
From: Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 30, 2014 9:27 AM
To: stevenspl@live.com
Subject: Connecting - December 30, 2014

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Connecting

December 30, 2014

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning.

Here are some items of interest as we near the end of 2014.

Paul

Report: At least 60 journalists killed in 2014

By CARA ANNA
The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) - At least 60 journalists around the world were killed in 2014 while on the job or because of their work, the Committee to Protect Journalists said Tuesday, making the past three years the deadliest for journalists since the organization began keeping track more than two decades ago.

Syria was connected to two of the more horrifying killings of journalists this year, the beheadings by the Islamic State group of American freelancers James Foley and Steven Sotloff. Both had disappeared while reporting on the conflict.

The conflict in Ukraine between the new government and Russian-backed separatists saw five journalists and two media workers killed. They were the first that the CPJ had recorded in Ukraine since 2001.

An "unusually high proportion," or about one-fourth, of journalists killed in 2014 were international ones, though the overwhelming number of journalists threatened continue to be local, the New York-based organization's report said.

Two journalists for The Associated Press and a freelance translator for the AP were among the CPJ's toll.

Those killed in 2014 include **Anja Niedringhaus**, an AP photographer who was shot to death while covering elections in Afghanistan. AP video journalist **Simone Camilli** and freelance translator **Ali Shehda Abu Afash** were killed in an explosion at an ordnance dump in the Gaza strip in August.

In addition, AP photographer **Franklin Reyes Marrero** died in a car accident while returning from an assignment in Cuba. The CPJ does not count deaths from illness or car or plane crashes unless they were the result of "hostile action."

"2014 was a tragic year for journalists worldwide and for our organization in particular," said **John Daniszewski**, vice president and senior managing editor for international news for the AP. While the casualties stemmed from war and conflict in different parts of the world, "they remind us of the daily courage and sacrifices made by professional journalists to bring back the news and information that so many rely on and take for granted."

The report said the number of journalists killed in 2014 was down from 70 the year before, but the past three years have been the deadliest since the organization started compiling such records in 1992. Forty-four percent of the journalists killed were targeted for murder, the new report said.

The crushing conflict in Syria, now well into its fourth year, has been a major factor. The report said at least 17 journalists were killed there this year, with at least 79 killed since the fighting began in 2011.

"Syria has never been more dangerous for journalists," a CPJ research associate, Jason Stern, said in a blog post. He pointed out that while the count of journalists killed in Syria this year is down from 29 last year, the country has become "an information black hole" as journalists flee or stay away.

Fifty days of fighting in Gaza between Israel and the Palestinians over the summer saw at least four journalists and three media workers killed.

In Iraq, at least five journalists were killed, three while covering the fight against the Islamic State group.

The report also points out the first journalist killings in several years in some countries, including Paraguay, where three deaths were the first since 2007, and Myanmar, where the killing in custody of a freelance journalist was the first death since 2007.

CPJ says it is still investigating the deaths of at least 18 other journalists this year.

Click [here](#) for a link to the story.

How I got my first journalism job



Marc Humbert ([Email](#)) - I parted ways with Hobart College after three years. Rejecting an invitation to return for a summer school session in the face of falling grades (I learned a lot and had a great time, just often not in the classroom), I decided I had wasted enough of my parents' money.

Looking for a job that combined a love of writing and politics, I began reaching out to newspapers across New York state. One of those I contacted was The Saratogian in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., then a Gannett paper whose editor-publisher, Fred Eaton, happened to have become

friendly with my parents when he was new to the business himself and working at the Ogdensburg Journal and Advance News in my hometown on the St. Lawrence River in northern New York.

Fortunately, Fred decided to call me in for an interview. He was going to be off on a trip, but told his new managing editor to talk to me and that if I wasn't a complete loser, see if he could find a place for me, as he knew my mom and dad. Also fortunately for me, that new managing editor was Bill Ringle, the great star of Gannett News Service who happened to be taking a two-year break to see if he wanted to run a paper. I guess he didn't think I was a complete loser or wanted to keep the boss happy or just had a lapse in judgment. Whatever the reason, Bill hired me as a general assignment reporter and spent the next two years training me in the business. He then went back to the news service. I like to think it wasn't because of having to deal with the likes of me. What a great teacher he was.

Connecting mailbox

Memories of teletype operators- of potties and handguns

Joe McKnight ([Email](#)) - Dave Tomlin's recollection of teletype operators in the Columbus bureau prompts this missive. When I came to Columbus in 1967, all the operators were great guys and I liked and got along well -- I think -- with all of them. Sadly, all are now deceased.

When guild editors went on strike in January of '68 or '69. Teletype operator Bill Cheesebrew agreed to work provided he did not have to cross a picket line. The AP office was off a hall on the second floor of The Columbus Dispatch building. The Dispatch would not allow picketing on the sidewalk in front of its building, so guild picketing was confined to the hall outside the door to the AP bureau. We brought in a cot for Bill to sleep on and getting food was no problem. But the nearest bathroom was across the hall and Bill wouldn't cross the picket line to get there. So we at first got an old paint can for Bill to relieve himself. And it fell my lot to find an old fashioned bathroom country potty - the kind grandma used to have - for Bill to conduct essential business. Those pots were hard to find and I had to drive to the outskirts of town to find a hardware store with stock for rural customers to get the implement. It worked. We put it in the photo dark room. Bill stayed in the office for all of the seven or eight days of the strike.

Tony Florio was an interesting teletype operator. He owned a couple of thoroughbred race horses and worked part time at the local thoroughbred track sending out pre race entries, jockey names, scratches and odds for the day's card, then sending results as soon as

each race ended. That teletype circuit was linked with several tracks in other states as well as the national Sporting News tabloid and perhaps some other newspapers. Tony also was a volunteer city policeman and often rode with police patrolmen after his working hours. He was licensed to carry a gun and always came to the office with a pistol on his hip. I talked with Bureau Chief Al Dopking about the gun in the office but he had no objection. When Burl Osborne became bureau chief, he had concerns about the gun but at first did nothing. Then one day Tony was seated at a Teletype keyboard when his pistol fell out of the holster and clattered on the floor. It didn't discharge but it scared hell out of others in the office. Burl asked him to keep the weapon in the coat closet while he worked and Tony readily agreed. From then on, Tony hung up sidearm with his coat when he came to work.

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The AP monitors Cuba - 1961

Francesca Pitaro ([Email](#)) of AP Corporate Archives shares:

If you'd like to add anything more on the Key West listening post I've attached a photo of George Kaufman and Louis de la Haba.



The caption reads:

Key West, Fla., Aug. 9, 1961 --THE AP MONITORS CUBA - The recently opened Associated Press office in Key West, Fla., "listens and watches" over Cuban news by means of radio and television receivers. Constant monitoring of Havana broadcasts keeps The Associated Press abreast of

news developments in the land Castro has all but closed to American newsmen. Pictured at the teletype keyboard is George Kaufman, former Havana bureau chief, and at right pounding out a story as he listens to powerful radios is Louis de la Haba. Both men are bi-lingual.

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Remembering Robert Berrellez - one of best to report from Cuba

Ike Flores ([Email](#)) - I've been hors de combat and didn't see Paul Colford's Dec. 23 piece on AP's Long History of Reporting from Cuba - a.k.a. "The Definitive Source" blog.

I think generally speaking the AP does a disservice to the memory of one of the best writers ever to report from Cuba, and all of the Caribbean, by not mentioning his name. Robert Berrellez (an Arizona native) did the bulk of reporting before and during the Bay of Pigs invasion in Cuba. While COB Harold "Heinie" Milks took embassy refuge, Bob was imprisoned by the Fidel Castro rebels and it was only through the intercession of the Mexican president that he was freed after spending some time at the notorious La Cabana prison in Havana.

All of that, of course, was ages ago in 1961. How do I know all this? Along with many others, I was at 50 Rock on the World Services and foreign desks avidly reading and editing Bob's raw copy. I later met and worked with him in the Dominican Republic and several other hot spots. Bob became AP's Latin American editor or more descriptively the AP's Roving Correspondent in that area for some time. He died at home in 1985 after 20 years at AP and later with ITT.

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Remembering Mike Mokrzycki

Linda Deutsch ([Email](#)) - I never met Mike, but have known his name for a long time as an essential member of the AP family and a Guild stalwart. I am so sorry to hear of his untimely death. Reading about him, I gather that in his short life he lived more than many do in twice that time. I hope his amazing spirit will provide his family with a legacy of joy for all time.

Stories of interest

[Media Companies \(and Executives\) on the Hot Seat in 2015](#)

While it's great news that the economy is (slowly) coming back, it's important to remember that a rising tide does not necessarily lift all boats. That is especially true in the media industry, where a bad stretch of advertising and extensive challenges to existing business models have clobbered many legacy outfits.

Now that the economic cycle is no longer creating such stiff headwinds, though, excuses will be tough to come by. Next year will not only be a period of continued disruption, but a reckoning as well.

Certain new realities are beyond argument: Clutter is up - more ads, more channels, more content - advertising rates continue to drop, and audiences are programming their own universe in text, video and audio. Consumers don't want to watch commercials, are fleeing networks, hate reruns, are increasingly bored by reality programming, shun print products and, oh, by the way, don't want to pay much for content either.

Yikes.

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[The year's best newscast bloopers will make you glad you don't work on camera](#)

Every year hundreds of newscasters try to bring the public the most important events on the global, national, and local scale, and every year things go terribly wrong and someone ends up making an awful double entendre or getting hit by a skateboard. The annual collection of best news bloopers is online. Watch it with your teeth cringed and your hands covering your face, knowing if your job were on camera this would be you.

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[The year in newspaper carriers](#)

In an announcement that he, Melissa Bell and Matt Yglesias would build a news startup at Vox Media, Ezra Klein talked about the differences between now and an age "when the dominant technology was newsprint." That technology



abides. It has diminished in hipness but not in logistical complexity - print newspapers still require human intermediation to end up on your lawn.

In my time at Poynter, I made it a special mission to chronicle as many stories of newspaper carrier heroism as possible. I truly believe they are America's least-acknowledged first responders. But the ungodly hours they work place them in the path of mischief and misfortune as often as they place them on the road to glory. And sometimes it's just important to celebrate how long they kept at this often thankless task.

If you still receive a printed newspaper, please consider tipping the person who brings it to you. Thank you, newspaper carriers. Long may you be the first to knock on doors.

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[MSNBC to widen its scope and make other changes, its president says](#) (Shared by Bob Daugherty)

A change is going to come to MSNBC in 2015.

"Technology is continuing to drive unprecedented changes across the media landscape - and we all should be taking a hard, honest look at how we need to evolve along with it," Phil Griffin, president of the NBC-owned cable news channel, wrote in a year-end message sent to employees Monday and reviewed by The Times.

Griffin noted that it was a tough year for cable news networks - Fox News Channel, CNN and MSNBC are all on track finish 2014 with a lower daily average audience than the previous year. Part of that has to do with the growth of broadband Internet service, which enables more news consumers to find video coverage online and through their mobile devices.

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[9 Reasons for Optimism for the Future of Journalism Education](#)

Back in October, I delivered opening remarks at the Reynolds Journalism Institute's Green Shoots in Journalism Education event. I said I can be accused of donning rose-colored glasses, of seeing the curricular glass as at least half full.

These can be difficult days for those of us who teach journalism. It's easy to get pessimistic looking at stalled curriculum revisions, strained budgets and depressing industry developments. Yet I'm more optimistic

than I have ever been about the potential for innovation in my teaching and the opportunities my students will meet when they leave me.

The Final Word

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- Longview (Texas) News-Journal

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 30, the 364th day of 2014. There is one day left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 30, 1922, Vladimir I. Lenin proclaimed the establishment of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which lasted nearly seven decades

before dissolving in Dec. 1991.

On this date:

In 1813, British troops burned Buffalo, New York, during the War of 1812.

In 1853, the United States and Mexico signed a treaty under which the U.S. agreed to buy some 45,000 square miles of land from Mexico for \$10 million in a deal known as the Gadsden Purchase.

In 1903, about 600 people died when fire broke out at the recently opened Iroquois Theater in Chicago.

In 1936, the United Auto Workers union staged its first "sit-down" strike at the General Motors Fisher Body Plant No. 1 in Flint, Michigan. (The strike lasted until Feb. 11, 1937.)

In 1944, King George II of Greece proclaimed a regency to rule his country, virtually renouncing the throne.

In 1954, Olympic gold medal runner Malvin G. Whitfield became the first black recipient of the James E. Sullivan Award for amateur athletes.

In 1965, Ferdinand Marcos was inaugurated for his first term as president of the Philippines.

In 1979, Broadway composer Richard Rodgers died in New York at age 77.

In 1989, a Northwest Airlines DC-10, which had been the target of a telephoned threat, flew safely from Paris to Detroit with 22 passengers amid extra-tight security.

In 1994, a gunman walked into a pair of suburban Boston abortion clinics and opened fire, killing two employees. (John C. Salvi III was later

convicted of murder; he died in prison, an apparent suicide.)

In 1999, former Beatle George Harrison fought off a knife-wielding intruder who broke into his mansion west of London and stabbed him in the chest. (Michael Abram was later acquitted of attempted murder by reason of insanity.)

In 2006, Iraqis awoke to news that Saddam Hussein had been hanged; victims of his three decades of autocratic rule took to the streets to celebrate.

Ten years ago: Democrat Christine Gregoire was declared victor of Washington's gubernatorial election over Republican Dino Rossi by 129 votes out of more than 2.8 million cast. A fire broke out during a rock concert at a nightclub in Buenos Aires, Argentina, killing 194 people. Bandleader and clarinetist Artie Shaw died in Thousand Oaks, California, at age 94.

Five years ago: Seven CIA employees and a Jordanian intelligence officer were killed by a suicide bomber at a U.S. base in Khost, Afghanistan. British contractor Peter Moore was freed more than two years after he was abducted outside Iraq's Finance Ministry. Former Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid, 69, who had ruled after the fall of dictator Suharto, died in Jakarta.

One year ago: Six states were named by federal officials to develop test sites for drones: Alaska, Nevada, New York, North Dakota, Texas and Virginia. Barely 12 hours after the NFL's regular season ended, four more head coaches were fired: Washington's Mike Shanahan, Detroit's Jim Schwartz, Minnesota's Leslie Frazier and Tampa Bay's Greg Schiano. (Cleveland's Rob Chudzinski had been fired the night before.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor Joseph Bologna is 80. Actor Russ Tamblyn is 80. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Sandy Koufax is 79. Actor Jack Riley is 79. Folk singer Noel Paul Stookey is 77. TV director James Burrows is 74. Actor Fred Ward is 72. Singer-musician Michael Nesmith is 72. Actress Concetta Tomei (toh-MAY') is 69. Singer Patti Smith is 68. Rock singer-musician Jeff Lynne is 67. TV personality Meredith Vieira is 61. Actress Sheryl Lee Ralph is 59. Actress Patricia Kalember is 58. Country singer Suzy Bogguss is 58. "Today" show co-host Matt Lauer is 57. Actress-

comedian Tracey Ullman is 55. Rock musician Rob Hotchkiss is 54. Radio-TV commentator Sean Hannity is 53. Sprinter Ben Johnson is 53. Actor George Newbern is 51. Singer Jay Kay (Jamiroquai) is 45. Rock musician Byron McMackin (Pennywise) is 45. Actress Meredith Monroe is 45. Actor Daniel Sunjata is 43. Actress Maureen Flannigan is 42. Actor Jason Behr is 41. Golfer Tiger Woods is 39. TV personality-boxer Laila Ali is 37. Actress Lucy Punch is 37. Singer-actor Tyrese Gibson is 36. Actress Eliza Dushku is 34. Rock musician Tim Lopez (Plain White T's) is 34. Actress Kristin Kreuk is 32. Folk-rock singer-musician Wesley Schultz (The Lumineers) is 32. NBA player LeBron James is 30. Pop-rock singer Ellie Goulding (GOL'-ding) is 28. Pop-rock musician Jamie Follese (FAHL'-es-ay) (Hot Chelle (shel) Rae) is 23.

Thought for Today: "I respect faith, but doubt is what gives you an education." - Wilson Mizner, American playwright (1876-1933).

Paul Stevens
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