the fact

particular quote, I trust that it summarizes or focuses a lot of talk that could not be fit into the story. If I read in Newsweek that Joe Biden said something to the Wall Street When a reporter chooses to include a

use of speech material without attribution

The public might well ask how Biden's

tional practice.

uses material without giving the source, it's not considered plagiarism, but conven-

wrong. But, sometimes, when

a reporter

the source of material they didn't gather. differs from reporters failing to attribute

lifted quotes from another

week reporter might have misconstrued the quote. The context is now once-removed, the context in which a statement was teaders may be misled if they don't know

reader is still led to believe exchange that didn't occur, did. nothing to alleviate the moral problem. elsewhere, but only after verifying the accuracy of the quote with the source. This check-back assures that the "second-generfor someone else's reporting error, but does ation" journalist will not have to answer made. that they Some news magazine journalists told me do use quotes that appeared an

pressed that a student tracked down elusive piece of unpublished material it will if the student drew that quote in the course textbook where it had builted. I warn my students that they cited. I warn my students that they cheating if they don't cite the secondary source as well as the primary. how to explain this convention to the students I teach. I require that they note happens when the action I flunk them they collected material helps me evaluate their research. I will be far more imwhere they got any quote used in research papers, and I'm particularly troubled when I ponder point out that knowing how But, what had been ē is original.

brings professional praise in the future?
Another area of "maybe plagiarism" is
more troublesome because it's a fact of life

ber news organization and sent across the a wire reporter (or gathered by a subscriin most newsrooms. Wire service copy, complete with quotes and facts gathered by unattributed fodder for a story. wire without attribution), often serves as

tial amount" of the material is generated by the reporter. How much is "substan-tial"? Half the story? Three-quarters? not the same as writing or collecting it oneself. Some news organizations require wire service attribution unless a "substan-Not knowing who wrote the origin material or collected the original quote = 5

using wire service copy without attribution, although they're quick to blame the service when inaccurracy of the wire has led to errors in their stories. Not many journalists think twice about

good reason, that the material is original This practice is as morally problematic as lifting quotes. The readers are misled by the omitted attribution. They believe, with main." The end result — their synthesis tions pay for wire service privileges, the work they lift is "in the public Journalists respond that news organiza ç

One journalist told me that it's "like compiling information for a term paper." I wonder what sort of instructor would allow academic compilation

thrust of the piece is my opinion, not the deliniation of what others think, but I wonder it I'm kidding myself. Does the public understand the difference between opinion pieces and news stories, between original speeches and oral interpretation? and providing attribution, the habit is hard to break. The form of this opinion piece, for citation, references and bibliography.

Once one gets in the habit of looking for example, allows me latitude in attribution hat makes me feel uncomfortable.

out attribution, stories and language that the public domain. belonged to others - expressions that were not, in the journalistic Sen. Joseph Biden reportedly used, convention,

material they are receiving is original. The audience is led to believe that Yet, the effect on the public is the same.

appears to be their own. organizations as sources seems no less sell serving than Biden's lack of attribution. Journalists' reluctance to cite other news better if the information presented

barking at their own shadows. The public may ask if the watchdogs are

currently on leave as a Rockefeller Fellow communication at Utah State Deni Elliott is an assistant professor