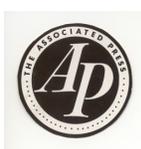


From: Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2014 9:29 AM
To: stevenspl@live.com
Subject: Connecting - October 22, 2014

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Connecting

October 22, 2014

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of the Teletype



Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning. (Especially good for San Francisco Giants fans, not so good for we Kansas City Royals fans...)

We experienced transmission problems that may have kept some of you from receiving Tuesday's Connecting. If you did not receive it, and would like to see it, send me an email to stevenspl@live.com It contains an outstanding piece by colleague Mort Rosenblum.

Here are stories of interest for today, leading with news of the death of legendary Washington Post editor **Ben Bradlee**.

Paul

Former Washington Post editor Ben Bradlee dies at 93

By **NANCY BENAC**
Associated Press



WASHINGTON (AP) -- In a charmed life of newspapering, Ben Bradlee seemed always to be in just the right place.

The raspy-voiced, hard-charging editor who invigorated The Washington Post got an early break as a journalist thanks to his friendship with one president, John F. Kennedy, and became famous for his role in toppling another, Richard

Nixon, in the Watergate scandal.

Bradlee died at home Tuesday of natural causes, the Post reported. He was 93.

Ever the newsman and ever one to challenge conventional wisdom, Bradlee imagined his own obituary years earlier and found something within it to quibble over.

"Bet me that when I die," he wrote in his 1995 memoir, "there will be something in my obit about how The Washington Post `won' 18 Pulitzer prizes while Bradlee was editor." That, he said, would be bunk. The prizes are overrated and suspect, he wrote, and it's largely reporters, not newspapers or their editors, who deserve the credit.



Yet the Post's Pulitzer-winning coverage of the Watergate scandal is an inextricable part of Bradlee's legacy, and one measure of his success in transforming the Post from a sleepy hometown paper into a great national one.

Click [here](#) to read more.

And click [here](#) for a Washington Post video: The legacy and legend of Ben Bradlee

AP's Frank Bajak among 6 honored for LatAm work

NEW YORK (AP) - Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism honored six journalists recently for excellence in reporting on Latin America and the Caribbean.



One of those accepting the Maria Moors Cabot Prize was **Frank Bajak**, the Lima, Peru-based chief of Andean news for The Associated Press. He stressed the need for journalists in the region to protect their sources, as well as safeguard the confidential information they provide, in reporting on what governments and other powerful forces are doing.

"If we are to remain credible - if we want people to trust us with delicate data - we must know how to protect its integrity. Otherwise, the information war will be ours to lose," Bajak said.

Columbia University President Lee Bollinger said of Bajak: "Under his leadership, the AP continues to hold national leaders accountable, while explaining how their deeds and misdeeds affect the United States".

Also honored were Tracy Wilkinson, Mexico bureau chief for The Los Angeles Times; Paco Calderon, cartoonist for the Reform Group; and Giannina Segnini, until recently the editor of the investigating team of La Nacion in Costa Rica. A special citation was given to investigative journalists Tamoia Calzadilla and Laura Weffer for work they did at Ultimas Noticias of Venezuela.

The winners spoke of the need to fight against censorship and oppression in addition to defending the freedom of expression.

Calderon spoke of the importance of humor. When he was working for the now defunct newspaper El Herald de Mexico, he caricatured then Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo as Snoopy after the leader said publicly that he would defend the peso "like a dog," only to see the currency plummet. Calderon lost his job because of the drawing.

The Cabot Prize was founded in 1938 and is the oldest award in international journalism. The winners receive a medal and \$5,000 each.

AP reporter notices official transcript of Obama's fundraiser speech omitted this remark

The official transcript of a fundraiser speech President Barack Obama delivered at a private residence in Chicago Monday afternoon failed to include a joke he made about finding unpaid bills on his Chicago home's desk.

"One of the nice things about being home is actually that it's a little bit like a time capsule. Because Michelle and I and the kids, we left so quickly that there's still junk on my desk, including some unpaid bills - I think eventually they got paid - but

they're sort of stacked up. And messages, newspapers and all kinds of stuff," Obama said during his address, according to the pool report.

That joke about unpaid bills, however, didn't make it into the official transcript.

Instead, as noted by Politico's Jennifer Epstein, the quote leaves out the reference to finding the stack of bills. It only quotes the president as saying that "there's still junk on my desk, including some newspapers and all kinds of stuff."

The Associated Press' **Josh Lederman** explained on Twitter that finding the quote required reviewing the tapes of the event.

Click [here](#) to read more. (Shared by Mark Mittelstadt)

Connecting mailbox

On women in the AP

[Kent Prince](#) - I asked Susan Linnee where she fell in the COB chronology. She said she was named COB for Iberian Services in September 1982, the first woman bureau chief in Europe. Although no one ever told her as much, she assumes that this came about as a condition of the never publicly released determination of the EEOC suit that the AP hire more women managers.

Susan noted that Edie Lederer had told her she was actually COB in Peru for only a few days in the mid 1970s since she was immediately expelled after having made fun of the Peruvian Navy's inability to hit any of the designated targets on some armed forces day celebration.

Susan recalls that Vicki Graham was the first long--lasting female COB in the AP when she opened the Beijing bureau around 1979. Susan said that, oddly enough, both she and Vicki are now in Nairobi. Vicki has recently become the training editor for the Nairobi Star after a lengthy stint at an English language Chinese paper. Susan is an editorial consultant at the Nation Media Group.

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[Peggy Walsh](#) - I really enjoyed reading your Connecting piece and Margy's recollections.

Oddly enough I joined AP just about the time the suit was settled. I didn't know anything about it. All of a sudden I got a check as part of the class and, I'm ashamed to admit, let my mother talk me into spending it on a fox jacket.

I was fortunate enough to join AP about the time they started trying to find

women to move up in the ranks. I can remember many talks with Wick about jobs. He was always counseling me on what to take a look at and what to avoid just so AP could say they promoted a woman.

His guidance and Margy's were a big reason I made the moves I did when I did. And they NEVER steered me wrong.

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[Linda Deutsch](#) - Seeing that great picture of Edie and me with the amazing Fran Lewine brought tears to my eyes. I know you were there that night when she received the University of Missouri Honor Medal for Distinguished Service in Journalism. It was long overdue and I am proud to say that I nominated her. The award meant so much to her. In spite of her magnificent work in journalism, she had not received a lot of awards. That weekend in Missouri was a highlight of her life. She was treated like a queen and students hung on her every word when she lectured a class. Sadly, she went on to the big newsroom in the sky not long after that. (*Linda in photo at right*)

Your story was important and it bears noting that those who participated as named plaintiffs in the suit against the AP did not remain on staff for very long after the settlement. Fran was taken off the White House beat and decided to quit. She worked briefly in government but eventually joined CNN at its inception where she had a distinguished career in broadcasting. Peggy Simpson, who left the AP after 17 years, remains active as a free lance writer in Washington and is a familiar face at the annual gatherings of the Journalism and Women Symposium. Virginia "Ginny" Tyson, a black woman, continued her career at the Los Angeles Times. I saw her at an event just last week. I have not kept track of the other plaintiffs. They were brave to put their names out there and they changed things for all women at the AP.



I love your story about Kelly Tunney picking up the bill. She is and always was a class act . Same goes for Sandy Johnson and so many others.

Thanks too to Richard Pyle for his list of memorable AP women. He was the Saigon bureau chief who requested that Edie Lederer be sent to cover the war -- an unheard of move in those days.

And I can pay tribute to the male bureau chiefs who didn't think of gender when they helped to advance my career. Tom Pendergast assigned me to the Manson trial and sent me north to cover the Angela Davis trial with Edie Lederer - two very young women on a major national story. Tom Johnson shipped me off on a day's notice to Guam in 1975 to cover the evacuation of Vietnam. And Andy Lippman didn't think twice about sending me to Alaska for the Exxon Valdez trial as one of

many big assignments culminating in the O.J. Simpson trial for which he nominated me for a Pulitzer. I didn't win but it meant a lot. Andy also succeeded in having me named an AP Special Correspondent along with Charlie Hanley, a title given to only a handful of reporters in the AP history. Mentors deserve kudos too.

One thing I should point out is that before the EEOC decree, we were all known as "newsmen." It took that decree to give us the title, "Newswomen."

BTW, I was late in reading this issue of "Connecting" because I am still working and had to file some important stories. Glad I caught up with this fantastic piece. And thank you, Paul, for doing it.

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[Carl Leubsdorf](#) - Dick Pyle's post on women who were in the AP when he joined in 1960 challenges my memory. The only female reporter I recall in the New Orleans bureau during my 2 1/2 years there was a summer intern. And when I reached Washington in June 1963, there were damned few, considering that there were some 85-plus reporters and editors in the Washington bureau, though some had come and gone in prior years. I can recall only three: Fran Lewine, whom AP sent to the White House as did other news organizations at the start of the Kennedy administration, primarily to cover Jackie Kennedy; Martha Cole, an excellent generalist from Texas who has been a general assignment reporter for many years; and Maggie Kernodle, the lively Carolina regional reporter at a time the AP had a large regional staff in Washington.

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[Dave Lubeski](#) - Not exactly an omission and not something easily verified, but in the 1970s at AP Radio, Cynthia Hecht became the first female to regularly anchor morning drivetime radio newscasts on a network level.

At that time APR also had a female anchor, Candy Crowley, now with CNN, anchoring afternoon drive and a female Capitol Hill reporter, Nora Wolf, who later married AP colleague Tom Raum and became Nora Raum and is now an attorney practicing law in Northern Virginia.

As a matter of fact, Cynthia Hecht, who became a teacher after AP, also married an AP colleague. We celebrated our 25th anniversary this past July.

Flying with the "Blues" in sneakers

[Ed Bailey](#) - Seeing Pete Leabo's great shots of the Blue Angels in San Francisco reminded me when I flew with the Blues out of Farmingdale Airport on Long Island into New York City back in the late 70's.

I got the ride having been in the USNR Motion Picture Atlantic Fleet Combat Camera Unit. PAO NYC CDR John Alexander got me the AP ride. FAA had not approved the flight over NY yet, and so I had only put on my own flight suit as the pilots were saying it did not look like a go. After standing around for a half hour the crew chief hollered, "Mount up we're approved." My pilot asked me if I get air sick, and I said no, not ever having flown in a fighter jet. He said he just cleaned up the dashboard from a ride with a radio man (I think it was Gambling).

All pilots climbed into their A-4 jets, and I went to put on my flight boots. Was stopped by my pilot and was told there was no time. I was wearing a new pair of white sneakers with a red stripe on the side. I had a F3 motorized Nikon with a full frame fish eye lens and a remote trigger that I wanted to strap to the dashboard for my big Ego picture with the blues over my shoulder. Attaching the camera



with gaffer tape was difficult as the dashboard on the A-4 is attached to the canopy, which is raised up in the air while parked. Having not flown in a fighter jet before I asked as I climbed in about a briefing in being ejected out. The pilot said as the other planes were taxiing for takeoff, "There's no time, just hang on if I have to shoot you out."

We headed for NY over the water at 500 feet at 500 mph. The formation of other planes was tight to my left as I shot air to air pictures, and I looked up and saw the Verrazano Bridge coming at us real fast. I looked at my pilot and asked how much time to the bridge, and he said six to eight seconds. I replied we're too low on the wrong side. Instantly we went from 4 o'clock low underneath the formation to 10 o'clock high, pulling quite a few G's. That was my first shot of the Blues flying over the Verrazano Bridge. I talked to the pilots at a Blues cocktail party the night before, describing the type of picture I had wanted to take. As we flew into NYC bay at 500 feet they asked me if I wanted smoke, and I said yes. I asked my pilot if he could make us higher, and he instantly popped us up a 100 feet or so in two seconds. I almost missed my planned shot as I was changing to another lens, and I dropped it on my lap and just barely grabbed it as it rolled down my leg.

The Blues smoked as they attacked 500 feet over lower Manhattan, and then pulled up in formation in a steep climb to the left, with the Empire State building and NYC in the background (my key shot), heading back east. As we flew along the coast of Long Island, at a much higher altitude, the team leader thanked me and said we'll see you, gotta go to Jones Beach and practice for Memorial Day show. With that, the Blues did a barrel roll around our plane and out before I could snap it with another wide angle lens.

That was the picture of all time nobody has ever made, and that was before AP Photos had zoom lenses, that I could have pulled back wide to make the shot. In the rush to take off, we had taped the camera down so fast I didn't have the motor turned on to fire the remote. So, I made one Ego picture with the fish eye (appeared in AP World). I couldn't get anyone to be at the airport that day to take my picture with the Blues team except my 3 year old son David, dressed in his sailor suit, with his Nikon F camera. As I got out of the cockpit my son was standing with a couple of Navy Admirals and Captains, I'm sure they said look at the damn reservist, he's not even wearing flight boots, but sneakers.

My son, 40 years old, is a Narcotics Detective in Manhattan South today.

Connecting sky shot - New Orleans Superdome



[Larry Hamlin](#) - It's not every day that one gets the opportunity to have their picture taken on top of the Mercedes-Benz Superdome, New Orleans. The occasion was the 2012 Final Four and former New Orleans AP technician Steve Lang (right) and I were helping with installation of network and photo equipment on the cat walk. The hatch to the roof was near by and we couldn't resist poking our heads out. AP Photographer Morry Gash told us to go on out and he would take a photo. I'm not sure what would have happened if we had been caught. They probably would have kicked us all out.

Welcome to Connecting



Larry McDermott

Larry McDermott worked for The AP for 18 years, starting as a summer intern in Little Rock, Ark., his home state, and moving through posts in Richmond, Norfolk, Lansing, Little Rock, Minneapolis, Detroit and 50 Rock. He was chief of bureau in Little Rock, Minneapolis and Detroit, and a general executive in New York, reporting to President Lou Boccardi. In 1988, he joined Advance Publications, also known as Newhouse Newspapers, in Lansing as chief of the group's Michigan News Service. From there he went to Bay City, Mich., as publisher, then to Springfield, Mass., as executive editor and later publisher and CEO, a position he held for 10 years before retiring in 2009.



He now owns and operates, with his wife Anita, a 40-acre organic farm in Rutherford County, N.C., in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The farm, Hardscrabble Hollow, primarily produces blueberries, goat milk, cheese, goat milk soap imbedded with luffas grown on the farm, eggs and various poultry, including free-range turkeys for Thanksgiving. There are many pets--horses, dogs, heritage breed turkeys, guinea fowl and a barn cat who's terrified of mice. You can read more about [Hardscrabble Hollow Farm](#), as well as Larry's blog, on the web, or go to the farm's [Facebook](#) page and "like" it.

Stories of interest

[How Edward Snowden changed journalism](#)

"Citizenfour," the new documentary about Edward Snowden, by Laura Poitras, is, among other things, a work of journalism about journalism. It opens with

quotations from correspondence between Poitras and a new source who identifies himself only as Citizenfour. This source turns out to be Snowden. Soon, Poitras and Glenn Greenwald, at the time a columnist for the Guardian, travel to Hong Kong to meet Snowden in a hotel room.

They don't know, at this point, if Snowden is who he says he is. They don't know if his materials are authentic. Yet Poitras turns on her camera right away. Greenwald, who attended law school, questions Snowden, quite effectively. Gradually, Snowden's significance becomes clear. The sequence is enclosing and tense and has many



remarkable facets. One is that we witness a historically significant exercise in reporting and source validation as it happens. It is as if Bob Woodward had filmed his initial meeting, in a garage, with Deep Throat.

Snowden comes across in the film as shrewd, tough, and hard to read. (My colleague George Packer, in his recent Profile of Poitras, captures the film's range brilliantly. Snowden also spoke to Jane Mayer remotely at this year's New Yorker Festival.) Snowden has said that he had never spoken to a journalist before he contacted Poitras. "I knew nothing of the press," he told the Guardian last summer. "I was a virgin source, basically." This is not entirely persuasive: he may never have talked to a journalist, but he behaved with exceptional sophistication, both then and later- he is very far from the proverbial "naïve source."

In fact, one of the least remarked upon aspects of the Snowden matter is that he has influenced journalistic practice for the better by his example as a source. Famously, when Snowden first contacted Greenwald, he insisted that the columnist communicate only through encrypted channels. Greenwald couldn't be bothered. Only later, when Poitras told Greenwald that he should take the trouble, did Snowden take him on as an interlocutor.

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[Where you get your news depends on where you stand on the issues](#)

Strong liberals and strong conservatives disagree on an awful lot - but there are a lot of ways they're more like each other than they are like those closer to the middle. And some of those involve the ways they interact with news media.

That's one of the takeaways from a new report from the Pew Research Center on how ideology and political polarization intersect with media consumption habits. The study, "Political Polarization & Media Habits," looks at how the news Americans consume and the outlets they follow help to shape or reinforce their political outlook. The report is based on an online survey of almost 3,000 Americans and divides them into five ideological groups based on how they

responded to issue questions: consistently liberal, mostly liberal, mixed, mostly conservative, and consistently conservative.

The large role Fox News plays for conservatives is very clear in the data: 47 percent of a group Pew identifies as "consistent conservatives" say Fox News is their main source of information on government and politics. "Consistent liberals" rely on a mix of sources including CNN (15 percent), NPR (13 percent), MSNBC (12 percent), and The New York Times (10 percent). Pew also found that 44 percent of consistent liberals on Facebook claim to have blocked, hidden or unfriended someone whose posts they disagreed with, compared to only 31 percent of consistent conservatives and 26 percent of all Facebook users.

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[Jill Abramson announces startup plans](#)

Former New York Times Executive Editor Jill Abramson announced on Monday night she is in the beginning stages of a startup aimed at offering "real money" to journalists for long-term projects.

Speaking with New York Times media columnist David Carr at a WBUR event at Boston University, Abramson revealed that she's been working with Steven Brill on the startup. Abramson was an early contributor to Brill's magazine American Lawyer, and spent nearly a decade as a writer there.

"We are actually pitching a startup that will be, not unsurprisingly, very ambitious, killer journalism," Abramson said Monday night, according to WBUR. "We're talking to some investors who are sounding very interested, and we are going to do great stories and offer great journalists actual money that they can live on to write something wonderful for us."

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[For Aaron Kushner, a Difficult Foray Into Newspapers](#)



Ever since the entrepreneur Aaron Kushner bought into the newspaper business two years ago, he has generated a steady stream of headlines - about himself.

Last week, Mr. Kushner stepped away from his role as publisher of The Orange County Register, his company's flagship newspaper, and The Los Angeles Times sued his company, Freedom Communications, for failing to pay \$3.5 million for delivering its papers. Details of that lawsuit elicited barbs from some critics, and

prompted The Orange County Weekly to compare Mr. Kushner to a character from the Popeye comic strip "who'll gladly pay you Tuesday for a hamburger today."

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[I'm a Black Journalist. I'm Quitting Because I'm Tired of Newsroom Racism](#)

Rebecca Carroll:

My first job in media was as a television producer. I was 28 years old, eager and brimming with ideas, some of which I'm sure were good and others of which I'm sure were not. Not long after starting the job, I asked to produce a segment with a well-known black actor whose work I had long followed. As the only black producer there, I knew from experience that when walking into an entirely white environment, it always felt good to be greeted by another brown face.

My white male coworker, who produced a lot of the entertainment segments and clearly wanted to meet this actor himself, said to me, in front of the entire staff: "Just because you're black doesn't mean you get to produce all the black guests."

This producer had a point: He may have known just as much about film and this man's career as I did, and being black doesn't necessarily make me better qualified to do a segment about a black person. But his response was so hostile and pointed that there was no doubting his intentions: He was making clear that he wasn't afraid to mention my race aloud, lest I thought it was my personal ace in the hole. His assumption seemed to be that I'd use my race as a cudgel to get good assignments. His strategy, in turn, was to use it as a cudgel right back.

That incident over 15 years ago wasn't an outlier. It was an initiation into a career fraught with similar experiences. And now I've had enough-I'm quitting the mainstream media.

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[When writing about Ebola, what images should you use?](#) (Bob Daugherty)

Lately, I've noticed the predominance two kinds of images with stories about Ebola - the virus itself and people in hazmat suits. I've used both for stories myself and wondered about the tone and message they're sending. Unlike what we've seen from West Africa, in the U.S. there aren't a lot of images of the two people with confirmed cases of Ebola. There are, mostly, press conferences, people in hazmat suits and the virus itself. It feels almost sci-fi.

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[Rush Limbaugh is America's least-trusted news source](#)

Thirty-nine percent of Americans say they don't trust Rush Limbaugh when it comes to news about government and politics, giving the radio personality the highest untrustworthiness rating of 36 news sources included in a recent Pew Research Center Study. Americans overall are three times more likely to say they distrust Limbaugh than to say they trust him.



Just behind Limbaugh is Fox News, which 37 percent of Americans say they don't trust. But this is offset by the large number -- 44 percent -- who say they do trust Fox News. Paradoxically, Fox is simultaneously one of the least and most trusted news sources in America, reflecting the sharp differences in partisan attitudes about the network.

When it comes to trust, MSNBC is something of Fox's liberal equivalent: 22 percent of Americans say they don't trust the network, giving it the fourth-highest untrustworthiness rating. But, again, this is offset by the 38 percent of Americans who say they do trust MSNBC.

The Final Word



Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Oct. 22, the 295th day of 2014. There are 70 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 22, 1934, bank robber Charles "Pretty Boy" Floyd was shot to death by

federal agents and local police at a farm near East Liverpool, Ohio.

On this date:

In 1746, Princeton University was first chartered as the College of New Jersey.

In 1797, French balloonist Andre-Jacques Garnerin (gahr-nayr-AN') made the first parachute descent, landing safely from a height of about 3,000 feet over Paris.

In 1836, Sam Houston was inaugurated as the first constitutionally elected president of the Republic of Texas.

In 1883, the original Metropolitan Opera House in New York held its grand opening with a performance of Gounod's "Faust."

In 1928, Republican presidential nominee Herbert Hoover spoke of the "American system of rugged individualism" in a speech at New York's Madison Square Garden.

In 1953, the Franco-Lao Treaty of Amity and Association effectively made Laos an independent member of the French Union.

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy revealed the presence of Soviet-built missile bases under construction in Cuba and announced a quarantine of all offensive military equipment being shipped to the Communist island nation.

In 1964, Jean-Paul Sartre was named winner of the Nobel Prize in literature, even though the French writer had said he would decline the award.

In 1979, the U.S. government allowed the deposed Shah of Iran to travel to New York for medical treatment - a decision that precipitated the Iran hostage crisis. French conductor and music teacher Nadia Boulanger died in Paris.

In 1981, the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization was decertified by the federal government for its strike the previous August.

In 1986, President Ronald Reagan signed into law sweeping tax-overhaul legislation.

In 1991, the European Community and the European Free Trade Association concluded a landmark accord to create a free trade zone of 19 nations by 1993.

Ten years ago: In a wrenching videotaped statement, aid worker Margaret Hassan, kidnapped in Baghdad, begged the British government to help save her by withdrawing its troops from Iraq, saying these "might be my last hours." (Hassan was apparently killed by her captors a month later.) President George W. Bush signed a corporate tax overhaul to close loopholes and provide \$136 billion in new

tax breaks for businesses, farmers and others.

Five years ago: Mortars fired by Islamic militants slammed into Somalia's airport as President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed boarded a plane, sparking battles that killed at least 24 people; the president was unhurt. Gunmen kidnapped Gauthier Lefevre, a French staff member working for the International Committee of the Red Cross, in Sudan's western Darfur region. (Lefevre was released in March 2010.) Comedian Soupy Sales died in New York at age 83.

One year ago: The United States defended drone strikes targeting al-Qaida operatives and others, rejecting reports by Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International questioning the legality of attacks that the groups asserted had killed or wounded scores of civilians in Yemen and Pakistan.

Today's Birthdays: Black Panthers co-founder Bobby Seale is 78. Actor Christopher Lloyd is 76. Actor Derek Jacobi is 76. Actor Tony Roberts is 75. Movie director Jan (Yahn) de Bont is 71. Actress Catherine Deneuve is 71. Rock musician Leslie West (Mountain) is 69. Former Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour is 67. Actor Jeff Goldblum is 62. Rock musician Greg Hawkes is 62. Movie director Bill Condon is 59. Actor Luis Guzman is 57. Actor-writer-producer Todd Graff is 55. Rock musician Cris Kirkwood is 54. Actor-comedian Bob Odenkirk is 52. Olympic gold medal figure skater Brian Boitano is 51. Christian singer TobyMac is 50. Singer-songwriter John Wesley Harding is 49. Actress Valeria Golino is 48. Comedian Carlos Mencia is 47. Country singer Shelby Lynne is 46. Reggae rapper Shaggy is 46. Movie director Spike Jonze is 45. Rapper Tracey Lee is 44. Actress Saffron Burrows is 42. MLB player Ichiro Suzuki is 41. Actor Jesse Tyler Ferguson is 39. Christian rock singer-musician Jon Foreman (Switchfoot) is 38. Actor Michael Fishman is 33. Talk show host Michael Essany is 32. Rock musician Rickard (correct) Goransson (Carolina Liar) is 31. Rock musician Zac Hanson (Hanson) is 29. Actor Jonathan Lipnicki is 24. Actress Sofia Vassilieva (vas-ihl-lee-A'-vuh) is 22.

Thought for Today: "There is no such thing as notoriety in the United States these days, let alone infamy. Celebrity is all." - Christopher Hitchens, Anglo-American author and essayist (1949-2011).

Paul Stevens
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stevenspl@live.com

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