

The problem: There was no Ian Restil. None of what Glass wrote was true. *The New Republic's* investigation showed that Glass also made up parts of other stories he had written for the magazine. In 2003, Jayson Blair, a young reporter for *The New York Times*, was forced to resign after it was discovered that in some stories he fabricated, or made up, sources and descriptions, or in some cases, the entire story. (See the Case Study at the beginning of this chapter for more on the Jayson Blair story.)

Ian Restil, a 15-year-old computer hacker who looks like an even more adolescent version of Bill Gates, is throwing a tantrum. "I want more money. I want a Miata. I want a trip to Disney World. I want X-Man comic [book] number one. . . . Show me the money! Show me the money!" Over and over again, the boy, who is wearing a frayed Cal Ripken Jr. T-shirt, is shouting his demands.

hacker. Here is how it began:

In 1998, a reporter named Stephen Glass worked for *The New Republic* magazine. Glass totally made up a story about a computer hacker. Here is how it began:

Ethical Violations

Name some of the elements of ethical conduct in journalism.

Checkpoint

to games, concerts, theaters or movies. Some organizations require that reporters buy tickets to any event they cover so there is no question about the impartiality of their reporting. Others allow reporters to attend screenings intended only for press, or use seats set aside for press that would not be sold to the public. This is the case for sports reporters who sit in a press box to cover a game. If ever in doubt about accepting anything from a source or the source's representatives, a reporter should discuss it with editors.

Introduce ethical violations by asking students how they would feel if someone wrote something about them that wasn't true. Explain to students that a story on the Internet, even if it's made up, takes on a life of its own. The more times a story is repeated, the more people believe it. Ask students for examples.

TEACH

For journalists' conduct to be ethical, they must write accurate, credible stories. They must act with integrity regarding their sources, and they must maintain impartiality.

Checkpoint Answer

ONGOING ASSESSMENT