
From: Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 04, 2014 9:41 AM
To: stevenspl@live.com
Subject: Connecting - October 4, 2014

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



Connecting

October 4, 2014

Click [here](#) for sound
of the Teletype



Colleagues,

Good Saturday morning

And to our Jewish colleagues, Yom Tov! as Yom Kippur - the holiest day on the Jewish calendar - began Friday night and ends tonight.

Here are stories of interest.

Paul

Ebola a constant threat in reporting from Liberia

(Krista Larson, an Associated Press correspondent based in Dakar, Senegal, arrived in Monrovia on Sept. 25 to join AP staff covering the Ebola epidemic. Here she describes some of her experiences.)

By KRISTA LARSON

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) - The nurse excitedly grabbed the sheet of paper with 11-year-old Chancey's lab results. "It's negative, it's negative," she shouted above the sound of her boots pounding the gravel as she ran toward the outdoor Ebola ward.



Soon the boy in a neon green T-shirt came running to the hole in the orange plastic fencing to greet her. The barrier separates health workers from those sick with one of the world's deadliest diseases.

"We're so glad he's going to make it. His little brothers will really need him now - their mother just died last night," a nurse told me.

Instantly that moment of rare joy amid Liberia's Ebola epidemic turned to sorrow, and I could no longer make eye contact with the beaming boy. Knowing that he did not yet know his mother was dead - and I did - was just too much.

Here in Liberia, more than 2,000 people have lost their lives to a disease that shows no mercy, and even the stories of survivors are tainted with unspeakable loss. Radio talk shows describe infants trying to breastfeed off dead mothers, orphans whose relatives are so afraid of contagion that they refuse to take in brokenhearted children.

For months I had pored over situation reports from the World Health Organization and listened to experts describe the possibility of a disaster beyond measure as the Ebola epidemic gathered speed. Nothing prepares you, though, for the heartbreak and the fear now ravaging Liberia.

Friends and family had begged me not to go. A housekeeper cried as I left for the airport and gave me a crucifix that she told me not to take it off even though I am not a Catholic. Even my assistant at the plastic baggage wrap station in the steamy overcrowded airport at midnight was sure this was all just some horrible mix-up. "Liberia? You mean Nigeria? You know people are dying there!"

The dangers of covering this story were brought home Thursday with word that Ashoka Mukpo, an American freelance cameraman who had just taken a job in Liberia with NBC, was diagnosed with Ebola and is scheduled to return to the U.S. for treatment.

After meeting my colleagues in Morocco, we embarked on a flight full of other journalists and aid workers for Liberia on one of the last commercial airlines still servicing the country.

We arrived in Monrovia at 3 a.m. in a thunderstorm, and after a sleepless flight, we washed our hands in a mixture of bleach and water for the first time and had our temperatures taken before we picked up the soggy luggage that was not lost by our airline. Rainy season in sub-Saharan Africa is always a sweaty endeavor, and it takes every bit of self-discipline to avoid touching your face to wipe the sweat from your brow.

Ebola is spread only through direct contact with the bodily fluids of people showing symptoms of the disease. That said, people have fallen sick after coming into contact with soiled linens. Vigorous hand-washing is the mainstay of Ebola prevention, though at this point it's nearly impossible to know who is sick with Ebola and who might just have malaria or the flu.

The Ebola patients I saw lined up outside the clinic my first day of reporting were not bleeding from the eyes - we're told that actually happens only in a minority of cases. Instead, we found a very weak and tired boy, and I winced at the sight of his mother touching his sweaty face with her bare hands. It might only be a matter of time before she too becomes sick.

It's hard to forget the reason why we are in Monrovia: When you make a call with a local phone number a public service message reminds you "Ebola is real!" before the call goes through. The wailing of ambulance sirens is constant, and men can be seen pushing the sick in wheelbarrows when no such emergency vehicle is available.

I'm here as part of a team of AP reporters including photographers Jerome Delay and Abbas Dulleh, video producer Andrew Drake, correspondent Jonathan Paye-Layle and television contributor Wade Williams, who fearlessly interviews Ebola victims with her warm, commanding voice.

"Wear long sleeves and don't touch anyone," she said firmly as I prepared to get out of her car and visit an Ebola clinic for the first time last week. "And leave your bag in the car."

I admit I was initially afraid to come to Liberia. Unlike the wars and coups I have covered, you cannot see or avoid Ebola as you can a fighter. If you are shot, you know to seek medical attention immediately. Ebola's incubation period, by contrast, is up to 21 days. Every sore throat, every

achy muscle can set off anxiety.

And yet the world needs to know what is happening here: Ebola is obliterating entire neighborhoods, leaving orphaned children with no one to lean on but a tree.

More and more international journalists are starting to come. Several dozen working for outlets ranging from American newspapers to European radio are now taking Liberia's story to an ever-widening audience.

Aid workers in West Africa say they need more than just gloves and supplies. They need more people willing to come here despite the personal risks. The anguish and pain are too much for Liberia to bear alone.



A woman being discharged from the Island Clinic Ebola treatment center in Monrovia, Liberia, is sprayed with disinfectant, Tuesday Sept. 30, 2014. Six months into the world's worst-ever Ebola outbreak, and the first to happen in an unprepared West Africa, the gap between what has been sent by other countries and private groups and what is desperately needed is huge. Even as countries try to marshal more resources to close the gap, those needs threaten to become much greater, and possibly even insurmountable. (AP Photo/Jerome Delay)

Judge orders release of Guantanamo videotapes

WASHINGTON (AP) - A federal judge on Friday ordered the public release of 28 videotapes of a hunger-striking Guantanamo Bay prisoner strike being forcibly removed from his cell and force-fed.

Lawyers for the prisoner, Abu Wa'el Dhiab, have challenged his treatment as abusive.

Numerous news media outlets, including The Associated Press, had asked the court on June 20 to unseal the tapes.

U.S. District Court Judge Gladys Kessler granted the news media's request, although Kessler said the tapes will remain sealed until some information on them is redacted. The material to be removed includes identifying information of everyone on the tapes except for the prisoner. She said faces other than Dhiab's will be obscured, as will voices and names.

"We are very gratified by this decision, which will enable the American people to see with their own eyes the sorts of abuses that are being heaped on these peacefully hunger-striking detainees," said Dhiab's lawyer Jon Eisenberg.

"Once the truth is fully brought to light, we believe these terrible practices will come to an end," Eisenberg said.

On Thursday, the judge rejected a request by the Obama administration to close a hearing into Dhiab's case scheduled for Monday.

Dhiab, a Syrian prisoner, has been held at the Navy-run prison for terrorist suspects at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, since August 2002.

The Obama administration has been in court for months seeking to limit the amount of information released in Dhiab's case.

"The court is well aware, as the government has emphasized, that in no case involving Guantanamo Bay detainees has any court ordered disclosure of classified information over the government's opposition," Kessler wrote in a 29-page opinion ordering release of the tapes.

"However - to be clear - that does not mean that in a given factual situation no court has the discretion to do so if warranted," the judge added.

The former Navy commander at Guantanamo Bay, Rear Adm. Richard Butler, said in a court declaration filed in July that even though the forced cell extraction videos are lawful, humane and appropriate, they

"are particularly susceptible to use as propaganda and to incite a public reaction because of their depiction of forcible ... guard interaction with detainees."

The videos that also contain footage of forced-feedings could be used "to foment anti-American sentiment and inflame Muslim sensitivities as it depicts ... personnel providing medical care to a detainee while he is restrained," Butler said in the declaration.

Making public a video showing a detainee receiving medical care while restrained "would exacerbate the world's perception of detainees in U.S. custody," Butler added. "Public release, in whole or in part, of videos showing forced cell extractions" or feedings would cause "serious damage to national security."

Associated Press names veteran editor Evan Berland as global news manager for weekends

NEW YORK (AP) - Evan Berland, a senior Associated Press editor and manager, has been appointed AP's global news manager for weekends.

Berland will oversee AP weekend operations in all formats. He will be based at the news cooperative's Nerve Center in New York, working before the weekend to plan weekend coverage and then leading it on Saturdays and Sunday.

He will be the gatekeeper on standards issues during the weekend and also help develop consumer outreach and analytics.



Berland's appointment was announced Thursday by Senior Managing Editor Mike Oreskes.

"Evan Berland is a proven leader of major news coverage," Oreskes said. "He will bring those skills to bear on one of our crucial challenges: creating a report for the weekends that is as strong as the rest of the week whether we have big spot news or not."

A 14-year AP veteran, Berland has been deputy editor for the eastern

United States since 2011. Based in Philadelphia, he played a leading role in coverage of the Sandy Hook school shooting, the Boston Marathon bombing and Superstorm Sandy.

He recently has been serving temporarily as weekend global manager, working on coverage of the Gaza war, the Ukraine crisis, the Islamic State group and Ebola outbreak.

Berland, 44, previously was AP news editor in South Carolina and North Carolina, day supervisor in Trenton, New Jersey and a newsman and chief political reporter in Hartford, Connecticut.

A graduate of Brandeis University, Berland also was a reporter at The Middlesex News in Framingham, Massachusetts.

Connecting mailbox

Newspaper names, outside the United States

[Claude Erbsen](#) - American newspapers don't have a monopoly on strange or off-beat names.

The main newspaper in my birthplace city, Trieste, Italy, is called Il Piccolo, or "the little one" in English. The name reflected the newspaper's small size when it first appeared in the 19th Century when Trieste was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.



And one of the biggest national newspapers in France is Figaro after the eponymous character in Mozart's and Rossini's operas.

Another French paper, Le Canard enchaîné, the chained duck, is the country's foremost satirical and investigative publication.

(Which brings us to The Onion here at home).

And I always thought it was rather amusing, or ironic, or just plain weird for there to be a Pravda -- truth -- in Moscow.

I'm sure there are plenty of other candidates for this round-up out there in the world.

-0-

Name changes in Communications

[Nolan Kienitz](#) - Over time the 'communications' group has had name changes as well.

I'm sure there are more, but off the top of my head ...

Traffic Bureau Chief became Chief of Communications and they were then morphed into something else that I don't even know the name of as it happened after my time with AP.

-0-

CoB title has long and proud history

[Kent Flanagan](#), on Facebook - The change in titles from "chief of bureau" to "director of local media" reminds me too much of Gannett's changes in newsroom titles at its newspapers, which serves only to confuse and obfuscate.

The CoB title has a long and proud history, and I will miss it when it is gone.

-0-

Some headline!

[Joe Edwards](#) - A community newspaper in Nashville ran this headline this week:

"Metro opens new domestic violence advocacy center"

Welcome to Connecting



[Mark Thayer](#) - AP, 1965-1990

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

[Peggy Walsh](#)

Stories of interest

[Resurrecting a Disgraced Reporter](#)

If someone told you today that there was strong evidence that the Central Intelligence Agency once turned a blind eye to accusations of drug dealing by operatives it worked with, it might ring some distant, skeptical bell. Did that really happen?

That really happened. As part of their insurgency against the Sandinista

government in Nicaragua, some of the C.I.A.-backed contras made money through drug smuggling, transgressions noted in a little-noticed 1988 Senate subcommittee report.

Gary Webb, a journalist at The San Jose Mercury News, thought it was a far-fetched story to begin with, but in 1995 and 1996, he dug in and produced a deeply reported and deeply flawed three-part series called "Dark Alliance."

-0-

Three things traditional media could learn from a crowdfunded Dutch news site (Mark Mittelstadt)

Just over a year ago, a Dutch news site called [De Correspondent](#) made a fairly spectacular debut - raising more than \$1.7 million from about 20,000 people, in what is still [one of the world's](#) most successful journalistic crowdfunding efforts. And how is the site doing now? As it turns out, it is not only doing well financially but along the way it has learned a number of important lessons that other media outlets, both traditional and digital, could stand to learn from.

De Correspondent co-founder Ernst-Jan Pfauth - a former digital journalist with Dutch media entity NRC - [recently published an update](#) on Medium about the site's progress, and said it has been able to convert over half of its initial supporters into regular subscribers. That means it now has almost 30,000 paying customers who contribute \$76 a year, or about \$2 million.



-0-

[How Much Americans Know About the News by Age, Education and Politics](#)

How much do you know about current events? That might depend on your age, education and even political party, according to a new Pew Research Center study. The survey was conducted September 25-28 among 1,002 adults and had survey takers specify their age, level of education and political affiliation.

On average, survey takers got 5 out of the 12 questions correct. On 9 of the questions, less than half of people got the correct answer. Most

(73%) were aware that the federal minimum wage is \$7.25 an hour. Only 1/5 knew that the share of Americans who currently live at or below the poverty line is 15%.

In the charts below you can see how age, education and political affiliation affected knowledge of these current events.

-0-

[Maybe the Internet Isn't Killing Newspapers After All](#)

Last week the Online News Association came to Chicago, and there was some chatter about the continued decline of print as it relates to the internet, generally identified as the culprit in the industry's downward spiral.

Something or the other got me thinking back to reading Matthew Gentzkow, the University of Chicago economist whom I interviewed after he won the Clark medal not long ago. Much of Gentzkow's work is on the economics and ideology of media, and part of the reason he won the Clark medal is his use of newly available data and technology to interrogate the long history of the media, especially newspapers. (Though Gentzkow, having received an award for as the best under-40 economist, is himself worried about the kids and their even newer technology outpacing him, just like the people in the industry he studies.)

The Last Word

[The geekiest tech jokes on the internet](#)

Lyndsey Gilpin, staff writer for TechRepublic, writes:

Everyone likes a laugh at a corny joke, right? Here are some of the funniest, geekiest tech and computer jokes we could find. And if we're missing any, send us yours.

1. There are 10 types of people in the world: those who understand binary, and those who don't.
2. How many programmers does it take to change a light bulb? None. It's a hardware problem.
3. A SEO couple had twins. For the first time they were happy with duplicate content.

- 4.** Why is it that programmers always confuse Halloween with Christmas?
Because 31 OCT = 25 DEC
- 5.** Why do they call it hyper text?
Too much JAVA.
- 6.** Why was the JavaScript developer sad?
Because he didn't Node how to Express himself
- 7.** In order to understand recursion you must first understand recursion.
- 8.** Why do Java developers wear glasses? Because they can't C#
- 9.** What do you call 8 hobbits?
A hobbyte
- 10.** Why did the developer go broke?
Because he used up all his cache
- 11.** Why did the geek add `body { padding-top: 1000px; }` to his Facebook profile?
He wanted to keep a low profile.
- 12.** An SEO expert walks into a bar, bars, pub, tavern, public house, Irish pub, drinks, beer, alcohol
- 13.** I would tell you a UDP joke, but you might not get it.
- 14.** 8 bytes walk into a bar, the bartender asks "What will it be?"
One of them says, "Make us a double."
- 15.** Two bytes meet. The first byte asks, "Are you ill?"
The second byte replies, "No, just feeling a bit off."
- 16.** These two strings walk into a bar and sit down. The bartender says, "So what'll it be?"
The first string says, "I think I'll have a beer quag fulk boorg jdk^CjfdLk jk3s d#f67howe%^U r89nv~owmc63^Dz x.xvcu"
"Please excuse my friend," the second string says, "He isn't null-terminated."
- 17.** "Knock, knock. Who's there?"
very long pause...
"Java."
- 18.** If you put a million monkeys on a million keyboards, one of them will eventually write a Java program. The rest of them will write Perl programs.
- 19.** There's a band called 1023MB. They haven't had any gigs yet.
- 20.** There are only two hard things in computer science: cache invalidation, naming things, and off-by-one errors.

What are your favorite IT, computer, and programming jokes? Tell us in

the comments, but keep it clean and not sexist. Be nice.

Paul Stevens
Connecting newsletter
stevenspl@live.com

[Forward this email](#)

 SafeUnsubscribe™

This email was sent to stevenspl@live.com by stevenspl@live.com |
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).



Connecting newsletter | 14719 W 79th Ter | Lenexa | KS | 66215