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**From:** Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 08, 2014 9:03 AM  
**To:** stevenspl@live.com  
**Subject:** Connecting - August 8, 2014

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# Connecting

August 8, 2014

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of the Teletype



Colleagues,

Good morning!

Here are stories of interest including remembrances of two major events from the past:

The resignation of President Richard Nixon - 40 years ago Aug. 9 - and the 1981 assassination attempt on the life of President Ronald Reagan.

Paul

## About the AP

**AP Draws Outrage Over Renisha McBride Tweet**

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/08/07/ap-renisha-mcbride-tweet\\_n\\_5659545.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/08/07/ap-renisha-mcbride-tweet_n_5659545.html)

**From the Huffington Post:**

The Associated Press is under fire for yet another tweet, this time about the trial of the man who fatally shot Renisha McBride.

Theodore Wafer was on trial for shooting and killing 19-year-old McBride on his porch last November. McBride was intoxicated, and banged on his door in the early hours of the night. He shot her through his locked screen door.

Here's how the AP framed the verdict in Wafer's case on Thursday:

MORE: Suburban Detroit homeowner convicted of second-degree murder for killing woman who showed up drunk on porch: <http://t.co/parUipYRxw>

- **The Associated Press (@AP) [August 7, 2014](#)**

The tweet quickly drew criticism from others on Twitter, who responded:

Does the @AP not have people checking these headlines? A woman is murdered and you frame it as dude shoots drunk lady on his porch?

- Elon James White (@elonjames) August 7, 2014

@AP This is a disgusting tweet. She was a teenager and had a name-  
#RenishaMcBride

- Allison Rhone (@allisonrhone) August 7, 2014

Oh @AP your poorly crafted tweet will now make you the subject of many headlines. #apheadlines

- SHiNE (@straightshine) August 7, 2014

So, the @AP decided to tweet this after the verdict in the shooting of Renisha McBride. She deserved better. [pic.twitter.com/jrkVLqYcd6](http://pic.twitter.com/jrkVLqYcd6)

- Jermaine Spradley (@MrSpradley) August 7, 2014

Would love to hear the (presumably) professional journalists at @AP explain that tweet. Seriously. Please explain.

- Wendy Felton (@glossedover) August 7, 2014

The AP later revised: Jury convicts Michigan man in killing of unarmed woman on his porch (rewords language from previous tweet): <http://t.co/2nyobBY4Fx>

- The Associated Press (@AP) August 7, 2014

The AP's original tweet on Thursday is the latest in a series of the news outlet's

recent missteps on social media. After the last problematic tweet, a spokesperson for the AP said that the organization is "reviewing our procedures" for Twitter.

## South Korean who forced U.S. to admit massacre dies at 91

[Charles Hanley](#) notes that colleagues might be interested in the AP obituary for Chung Eun-yong, a man who, in a big way, was the inspiration for an AP Pulitzer (the team of Sang-hun Choe, Martha Mendoza, Randy Herschaft and Charlie, in 2000).

Not explained in the obit, Charlie said: Sang-hun Choe became familiar with a "novel" Chung wrote detailing the 1950 No Gun Ri massacre, a factual account that had to be published as "fiction" in the still-repressive atmosphere of 1994 South Korea. By 1998, the AP team was working on confirming the killings, with Chung as the gateway to the survivors.

### Here is the AP obituary:

Chung Eun-yong, an ex-policeman whose half-century quest for justice for his two slain children led the U.S. Army in 2001 to acknowledge the Korean War refugee massacre at No Gun Ri, has died, the No Gun Ri International Peace Foundation reported. He was 91.

Chung, who died on Aug. 1, had been in failing health in recent years.

The No Gun Ri killings occurred in the first weeks of the 1950-53 war, when U.S. and South Korean troops were being driven south by North Korean invaders, and reports spread that northern infiltrators were disguising themselves as South Korean refugees.

On July 26, 1950, outside the central South Korean village of No Gun Ri, hundreds of civilians from nearby villages, ordered south by U.S. troops, were stopped by a dug-in battalion of the U.S. 7th Cavalry Regiment, and then were attacked without warning by U.S. warplanes. Survivors fled under a railroad overpass, where for



*A 1960 photo of the bridge taken by and obtained from the villagers who brought the claim against the United States. (AP Photo)*

the next three days they were fired on by 7th Cavalry troops.

Korean witnesses estimated 100 were killed in the air attack and 300 under the bridge, mostly women and children. Among the dead were Chung's 4-year-old son and 2-year-old daughter. His wife was badly wounded but survived. Chung himself, a law student who as a former southern policeman might have been executed by the northerners, had left their village earlier.

Through decades of authoritarian rule in U.S.-allied South Korea, the survivors kept their silence. But in the 1990s, led by Chung and as South Korea liberalized, they filed a series of petitions to U.S. authorities, demanding an investigation, an apology and compensation. Chung had spent long hours researching in archives in Seoul and Daejeon, and had concluded that the 1st Cavalry Division, the 7th Cavalry's parent unit, was responsible. For a half-century, "No Gun Ri never escaped my mind one single day," he later said.

All their petitions were ignored or dismissed until, in 1999, The Associated Press reported it had confirmed the mass killing, having found 7th Cavalry veterans who corroborated the accounts of Korean survivors. The AP also uncovered declassified files showing U.S. commanders at the time ordered units to shoot civilians in the war zone.

That prompted U.S. and South Korean investigations, and in January 2001 the Army acknowledged the No Gun Ri killings but assigned no blame, calling it a "deeply regrettable accompaniment to a war." President Bill Clinton issued a statement of regret, but not the apology demanded by the survivors. No compensation was offered.

Chung and his group denounced the findings as a "whitewash" of command responsibility. The survivors also rejected a U.S. offer to build a monument at No Gun Ri and establish a scholarship fund, objecting to plans to dedicate the project to all the war's civilian victims, not just those killed by the U.S. military at No Gun Ri.

In 2004, the South Korean National Assembly authorized the building of a 29-acre No Gun Ri Peace Park at the site, medical subsidies for surviving wounded, and a committee to identify victims. In 2005, the committee certified the names of 163 dead or missing and 55 wounded, some of whom later died of their wounds. It said reports were not filed on many more victims. Two-fifths of the dead were children under the age of 15.

In 2006 it emerged that among incriminating documents omitted from the 2001 U.S. report was a declassified letter from the U.S. ambassador in South Korea, dated the day the No Gun Ri killings began, saying the Army had adopted a policy of firing on refugee groups approaching its lines. Chung's group declared this another example of the "deception" behind the U.S. investigation.

In the early 1950s, Chung returned to police work in Daejeon and later was a partner in a small bottle-making plant there. Among his survivors are his wife of 69 years, Park Sun-yong, and a son born after the Korean War, Chung Koo-do, chairman of the government-supported No Gun Ri International Peace Foundation, which helps run the memorial park.

Chung Eun-yong's successful quest to tell the world about No Gun Ri led to an outpouring of other accounts of alleged mass killings of southern civilians by the U.S. military in 1950-51, particularly air attacks. A South Korean investigative commission counted more than 200 cases on its docket by 2008, but the commission was disbanded by a new conservative government in 2010 before it could confirm more than a handful.

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Material in this story was written by former AP special correspondent Charles J. Hanley, who was part of a team that received a Pulitzer Prize for its reporting on No Gun Ri. AP writer Youkyung Lee contributed to the story from Seoul, South Korea.

## Mesfin Fekadu named AP music editor

Mesfin Fekadu, a music writer for The Associated Press, has been named the AP's music editor.



The appointment was announced Thursday by Global Entertainment & Lifestyles Editor Nekesa Mumbi Moody.

He will direct the news agency's music coverage across platforms.

"Mesfin is a dynamic reporter who has done wonderful work for the AP and has helped lead its music coverage," Moody said. "He is a news breaker with impressive sources within the industry and an innovator within the entertainment department. I am confident he will take the department to even greater

heights."

Fekadu, 27, joined the AP in 2008 as an entertainment producer after graduating from Saint Peter's University in Jersey City, New Jersey.

He has interviewed countless performers, from Beyonce to Rihanna to the Rolling Stones, written key trend stories and scored major exclusives. He has had a role in the coverage of major news events, including the deaths of Amy

Winehouse and Whitney Houston. He was appointed music writer in 2012.

Fekadu has covered the Grammy Awards, the Super Bowl, both inaugurations of President Barack Obama and New York Fashion Week. He edits coverage of various events, often producing video content and arranging for photo coverage.

Fekadu, who will remain based in New York City, is a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He worked as a production assistant and fill-in tape producer for MSNBC for two years.

## **Remembering Aug. 9 - and the first president to resign from office**

**By Richard Pyle**

Like every other date in human history, August 9 has had its share of noteworthy moments which, with time's passing, fade from memory. Random examples found on the Internet range from Julius Caesar's victory in the battle of Pharsalus in 48 BC to the comic strip debut of Betty Boop in 1930 and the 1969 murders of actress Sharon Tate and four others by the Manson family in LA. Even the atomic bomb destruction of Nagasaki on Aug. 9, 1945 is overshadowed by the Hiroshima bomb three days earlier.

But journalists are entitled to a unique historical perspective on events they cover, especially when thrust unexpectedly into the biggest story of the day, as I was on Aug 9, 1974. That was the day that Richard Nixon, beleaguered by allegations of criminal acts in the Watergate cover-up scandal and facing possible impeachment by Congress, became the first U.S. president to resign from office.



(Returning to WX the previous year after five years in Vietnam, I had arrived in the middle of the Watergate affair. I never covered that story, but became AP's lead staffer on Vice President Spiro Agnew, then plagued by his own scandal until he resigned in October 1973.)

I was among the millions who watched Nixon's televised announcement of his decision to resign the night before, but I had no assigned role when reporting to the AP Washington bureau the next morning - not until the editors told me to drop everything and get to the White House as quickly as possible.

My job would be covering the new president, Gerald Ford, who seemed almost a bit player amid the overwhelming swirl of attention on Nixon. (The hasty manner of the assignment left me to wonder, and still does, whether the Washington news desk had actually forgotten to detail a staffer to the vice president who would replace him.)

Lacking regular White House press credentials, I almost had to talk my way past the suspicious gate guards at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. But once inside, I was escorted to a room adjoining the press briefing room. The whole place was empty, as the entire press corps was either in the East Room, where Nixon was then delivering his mawkish farewell to the White House staff, or already

outside on the South Lawn.

Being a stranger alone in the White House for any period of time was an unnerving experience, and probably something that only rarely happens, even to presidents.

I was soon joined by a woman reporter from the Washington Post, but nobody else showed up. and we watched a TV screen as Nixon, at the other end of the White House, blubbered through his rambling, self-pitying confession of having blown the deal - his reputation and the presidency itself.

As the speech was ending, our escorts returned and we two reporters were gently hustled out to the South Lawn. I presume we were meant to join the rest of the media standing on risers, but events happened so fast that we - or I, anyway - found myself among scores of White House employees and aides, many sobbing or openly crying.

Suddenly, without warning, a tear-streaked Richard Nixon and wife Pat emerged from the canopied back door, Gerald and Betty Ford behind them, and headed down the long red carpet toward a waiting green-and-white Sikorsky helicopter. At the same time, I became aware of a man I hadn't previously noticed, standing at a wheeled wooden podium, holding a walkie-talkie.

I was just close enough to eavesdrop as he dialed a telephone atop the podium, but being in no position to take notes, and after 40 years, I can only approximate his words as I recall them. First: ``Andrews, this is Hobnail. Expect departure in fifteen minutes." Then another call. ``National, this is Hobnail. Departure expected in fifteen minutes. Please hold all traffic until further notice."

Minutes passed as the Nixons and Fords reached the helicopter and engaged in a few minutes of private conversation, presumably an exchange of good-luck wishes. Over the heads of other spectators I glimpsed Nixon on the chopper's steps, waving his arms awkwardly. Then he went inside, the door closed and the Sikorsky's main rotor began to turn slowly. All else seemed to become a silent tableau. At his podium, Hobnail said something into his walkie-talkie. Then, after a pause, ``Marine One, you are cleared for takeoff."

As the Sikorsky's rotor spun up to a frenzied blur, it lifted off, nose down, then rose quickly, turned to the south and disappeared over the trees on Constitution Avenue.

President Richard Nixon was suddenly gone, and as the crowd on the South Lawn seemed to melt almost mysteriously away, I wandered with a few other curious strangers over to the Rose Garden, then went back inside the White House where the press group covering President Gerald Ford was forming up.

In keeping with tradition, the Fords were not staying the first night at the White



House but returning to their home in Alexandria, Va., and soon a small motorcade - police and Secret Service cars, a presidential limousine, a press van and assorted staff vehicles - lined up on the South Lawn driveway. Finally, Ford appeared, carrying a briefcase. Except for his mode of transport he looked like any other suburban commuter heading home from the office.

Traffic was amazingly light for a Friday afternoon rush hour as we rounded the Lincoln Memorial and crossed the Potomac into Virginia. Near the Pentagon, a driver in the adjoining lane glanced at our motorcade without any visible awareness that he was traveling alongside history. I wanted to open the van window and yell at him.

Turning off the freeway into Alexandria, Ford's motorcade did something possibly unprecedented - it slowed to a brief stop at a downtown traffic light.

While some might see that as emblematic of Gerald Ford as possibly the most earnestly decent man who ever sat in the White House, his better-known image as President Klutz was possibly affirmed early the next day.

Neighbors applauded and reporters watched as Ford, in what was perhaps the first public act of his presidency, stepped out of his front door and waved a hearty "good morning" to all. As he bent to pick up the Washington Post, two or three sections slipped out and fell on the porch.

## **Remembering The Day James Brady Was Shot**

**NPR:** James Brady, the former White House press secretary, died Monday. Louise Schiavone, an anchor and reporter for our Newscast unit, recalls covering his shooting.

**By Louise Schiavone**  
**National Public Radio**

It was a gray day, and by the afternoon, a steady rain had begun.



*This photo by AP's Ron Edmonds was among pictures that won him the 1982 Pulitzer Prize for Spot News Photography.*

I was a reporter-anchor-utility infielder at the **AP Radio Network**. That Monday, March 30 (1981), was my day off.

I was having lunch in Georgetown at a terrific little bar, Mr. Smith's, with a friend and classmate from the Columbia University journalism school.

A flash moved across the television at the bar that President Ronald Reagan had been shot. Basically, my friend ordered me to call in - which I did.

I called the AP Radio desk to tell them I was 10 blocks away from George Washington University Hospital, with gear. What would they like? We agreed I'd run down there and see what was happening.

My first recollection was the sight of White House press aide Larry Speakes, standing alone in the horseshoe drive in front of George Washington University Hospital. He was now, for all intents and purposes, the acting White House press secretary. (Speakes, who died earlier this year, soon assumed the duties of the job, although Brady kept the title.)

By now, there was a drenching rain. Andrea Mitchell from NBC soon joined us. But the White House press corps was up Connecticut Avenue, at the Washington Hilton, scene of the shooting, unable to move.

Speakes told us that President Reagan and Jim Brady were in the hospital, under the care of doctors and surgeons, and that both were still alive.

With the first radio tape of a White House official on the shooting, I ran across the street to a little medical-uniforms shop to feed it to the desk.

The people at the shop were very kind, as well as mystified, when I unscrewed their telephone to attach the alligator clips and move sound and voice material from my huge Marantz tape recorder to the desk.

At the hospital, an auditorium had been set up for reporters. It was filling rapidly.

No one had the technology we take for granted today - no cellphones, email, Twitter, nothing! Journalists filed from a bank of pay phone booths at the back of the auditorium. We all just had to wait our turn.

And it seemed, by the availability of at least one phone at any given time, reporters were waiting for information they could trust before they filed additional material.

Every so often, a doctor would go to the podium and brief the dozens of reporters who had gathered.

Every briefing began with the questions: Is President Reagan still alive? Is Jim Brady still alive?

Yes, to both.

In addition, there were doctors milling around the halls where we were also wandering about. Some took questions and answered obliquely.

Journalists knew the fates of the shooting victims rested in complicated surgery that was bound to take hours. That was the best we had.

In one of many calls (from the pay phone) to the AP Radio desk, I was asked to file on the death of Jim Brady. "Really?" I asked. "Who is the source?"

Well, it appeared that CBS had a congressional source who said Brady was dead.

"And their other source?" I asked.

Silence.

Well, I said, look. As far as I know, Jim Brady is still alive. I cannot responsibly report he is dead. (My bosses really appreciated it by the end of the day and promoted me to Senate correspondent the following month.)

I remembered the first time I met Jim Brady, in 1981. He was standing in front of Blair House on a bitterly cold Inauguration Day, corralling reporters. What a charming, handsome, witty, vibrant man.

A few years later, as a member of the board of the Senate Radio-TV Correspondents Association, I had a chance to sit next to Jim Brady at the head table of our annual dinner. The man now sitting next to me bore the scars of his gunshot wound. The scar and the plate on his misshapen skull, clearly visible.

Brady's speech was slow and a little slurred. And while he clearly yearned to deliver the sparkling repartee for which he had been well-known, his wounded brain would not cooperate.

Despite his tremendous trials, my final recollection of Jim Brady was that he was charming, he was lovely, and he was loved. And he knew it.

(Shared by Bob Daugherty)

## Linda Deutsch and Elvis Week

Long before she became one of AP's top writers and a renowned court reporter, [Linda Deutsch](#) had a thing for Elvis.

So it should come as no surprise that Linda is among guest speakers added to the Elvis Week schedule, Aug. 9-17.

The news release from Graceland.com announced:

For the August 2014 Elvis Presley Fan Club Presidents' Event, we will have two featured special guest speaker segments, both hosted by Elvis Radio DJ Argo. In addition to our already announced guest Jimmy Snow, we also will welcome Linda



Deutsch, who has been with The Associated Press for almost 50 years, but started her writing career off at the age of 12 when she launched an Elvis Presley Fan Club and published a fan newspaper that went to 300 members around the world.

The release noted: At the age of 12 years old, Linda Deutsch launched one of the first Elvis Presley fan clubs and published a fan newspaper that was distributed to 300 members around the world. She learned then what it would be like to be a journalist. She is now known as the nation's leading expert in coverage of high profile trials. Before moving into trial coverage full time, Linda covered

Presidents Richard M. Nixon and Ronald Reagan. In 2010 she received the American Judicature Society's Toni House Journalism Award which cited her 45 years of service. Throughout it all, her dedication to Elvis never waned and has become an integral part of her legacy.

(Shared by Valerie Komor)



## Welcome to Connecting

[Carole Feldman](#) - Director, News Operations and Finance, AP Washington

## Stories of interest

[Rieder: Can papers make it on their own?](#) (Lindel Hutson)

Kicked to the curb.

One by one, big media companies are splitting themselves in two, holding on to their sexier, more lucrative properties - broadcast, film, digital - and casting off their print operations to sink or swim.

The trend reached a crescendo in the past week. First, E.W. Scripps and Journal Communications entered into a deal in which Scripps will own both companies' broadcast properties, and a new entity, Journal Media Group, will own the newspapers. On Monday, Tribune Co. completed the spinoff of its newspapers into a separate, stand-alone company. And on Tuesday, Gannett, the nation's largest newspaper company, and owner of USA TODAY, announced a similar plan.

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[Pundits drive the sports news industry, but women's opinions are almost](#)

## **totally absent**

Here's a question you won't hear debated by the panelists on sports-talk shows: Why are so few women among the panelists on sports-talk shows?

Women have made strides in virtually every area of sports journalism over the past two decades or more. They cover sports for newspapers and Web sites, write columns and host studio programs. They are ubiquitous as sideline reporters on game broadcasts and they're a growing presence as the sports anchor on local newscasts.

But they don't, generally speaking, get to offer their opinions on the air. The usual sports-chat topics - quarterback controversies, coaching decisions, draft projections and the like - are still the province of men. And those outspoken male pundits are increasingly responsible for shaping the narrative that drives the 24-hour sports news cycle, where strong opinions and hot takes rule the day.

## **Best of the States**

Ohio reporter John Seewer was about to enjoy a warm cup of coffee Saturday morning before his BNS shift when he saw a text alert from a local TV station: Officials were warning of problems with Toledo's water supply. It turns out algae in Lake Erie had left behind toxins that were contaminating the drinking water for 400,000 people.

Seewer raced out the door to start gathering information, collecting quotes and taking photos of residents who were lining up at stores, loading bottles of water into their cars.

Throughout the weekend, he tracked efforts to truck water to the area and bottled water shortages that mushroomed in the region. He hit the streets again and again for fresh comments and examined the shortage's effect on everyday people and on hospitals, and he landed the exclusive interviews with the governor and EPA director.

But Seewer was not simply adding color and exclusive comments to the story: His expertise on the issue and in the area gave AP's coverage depth and aggressiveness. He brought in essential context, noting that algae blooms during the summer have become more frequent and troublesome around the western end of Lake Erie, fed by farm fertilizer runoff and sewage treatment plants.

This allowed Seewer to write with authority, hammering home the point that the environmental problems didn't come out of the blue.

On Sunday, while continuing to track the water crisis, he took a step back to explain how water plant operators have long worried about this very scenario,

with algae turning the water a pea soup color and that the issues have been building for more than a decade. His lede: "The toxins that contaminated the drinking water supply of 400,000 people in northwest Ohio didn't just suddenly appear."

Seewer snared nine front pages in Ohio on Sunday, including a rare bylined A1 story in The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer. His work also played prominently on member websites, rising to the second-most popular on AP Hosted and earning the front page of MSN.

All the while, Seewer ran the rest of the Ohio report as BNS, filing other NewsNows and digest-length items.

There may have been just one thing that John Seewer didn't do over the weekend. As he later explained to News Editor Deb Martin: "Needless to say, I didn't drink the coffee."

For his aggressive reporting across formats, depth of knowledge of his coverage area and his multitasking that benefited the Ohio report and AP's coverage, Seewer wins this week's \$300 Best of the States prize.

**Brian Carovillano, Managing Editor, U.S. News**

### **Editorial Talking Points - week through Aug. 3, 2014**

**CUBA UNDERCOVER, Part 2** - Exclusive reporting by AP revealed U.S. efforts to stir up political change in Cuba. The scoop \_ by the same team that recently exposed U.S. efforts to create a secret "Cuban Twitter" to stoke unrest \_ revealed that the U.S. Agency for International Development sent nearly a dozen neophytes from Venezuela, Costa Rica and Peru to gin up opposition. The danger was apparent to USAID: One of its contractors, American Alan Gross, had just been jailed in Cuba for smuggling in sensitive technology.

The story began when Istanbul-based Desmond Butler got his hands on documents detailing how the program secretly dispatched young Latin Americans to Cuba under the cover of health and civic programs. Often posing as tourists, they looked for young Cubans to become political activists. The clandestine operation continued even after the arrest of Gross.

AP's all-format report was the work of a dozen reporters and editors in Washington, Cuba, several South American nations, Britain and Ireland. AP put sensitive documents in an internal document repository, employed secure phone lines and encrypted emails. AP interviewed people in Costa Rica, Venezuela and Cuba and located the handler of Venezuelan recruits, now living in Dublin \_ and got video of her running into her house and



slamming the door. The story played widely in newspapers worldwide and on the Internet, showing up on front pages in Mexico and Miami. Several team members appeared on NPR, Fox News and Telemundo, among other media outlets.

<http://yhoo.it/WVS71F>

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**NORTH KOREA SUMMER CAMP:** North Korea may not be the first place that comes to mind when you think of picking a summer camp. Yet the isolated nation has one. After a major face-lift, it reopened last week to welcome not only local kids but also 300 more from Russia, China, Vietnam, Ireland and Tanzania.

AP Pyongyang Bureau Chief Eric Talmadge and photographer Maye-e Wong were there for the occasion. The camp has everything from giant water slides and a private beach to video games and volleyball courts. And, of course, a big bronze statue of late leaders Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il surrounded by adoring children.

Wong's photos got wide use by subscribers who have come to rely exclusively on the AP for North Korea coverage. Wong wanted to capture the camaraderie between the children, but that was hard to find on the first day when bonds had yet to be made. North Korean media were staging pictures by getting children to pose, which Wong didn't want. She waited until she saw a North Korean boy giggling at a Russian boy being buried in sand. "Things just took place \_ organically," she said.

<http://on.mash.to/1lcm56N>

Paul Stevens

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