

## Note from Reader: Google “Cobler’s Plagiarism”

Dear [usmnews.net](http://usmnews.net),

If your readers are interested in [cozy relationships](#) between the University of Houston-Victoria and *The Victoria Advocate*, then they should definitely Google “Cobler’s Plagiarism” and peruse the results list. One item, Adrian Monck’s [blog about the news](#), recounts Cobler’s editorial practices while editing *The Greeley Tribune* for 10 years. As Monck recounts, *TGT* “. . . admitted to ripping off stories from competitors. . .” under Cobler’s editorship. The practice came to light when Lauren Lehman, editor of the *Loveland Reporter-Herald* “. . . watched for three years . . .” as *TGT* copied *LRH* stories, and then she decided to report the bad behavior to then-*TGT* editor Randy Bangert. Bangert discovered that the practice had been going on for a decade, beginning under Cobler’s editorship of *TGT*. As Monck adds, the *LHR*’s discovery led to the Fort Collins *Coloradoan*’s investigation, and they found that their stories had also fallen prey to *TGT*’s practice of “ripping off” competitors’ work product. Bob Moore, the Executive Editor of the *Coloradoan*, was apparently incensed at the episode, as he was quoted as saying that Cobler’s paper tromped all over accepted ethical standards.

This Edith Ann blog [talks about plagiarism](#) on *TVA*’s website, a situation also brought up by Monck’s blog just above. This MZ. UNDERSTOOD blog [covers the copying episode](#) in a bit more detail. Apparently, a practice of taking stories from other papers and placing them under an Associate Press banner before publishing them in *TGT* was a practice that began under Cobler, and one that *TGT* publisher Steve Weaver called “a very bad journalism practice.” MZ. UNDERSTOOD also provides a letter from Bill Mitchell, the Online Editor of *Poynter Online*, the institution that Monck reported had hired Cobler away from *TGT*. Upon learning of Cobler’s *TGT* practices, Mitchell penned a memo outlining why *Poynter Online* could no longer afford to associate with Cobler. It’s interesting that MZ. UNDERSTOOD also discusses the finding that *TGT* copied others’ stories without, in many cases, even using an AP banner. Clearly, there is a lot out there for your readers to discover.

anonymous