

Green, Scott

From: Paul and Linda Stevens <stevenspl@live.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2014 8:26 AM
To: Paul & Linda Stevens
Subject: CONNECTING: Twitter; Smoking; Pot; Russia expulsion; 10 newsroom truths; Newsroom to end; Philly papers; FSU impact; WVa reporter; Charter bid; Newspaper PDF

Colleagues,

Here's an interview in NetNewsCheck with AP's social media editor, **Eric Carvin**, on how Twitter and Facebook are setting themselves up for a battle for news supremacy among social media networks. Twitter, though, holds the upper hand, according to Carvin. Twitter has "come to realize the value that the news industry has in terms of what people want to consume on social," Carvin says. He discusses potential news moves from those social platforms, along with the sleeper potential of Google Plus.

<http://www.netnewscheck.com/article/31368/aps-carvin-news-battle-near-for-twitter-fb>

-0-

An interesting remembrance from **Richard Pyle** that arrived in the Connecting mailbox:

Your item on Frank Carey's AP coverage of the 1964 surgeon general's report on the perils of smoking reminded me that I was one of the presumed thousands of Americans who used that event as a rationale to actually kick the habit, a half century ago.

In January 1964 I was a member of the AP's state capital bureau in Lansing. I had smoked for about a decade, and the pressures of deadline reporting helped push my consumption to about two packs of Lucky Strikes per day.

Although the focus on work also meant a lot of these unfiltered "coffin nails" just burned out in the ashtray, I was impressed enough by the advance publicity for the impending government announcement to consider seriously the idea of stubbing them out entirely.

What really tipped my scales was a short film documentary, shown to lawmakers in the House of Representatives' chamber. Depicting a lung cancer operation in glorious color, this appalling cinematic bombshell probably had the desired shock effect on many, but it surely left no doubt in my mind: It was time to quit, if I could.

So, all psyched up on that Saturday night, hours after the televised press conference where Surgeon General Luther Terry officially declared smoking a major health hazard, I told a friend that the cigarette I smoked at midnight would be my last one ever. Her response, as I recall, was a word starting with "B" - probably "baloney."

In any case, it was the last one, and launched me on a lonely campaign to fulfill the promise I had made to reboot my life without nicotine. I was surprised to discover that quitting was easier than I had expected.

The only real crisis came on the following Tuesday, when I accompanied two members of the legislature's prison committee on a one-day inspection visit to the State Prison of Southern Michigan at Jackson, 30 miles south of Lansing.

What I hadn't counted on was that both of these guys were chain-smokers. On a frigid January day, the car windows were barely open a crack. After an hour of inhaling smoke, I could believe that nobody was ever as eager as I was to get out of a vehicle and into a jail.

Actually, our day spent touring what was then known as the "world's largest walled prison" was such an engrossing experience that I hardly noticed any pangs of nicotine deprivation. Among the residents we met were one of the last surviving members of Detroit's bloody, Prohibition-era "Purple Gang" - a genial gentleman doing life for murder - and a porcine serial child-molester whose case I had covered for a newspaper six years earlier.

Before his arrest, this cretin also had twice won that paper's annual Halloween home decoration contest, and he was now a trusty, teaching art to other inmates. I wondered whether he was being rehabilitated. "No," said the warden. "He still has the dirtiest mind of anybody in this place."

Fifty years on, I can say I remained true to my pledge to never again smoke a tobacco cigarette. The only time I even wavered was in Lebanon in 1975, when two other AP staffers and I drove unwittingly into a secret hilltop artillery position manned by pro-Palestinian fighters and were taken prisoner.

As we waited for our press credentials to be checked out, one of our captors kept shoving a pack of Salem cigarettes at us, saying "Sah-lem? Sah-lem?" Not wishing to offend the hospitality of a man with an AK-47, I finally took one, and he nodded, obviously pleased, as I lit it up and blew a bit of smoke.

But the joke was on him. I didn't inhale.

-- Richard Pyle.

-0-

Connecting wishes a happy birthday to **Brian Rice** - brian@leaderpress.com

-0-

Welcome to the newest member of Connecting – **Colleen Newvine**.

Paul

-0-

No, People In Colorado Are Not Using Food Stamps To Buy Pot (Bill Beecham)

<http://thinkprogress.org/justice/2014/01/13/3152841/colorado-marijuana-food-stamps/>

-0-

Russia expels US journalist David Satter without explanation

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jan/13/russia-expels-american-journalist-david-satter>

-0-

10 Things That Are True About Every Newsroom in Existence (Beecham)

<http://www.newscastic.com/news/10-things-that-are-true-about-every-newsroom-in-existence-1323205/>

-0-

HBO to end 'The Newsroom'

<http://www.politico.com/blogs/media/2014/01/hbo-to-end-the-newsroom-181117.html>

-0-

Workers plan joint bid for Philly newspapers

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_PHILADELPHIA_NEWSPAPERS?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

-0-

Florida State victory was a big win for newspapers, too

http://www.tallahassee.com/article/20140112/columnist04/301120007/gerald-ensley-big-win-newspapers-too?gcheck=1&nclick_check=1

-0-

Watch a Local Reporter Refuse to Let Smug President of Company Responsible for Poisoned WV Water Off the Hook (Video) (Bob Daugherty)

<http://aattp.org/watch-a-local-reporter-refuse-to-let-smug-ceo-of-company-responsible-for-poisoned-wv-water-off-the-hook-video/>

-0-

Charter to Time Warner Cable: Take our \$61B bid seriously

[http://news.cnet.com/8301-1023_3-57617165-93/charter-to-time-warner-cable-take-our-\\$61b-bid-seriously/](http://news.cnet.com/8301-1023_3-57617165-93/charter-to-time-warner-cable-take-our-$61b-bid-seriously/)

-0-

Newspaper PDF replica service bets on future of print-style digital reading

<http://www.poynter.org/latest-news/top-stories/235223/newspaper-pdf-replica-service-bets-on-future-of-print-style-digital-reading/>