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Sent: Friday, October 31, 2014 8:56 AM
To: stevenspl@live.com
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Connecting

October 31, 2014

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning - and Happy Halloween!

Based on the off-the-charts popularity of the Disney movie "Frozen," it's a sure bet that you'll be seeing lots of kids dressed as Elsa the Ice Queen or Olaf the Snowman knocking at your front door tonight on Trick Or Treat night.

Ye Olde Connecting Editor happens to know these two young people modeling their outfits on the night before...and expects a visit from Brennan and Sophie tonight.



Got a Halloween picture (or story) to share - of you, or the kids or grandkids? Send along for tomorrow's Connecting.

Paul

AP asks for accounting of fake FBI news stories

SEATTLE (AP) - Senate Judiciary Chairman Patrick Leahy and The Associated Press sent separate letters to U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder on Thursday expressing concerns that the FBI faked an AP story to catch a bomb threat suspect in 2007. The AP also asked the Justice Department to account for other times it has posed as a media organization in an investigation.

"When law enforcement appropriates the identity of legitimate media institutions, it not only raises questions of copyright and trademark infringement but also potentially undermines the integrity and credibility of an independent press," wrote Leahy, a Vermont Democrat.

Documents obtained by the San Francisco-based Electronic Frontier Foundation and publicized this week by Christopher Soghoian, the principal technologist for the American Civil Liberties Union, revealed that the FBI's Seattle office forged an AP story to help catch a 15-year-old suspect who had been making bomb threats at a high school near Olympia.

The FBI obtained a warrant from a federal magistrate judge to send a "communication" to a social media account associated with the bomb threats. The "communication," which contained a software tool that could verify Internet addresses, turned out to be a link to a phony AP story about the bomb threats posted on a Web page created by the FBI. The suspect clicked on the link, revealing his computer's location and Internet address, and helping agents confirm his identity.

In a written statement, Frank Montoya Jr., the FBI's special agent in charge in Seattle, said the technique is used "in very rare circumstances."

"Every effort we made in this investigation had the goal of preventing a tragic event like what happened at Marysville and Seattle Pacific University," he said, referring to two local school shootings this year.

The AP said in its letter that it is never appropriate for the government to pose as an independent news organization. It requested an accounting of how often the DOJ has done so; sought Holder's word that the DOJ would never again misrepresent itself as the AP; and asked for policies and guidelines to ensure the DOJ does not further impersonate news organizations.

"The FBI both misappropriated the trusted name of The Associated Press and created a situation where our credibility could have been undermined on a large scale," AP General Counsel Karen Kaiser wrote. "The FBI may have intended this false story as a trap for only one person. However, the individual could easily have reposted this story to social networks, distributing to thousands of people, under our name, what was essentially a piece of government disinformation."

The Justice Department did not immediately respond to requests for comment on the letters.

How the AP busted Nazi suspects receiving Social Security payments

After three years of on-again-off-again investigation, David Rising finally sighted his quarry this summer. He was a small man, bespectacled and balding, peering over a second-story window ledge to survey his surroundings.

Rising, a Berlin correspondent for The Associated Press, had traveled a long way to see this man - all the way to Osijek, a mid-size city in Croatia nestled along the banks of the Drava River. The man, Jakob Denzinger, was one of the last living subjects of a story the AP had been chipping away at for years, a story about a decades-old policy that connected American taxpayers to individuals suspected of Nazi war crimes.

On Oct. 19, the AP moved that story, a 4,320-word investigation into a loophole that allowed Nazi suspects, including Denzinger, to receive monthly payments from the United States Social Security Administration.

The tale behind the investigation - a ponderous project that required three reporters spread out over two continents - gives a look at how the AP is leveraging its year-old international investigative team and its global network of correspondents to bring ambitious stories to term.

Click [here](#) to read more. *(Shared by Paul Colford)*

Larson named AP's West Africa bureau chief

JOHANNESBURG (AP) - Krista Larson, who has covered the Ebola outbreak and the deadly conflict in Central African Republic for The Associated Press, has been named bureau chief for West Africa for the news cooperative.

The appointment was announced Thursday by AP Africa Editor Andrew Selsky.



Larson has worked in Africa since 2008, first as a supervisory editor at the AP's Africa regional desk in Johannesburg. In 2012, she became a correspondent based in Dakar, Senegal.

As bureau chief, she will be responsible for leading news

coverage in 22 countries stretching from Mauritania to Congo, including all three nations hardest hit by Ebola - Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Larson will be based in Dakar, where she will help lead a team of reporters, photographers and video journalists.

"Larson has deep knowledge of the region and the journalism skills to produce superlative breaking news coverage, feature writing and investigative reporting for our global audience," Selsky said.

Larson has most recently been covering the Ebola crisis. She was in Central African Republic when Christian fighters attacked the capital, Bangui, sparking months of sectarian fighting. By going over lists from village leaders and hospital and morgue records, Larson established that the civilian death toll from the conflict in Central African Republic numbered at least 5,000, more than double the U.N. estimate.

In 2013, she was part of an AP team that covered the French-led war against an al-Qaida branch in Mali.

Larson, 36, began her AP career as an intern in the Paris bureau in 2001, and worked as a reporter for the news cooperative in Vermont and New Jersey. She was also an editor on the AP's national and international

desks in New York.

A native of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, she graduated from Northwestern University and has a master's degree in journalism from Northwestern.

Connecting mailbox

[Dave Tomlin](#) - We were in LA last week to see my son Ben's brand new daughter Penelope Rose, but we certainly couldn't blow town without saying hello to Andy (Lippman). Here we are at Shakers in Pasadena.



Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

[Mike Graczyk](#)

Stories of interest

[Which news organization is the most trusted? The answer is complicated.](#)

Our recent report, Political Polarization and Media Habits, finds that trust and distrust in the news media varies greatly by political ideology. Many readers asked us: Among the 36 news organizations we asked about, which one do Americans trust most? The answer is more complex than it may seem and can be measured in a number of different ways. Here's a breakdown:

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[Family of jailed Washington Post journalist, held for 100 days, asks Iran to free him](#)

The family of a Washington Post reporter held without charge in Iran for more than three months called Wednesday on the authorities in Tehran to free him.



An open letter signed by Jason Rezaian's brother, Ali, and his mother, [Mary Breme Rezaian](#), was released 100 days after Rezaian was arrested under still-vague circumstances, along with his wife and another couple. Rezaian's family said he is being held in solitary confinement in the notorious Evin prison, which houses common criminals as well as dissidents, intellectuals and journalists.

Because no charges have been brought against him, Rezaian has been prohibited from hiring a lawyer, his family said.

(Photo above right shows Jason with his wife Yeganeh Salehi in 2013.)

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[The news business should refuse Facebook's deal](#)

Facebook wants publishers to become its junior partners, embedding their news and content into Facebook itself (at least on mobile) and sharing the ad revenue, The New York Times reported earlier this week.

New ad revenue always looks enticing in the digital space, where it's hard to come by in meaningful chunks. But this is a deal that publishers, who are already too dependent on the social network, should turn down flat.

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[How Retirement Was Invented](#) (Bob Sherwood)

In 1881 Otto von Bismarck, the conservative minister president of Prussia, presented a radical idea to the Reichstag: government-run financial support for older members of society. In other words, retirement. The idea was radical because back then, people simply did not retire. If you were alive, you worked-probably on a farm-or, if you were wealthier, managed a farm or larger estate.

But von Bismarck was under pressure, from socialist opponents, to do better by the people in his country, and so he argued to the Reichstag that "those who are disabled from work by age and invalidity have a well-grounded claim to care from the state." It would take eight years, but by the end of the decade, the German government would create a retirement system, which provided for citizens over the age of 70-if they lived that long.

This was a big "if," at the time. That retirement age just about aligned with life expectancy in Germany then. Even with retirement, most people still worked until they died.

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[Sally Quinn throws Ben Bradlee one last A-list party](#)

Ben and Sally.

And now, just Sally.

If the funeral of Benjamin Crowninshield Bradlee marked the end of an era in Washington journalism, the invitation-only funeral reception marked the end of another kind: A last hurrah for the A-list gatherings hosted by the legendary Washington Post editor and his personal life of the party, Sally Quinn.

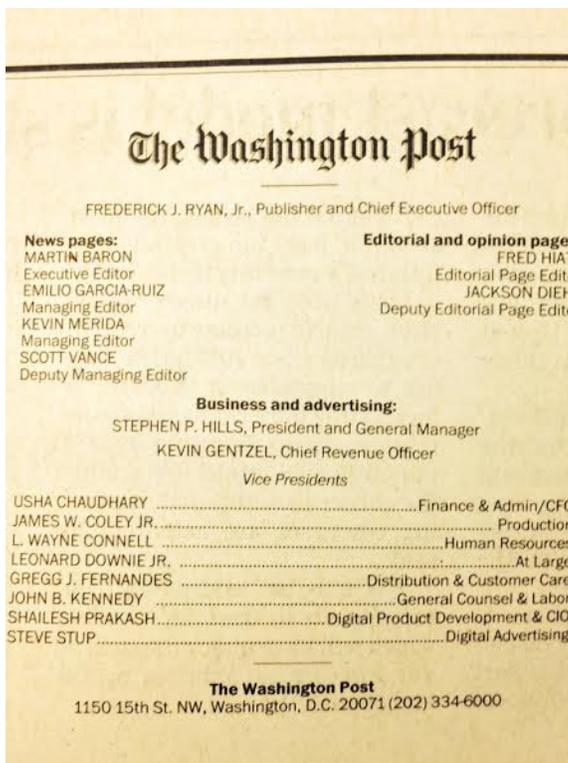
An invitation to the couple's historic Georgetown home was one of the most coveted status symbols in the nation's capital, an entry to an elite

salon of the powerful, talented and witty. For Ben's final sendoff, his wife of 36 years invited 800 or so friends and colleagues to the house for a party on her tented back lawn. The favored packed in like sardines. The uninvited - who not only wanted to pay their respects to the family but wanted the world to see them paying those respects - sulked at home and complained to friends.

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Washington Post will soon have an all-male masthead

The Washington Post announced today (Thursday) that Usha Chaudhary, its chief financial officer and vice president for finance and administration, would depart Nov. 21 to take a leadership post at the Pew Charitable Trusts. The news follows the Oct. 1 [departure of Publisher Katharine Weymouth](#), who was replaced by former Allbritton Communications Co. executive Fred Ryan. Together, these developments will leave The Post's masthead with absolute gender uniformity.



[GateHouse CEO is served by his employee trying to make a few extra bucks at McDonald's](#)



Romensko:

GateHouse Media CEO Mike Reed has been collecting six-figure annual bonuses while his journalists haven't had raises in seven years. As reported here last week, a health-care reporter at GateHouse's Springfield (IL) State Journal-Register works at McDonald's on weekends to make ends meet. This cartoon was drawn by Chris Britt, who was laid off from the State Journal-Register in 2012.

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[The Inside Story Of Matt Taibbi's Departure From First Look Media](#)

(Latrice Davis)

Matt Taibbi, who joined First Look Media just seven months ago, left the company on Tuesday. His departure-which he describes as a refusal to accept a work reassignment, and the company describes as a resignation-was the culmination of months of contentious disputes with First Look founder Pierre Omidyar, chief operating officer Randy Ching, and president John Temple over the structure and management of Racket, the digital magazine Taibbi was hired to create. Those disputes were exacerbated by a recent complaint from a Racket employee about Taibbi's behavior as a manager.

The departure of the popular former Rolling Stone writer is a serious setback for First Look in its first year of operations. Last January, Omidyar announced with great fanfare that he would personally invest \$250 million in the company to build "a general interest news site that will cover topics ranging from entertainment and sports to business and the economy" incorporating multiple "digital magazines" as well as a "flagship news site."

The Final Word

[At CIA Starbucks, even the baristas are covert](#) (Bob Daugherty)

The new supervisor thought his idea was innocent enough. He wanted the baristas to write the names of customers on their cups to speed up lines and ease confusion, just like other Starbucks do around the world.

But these aren't just any customers. They are regulars at the CIA Starbucks.

"They could use the alias 'Polly-O string cheese' for all I care," said a food services supervisor at the Central Intelligence Agency, asking that his identity remain unpublished for security reasons. "But giving any name at all was making people - you know, the undercover agents - feel very uncomfortable. It just didn't work for this location."

This purveyor of skinny lattes and double cappuccinos is deep inside the agency's forested Langley, Va., compound.

Welcome to the "Stealthy Starbucks," as a few officers affectionately call it.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Oct. 31, the 304th day of 2014. There are 61 days left in the year. This is Halloween.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 31, 1864, Nevada became the 36th state as President Abraham Lincoln signed a proclamation. (In order to achieve statehood, Nevada had sent its draft constitution to Washington, where it was misplaced; in order to get the proclamation signed before Election Day, James Nye, the territorial governor, sent another copy by telegraph at a cost of \$3,416.77 for 16,543 words; allowing for inflation, today that would be about \$50,000.)

On this date:

In 1517, Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on the door of the Wittenberg Palace church, marking the start of the Protestant Reformation in Germany.

In 1795, English poet John Keats was born in London.

In 1887, Nationalist Chinese leader Chiang Kai-shek was born in Zhejiang Province.

In 1926, magician Harry Houdini died in Detroit of gangrene and peritonitis resulting from a ruptured appendix.

In 1941, the Navy destroyer USS Reuben James was torpedoed by a German U-boat off Iceland with the loss of some 100 lives, even though the United States had not yet entered World War II. Work was completed on the Mount Rushmore National Memorial in South Dakota, begun in 1927.

In 1959, a U.S. Marine reservist showed up at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow to declare he was renouncing his American citizenship so he could live in the Soviet Union. His name: Lee Harvey Oswald.

In 1961, the body of Josef Stalin was removed from Lenin's Tomb as part of the Soviet Union's "de-Stalinization" drive.

In 1964, Theodore C. Freeman, 34, became the first member of NASA's astronaut corps to die when his T-38 jet crashed while approaching Ellington Air Force Base in Houston.

In 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson ordered a halt to all U.S. bombing of North Vietnam, saying he hoped for fruitful peace negotiations.

In 1984, Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated by two Sikh (seek) security guards.

In 1994, a Chicago-bound American Eagle ATR-72 crashed in northern Indiana, killing all 68 people aboard.

In 1999, EgyptAir Flight 990, bound from New York to Cairo, crashed off the Massachusetts coast, killing all 217 people aboard.

Ten years ago: In the closing hours of their bitter campaign, President George W. Bush and Democratic challenger Sen. John Kerry charged through the critical battlegrounds of Florida and Ohio, going from hushed Sunday church services to raucous campaign rallies with promises to keep America safe.

Five years ago: A registered sex offender was arrested in Cleveland after police found six decomposing bodies at his home. (Authorities turned up the bodies of 11 women at the home of Anthony Sowell, who was convicted and sentenced to death in 2011.) The New York Yankees won

Game 3 of the World Series, defeating the Philadelphia Phillies 8-5 to give New York a 2-1 Series lead.

One year ago: The Federal Aviation Administration issued new guidelines allowing airline passengers to keep their electronic devices turned on throughout the entire flight, but not to talk on their cellphones. A federal appeals court ruled that most of Texas' tough new abortion restrictions could take effect immediately. Toronto Mayor Rob Ford said he had "no reason to resign" after police said they'd obtained a video that appeared to show Ford smoking a crack pipe.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Lee Grant is 89. Former astronaut Michael Collins is 84. Former CBS anchorman Dan Rather is 83. Folk singer Tom Paxton is 77. Actor Ron Rifkin is 76. Actress Sally Kirkland is 73. Actor David Ogden Stiers is 72. Actor Brian Doyle-Murray is 69. Actor Stephen Rea is 68. Olympic gold medal long-distance runner Frank Shorter is 67. Actress Deidre Hall is 66. Talk show host Jane Pauley is 64. Actor Brian Stokes Mitchell is 57. Movie director Peter Jackson is 53. Rock musician Larry Mullen is 53. Actor Dermot Mulroney is 51. Rock musician Mikkey Dee (Motorhead) is 51. Rock singer-musician Johnny Marr is 51. Actor Rob Schneider is 50. Country singer Darryl Worley is 50. Actor-comedian Mike O'Malley is 49. Rap musician Adrock is 48. Songwriter Adam Schlesinger (SHLES'-in-ger) is 47. Rap performer Vanilla Ice (aka Rob Van Winkle) is 46. Rock singer Linn Berggren (Ace of Base) is 44. Reality TV host Troy Hartman is 43. Gospel singer Smokie Norful is 41. Actress Piper Perabo (PEER'-uh-boh) is 38. Actor Brian Hallisay is 36. Folk-rock musician Tay Strathairn (Dawes) is 34. Actor Eddie Kaye Thomas is 34. Rock musician Frank Iero (My Chemical Romance) is 33. Actor Scott Clifton is 30. Actress Vanessa Marano is 22. Actress-singer Willow Smith is 14.

Thought for Today: "Even a Proverb is no proverb to you till your Life has illustrated it." - John Keats (1795-1821).

Paul Stevens
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