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Saturday, September 03, 2005

Michele Malkin Linked To Male Stripper

Friday night visitors to Social Conservative [Michele Malkin's web log](#) were in for a shock when they clicked open a link purported to be to a [breaking news video of Rapper Kanye West](#) slamming President Bush at a Red Cross Fundraiser recently televised on NBC.

The link went to a satirical video of deposed Iraqi leader [Saddam Hussein stripping, eventually down to nothing but a G-string](#) with a mouse face covering his genitals.

The mix up came about because Michele Malkin, known for [her strong stands on issues of morals, ethics and values](#), was, in effect, stealing band width and perceived credit for a news scoop from a fellow blogger.

AT 9:02 PM EST Friday night, soon after airing, a media colleague who was taping the fundraiser emailed me a copy of the video, well before it was even mentioned on breaking news site the [Drudge Report](#), let alone Malkin's page. The video was posted promptly and a link emailed out to several fellow bloggers. As of now, 15 bloggers have track backed to the video appropriately, but not Michele Malkin. Also as of now, forty bloggers have tracked back to [her original post](#).

Instead, **Malkin gave a text only hat tip by name, not even mentioning the site where the video was breaking and hosted and proceeded to hot-link the 2MB video.** Noticing the issue after Malkin sent a thank you saying she had "linked" the post, I immediately sent Malkin a polite email asking that she correct the likely mistake. The email drew no response.

As the evening went on I decided to change the name of the file, assuming a Malkin reader would advise her of the then dead link - which I tested. Instead, Malkin changed the name of the file in her link to the new file name and went right back to hot linking the news video a second time.

Remembering an incident where [The Huffington Post](#) had hot-linked a photo posted by Mike Krempasky at [RedState.org](#). Krempasky's [comments at the time](#):

Arianna, Arianna -- we're so glad you're here. But if you want to become the celebrity darling of the InterWeb -- how about *not* stealing and taking credit for the creative, investigative, and deliberative work from other, legitimate bloggers? Better yet, how about this: once you've taken an image and given no credit, why not rub salt in the wound and just go right ahead and hotlink it?

That's right, just steal bandwidth from the little guys. We'll roll over for you just like we were the California electorate. Just because you reportedly throw one heck of a cocktail party doesn't mean you've got this Internet thing licked.

I followed Mike's example. Krempasky altered the photo when the unethical practice went uncorrected, so I decided to do the same and changed relevant file names to send the link to the dancing Saddam video. The original breaking video is now entitled: "Please don't hotlink my video."

Rather than acknowledge the error, Michale Malkin chose to remove all mention of "Dan Riehl" and opted to link to [CrooksandLiars](#), whose servers are now, in their words "maxed," perhaps in part due to the video posted well-after my breaking story, perhaps obtained from another source.

When Arianna Huffington perpetrated what is considered to be a serious ethical error among well-known bloggers she was reproached by many fellow bloggers on the center and right side of the blogosphere. What remains to be seen is if bloggers will stand on principle, or if the highly ranked Michele Malkin blog can dance away from its unethical practices unscathed.

At this point, in my view, Malkin has robbed a fellow blogger of credit and bandwidth associated with a breaking news event, since covered by almost every television network. And she did it to a previously absolutely collegial blogger who has linked her site, as well as her Immigration blog repeatedly.

Update: I've since been informed of the comment below posted by her on her website.

9:50am 9/3 update: The Kayne West video I originally linked to got hacked. Sincere apologies to everyone who got tricked into watching the wrong video. The link has now been corrected; the new video is courtesy of Crooks and Liars.

Posted by Dan in [Web Blogs](#) | [Permalink](#)

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TrackBack URL for this entry:

<http://www.typepad.com/t/trackback/3116509>

Listed below are links to weblogs that reference [Michele Malkin Linked To Male Stripper](#) :

[Comments](#)

Gee...that is not fair....

maybe we should all alert her...i'm sure she doesn't realize why everyone would be so concerned...

the laws pertaining to the interet are still being scoped out...once more discussion takes place we will know the parameters better...

Posted by: [xoxoxoxoxoxo](#) | Sep 3, 2005 2:42:10 PM

Good God.

Posted by: [JK](#) | Sep 3, 2005 2:45:18 PM

I really doubt Michelle Malkin is into stealing bandwidth. How about giving her time to correct the error. Perhaps she has not even been back on her blog today. Love her articles.

Posted by: [Anna](#) | Sep 3, 2005 3:04:01 PM

Anna - You really need to lay off the cool aid. ;) Read the post - she updated her blog several times. And also ignored two emails.

Posted by: [Dan](#) | Sep 3, 2005 3:26:59 PM

Why do that, when you can humiliate her.

Good Job Dan, rub her nose in it. Don't take no crap from anyone, you rock. If you let the Michelle Malkins walk over you, you are dirt.

I bet that you taught her a great lesson. She will never think to mess with you again.

Keep it up. A Big fan.

Posted by: [Samuel](#) | Sep 3, 2005 3:30:16 PM

RE: And also ignored two emails.

Posted by: [Dan](#) | Sep 3, 2005 3:26:59 PM

That should infringe on your copyright laws but I guess we have not put them onto paper yet. Congress must become aware that legislation needs to be enacted to keep title where it belongs.

Good work as always, Dan.

Posted by: [George T.](#) | Sep 3, 2005 3:34:42 PM

Dan,

I have just learned about your post from your trackback on my site. Please see the email I sent you and feel free to publish it. In the meantime, I will add this comment to my site as well and hope your readers will take the time to consider the facts.

I did not hotlink your video. I received the original email you sent me with the link to your video, which I promptly thanked you for and linked directly as you were requesting.

The only other email I received from you last night was this one:

From: "Its Just Dan"
To: "Its Just Dan"
Subject: Overtaken by Events Blog Finds Mother Through Another Blog Post
Date: Sat, 3 Sep 2005 01:43:15 -0400
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 6.00.2900.2180

What can you say but WOW! Thank God. I've had so many emails over missing people, I am sure you all have, too. This is incredibly rewarding. - Dan

http://www.riehlworldview.com/carnivorous_conservative/2005/09/why_blog_hurric.html

...

Soon after I linked your video with credit to you, I received this message from someone named John Stringer:

X-Originating-IP: [68.230.240.34]
From:
Sender: "John Stringer"
To:
Subject: Kanye West Link
Date: Sat, 3 Sep 2005 00:24:30 -0500
X-Mailer: Microsoft Office Outlook, Build 11.0.5510
Thread-Index: AcWwR5FmCbnTyj6SSg2oA1UFOsk03A==

Your link is broken to Kanye West... try this one:

http://www.riehlworldview.com/carnivorous_conservative/files/wnbc_telethon.wmv

John
<http://www.killrighty.net>

When I clicked on the link I had up, it was broken. So I replaced it with the link that this guy sent. Now I know I was duped. Someone hacked your site and intended to embarrass me in the process by changing the video to a porn movie.

I have always strived to give credit where it is due, and abide by the spirit of cooperation in the blogosphere. Someone tried to sabotage both your and my efforts, and I don't appreciate being blamed for unethical behavior in the process.

Best,
Michelle

Posted by: [Michelle Malkin](#) | Sep 3, 2005 4:17:20 PM

I have always strived to give credit where it is due, and abide by the spirit of cooperation in the blogosphere. Someone tried to sabotage both your and my efforts, and I don't appreciate being blamed for unethical behavior in the process.

Best,
Michelle

Dan, What Say You?

Posted by: [JK](#) | Sep 3, 2005 4:42:23 PM

UPDATE:

I searched my e-mail box, and found one e-mail from you that I had missed alerting me to your request to change the link. My box has been overflowing the past week, and I missed this one. So, now I understand. YOU changed it to a porn movie because you were mad that I didn't give you enough credit. I tipped you by name and linked directly to your video, as you asked me to do in your e-mail. If you look at the trackbacks of countless other bloggers, they linked to your video without even crediting you by name at all.

I'm sorry I missed your e-mail and sorry I didn't see it before commenting here.

Best,

Michelle

Posted by: [Michelle Malkin](#) | Sep 3, 2005 5:01:38 PM

I have added this update to my blog post:

<http://michellemalkin.com/archives/003454.htm>

5pm 9/3 update: A footnote about the "hacked" video. Last night, I linked to the West video at Dan Riehl's site [hyperlinked to your blogpost] after he e-mailed me a link the video. I hat-tipped him by name and thanked him by e-mail. He later sent me another e-mail, which I missed and did not find until this afternoon, requesting that I use a link to his post instead of the link to the video that he had sent. In the meantime, Riehl got mad about what he saw as insufficient credit to him, put the porn video up himself to replace the Kanye West video, and now accuses me of stealing his bandwidth. I regret that I missed his e-mail and am sorry he feels I didn't credit him enough. I'm even sorrier that such an honest misunderstanding exposed my readers to the obscene video.

A note to other bloggers: In the future, if you do not want me to link to something on your site, please do not send me links and e-mails asking me to do so. Thank you.

Posted by: [Michelle Malkin](#) | Sep 3, 2005 5:26:26 PM

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