

From: Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]
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To: stevenspl@live.com
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Connecting

August 27, 2014

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On their way back???



Colleagues,

Take a look at the item in today's Connecting on a speaker installed in the newsroom of The Times of London that pumps out typewriter sounds, to increase energy levels and help reporters to hit deadlines.

Connecting wants to know:

Is it in AP's plans to emulate this bold move, by installing the sound of the Teletype in AP bureaus throughout the world? Click on the Connecting header to hear that beloved (to some), nostalgic (to all) sound, and if you hear of any reports that this is happening, share them quickly.

Got a Teletype in the Newsroom story to share? Send it along, if you're not afraid that just saying so will age you.

And for those of us who have saved old Teletypes, there may be hope that they're finally worth something beyond nostalgia.

Have a great Wednesday! With that, some items of interest.

Paul

An Insider's Guide to the Most Important Story on Earth

A former AP correspondent explains how and why reporters get Israel so wrong, and why it matters

**By Matti Friedman
For Tablet Magazine**

There are, in other words, many different ways to see what is happening here. Jerusalem is less than a day's drive from Aleppo or Baghdad, and it should be clear to everyone that peace is pretty elusive in the Middle East even in places where Jews are absent. But reporters generally cannot see the Israel story in relation to anything else. Instead of describing Israel as one of the villages abutting the volcano, they describe Israel as the volcano.

The Israel story is framed to seem as if it has nothing



to do with events nearby because the "Israel" of international journalism does not exist in the same geo-political universe as Iraq, Syria, or Egypt. The Israel story is not a story about current events. It is about something else.

The Old Blank Screen

For centuries, stateless Jews played the role of a lightning rod for ill will among the majority population. They were a symbol of things that were wrong. Did you want to make the point that greed was bad? Jews were greedy. Cowardice? Jews were cowardly. Were you a Communist? Jews were capitalists. Were you a capitalist? In that case, Jews were Communists. Moral failure was the essential trait of the Jew. It was their role in Christian tradition-the only reason European society knew or cared about them in the first place.

Like many Jews who grew up late in the 20th century in friendly Western cities, I dismissed such ideas as the feverish memories of my grandparents. One thing I have learned-and I'm not alone this summer-is that I was foolish to have done so. Today, people in the West tend to believe the ills of the age are racism, colonialism, and militarism. The world's only Jewish country has done less harm than most countries on earth, and more good-and yet when people went looking for a country that would symbolize the sins of our new post-colonial, post-militaristic, post-ethnic dream-world, the country they chose was this one.

When the people responsible for explaining the world to the world, journalists, cover the Jews' war as more worthy of attention than any other, when they portray the Jews of Israel as the party obviously in the wrong, when they omit all possible justifications for the Jews' actions and obscure the true face of their enemies, what they are saying to their readers-whether they intend to or not-is that Jews are the worst people on earth. The Jews are a symbol of the evils that civilized people are taught from an early age to abhor. International press coverage has become a morality play starring a familiar villain.

Some readers might remember that Britain participated in the 2003 invasion of Iraq, the fallout from which has now killed more than three times the number of people ever killed in the Israel-Arab conflict; yet in Britain, protesters furiously condemn Jewish militarism. White people in London and Paris whose parents not long ago had themselves fanned by dark people in the sitting rooms of Rangoon or Algiers condemn Jewish "colonialism." Americans who live in places called "Manhattan" or "Seattle" condemn Jews for displacing the native people of Palestine. Russian reporters condemn Israel's brutal military tactics. Belgian reporters condemn Israel's treatment of Africans. When Israel opened a transportation service for Palestinian workers in the occupied West Bank a few years ago, American news consumers could read about Israel "segregating buses." And there are a lot of people in Europe, and not just in Germany, who enjoy hearing the Jews accused of genocide.

You don't need to be a history professor, or a psychiatrist, to understand what's going on. Having rehabilitated themselves against considerable odds in a minute

corner of the earth, the descendants of powerless people who were pushed out of Europe and the Islamic Middle East have become what their grandparents were—the pool into which the world spits. The Jews of Israel are the screen onto which it has become socially acceptable to project the things you hate about yourself and your own country. The tool through which this psychological projection is executed is the international press.

Who Cares If the World Gets the Israel Story Wrong?

Because a gap has opened here between the way things are and the way they are described, opinions are wrong and policies are wrong, and observers are regularly blindsided by events. Such things have happened before. In the years leading to the breakdown of Soviet Communism in 1991, as the Russia expert Leon Aron wrote in a 2011 essay for *Foreign Policy*, "virtually no Western expert, scholar, official, or politician foresaw the impending collapse of the Soviet Union." The empire had been rotting for years and the signs were there, but the people who were supposed to be seeing and reporting them failed and when the superpower imploded everyone was surprised.

Whatever the outcome in this region in the next decade, it will have as much to do with Israel as World War II had to do with Spain. And there was the Spanish civil war: "Early in life I had noticed that no event is ever correctly reported in a newspaper, but in Spain, for the first time, I saw newspaper reports which do not bear any relation to the facts, not even the relationship which is implied in an ordinary lie. ... I saw, in fact, history being written not in terms of what had happened but of what ought to have happened according to various 'party lines.'" That was George Orwell, writing in 1942.

Orwell did not step off an airplane in Catalonia, stand next to a Republican cannon, and have himself filmed while confidently repeating what everyone else was saying or describing what any fool could see: weaponry, rubble, bodies. He looked beyond the ideological fantasies of his peers and knew that what was important was not necessarily visible. Spain, he understood, was not really about Spain at all—it was about a clash of totalitarian systems, German and Russian. He knew he was witnessing a threat to European civilization, and he wrote that, and he was right.

Understanding what happened in Gaza this summer means understanding Hezbollah in Lebanon, the rise of the Sunni jihadis in Syria and Iraq, and the long tentacles of Iran. It requires figuring out why countries like Egypt and Saudi Arabia now see themselves as closer to Israel than to Hamas. Above all, it requires us to understand what is clear to nearly everyone in the Middle East: The ascendant force in our part of the world is not democracy or modernity. It is rather an empowered strain of Islam that assumes different and sometimes conflicting forms, and that is willing to employ extreme violence in a quest to unite the region under its control and confront the West. Those who grasp this fact will be able to look around and connect the dots.

Israel is not an idea, a symbol of good or evil, or a litmus test for liberal opinion at dinner parties. It is a small country in a scary part of the world that is getting scarier. It should be reported as critically as any other place, and understood in context and in proportion. Israel is not one of the most important stories in the world, or even in the Middle East; whatever the outcome in this region in the next decade, it will have as much to do with Israel as World War II had to do with Spain. Israel is a speck on the map—a sideshow that happens to carry an unusual emotional charge.

Many in the West clearly prefer the old comfort of parsing the moral failings of Jews, and the familiar feeling of superiority this brings them, to confronting an unhappy and confusing reality. They may convince themselves that all of this is the Jews' problem, and indeed the Jews' fault. But journalists engage in these fantasies at the cost of their credibility and that of their profession. And, as Orwell would tell us, the world entertains fantasies at its peril.

Matti Friedman's work as a reporter has taken him from Lebanon to Morocco, Cairo, Moscow and Washington, D.C., and to conflicts in Israel and the Caucasus. He has been a correspondent for the Associated Press, where he specialized in religion and archaeology in Israel and the Palestinian territories, and for the Jerusalem Report, and currently writes for the Times of Israel. He grew up in Toronto and lives in Jerusalem.

(Shared by Susana Hayward)

AP photo exhibit, "A View of Daily Life," to open in Mitoyo, Japan

"A View of Daily Life," a photo exhibit by The Associated Press, will open this fall on Awashima Island in the city of Mitoyo, Japan.

The exhibit, which opens Oct. 1, 2014, comprises 56 striking AP images from 31 different countries giving visitors a unique view of everyday life around the globe. It is free of charge and will run through Dec. 14, 2014, at the former National Sailor School on the island, which is part of Seto Inland Sea National Park.



The exhibit, in association with AFLO and Mitsubishi, was displayed at the Gyokodori Underground Gallery in Tokyo earlier this year. It shows aspects of daily life in culture, festivals, fashion, children, food and animals. AP, AFLO and Mitsubishi donated all the panels for the event, which include personal comments from the photographers.

AP has a strong tradition of excellence in photojournalism. Throughout its history, AP has won numerous awards, including 31 Pulitzer Prizes for photography, most recently in 2013 for coverage of the civil war in Syria.

AP signs reseller agreement with ANSA

The Associated Press announced Tuesday a multi-year reseller agreement with ANSA, the leading Italian news agency, to commence Jan.1, 2015. Under the agreement ANSA will be AP's sole agency in Italy and will market and sell its text, photo and video content in the region.

"Italy is a key European market for AP and we need an agency with a significant presence there," said Daisy Veerasingham, senior vice president of revenue, international, for AP. "Although we will also continue to sell video directly to broadcasters, ANSA will be responsible for all other content sales. We are confident that its strong reputation and industry contacts will bring success and help strengthen our own profile in the market."

"AP is the world leader of multi-media information with recognized principles of independence which are in all ways similar to ANSA's." said Giuseppe Cerbone, CEO and managing director of ANSA. "The alliance with AP will further reinforce ANSA's leadership in Italy, upgrading the quality of its multi-media production, starting with photos and video and the coverage of international news. With this strategic agreement, the unique and innovative multi-media products produced by ANSA will be enriched by the prestigious and authoritative brand of AP."

Welcome to Connecting



[Walter Rastetter](#) - AP Business Continuity Manager, New York.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

[Charlie Monzella](#)

Stories of interest

[When Journalists Go Missing](#)



BY STEVE COLL, New Yorker

In 2003, when the United States invaded Iraq, I was working as a senior editor at the Washington Post. Our owner and publisher-Don Graham and Bo Jones, respectively-told those of us in charge of the newsroom to spend whatever was necessary to cover the war thoroughly and to keep our correspondents safe. We just had to give them a heads-up when it became clear how many millions of dollars would be at issue. (Those were the days.) They also decided to prepare for the possibility that one of our reporters might be kidnapped.

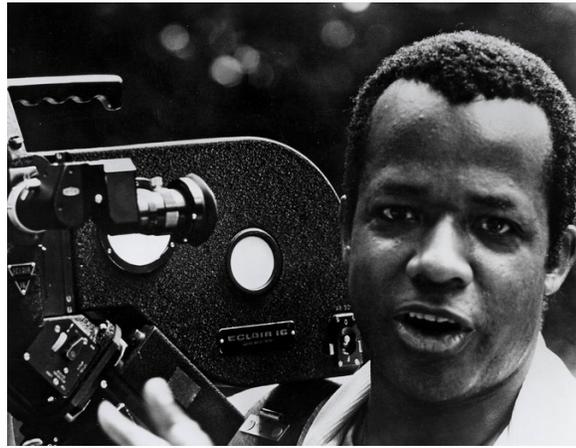
One afternoon, I was invited to an orientation meeting for an "operations cell" that would be convened the moment we received word of an abduction. My role would be to travel to Baghdad immediately, and help from there. Each of half a dozen other executives and editors would have complementary assignments. The paper had hired a private consultant who specialized in ransoming kidnap victims. He was a former C.I.A. operations officer who had spent much of his career in Latin America. He attended the orientation and explained a few basics about how the kidnap trade worked at the time. He spoke in a pronounced New York accent.

Photo above: A memorial service for James Foley; Irbil, Iraq; August 24, 2014. (AP Photo by Marko Drobnjakovic)

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[William Greaves, a Documentarian and Pioneering Journalist, Dies at 87](#)

William Greaves, a producer and director who helped bring an African-American perspective to mainstream America as a host of the groundbreaking television news program "Black Journal" and as a documentary filmmaker, died on Monday at his home in Manhattan. He was 87.



His daughter-in-law Bernice Green confirmed his death.

Mr. Greaves was well known for his work as a documentarian focusing on racial issues and black historical figures. In his later years he was equally known for his most uncharacteristic film, "Symbiopsychotaxiplasm: Take One." Made in 1968, it mixed fact and fiction in a complex film-within-a-film structure that made it a tough sell commercially, and it waited almost four decades for theatrical release. When it finally had one, in 2005, it was warmly praised as ahead of its time.

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[Journalist held captive in Syria arrives in US](#)

BOSTON (AP) -- Journalist Peter Theo Curtis returned home to the United States on Tuesday, two days after being freed by a Syrian extremist group that held him hostage for 22 months, his family said.

Curtis family spokeswoman Betsy Sullivan said in a statement that Curtis arrived at Newark Liberty International Airport Tuesday afternoon after leaving Tel Aviv. By evening he had been reunited with his mother Nancy Curtis at Boston Logan International Airport.

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[Solidarity in wake of Foley's murder inspires jailed Al-Jazeera journalist Mohamed Fadel Fahmy](#)

Al-Jazeera journalist Mohamed Fadel Fahmy has been languishing in an Egyptian prison since December. He is waiting for an appeal hearing on his seven-year sentence for "conspiring with the Muslim Brotherhood," but it is the murder of American freelancer James Foley--which he sees as an opportunity to gain global support for distressed journalists in Egypt-- rather than his unjust sentence that has made the Cairo bureau chief furious.

Fahmy told his brother Adel Fahmy, "[Foley's] slaying will not be in vain; it will spark a global revolution against terrorism that will liberate the same people he died trying to help [by telling] their stories."

Adel told me that his brother's reaction to Foley's death was the most upset Fahmy had been during nine months' imprisonment in poor conditions, and while suffering from a shoulder injury. Fahmy didn't know Foley personally, Adel said, but they had both covered events in Libya in 2011 after the fall of Muammar Qaddafi, when Fahmy was working for CNN. Foley's death moved Fahmy, who was reminded of the price some journalists have to pay in order to tell the truth, Adel said.

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[Turner Broadcasting offers voluntary buyouts](#)

Seeking to reduce costs at channels like TNT, TBS, Adult Swim and CNN, Turner Broadcasting today announced a voluntary buyout program for about 6% of its U.S.-based employees.

The buyout offers are taking place as part of a far-reaching effort to increase profitability across Turner's portfolio of cable channels. The effort is expected to eventually involve layoffs and other cost-cutting measures, as well.

"Given the current focus on reducing costs and prioritizing investments to maximize company performance, Turner will also undertake additional reductions in staffing," an internal memo said on Tuesday morning.

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[Michael Corn Named Senior EP of GMA; Almin Karamehmedovic Named EP of World News](#)

ABC News President James Goldston sent the following note to the news division this morning announcing that Michael Corn will become the new senior executive producer of "Good Morning America" and Almin Karamehmedovic will become executive producer of "World News."

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[Ferguson-like attack in Utah escapes media notice; race bias seen](#) (Doug Pizac)

On the surface, the cases appear nearly identical: Michael Brown and Dillon Taylor, two young, unarmed men with sketchy criminal pasts shot to death by police officers two days apart.

But while the world knows of the highly publicized situation involving 18-year-old

Mr. Brown, whose Aug. 9 death in Ferguson, Missouri touched off violence, protests and an angry national debate, most people outside Utah have never heard of 20-year-old Mr. Taylor.

Critics say there's a reason for the discrepancy in media coverage: race. Mr. Brown was black and the officer who shot him was white. Mr. Taylor wasn't black - he's been described as white and Hispanic - and the officer who shot him Aug. 11 outside a 7-Eleven in South Salt Lake wasn't white.

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[The Times' newsroom set to ring with the sounds of typewriters once more](#) (Bob Daugherty)

Almost as if the digital revolution never happened, the newsroom of The Times once again resounds to the clatter of the old-fashioned typewriter.



Nearly three decades after Rupert Murdoch's UK newspaper publisher revolutionised the industry by moving to Wapping and ending the "hot metal" era, his flagship title has reintroduced the distinctive sound of old Fleet Street.

To the surprise of Times journalists, a tall speaker on a stand has been erected in the newsroom to pump out typewriter sounds, to increase energy levels and help reporters to hit deadlines. The audio begins with the gentle patter of a single typewriter and slowly builds to a crescendo, with the keys of ranks of machines hammering down as the paper's print edition is due to go to press.

The development, which was described as a "trial" today by publisher News UK, has caused some bemusement among journalists, one of whom tried unsuccessfully to turn the sound off. The idea is one of a series of experiments introduced as The Times and other News UK titles have departed Wapping for new offices in the Baby Shard, London Bridge, South London.

The Last Word

[Watch this amazing time-lapse video of Marine One landing](#)

Oliver Cox, a producer in NBC's Washington bureau, shot this terrific footage of President Obama arriving back at the White House following a speech in Charlotte, North Carolina to the American Legion convention on Tuesday. (Cox used the new "hyperlapse" feature on Instagram to shoot the landing.)



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