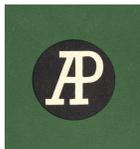

From: Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]
Sent: Monday, April 07, 2014 10:43 AM
To: stevenspl@live.com
Subject: Connecting - April 7, 2014

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Connecting

April 7, 2014



(Connecting's e-mail vendor, Constant Contact, is continuing to experience technical issues that resulted in Saturday's edition failing to reach most readers. Saturday's newsletter included a link to a [video tribute](#) produced by The Associated Press to photographer Anja Niedringhaus, as well as extensive reaction to her death. If you did not receive Saturday's e-mail or Sunday's re-send but would like to, [send me a note](#) and I will forward it directly. We are attempting to send today's Connecting through Constant Contact. If a number of deliveries are again rejected, we will revert to the old method of transmission until the problems are resolved. Thank you for your patience. -- Mark Mittelstadt)



During a tribute in Paris on Saturday, a woman places a rose in front of a photo of AP photographer Anja Niedringhaus, killed a day earlier in Afghanistan. A support group of four French journalists taken hostage in Syria organized the event for Niedringhaus and AP correspondent Kathy Gannon, who was wounded. (AP Photo/Michel Euler)

Remembering Anja

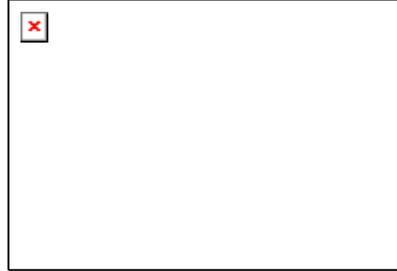
Tributes and remembrances continued over the weekend for Associated Press photographer **Anja Niedringhaus**, 48, who was killed Friday when an Afghan police officer opened fire on a car in which she was riding with AP reporter **Kathy Gannon** as they covered election preparations in Afghanistan. Gannon, 60, was seriously injured. AP was arranging improved medical care for her and is hopeful for her recovery.

"In life and death, Anja and Kathy will endure forever as shining symbols of how the AP tells the news courageously and faithfully worldwide," **Seymour Topping**, former AP correspondent and administrator of the Pulitzer Prizes, said in a note to Connecting.

Another AP award-winning photographer who has reported and captured images in difficult and dangerous parts of the world, **David Guttenfelder**, was interviewed by National Geographic about his slain friend and colleague. Guttenfelder called her death "a profound loss for photojournalism."

Carlotta Gall, a New York Times correspondent in Afghanistan from 2001 until last year and now Tunis bureau chief, recalls in a post on the Times' blog "At War" speaking earlier in the week with her friends Niedringhaus and Gannon. "I had spent the last few days with them in Kabul, laughing a lot as we swapped election stories and journalists' gossip," Gall wrote. "I spent several hours one afternoon with Anja watching Afghan police and specialist units rush to battle Taliban suicide attackers in a residential district in Kabul amid gunfire and grenade blasts. We met up again on Monday for lunch with the venerable American philanthropist **Nancy Dupree** at a friend's restaurant. Anja bought a large embroidered bag emblazoned with a rampant Afghan lion. 'I will use it riding my bike in Geneva,' she said, packing her cameras into it with a beaming smile."

The UK Daily Mail rounded up the "heartbreaking final pictures" from her last assignment. Former AP photo editor **Deb Halberstadt** put together a Facebook album of Anja's work.



Connecting Mailbag

As is to be expected, the saga of **Linda Ellerbee** continues to be distorted as times goes by. As the COB who fired her, I can provide an accurate account of the episode.

At the time (12/12/72) Linda Ellerbee was known as Linda Veselka. We were trying to find someone to fill a probationer's spot in the Dallas bureau. She was one of six or so candidates and, as a mother of two small children with no experience, not at the top of the list. I decided to hire her because she obviously needed a job.

When she composed the personal letter to her boyfriend which ended up on the broadcast wire, she took a personal shot at me, not The AP: "I will be the token woman among 16 writers. Watch -- Mangan (chief of bureau) will rid himself of all discriminatory guilts at once and hire a half-black, half-Chicano gay lesbian person next. Isn't my machine cute? That's not all that's cute. I'm moving in that direction, having lost 13 pounds."

She was working the broadcast overnight shift by herself and made the mistake of not deleting the letter she had composed on the VDT (as they were known then). It moved in its entirety on the broadcast wire. She had a premonition of sorts, because the letter began: "I am writing to you on my marvelous machine and if I don't remember to delete the input from the computer, folks in a three state area will get this message with their cornflakes." It also related: "I have...two pairs of pants, plaid, folded, hung in a leaner's bag and definitely for an ass fatter than mine. The tag on them says A.Frank. Do we know him, and if so, why?"

While she was writing her missive in Dallas, I was in Austin getting ready for a serious meeting with **Dick Brown**, publisher of the Austin American-Statesman, about his threat to quit AP membership and be all-UPI. When Dallas called about the fiasco, I got her home telephone number and told her: (1) she had disgraced the Dallas bureau and (2) she was fired. A week later she wrote a contrite letter from Houston and

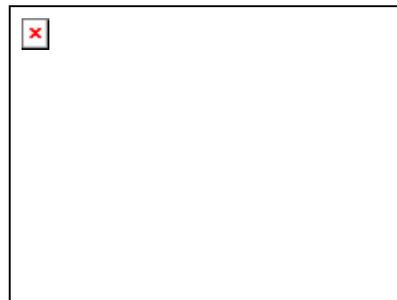
urged: "Don't let your remembrance of me keep you from taking a chance someday on some other writer who wants it as badly as I did, please. I still think The Associated Press is the finest news-gathering organization in the world."

Looking back, all rancor is gone. If I were to run into Linda today, we could have a big laugh. But I was slightly miffed when she once told a reporter in San Diego: "The bureau chief had absolutely no sense of humor." But then, she had no clue about the problem I was facing with the Austin newspaper at the time.

The episode and its aftermath sent her into a prestigious national TV career. Ellerbee told KHOU-TV years later: "I suppose that some day I should write Jim Mangan and thank him, the way things turned out." --
Jim Mangan

* * *

Connecting's intrepid editor, **Paul Stevens**, made a weekend trip to Los Angeles to see a good friend, retired long-time AP bureau chief, **Andy Lippman**. The pair, along with Paul's wife, **Linda**, toured Southern California attractions, including the National Historic Landmark Gamble House, built in 1908 in Pasadena for David and Mary Gamble of the Procter & Gamble Company and now open for public tours.



Paul and Andy

"Andy Lippman and I have been best friends -- twins separated at birth, we say -- since the early '80s when he was AP's Louisville bureau chief and I was his Indianapolis bureau chief neighbor to the north, whom he succeeded when I moved to Kansas City," Paul wrote on Facebook. "We're retired now, but friends forever." They also visited Huntington Gardens. "He's a gardener extraordinaire and loved showing us these famed gardens in a sunny San Marino." **Dave Tomlin** commented on Paul's photo: "The COBsey twins." Connecting thinks Arnold Schwarzenegger and Danny DeVito have nothing on them.

Paul returns to Connecting on Tuesday.

Stories of Interest

Yahoo makes new push into video content

Yahoo Inc. is raising its ambitions in online video, with plans to acquire the kind of original programming that typically winds up on high-end cable-TV networks and streaming services like Netflix. The company reportedly is close to ordering four Web series. Unlike in years past, Yahoo isn't looking for short-form Web originals, but rather 10-episode, half-hour comedies with per-episode budgets ranging from \$700,000 to a few million dollars.

Questions for Comcast as it looks to grow

It is hard to say how rugged the questions will be when Comcast goes before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Wednesday to defend its proposed mega-merger with Time Warner Cable. We do know that

Comcast is feeling pretty confident about its chances.

Setting the First Amendment free, one shackle at a time

Politics, rude, rollicking and messy by nature, is likely to get even more so in the aftermath of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision that eliminates caps on the amount of money individuals can donate to candidates and political parties.

My Arabian Night: How an Obama pool stop went viral

As a senior White House reporter for POLITICO, I've traveled all over the country and the world with President Barack Obama, touching down in Air Force One on one unremarkable tarmac after another to record his arrival. I seldom find them noteworthy - and, as an infrequent tweeter, rarely ever share-worthy. But Riyadh was different. A stunning display of Saudi guards awaited Obama at the airport Friday in perfect formation, swords in hand and scarves on their head. So I did something I don't normally do: I tweeted the photos.

No more "selfies" at the White House?

White House senior adviser Dan Pfeiffer said a selfie taken by Boston Red Sox slugger David Ortiz may lead to an end to the photos at the White House. President Obama appeared with Ortiz in the image, taken during a White House visit by the World Series champion Boston Red Sox. It was later revealed that Ortiz had an agreement with Samsung to promote the company's phones.

Debra Adams Simmons moves from Plain Dealer editor to new post with parent company Advance

The current president of Associated Press Media Editors resigns as Plain Dealer editor to become vice president of news development for Advance Local, a part of Plain Dealer parent Advance Publications.



Buttry: Twitter can encourage fired journalists, help them land on their feet

If you're a journalist not using Twitter in 2014, you've chosen to be less skilled, less relevant, less visible and less connected. That's your choice and I no longer care much about changing your mind. I can think of a few times in the last month that I've encountered journalists who were defiantly resisting use of Twitter and I just smiled, if I acknowledged their defiance at all. But here's one last try: You might get fired at any time. Every journalist knows that, especially these days. When you get fired, Twitter is an incredible source of encouragement and even job leads.

"TeamCasts" make debut in Final Four coverage

The sideline reporter wrapped up her segment during the Final Four game with a hearty: "We bleed blue, and in Ollie we trust!" "We" is not a word heard in nationally televised sports coverage in reference to one side, but the "TeamCasts" that made their debut Saturday wanted fans to feel that the announcers were in their corner.

80-year-old Final Four photographer's amazing journey

At Rich Clarkson's first Final Four, in 1952, the Kansas coach was Phog Allen, the guy they named the fieldhouse



after. Clarkson was a freshman at Kansas. Also the staff photographer for the Lawrence Journal-World.

Veteran journalist Charles "Chuck" Stone Jr. dies

Longtime journalist and educator Charles Sumner "Chuck" Stone Jr., one of the founders of the National Association of Black Journalists, died Sunday at age 89.

24+ signs you're truly an ex-newspaper journalist

No. 1 Sign: One or two paragraphs of most stories are enough. (And that's all you'll read. Why do they write such long stories?)

The astonishing conservative hypocrisy over Mozilla and the First Amendment

A repeated cry in conservative and libertarian circles over anti-gay Mozilla CEO Brendan Eich's resignation is that the company is somehow trampling Eich's free speech rights. Eich donated \$1,000 in 2008 to California's Proposition 8 campaign, which successfully outlawed gay marriage in that state before getting shot down by the courts. It's true that, because of this donation, Mozilla's leaders and board members pressured Eich to resign. But it's absurd and hypocritical to claim that this pressure constituted an infringement of Eich's legal rights.

AP Editorial Talking Points

SLOPPY OVERSIGHT: **Dee-Ann Durbin** and **Tom Krisher** debunked federal regulators' claim that problems with the Chevrolet's Cobalt were nothing unusual. Their exclusive report showed that over a nine-year period, 164 drivers reported their 2005-2007 Cobalts had inexplicably stalled without warning. That complaint rate was far higher than for any competitors from the same model years, with the exception of the Toyota Corolla, which was recalled after a government investigation in 2010.

Durbin and Krisher pored over thousands of records. Their reporting forced General Motors Co. to recall 2.6 million Cobalts and other compact cars. At issue are ignition switch failures that can lead to stalling, even at highway speeds, when the switch slips out of its "run" position. That can result in loss of power steering and braking and deactivate air bags. GM has linked the problem to at least 13 deaths, and has acknowledged knowing the switch was defective for at least a decade. For its part, the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration started getting complaints only months after the Cobalt first went on sale in 2005 but failed to investigate.

Durbin and Krisher hand-checked the air bag complaints and sorted through mounds of stalling complaints. They talked with crash victims' families, including Laura Christian, who had done her own Cobalt research after her daughter's death. She had tried and failed to interest regulators. "Basically, it was `No, thank you,'" she said.

VATICAN-VENEZUELA: Caracas' **Joshua Goodman** and Rome's **Nicole Winfield** scored a significant scoop with first word that the Vatican was willing _ and even wanted to intervene _ to help end Venezuela's violent political crisis. Venezuela's opposition had long called for Vatican mediation, but the Holy See responded publicly only after the AP pressed for a response following President Nicolas Maduro's public acceptance of a good-faith witness to facilitate talks.

Goodman had flagged the issue to Winfield, and while making calls she discovered that Vatican officials weren't dismissing the proposal entirely, as she had expected. Winfield asked the Vatican spokesman for an on-record statement and received no response. She called him at home late Friday and he said he would make one more call to the secretariat of state. He emailed back and sent an SMS: "I can say even more than I thought I could," he began.

AP's story was front page news across Venezuela. The news alert moved nearly two hours before Italian news agency ANSA, which usually is first with Vatican news. By the time ANSA moved its version, AP already had a full story from Caracas.

Are reporters obliged to warn sources about consequences of talking to them?

The Canadian Association of Journalists opened a debate.

Ever wonder why your local TV news stations run the same (blankety-blank) stories? (Shared by Bob Daugherty)

Despite all of the genre's shortcomings, local TV news still manages to reach 9 in 10 American adults, 46 percent of whom watch it "often." It may come as a surprise to internet junkies, but broadcast television still serves as Americans' main source of news and information. Which is why it matters that hundreds of local TV news stations have been swept up in a massive new wave of media consolidation: It means that you, the viewer, are being fed an even more repetitive diet of dreck.



KWWL anchor Ron Steele (right) humors a stranger who broke onto the set on his 40th anniversary. (Courtney Collins/Waterloo Courier Photo)

Stranger crashes TV station's news set, interviews anchor on anniversary

Waterloo (Iowa) Courier photographer Courtney Collins, expecting to shoot the 40th anniversary of KWWL-TV news anchor Ron Steele, managed to capture an unexpected part of the newscast when a stranger broke on to the set, sat down and started to interview Steele. The always-compassionate Steele humored the man until he could be removed by security.

Oops! Indiana public education site misspells "schools"

(Daugherty)



Mark Mittelstadt

Connecting newsletter

markmittelstadt@yahoo.com

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