
From: Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]
Sent: Friday, October 03, 2014 9:18 AM
To: stevenspl@live.com
Subject: Connecting - October 3, 2014

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Connecting

October 3, 2014

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning.

Stories in Thursday's Connecting on the change in title from Boston chief of bureau to Director of Local Media for New England in an AP job posting - signaling the beginning of the end of the Chief of Bureau title in the United States - and a story on a new AP director for the Southern Cone prompted Connecting colleague [Peggy Walsh](#) to ask:

"Your description of the change of COB title to Director of Local Media made me wonder how many COBs (or whatever they're called) there are now. I know territories have expanded. And I was also struck by the "Southern Cone."

The answers:

There are currently 16 Chief of Bureau positions in the United States: Denver, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle in the West Region; Atlanta, Miami, Mid-Atlantic and Nashville in the South; Boston, Columbus, New York City and Philadelphia in the East, and Chicago, Dallas, Kansas City and Midwest in the Central. Regional Directors who also hold chief of bureau

positions are Kevin Walsh in the West, based in Seattle; Michelle Williams in the South, based in Atlanta; Eva Parziale in the East, based in Columbus, and Dale Leach in the Central, based in Dallas.

And, thanks for this answer from AP's Brazil chief of bureau [Brad Brooks](#): "What is the Southern Cone? The Southern Cone is Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and Chile - the AP put all the countries under a single director.

More from the Connecting mailbox

[Paul Shane](#) - I think I may have been first to post AP news "online." Why the quotes? Well, back before the Internet was widely available in the late 80's or early 90's, I forget, I managed software called All-In-One. It was used by most of NY headquarters administrative staff.

In an attempt to make clerks and others more aware that AP was in the news business, I found a way to post the news digest, a list of story summaries for the upcoming news cycle. A Communications department friend wrote a short program that copied the digest file from a communications VAX to the MIS machine whenever a new version was available.

The feature was wildly successful. The menu item was AP NewsBriefs.

(Paul was part of Management Information Services at that time.)

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Crist and his fan visit AP's Miami bureau



Miami's [Curt Anderson](#) shares this photo of a recent AP Newsmaker interview in the Miami bureau with Florida Democratic candidate for governor Charlie Crist - a former Republican governor - and Florida AP editors and reporters. On the floor at Crist's feet is a small portable fan an aide carries at all times to his events, to keep his look fresh. For more on the fan, which The Washington Post called Crist's most important campaign accessory and which the Post says has its own unauthorized Twitter account, click [here](#).

The photo shows, front row from foreground: Laura Wides-Munoz, Christine Armario, Tallahassee correspondent Brendan Farrington, Fla. news editor Terry Spencer.

Back row: Curt Anderson, Kelli Kennedy, video journalist Tony Winton. And Crist and his fan, of course!

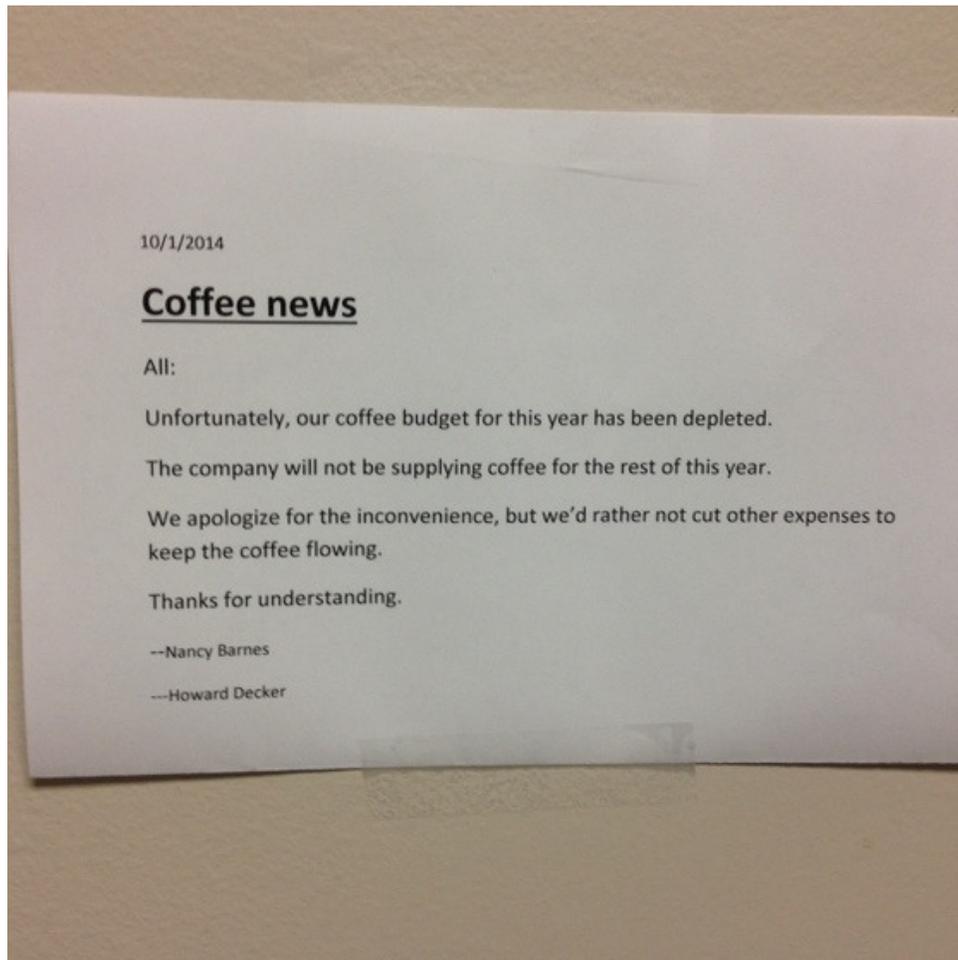
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An "unterrified" newspaper?

In the unusual newspaper names hunt, Columbia (Missouri) Daily Tribune chairman [Hank Waters](#) III shares: the Linn (Missouri) Unterrified Democrat.

The Chron Takes a Coffee Break

Houston Press: Times are hard in the world of journalism. On the heels of the New York Times announcing that it will cut 100 jobs from its newsroom, we bring you some sad news out of the Houston Chronicle today: the daily's newsroom has run out of coffee.



The above photo, provided to us by an anonymous (and probably under-caffeinated) source, has reportedly been posted in the daily's break room. The memo from editor Nancy Barnes and community news manager Howard Decker, who apparently together run the "coffee news" desk, says the newsroom has already gone through this year's coffee budget. The Chron's ink-stained workers will have to fend for themselves for the rest of the year, the memo states.

Journalism without coffee. Like we said, hard times.



Connecting wishes Happy Birthday

To

[Richard Horwitz](#)

[Mark Hamrick](#)

Stories of interest

[Ebola Strikes NBC News Cameraman in Liberia](#)

A freelance cameraman working for NBC News in Liberia has contracted the Ebola virus, the fourth American known to have contracted the disease in Liberia.

As a precaution, NBC News ordered the production team working with the cameraman, which includes Dr. Nancy Snyderman, the network's top medical correspondent, to return to the United States and enter quarantine for 21 days.

The cameraman's identity is being withheld at his family's request, NBC said, though the network said he was a 33-year-old American. He had worked for NBC for just one day before becoming ill.

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[How The Washington Post's Carol Leonnig Broke Open The Secret Service Scandal](#)

NEW YORK -- With the Secret Service under fire for a series of security lapses in presidential protection, there is one journalist who seems to have all the information. The White House, Congress and even Julia Pierson, who just resigned as director of the Secret Service, all learned details of the controversy from Washington Post reporter Carol Leonnig.

Why did members of the embattled agency turn to the press with concerns rather than pursuing the proper bureaucratic channels?

"I think they trusted The Washington Post more than they trusted their headquarters' leadership," Leonnig said in an interview with The Huffington Post.

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[In Secret Service, Some Blacks See a Flawed Shield for the President](#)

WASHINGTON - Representative Elijah E. Cummings of Maryland was at the grocery store the other day when he ran into an elderly black woman who expressed growing concern about President Obama's safety. Why, she asked, wasn't he being better protected by his Secret Service agents?

The furor that led to this week's resignation of the director of the Secret Service resonated deeply among blacks, outraged that those supposed to be guarding the first black president were somehow falling down on the job - and suspicious even without evidence that it may be deliberate.

"It is something that is widespread in black circles," said Representative Emanuel Cleaver II of Missouri, who like Mr. Cummings is an African-American Democrat who has been approached repeatedly by voters expressing such a concern. "I've been hearing this for some time: 'Well, the Secret Service, they're trying to expose the president.' You hear a lot of that from African-Americans in particular."

Both Mr. Cummings and Mr. Cleaver said that they did not believe the Secret Service lapses reported recently had anything to do with Mr. Obama's race and that they had tried to dispel the notion among their constituents. But the profound doubts they have encountered emphasize the nation's persistent racial divide and reflect an abiding fear for Mr. Obama's security that has unnerved blacks still mindful of the assassinations of Malcolm X and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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[The newsonomics of new cutbacks at The New York Times](#)

It looks like New York Times Co. CEO Mark Thompson got a little ahead of himself. Call it premature exuberance.

The Times had built major internal confidence, riding a wave of paywall-induced exhilaration, and eagerly moved on to what it had believed would be icing on the reader-revenue cake. I called it Paywalls 2.0 (The newsonomics of The New York Times' Paywalls 2.0). The Times has tried to combine four magical words, squishing them together in ways no one had yet: Digital. Niche. Mobile. Paid. It's the paid, of course, that's the toughest part.

[Washington Post Employees Aren't Too Happy With Jeff Bezos Right Now](#)

Jeff Bezos made his fortune fending off his employees' attempts to organize

into unions, but now that he owns the Washington Post he's going to have to take a seat at the negotiating table, and it's not off to a great start. Several dozen Posties, upset with Bezos's proposed cuts to their pensions and severance pay, turned 15th and L into a picket line Thursday afternoon.

The Post, now a year into the Bezos era, wants to freeze its unionized workers' pension plan and introduce a cash-balance model, which provides a lump sum or annuity on retirement, rather than the traditional plan which guarantees benefits regardless of market conditions. The switch only affects people hired before September 2009; newer employees will be given 401(k) retirement plans and supplemental savings accounts.

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[Facebook is more important to news distribution than you think, and journalists are freaked out](#)

Facebook's Liz Heron answered for a litany of perceived sins and slights last week during a conversation with The Atlantic's Alexis Madrigal and attendees at the Online News Association conference in Chicago. Journalists are anxious about being left out of the loop about how Facebook works, and they want answers.

Does Facebook play favorites in the News Feed Algorithm? Nope, according to Heron, the company's head of news partnerships:

AP Best of the States

Last summer, when video surfaced of a California Highway Patrol officer pummeling a woman alongside a Los Angeles freeway, law enforcement reporter Tami Abdollah attacked the story with her usual vigor.

She scored several beats, including the first sit-down interview with the woman, the result of Abdollah's outreach to the woman's attorney after the incident. She also reported that the woman, who suffered from mental illness and had been off her medication, had wandered into traffic and was pulled to safety by the officer.

Still, the images of the officer on top of the woman and beating away at her were powerful. The video quickly attracted widespread attention in Southern California and beyond. The victim is black and the officer white, prompting civil rights groups to call for harsh punishment of the officer. CHP's own internal investigation, forwarded to prosecutors, found the officer's actions warranted consideration of "serious" charges.

In her latest scoop, Abdollah learned the victim's attorney and CHP had reached an agreement on a \$1.5 million settlement that includes the

stipulation that the officer resign --an unusual element in a civil case.

AP's NewsAlert at 9:19 p.m. provided first word and the LA media scrambled to catch up. Local TV stations led their 10 p.m. broadcasts with the story and credited AP. Yahoo! was among the many sites that used the story. The LA Times' triple-bylined story credited AP in the copy.

For her latest beat on a highly competitive local story with national implications, Abdollah earned this week's \$300 Best of the States prize. And it's especially worth noting that this is Tami's second win in as many weeks (she shared last week's prize with Washington reporter Eric Tucker), and third of the year.

APME UPDATE - Oct. 2, 2014

SAVE THE DATE

* Oct. 10-11, NewsTrain Workshop, Las Vegas

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Highlights of the training sessions:

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The Final Word

4.4 billion people around the world still don't have Internet. Here's where they live

The world wide web still isn't all that worldwide.

An exhaustive new study by McKinsey & Company (really, it's 120 pages long) about the barriers to Internet adoption around the world illuminates a rather surprising reality: 4.4 billion people scattered across the globe, including 3.2 billion living in only 20 countries, still aren't connected to the Internet.

The sheer number of people unconnected in some countries is staggering. India is home to nearly a quarter of the world's offline population; China houses more than 730 million; Indonesia 210 million; Bangladesh almost 150 million; and Brazil nearly 100 million. Even in the United States, 50 million people don't use the Internet (though, as my colleague Caitlin Dewey points out, many of those who are offline in the United States are offline by choice).

Click [here](#) to read more.

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