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To: stevenspl@live.com
Subject: Connecting - September 2, 2014

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Connecting

September 2, 2014

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning.

Here are stories of interest.

Paul

Connecting mailbox

Bruce Hodgman: cool and collected, no matter the crisis

[Marty Steinberg](#) - Such sad news about Bruce Hodgman. Bruce and I worked closely together on the General Desk overnight for several years in the 1980s. I fully endorse Darrell Christian's eloquent statement about Bruce's decency. Let me add that no matter what the crisis, Bruce always remained cool and collected, no matter what the crisis.

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Dictator Tito: "He's not dead, I just saw him!"

[Jim Limbach](#) - I remember in the mid-late '70s when AP Broadcast was still in New York and the fledgling AP Radio Network was in Washington (Broadcast moved to DC in Sept 1983), we received a bulletin stating that Yugoslav dictator Joseph Broz Tito had died.

I place a call to the Belgrade correspondent to get a network spot and was told, "He's not dead. I just saw him!" Turns out someone had seen a preparedness obit on the message wire and put it in the report.

That resulted in many changes as far as obit preparedness pieces were concerned, along with the reported transfer of the responsible individual to the staff of the internal AP monthly newsletter.

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An embarrassing moment involving Matrix printer

[Dave Lubeski](#) - Reading about various problems with AP printer conversions reminded me of an embarrassing moment regarding one of the new Matrix printers when they were introduced in the mid-70s. One of our big problems with them is that they would frequently fail to put a period in at the end of a sentence.

I was the sports director at a Houston radio station, but it was my weekend for standby duty to fill in for any emergency. We were all-news all weekend long and I was called in to be a substitute news anchor.

The big story of the day was the L.A. shootout with the Symbionese Liberation Army from the Patty Hearst kidnapping case. Charles Bates was an FBI agent on the case and in the story he confirmed that a prominent SLA member was killed. The deceased was Donald DeFreeze who went by the name Cinque. (I mistakenly pronounced that name as sin-KYOO). An editor brought me the latest in the story right off the wire, It was an update confirming that DeFreeze was one of the dead and it was confirmed by Agent Bates. The sentence should have ended "...DeFreeze was also known as Cinque". The next sentence started with "Bates also said...."

The broadcast expression is "reading cold" which means reading it live on the air before getting any chance to look it over before going live. Because it was missing the period at the end of the sentence, I read it on the air as, "one of the dead in the shootout was Donald DeFreeze, also known as Cinque Bates."

The gang in the newsroom got a good laugh out of it. My face stayed red for

most of the afternoon.

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Remembering beep-beep of transmitters

[Dean Wariner](#) - In the early 60s I was a wirephoto operator at the San Diego Union-Tribune and can remember dreaming the beep-beep of the transmitters in my sleep. Since we had other duties in the photo department, we had to keep an ear out for each transmitter and get back quickly if one of them stopped beeping. It was boring work except when we souped the prints and saw the news popping up before our eyes in the wirephotos.

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He wasn't being frugal, just recycling

[John Kuglin](#) - Do you remember when AP started charging the members for paper and ribbons? At KBOW, a radio station in Butte, MT, the owner rushed into the newsroom and changed the spacing of the type from double to single. At the station in Forsyth, MT, a few years later, they reported terrible paper jams when we switched to the new printers. They also said the ink was leaking through the paper and the words were hard to read. COC Pratt asked me to stop at the station and give them a box of paper. I found out that the station would run about 9 feet of copy, then rip it off and turn the paper over and run it through the printer again. Small wonder the copy on the other side was almost impossible to read with the ink bleeding through. The owner, who had a reputation for being frugal, said the only reason for this was that they believed in recycling.

Welcome to Connecting



[Polly Anderson](#) - I was a reporter and editor at a newspaper (The News-

Gazette in Champaign, Ill.) before joining AP in 1985. I retired in 2010, a few weeks after the National Desk shut down in late 2009. (I was just a few months shy of my 25th anniversary at AP when I left.) I joined the General Desk in 1985, first as a rewrite, and then, from about 1990 to 2006, as late PMs national editor. Among the news events that broke during my shift were the Oklahoma City bombing, Columbine and other school shootings, the Killeen, Texas, cafeteria massacre and both attacks on the World Trade Center. On the side, I was the obit preparedness coordinator for national newsmakers from about 1991 onward, writing countless obits myself as well as assigning others to bureaus and national writers. After 2006 or 2007 I was a rewrite and continued as obit person. When the National Desk was dismantled, I wound up taking a buyout. While I am more or less retired, I still automatically think of obit preparedness whenever an aging notable does something newsworthy that would require an update to his or her profile.

Stories of interest

[Steve Isaacs, journalist and professor, dies](#) (Jim Clarke)

Stephen D. Isaacs, who became The Washington Post's city editor at 26, experimented with long-form journalism in a bid to save the old Minneapolis Star as its top editor, and was a demanding journalism professor at Columbia University, where he challenged students to develop 100 story ideas from a soda can of Tab, died Aug. 28 in Austin. He was 76.

The cause was complications from a fall, said a son, David Isaacs.



[CNN mourns loss of photojournalist Sarmad Qaseera](#)

(CNN) -- CNN lost a much loved and respected colleague Monday with the sudden passing of photojournalist Sarmad Qaseera. A longtime member of

CNN's Baghdad bureau, Sarmad had to flee his country in 2006 after death threats, eventually settling in the United States and continuing his work for CNN based out of Atlanta. He was 42.



In the darkest days of war and amid the chaos and despair it wrought, CNN staffers in Iraq could always count on Sarmad Qaseera to bring some light -- even humor -- to the worst of situations.

He was unflappable, committed to the job and yet, at the same time, a goofball who could provide endless laughter when it was least expected and most needed. And perhaps above all, he had empathy and compassion for those who suffered most from the war.

His sudden death on Monday has rocked his CNN family and a loving circle of friends and family, all of whom are trying to process how Sarmad could be taken so soon, and with so much more to conquer.

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[Katharine Weymouth announces plans to step down as publisher of Post, Fred Ryan selected as successor](#)

In a note to her Washington Post colleagues of 17 years, Katharine Weymouth today announced the transition to a new Publisher and CEO. She said, "The greatest honor of my life has been serving as Publisher of The Post these past seven years, working with all of you." Weymouth continued, "This is just the beginning of a wonderful new chapter for The Post."

Washington Post owner Jeff Bezos praised Weymouth's leadership of The Post saying, "I am so grateful to Katharine for agreeing to stay on as Publisher this past year. She has successfully led many new initiatives and assured that the first ownership change of this great institution in eighty years has been done smoothly and without skipping a beat."

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[Journalist Roughed Up And Removed From Georgia GOP Event](#) (Bill Beecham)

Over the past week there's been something of a brouhaha surrounding a journalist being forcibly removed from a local Republican event in Georgia.

The journalist was Nydia Tisdale, who went to Burt's Farm in Dawsonville, Georgia, to record video of speeches by David Perdue, the state's GOP nominee for U.S. Senate, as well as Gov. Nathan Deal (R) and others. Tisdale runs the website AboutForsyth.com.

Tisdale captured most of the Aug. 23 confrontation on video, which she has since posted to YouTube.

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[We can't let tech giants, like Facebook and Twitter, control our news values](#) (Latrice Davis)

Several years ago, Vint Cerf visited the Guardian in his capacity as Google's "evangelist in chief" - the kind of Silicon Valley title you can carry off only if you have invented the internet, which, luckily for Cerf, he had. He showed us mini-robots and talked about building the internet in space. We smiled indulgently, inwardly questioning the robustness of his faculties, and talk turned inevitably to "the future of newspapers". "Well," said Cerf, rotating his robot, "the problem is there's 'news' and there's 'paper', and those are two separate things."

It seemed so preposterously obvious as to be not worth further scrutiny. But Cerf's pronouncement, like his tabletop robot and astral internet, was more profound than we realised.

On 20 August, Dick Costolo, Twitter's chief executive, tweeted: "We have been and are actively suspending accounts as we discover them related to this graphic imagery. Thank you ... ". His tweet linked to the news that James Foley had apparently been executed, on video, by Isis.

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[When Amateur Photographers Make the Front Page](#)

There's a widespread belief within the community of professional photographers that amateurs, armed with cheap camera phones and DSLRs and supported by new media



organizations and social sharing communities, have become full-fledged economic rivals.

It's no secret that journalism is a sector in crisis - dwindling advertising budgets coupled with a deep-seated reluctance from media actors to evolve in the face of change have led many organizations to seek alternative ways to sustain their operations. But is the amateur photographer to blame?

On July 7, 2005, when four British Islamists detonated bombs aboard three of London's underground trains and one double-decker bus, commuters Adam Stacey and Alexander Chadwick used their camera phones to shoot images from the darkness of the city's tunnels, which journalists couldn't reach. Their photographs ended up on television and, in some cases, on the front pages of international publications including the New York Times and the Washington Post.

Two months later, the French newspaper Liberation raised the alarm, asking: "Are we all journalists?" It accused amateurs of trivializing and privatizing the news, with journalists left to wonder "whether the scaremongers who predicted the end of the media had been right all along."

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[Michael Brown shooting and the crimes journalists choose as newsworthy](#)

Since Michael Brown's fatal shooting on August 9, news coverage of the event and its aftermath has been followed by a second wave of analyses scrutinizing those initial stories for racial bias. When news outlets ran a particularly ominous photograph of Brown, wearing a red jersey, fingers splayed in possible gang signal (friends say it was his characteristic peace sign), African Americans took en masse to Twitter, using the hashtag #iftheygunnedmedown to post personal photographs-one sweet and one sinister-to show how the media skews narratives of black men.

The New York Times, for one, received pushback after publishing a complicated profile of Brown's spirited childhood describing him as "no angel," laid out in print and online beside what many perceived to be a gentler profile of the cop who shot him. Public Editor Margaret Sullivan described the use of "no angel" as "a blunder," as well as the decision to pair the two profiles in a way that "seemed to inappropriately equate the two people."

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[BBC World Service boss Peter Horrocks to step down](#)

The director of the BBC World Service, Peter Horrocks, is to leave the corporation in the New Year, it has been announced.

Horrocks, who has worked for the BBC for 33 years, has held the position since 2009.

The international service was moved from Foreign Office control to licence fee funding under his tenure.

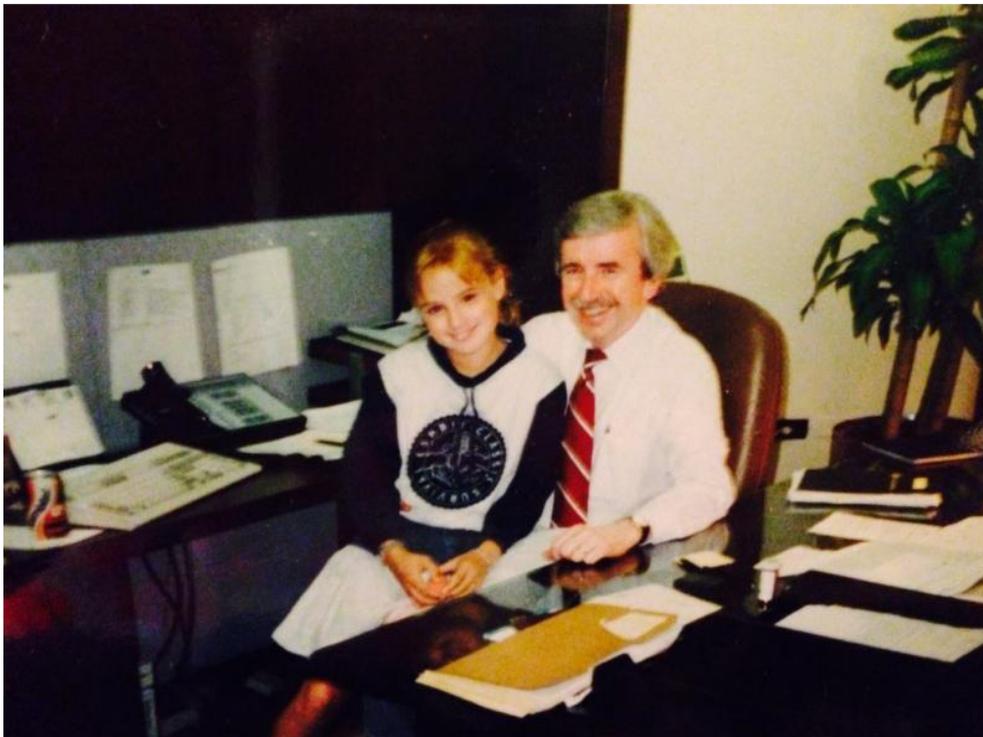
Horrocks said the time has come for him "to move onto his next challenge".

The Last Word

Monday marked the 11th anniversary of the death of AP vice president, news executive and chief of bureau Wick Temple. His daughter Shawn, a school teacher in New Jersey, posted on Facebook this photo of her with her dad in his office at 50 Rockefeller Plaza in the late 1980s.

Wick was True North to many bureau chiefs and others whose lives he touched.

He is missed greatly.



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