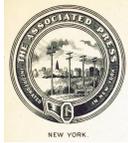


Green, Scott

From: stevenspl@live.com on behalf of Paul Stevens <stevenspl@live.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2014 8:42 AM
To: stevenspl@live.com
Subject: CONNECTING - January 29, 2014

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Connecting

January 29, 2014



Colleagues,

Our Connecting colleague and sometime Connecting correspondent **Richard Pyle** is recovering well at Brooklyn's Maimonides Medical Center after undergoing gastrointestinal surgery last Friday. If you'd like to drop him a line, Richard is reading emails (his address: richarpy29@gmail.com), but regrets he's not in a position to reply. For old-fashioned mail: 430 Clinton St., Brooklyn, NY 11231. He may be home by the time the postman arrives.

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What takes place at Pearl Harbor when the tourists have gone for the day - something I didn't know until a friend shared this link, and something you might also find moving and inspirational:

http://www.youtube.com/embed/MgE2KiPd3xg?feature=player_detailpage

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Whodathunkit? The Pope on the cover of Rolling Stone? Yes, true:

Pope Francis' Gentle Revolution: Inside Rolling Stone's New Issue

<http://www.rollingstone.com/culture/news/pope-francis-gentle-revolution-inside-rolling-stones-new-issue-20140128>

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Welcome to the newest members of Connecting - **Sam Markham** and **Ron Keefover**.

Paul

Stories of interest...

AP's Muhammed Muheisen photographs Afghan refugee children in Islamabad - in pictures

(Paul Colford)

http://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/gallery/2014/jan/28/muhammed-muheisen-photographs-afghan-refugee-children-in-islamabad-in-pictures?CMP=twt_gu

One of the photos:



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Pete Seeger: 'Newspapermen Meet Such Interesting People' (Scott Charton)

<http://newsguild.org/node/3633>

-0-

Media Watchdog Blasts Sochi Restrictions (Bob Daugherty)

<http://abcnews.go.com/Sports/t/story/media-watchdog-blasts-sochi-restrictions-22260347>

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Knight will give \$1 million to news nonprofits fund

<http://www.poynter.org/latest-news/mediawire/237308/knight-will-give-1-million-to-news-nonprofits-fund/>

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Rieder: Can Al Jazeera America flourish? (Bob Daugherty)

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/columnist/rieder/2014/01/27/can-al-jazeera-america-flourish/4938253/>

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Colorado Lawmakers Reject Journalist Protection Proposal

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/01/28/colorado-journalist-protection-bill-lawmaker-court_n_4680180.html

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"I see this as the next CNN": Jason Calacanis' Inside.com aims to solve news on mobile devices

<http://www.niemanlab.org/2014/01/i-see-this-as-the-next-cnn-jason-calacanis-inside-com-aims-to-solve-news-on-mobile-devices/>

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Boston Globe appointments are part of an effort 'to think in more entrepreneurial fashion'

<http://jimromenesko.com/2014/01/28/boston-globe-appointments-are-part-of-an-effort-to-think-in-more-entrepreneurial-fashion/>

-0-

Can You Spell That, Please?

http://afterdeadline.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/01/28/can-you-spell-that-please/?_php=true&_type=blogs&_php=true&_type=blogs&_php=true&_type=blogs&_r=2

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AP Beat of the Week (Valerie Komor)

Colleagues,

It's the moment investigative reporters live for: when they realize that months of nose-to-the-grindstone probing have paid off and paid off big.

For journalists these occasions are rewarded not with gold figurines and flowery speeches, but rather the simple satisfaction of seeing misdeeds acknowledged and addressed.

For National Security Writer Robert Burns that moment came last week, when the Pentagon spokesman held a news conference to announce that Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel was ordering military leaders to fix sloppy and dangerous issues with the nation's nuclear force _ largely because of Burns' reporting on the issue.

Burns himself got first crack at the announcement ahead of other media, another in a succession of beats on a topic that Burns had turned into headline news. He was first in reporting Hagel's decision to summon top military leaders and demand an "action plan" for how to fix the security lapses and serious morale issues that Burns had been alone in reporting since April 2013, as well as the drug and cheating scandal the Air Force recently announced.

Asked at the news conference why Hagel was taking action now, the spokesman said: "Well, he's been following the coverage, particularly in The Associated Press."

<http://www.journalgazette.net/article/20140123/NEWS03/140129628>

But for Burns' work over the past nine months, Americans _ including Hagel _ might never have known that the keepers of the world's most deadly weapons were in disarray.

His exclusive story last spring about an e-mail in which an Air Force deputy commander declared America's nuclear missile forces were infected with "rot" turned into an eight-month probe of the missile forces. With reporting rooted in source development and persistence, Burns uncovered missteps and lapses, deliberate safety violations and

personal misbehavior.

Among his findings:

_ Some of the men and women entrusted to operate and safeguard the weapons allowed serious security lapses to occur and have a higher rate of burnout, sexual assault and domestic violence than their counterparts elsewhere in the military. Following Burns' revelations, Air Force generals were hauled before Congress to explain themselves. Under pressure, a general ordered a review of the troubles at the nuclear base in Minot, N.D.

_ A missile base in Montana failed a key security test, leading to the removal of the officer in charge of missile security. Two months later the Air Force fired the general who oversees the entire nuclear missile force, not because of trouble in his ranks but because of his own shenanigans, including excessive drinking and embarrassing behavior while representing the U.S. at a nuclear event in Russia.

_ At least twice in 2013 alone, officers in a launch control center opened the blast door _ designed to shield them in the event of an actual nuclear attack and to keep out intruders in peacetime _ while one of them was napping. In one case the officers lied about violating the security rule.

For months Hagel was publicly silent about the problems, but in January he made a special trip to a nuclear missile base to boost morale. It was then that the military disclosed that two launch officers were implicated in a narcotics investigation. That drug investigation ballooned into a scandal over cheating on a proficiency test in which dozens of nuclear officers were sidelined and stripped of their clearances, straining the force even further.

Two weeks later, Hagel ordered the forcewide review.

For relentless reporting to expose problems that even top Pentagon leaders were unaware of, Burns wins this week's \$500 prize.

Others whose work impressed the judges:

_ Tami Abdollah, law enforcement reporter, Los Angeles, for reporting exclusively that two police officers who were supposed to be on duty at an LA International Airport terminal had gone on break without notifying dispatchers as required when a gunman killed a TSA officer and wounded three other people. Abdollah also reported that when the gunfire erupted, TSA officers fled the screening area without hitting a panic button or calling police. As a result, police dispatchers weren't notified for nearly 90 seconds.

<http://longisland.news12.com/news/ap-exclusive-lax-gunfire-came-while-officers-away-1.6850164?firstfree=yes>

_ Gregorio Borgia, photographer, Rome, for catching an epic battle _ between a black crow and a white dove set "free" by Pope Francis. Borgia remembered from past experience that the annual dove release from the pope's studio window doesn't always end when the birds fly away, and knew to keep his lens trained on where they settled. His sequence, which

included the crow attack and also a seagull attacking another dove, made front pages, television newscasts and online sites around the world (and made for AP's No. 1 tweet that day.). While some other photographers caught the seagull attack, only Borgia shot the black crow. It provided great detail that others missed because Vatican TV cameras had cut off by the time the attack occurred.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jan/26/pope-doves-attacked-by-crow-seagull-st-peters-square>

_ Holly Ramer, newswoman, Concord, N.H., for revealing another unforeseen problem in the rollout of the Affordable Care Act: Some children, much to their parents' dismay, are left without insurance coverage because the federal government hasn't determined their Medicaid eligibility and they can't join their parents' subsidized plan while they're in limbo. <http://bit.ly/1bt56b8>

_ Chris Brummitt, Southeast Asia news editor, Hanoi, for reporting that a pro-government "cyber army" had attacked dissidents in France and the U.S., as well as an AP reporter in Vietnam and an American Internet privacy activist in the U.S. This was the first documented evidence that the hackers had expanded their targets to include foreign reporters and activists. <http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/vietnams-cyber-troops-fight-us-france-21594482?singlePage=true>

_ Melinda Deslatte, correspondent, Baton Rouge, La., for at least half an hour's beat that Louisiana's controversial Republican U.S. Sen. David Vitter was running for governor. The Times-Picayune and Baton Rouge Advocate used AP's story as they scrambled to report the news, with AP's report standing for much of the day on their websites. <http://bo.st/1cbj4mg>

_ Mesfin Fekadu, music writer, New York, for a hard-won Grammys exclusive: The Recording Academy's rap committee almost didn't nominate Macklemore & Ryan Lewis because they considered the performers too mainstream. The omission was overruled by the wider Academy, a rarity, and the duo swept all three rap categories and won a fourth award for best new artist. http://www.mercurynews.com/california/ci_24977162/ap-source-macklemore-almost-cut-from-rap-grammys

_ Michael Virtanen, newsman, Albany, N.Y., for his report that New York state was revising its request for a \$10 billion Medicaid waiver because federal officials had kicked it back. According to a letter from Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, the state's application was flawed and needed to be reworked. <http://goo.gl/GV4E0e>

Mike Oreskes

Paul Stevens

Connecting newsletter

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