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Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

Connecting - April 28, 2015

1 message

Paul Stevens <stevenspl@live.com> Tue, Apr 28, 2015 at 9:09 AM
Reply-To: stevenspl@live.com
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Connecting

April 28, 2015

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning!

Last winter, Connecting colleague **Doug Kienitz** (Email) and his wife **Sandie** discovered a granite stone while visiting the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl Crater in Honolulu.

It was engraved with these words: "World War II challenged correspondents to provide both news and hope for those at home. Their reports provided a benchmark for journalism, then and for future generations of reporters. Engaging with the soldiers allowed their voices to be heard and their courage displayed with compassion and truth. The Ernie Pyle Legacy Foundation dedicates this memorial stone to the infantry and journalists who told their stories. Dedicated April 18, 2015."

The stone honors famed World War II correspondent Ernie Pyle, but as you can see, the engraving shows it was dedicated April 18, 2015. Doug and Sandi were there on Nov. 13, 2014.

What gives?, Doug asked in a recent note to Ye Olde Connecting Editor, sending along the photo above that he snapped.

Well, here's the rest of the story.

The Ernie Pyle Legacy Foundation last year began planning a major event for the 70th anniversary of Pyle's death at Punchbowl, where he is buried. The highlight was to be the

dedication of a memorial stone, honoring the soldiers who gave their lives and the journalists who told their stories, said one of the foundation's directors, **Jerry Maschino** (Email).

Armed with yard sticks and tape measures, Jerry and his wife **Shirley,** also a director, spent months in 2013 in dusty quarries around Sacramento to find a rock befitting the memory of her rough-around-the-edges relative. Shirley is a first cousin once removed of Pyle.

The Maschinos found and shipped to Honolulu a 1,000-pound pyramid of granite.

"As a stone was not available in Hawaii, we had to find one in Sacramento and ship it to Honolulu," Maschino said. "A plaque was installed and the cemetery wanted to get it installed in a special location in December rather than leave it in a building."

The engraved stone lay in place from then on - 40 yards from Pyle's gravesite - and last Saturday, the 70th anniversary of Pyle's death, the stone and the gravesite became the focal point to honor the memory of Pyle.

Maschino recounts that special day:

"It was a beautiful day in Hawaii and at the Punchbowl cemetery. The program started at 10:00 with the honor guard as they presented the colors. The Cemetery director Jim Horton opened the ceremony followed by the Navy chaplain who gave the Invocation. Major Tom Cowan gave the welcoming remarks introducing the VIP guests and recognizing all the support people that made this event happen. Owen Johnson was the guest speaker and he spoke about Ernie's journalism skills which he was known for. Lt. Col Benson gave the eulogy which had been written by Buck Buchwach at the internment of Ernie at the Punchbowl in 1949. I dedicated the memorial stone which had already been installed earlier due to having to place it in a new space. A 21-gun salute followed and then Taps were sounded. It was a fitting tribute to Ernie Pyle."

And here's a story on the day's events from the Honolulu Star Advertiser, topped by this photo by **Kat Wade** of Vondra Bush, Pyle's goddaughter, placing a lei on the headstone of her godfather following the cemetery:

Photo by Kat Wade, Special to the Honolulu Star-Advertiser

Enduring stories from war

By Rob Shikina
The Star-Advertiser

War correspondent Ernie Pyle was killed by a Japanese machine gunner a lifetime ago, but 14-year-old Cole Turner didn't forget about the 70th anniversary of the reporter's death on Saturday.

"I like his writing," said Turner, a World War II history buff who has read and reread a book compiling Pyle's wartime dispatches.

Turner was with dozens of others who paid tribute to Pyle at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl on Saturday, April 18, the same day Pyle was killed while reporting on the war in Okinawa in 1945.

"Pyle would have been embarrassed by this commemoration today," said Owen Johnson, associate professor emeritus of journalism at Indiana University and a Pyle scholar, during the ceremony. "He would have said that he was just one of 500 U.S. war correspondents. He was the last of 54 of them who died during the war. Most significantly, he would say that the almost 300,000 U.S. troops who died in the war were much more important than he was."

Pyle was a Scripps-Howard correspondent and his personal stories about ordinary GIs in Europe and Asia appeared in 400 daily and 300 weekly newspapers across the country, according to the nonprofit Ernie Pyle Legacy Foundation.

"He was kind of a hero as I was growing up," said Linda Ritter, who became emotional

while speaking of Pyle, her mother's cousin. "I'm just real impressed the way he portrayed the soldier to the people at home."

Ritter, 68, who came from New Mexico to attend the ceremony, recalled growing up blocks from the Ernie Pyle Library in Albuquerque, N.M., where Pyle briefly lived.

Also at the ceremony, the foundation unveiled a memorial stone about 200 feet from where Pyle, who had a short stint in the Navy, is buried. The stone sits across from Lady Columbia, the center statue at the cemetery, and honors Pyle and the infantry in WWII.

Gerald Maschino, a Legacy Foundation director, said Pyle had the ability to convey the troops' feelings in his writings, and his work affected many, including Eleanor Roosevelt, who once remarked that she began her mornings with a cup of tea and Pyle's articles from the battlefront.

"His style of writing is something that goes on for generations," he said.

Born Aug. 3, 1900, in Indiana, Pyle grew up in a small town and attended Indiana University. He covered aviation news and became a columnist in the 1930s, writing about people he met while traveling across the country, said Johnson, the Pyle expert.

"He was an icon for people who lived through World War II," Johnson said. Americans "were telling each other that, 'If you want to really know what the war was about, read Ernie Pyle.'"

Johnson said Pyle was a talented reporter who composed stories from memory, using his notebook only to take down names, ages and addresses.

"He could really soak up information and that's because he was somebody who had great sensitivity to everything that was going on around him," he said.

He continued: "He knew how to tell a good story and to draw people in. ... In a way, he was a small-town reporter writing for people that he knew, even if he didn't know them personally."

Pyle won a Pulitzer Prize for his columns in 1944, and in 2011 the National Society of Newspaper Columnists voted Pyle's column "The Death of Captain Waskow" the best American newspaper column.

In that column, Pyle wrote: "You feel small in the presence of dead men, and ashamed at being alive, and you don't ask silly questions."

Retired Air Force Maj. Thomas Cowan, president of the Legacy Foundation, said Pyle's stories about how front-line combat troops received the same pay as those in the rear, whose lives were not in danger, led to modern-day combat pay.

Weiguo Xu, a Marine chief warrant officer stationed at Marine Corps Base Hawaii in Kaneohe, attended the ceremony with his sons, who were helping escort visitors.

"It's pretty cool what he did, sacrificing himself," Xu said. "As a reporter, you don't have to do that. He took the time and devoted himself to the country to share firsthand what was going on."

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If you would like to learn more about the Ernie Pyle Legacy Foundation, including how to make a donation, click **here** for a link to its site.

(Thanks to **Stirling Morita**, night city editor of the Star-Advertiser and president of the Hawaii Pro Chapter of Sigma Delta Chi for his assistance in this story.)

Connecting mailbox

Covering news in spring of 1865

Marty Steinberg (Email) - An NPR story today about the 150th anniversary of the deadliest (forgotten) US maritime disaster got me to thinking. How did our AP ancestors handle the news of spring of 1865?

April 9, 1865: Robert E. Lee surrenders at Appomattox.
April 14: John Wilkes Booth shoots President Lincoln.
April 15: Lincoln dies, Andrew John becomes president.
April 26: Booth is shot dead.

May 10: Jefferson Davis is captured.
The maritime disaster? On April 27, 1865, the overcrowded steamboat Sultana sank in the Mississippi, killing up to 1,800 people, many freed Union POWs.
I was glad to see an AP story about the anniversary. Click **here** for the story.

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Lede vs. Lead

Mark Mittelstadt (Email) shares the thoughts of William Safire in the issue of lede vs. lead:

On Language; (HED) Folo My Lede (UNHED)
BY WILLIAM SAFIRE
Published: November 18, 1990

"IN THE OLD DAYS," wrote Herb Caen, the San Francisco columnist, "we pounded out the copy with two fingers and hollered 'Boy!' to rush this hot stuff to the composing room. Today you yell 'Boy!' and a girl arrives along with a member of the union grievance committee."

Waxing nostalgic (S. J. Perelman used to wax a fellow named Roth), Mr. Caen reminisced: "Gone the 'Boy!' of yesterday . . . gone with the demon rewrite man with the phone cradled to ear and cigarette burning his lips as he pounds out a perfect, tight, non-editable 'new lede ' (never ' lead ') on a fast-breaking story."

Why the spelling lede , never lead ? The flecked beige copy paper and thick pencils are no longer to be found in the newly quiet newspaper offices where typewriters have been banished, and "pounding" the sensually ergonomic keyboard is as frowned on as smoking. The last time I wrote -30- to mark the end of a story, a copyindividual at the other end of the modem wanted to know, "You don't trust anybody under 30, or what?"

Excerpt:

..."I've always heard that lede was a deliberate misspelling," says Carl Stepp, associate professor of journalism at the University of Maryland. "The wire-service formula reduced chances that a label of a story would appear in print. Nulede was used for 'new lead' because such obvious errors would stand out to the eye; the label could then be removed before the copy hit print."
Lede , as we shall spell it henceforth, was defined as "a noun to refer to the initial summary of the story, or as a verb to instruct the printer what to put first" by Dorothy Colburn, a Nebraska English teacher, in the February 1927 issue of American Speech, though she held to the standard spelling. The use of the old verb as a noun was daring: Samuel Johnson stigmatized its use in this new way, in the sense of "first place," as "a low despicable word." (Can you imagine what he'd think of the modern harmless drudges who call his early dictionary "a good read ?" Perhaps rede would improve that vogue word; on second thought, I reckon not.)

As a variant, the spelling lede for lead dates to the 14th century; same with hed for head , and in the identical pattern, (HED) is now used as a journalistic shortening of "headline," and (UNHED) for "end of headline." ...

Click **here** for the full story.

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George Krimsky (Email) - Perhaps I'm off base here, but I've always assumed "lede" was introduced because there were too many ways to confuse the meaning of the word "lead."

Just the meanings of the noun alone are staggering:

- First position (as "in taking the lead" or "were in the lead")

- A clue (as in "police were following up a lead")

- The chief performer (as in the starring role)

- a dog's leash (as in "keep that monster on a lead")

- The heavy chemical element Pb (as in "that lead had the hefty feel of lead")

"Lede" eliminates ambiguity. Of course, we could just adopt the British word "Intro" and be done with it.

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Boo - Boo, or No, No

Gene Herrick (Email) - It was a cold winter evening in 1965 when Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, who lived in Waverly, MN., was preparing to fly out of Minneapolis for a return to Washington.

His plane, not a big aircraft, was sitting on the tarmac near the terminal. Humphrey waited a little while in the terminal and talked with his Secret Service agents, a couple of aides, and me. As the AP photographer in Minneapolis, I went out to take one of those "Insurance" pictures; you know, just in case. We all had our heavy coats and hats on, and I was smoking my pipe, as usual.

As we headed to the plane, I tamped the lit tobacco in my pipe with my finger, a process pipe smokers do. As I usually did for years, I put the lit pipe in my overcoat pocket. We continued our conversation out next to the plane.

I noticed a smell of something hot, or burning. I looked down to see a little smoke coming from my coat pocket. Trying to be as inconspicuous as possible, I slapped my hand against

the pocket, and then put my hand inside the pocket to hopefully stop the burning.

I kept patting my pocket as I took a picture of the usual goodbye wave of the vice president. Luckily, the Secret Service, nor Humphrey, noticed my problem.

Profile of new Connecting member - Steve Brown

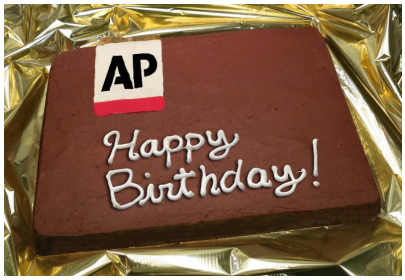
Steve Brown (Email) - I had two brief stints with The AP, separated by a pause in Ithaca NY from 1976 to 1978 getting a degree in labor relations at Cornell. My first tour was in the Newark NJ bureau headed by Bob Dubill. That was highlighted by a riot and the brief fame of Anthony Imperiale and his group of volunteers in the North Ward.

My second tour was at AP Business News at 50 Rock for two years before Lou Uchitelle moved to the NY Times in 1980. Notable co-workers at the time were Chet Currier and Floyd Norris.

I had many jobs since then, all in New York, with Reuters and a series of now-defunct "pioneers" delivering financial news and data to video terminals, such as Knight-Ridder Financial Information (MoneyCenter and TradeCenter), Telerate, Dow Jones-Telerate, and Bridge Information Systems. This concluded with early retirement in July 2001 as Bridge dissolved in bankruptcy, and my wife and I moved to Florida.

My start in journalism was at the (NY) Daily News, which hired me in their Editorial Trainee program in 1967. I was a reporter and make-up editor, among other things, until 1972. In those days, James J. Patterson ran the paper, and Harry Nichols was City Editor. A highlight of that era was a regional power surge and city blackout that severely damaged Big Allis, a gigantic generator at the Con Edison plant in Queens.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Hal Buell (Email)

Betsy Brown Kraft (Email)

Welcome to Connecting

Jeffrey Robbins (Email)

John Nolan (Email)

Stories of interest

Journalists attacked and injured in Baltimore riots (Poynter)

At least eight journalists have been beaten or injured in the Baltimore riots this week - including several Monday night.

Poynter's Al Tompkins has compiled a running tally of the reporters who have been hurt or attacked while on assignment in Baltimore. (Poynter) At least eight have suffered varying abuses, including being punched, tackled and having rocks thrown at them. One journalist was beaten by the police amid a chaotic protest. Most of the attacks came Monday during rioting after the funeral for Freddie Gray, who died from spinal injuries under unclear circumstances after being arrested by Baltimore police.

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23 front pages from Nepal's devastating earthquake (Poynter)

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De verwoestingen in Bhaktapur, nabij de hoofdstad Kathmandu, zijn enorm. FOTO AP

Nepal: geen kracht voor herstel

Door corruptie geplaagd land getroffen door zware aardbeving

Sybilla Claus

Met zijn vele achtduizenders is Nepal een van de mooiste plekken op aarde en een toeristenmagneet. Maar omdat de Himalaya is ontstaan uit het schurken en duwen van platen onder het Euraziatische continent en India, ligt Nepal in feite middenin de ongelukszone. De VN kenmerkten Kathmandu zelfs als de hoofdstad die het meeste risico loopt op een grote aardbeving. En zo geschiedde.

Door de beving met een kracht van 7,8 op de schaal van Richter leek het centrum van Nepal te bewegen als een golf. Gisteravond stond de teller al op 2500 doden, terwijl de zwaarst getroffen gebieden Gorkha en Lamjung nog niet eens bereikt kunnen worden. Zelfs niet per telefoon. Oxfamdirecteur in Nepal, Cecilia Keizer, liet gisteren vanuit Kathmandu weten dat Nepalezen ook deze nacht nog wel buiten zullen slapen vanwege talloze zware naschokken. "De Amerikaanse ambassade heeft helikopters die kant op gestuurd. Wij willen op grotere schaal gaan helpen, maar dat moet eerst nog georganiseerd worden", aldus Keizer.

Wat is het herstellend vermogen van bergstaat Nepal? Kan het arme land straks op eigen houtje de klap te boven komen?

Het antwoord daarop moet nee luiden, omdat Nepal normaliter al niet op eigen benen kan staan. Ondanks zestig jaar van rijkelijke bedeling van ontwikkelingsgelden uit Europa en de VS blijft het maar in de categorie van minst ontwikkelde landen hangen. In 1991 was de belofte dat het in 2001 opgekrabbeld zou zijn naar het niveau ontwikkelingsland. Maar nu is het 2015 en is de hoop dat Nepal in 2022 zover zal zijn. Nog niet de helft van de vrouwen kan lezen en schrijven, 70 procent van de 30 miljoen inwoners leeft van de landbouw, een kwart heeft geen stroom.

In de Nepalese middenklasse is de welbekende discussie gaande: kappen met die hulp die zo afhankelijk en passief maakt en niets oplost, versus 'het helpt wel wat, maar de corrupte politici verpesten alles'. Geen Nepalees bestrijdt dat corruptie de ontwikkeling belemmert. Met donorgeld worden volgens *The Economist* wegen bijvoorbeeld steeds weer 'aangelegd' (het ene jaar van A naar B, het volgend jaar andersom). Of bouwmateriaal voor nieuwe scholen wordt gestolen, en het geld voor die niet bestaande school opgesnoept. Dan was er nog de weeshuisindustrie, met tehuizen vol nepwezen. De ouders staan hen af aan stadsbewoners, omdat er in de bergen slecht onderwijs is en amper werk.

Hulporganisaties vullen de gaten die de overheid laat vallen gratis. Zij brengen de 'wezen' terug naar hun ouders, of geven onderwijzers bijles. Maar die krijgen hun salaris toch wel, ook al geven ze slecht les of verzuimen ze. Vorige maand waren de eindexamens. Slechts dertien procent van de leerlingen van openbare scholen haalt dat, stelt Thomas Bell die Nepal al tien jaar van nabij volgt, onder andere voor The Economist: "Toch krijgt het onderwijs al zestig jaar ontwikkelingsgelden en technische assistentie. Tegenwoordig krijgt Nepal een miljard dollar per jaar, een kwart van het overheidsbudget."

Er was een burgeroorlog, die eindigde in 2006. Daarna werd de koning afgezet, en sindsdien ruziën de 330 parlementariërs (de maoïsten die gingen meeregeren kregen hun eigen extra zetels erbij) over de koers van het land. De economie lijkt daarbij vergeten te worden. Terwijl de ligging tussen de reuzen India en China zo veelbelovend is, en het religieus toerisme uit die landen groeit.

Volgens Bell is de regering een bedrijf dat is gespitst op afroming, met piramides die zijn gebouwd op fraude en commissies. Partijbazen werken volgens hem samen met maffiabendes die het land arm houden, en zo heeft het fragiele Nepal eigenlijk een heel stabiele basis. Bell roept de donoren op hun afhankelijkheid van de ontvangers te herzien, en eisen te gaan stellen: "Nepals probleem is de politiek. Donoren moeten zich uit corrupte projecten terugtrekken en uitleggen waarom."

Voorlopig blijven de Nepalezen hulp nodig hebben. 2500 doden. De teller staat nog maar aan het begin.

VANDAAG 4|5 Meer nieuws

DE VERDIEPING Erfgoed in puin

The number of dead keeps rising after the 7.8-magnitude earthquake that hit Nepal on Saturday. According to a report Monday morning from the BBC, that number is now up to 4,000. Here are 23 front pages from around the world that led with the news on Monday, from the Newseum and Kiosko. This is a huge collection, more than we'd normally gather, and there are a few reasons for that. Usually when a news event makes the front page, there are one or two photos that most newspapers use. Here, you'll find images that zoom in to show people in Nepal and images that zoom out to show the devastation those people are now dealing with. And today, there are many of both. Also, it's rare to find an

event that makes front pages pretty much everywhere. Ferguson and Charlie Hebdo were two exceptions. I've also started a Twitter list of journalists reporting from Nepal. One warning before you proceed - some of these images are graphic.

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2015 Pulitzer Prize Winners Show A Changing Reality for Journalism

(Mediashift)

The Pulitzer Prizes, which were announced April 20 at Columbia Journalism School, are considered the highest honors in journalism. Given the industry's financial crisis and the influx of online-only outlets into the news ecosystem, the fact that legacy news outlets - as opposed to digital outlets - won a large majority of the awards underscores the importance newspapers still play in delivering quality reporting. It's a far cry from the moans and groans of the death of newspapers, and therefore a twist in where some imagine the future of news to be.

But it's the fusion of legacy reporting with newer digital tools that makes these newspapers stand out, said Mike Pride, the administrator of the Pulitzer Prizes, who announced the winners.

"I would say the digital component of their work is becoming more and more sophisticated," he said in a brief press conference following the announcement. "Newspapers know where the future is."

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Richard West - gifted author and travelling reporter dies at 84

(London Telegraph)

Richard West, the journalist, who has died aged 84, was a reporter and essayist, a man of considerable learning, and a gifted writer who might have been better-known and more successful if he had chosen.

In the 1960s he was a highly paid freelance who could write his own ticket to the ends of the earth and whose books were well praised. But both his views and his behaviour became increasingly idiosyncratic. He wrote for smaller papers which paid less well than the nationals but where he was free to write as he liked.

Richard Leaf West was born in Chelsea on July 18 1930, the son of a publisher and sometime journalist who was once the literary editor of the Daily Mail. The family were bohemian and peripatetic. West was educated at Marlborough, which he disliked conventionally, and at Magdalene College, Cambridge, which he disliked surprisingly. He read History. His education had been interrupted by wartime evacuation to Canada and the United States and was interrupted again by National Service which, in contrast to school or university, he greatly enjoyed.

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The Proof of the Clintons' Wrongdoing (National Journal)

April 27, 2015 Let's remember what this story is about. Hillary and Bill Clinton want it to be about a "conservative author" who catalogued their conflicts of interest. They want it to be about The New York Times, The Washington Post, and any other media outlets who dare to question the couple's integrity. They want it to be about "Republican overreach."

The media mostly wants it to be about Election Day 2016. We commission polls and hire pundits to parse the winners and losers of each news cycle. We shrug:"Real voters don't care about this story." As if it's not our job to help them understand why these scandals matter.

Hillary Clinton seized all emails pertaining to her job as secretary of State and deleted an unknown number of messages from her private server. Her family charity accepted foreign and corporate donations from people doing business with the State Department-people who hoped to curry favor.

She violated government rules designed to protect against corruption and perceptions of corruption that erode the public's trust in government. She has not apologized. She has not made amends: She withholds the email server and continues to accept foreign donations.

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Effort by Japan to Stifle News Media Is Working (New York Times)

TOKYO - It was an unexpected act of protest that shook Japan's carefully managed media world: Shigeaki Koga, a regular television commentator and fierce critic of the political establishment, abruptly departed from the scripted conversation during a live TV news program to announce that this would be his last day on the show because, as he put it, network executives had succumbed to political pressure for his removal.

"I have suffered intense bashing by the prime minister's office," Mr. Koga told his visibly flabbergasted host late last month, saying he had been removed as commentator because of critical statements he had made about Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Later in the program, Mr. Koga held up a sign that read "I am not Abe," a play on the slogan of solidarity for journalists slain in January at a French satirical newspaper.

The outburst created a public firestorm, and not only because of the spectacle of Mr. Koga, a dour-faced former top government official, seemingly throwing away his career as a television commentator in front of millions of viewers. His angry show of defiance also focused national attention on the right-leaning government's increased strong-arming of the news media to reduce critical coverage.

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What The New York Times' Murdoch Alliance Means For 2016 (MediaMatters)

Just one month after Fox News' Bill O'Reilly brazenly threatened a New York Times reporter, warning her he'd go after her "with everything" he had if he didn't like the article she was writing about him, Times reporter Jo Becker happily cooperated with Fox News for its 60-minute special, The Tangled Clinton Web, which aired April 24.

Based on the pending book Clinton Cash, which is being published by Rupert Murdoch's HarperCollins and heavily promoted by Murdoch's Fox News, Murdoch's Wall Street Journal and Murdoch's New York Post, The Tangled Clinton Web represented a mishmash of half-baked Clinton conspiracies that had Hillary and Bill Clinton at the center of a supposed vast web of international bribes and payoffs.

And yet there, featured amidst the waves of misinformation, was a New York Times reporter. Becker's Fox News' appearance was noteworthy, not only because of O'Reilly's stated contempt for the newspaper. But because Times journalists don't make a habit of regularly appearing on openly partisan Fox News, a cable channel that has embraced claims of Obama birtherism and has depicted the president of the United States as a racist, communist sympathizer who apologizes for America. (According to the Times' newsroom guidelines, when appearing on television programs staffers are supposed to avoid forums "that emphasize punditry and reckless opinion-mongering.")

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The night the news died (philly.com)

"We don't control a lot of this stuff. We sort of make our best choices, and we'll-we'll catch up."

-- CNN commentator Errol Louis, speaking Saturday night on CNN's non-coverage of social unrest in Baltimore.

The end came shortly before 9 p.m. on a nippy spring Saturday night. We'd all seen it coming for years, especially after the heart-attack-like shock of the Iraq War years in the early 2000s, when elite journalists pinned an American flag to their lapels and left their skepticism back home in the closet. But the awkward, babbling explanations by Louis and his fellow CNN panelists about why they -- and, in fairness, their competitors on MSNBC, Fox and even Al-Jazeera America -- were pathologically unable to ditch their black-tie-dyed puffball coverage of the D.C. media's so-called "nerd prom" truly felt like the respirator plug had finally been yanked, violently, from the wall.

It was a death of an idea that had once thrived and then hobbled through its old age -- that Big Media was something could drive the national conversation, that bringing graphic images and hard realities about the things that matter into America's living rooms was their noble primary. That moving pictures could make a damn difference.

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Operation Elveden: Journalists voice their anger over cases (BBC.com) (Shared by Sibby Christensen)

A group of journalists who had been accused of illegally paying public officials for stories have voiced their anger about their treatment.

Ex-Sun managing editor Graham Dudman said police had treated him like "a murderer or a terrorist" when he was first arrested three years ago.

Nine journalists awaiting trial had their cases dropped earlier this month after an urgent legal review.

But the Crown Prosecution Service defended its decision to prosecute.

The decision to scrap all but three journalists' trials has already led to criticism of the £11m Metropolitan Police probe, Operation Elveden, which has so far failed to result in the successful conviction of a single reporter following a trial.

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Wolff: For goodness sake, bring back Brian Williams (USA Today)

The Brian Williams controversy, which has resulted in his suspension, investigative articles in Vanity Fair and New Yorkmagazine, management upheaval at NBC News and the loss of first place status for its evening news show, is a long way from over.

It has come to be about the culture of NBC's parent, Comcast, and its abilities to lead a talent organization, and about the condition of media commentary, a closed loop that, for many, it is impossible to see beyond. In this, Brian Williams and NBC News seem hopelessly stuck, without a clear exit strategy from the three-month-old mess and continuous leaks like the ones over the weekend coming from within the company.

Williams, of course, exaggerated his war reporting exploits, establishing a trail of bluster and self-promotion that may or may not have damaged his credibility as a network news anchor. That's the confusing issue: Does Williams' fate and future have to do with how the evening news audience sees him, or is it more about how the media sees itself? If it's the former, how are the audience's views to be measured? If it's the latter, what exactly are the standards by which he is being judged, both inside and outside NBC, and in whose interests is the judgment being made?

Today in History - April 28, 2015

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, April 28, the 118th day of 2015. There are 247 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 28, 1945, Italian dictator Benito Mussolini and his mistress, Clara Petacci, were executed by Italian partisans as they attempted to flee the country.

On this date:

In 1758, the fifth president of the United States, James Monroe, was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia.

In 1788, Maryland became the seventh state to ratify the Constitution of the United States.

In 1789, there was a mutiny on the HMS Bounty as rebelling crew members of the British ship, led by Fletcher Christian, set the captain, William Bligh, and 18 others adrift in a launch in the South Pacific. (Bligh and most of the men with him reached Timor in 47 days.)

In 1817, the United States and Britain signed the Rush-Bagot Treaty, which limited the number of naval vessels allowed in the Great Lakes.

In 1918, Gavrilo Princip, the assassin of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria and the

archduke's wife, Sophie, died in prison of tuberculosis.

In 1925, the International Exposition of Modern Industrial and Decorative Arts, which gave rise to the term "Art Deco," began a six-month run in Paris.

In 1940, Glenn Miller and his Orchestra recorded "Pennsylvania 6-5000" for RCA Victor.

In 1952, war with Japan officially ended as a treaty signed in San Francisco the year before took effect. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower resigned as Supreme Allied commander in Europe; he was succeeded by Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway.

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson ordered U.S. Marines to the Dominican Republic to protect American citizens and interests in the face of a civil war. Barbra Streisand's first TV special, "My Name Is Barbra," aired on CBS.

In 1974, a federal jury in New York acquitted former Attorney General John Mitchell and former Commerce Secretary Maurice H. Stans of charges in connection with a secret $200,000 contribution to President Richard Nixon's re-election campaign from financier Robert Vesco.

In 1988, a flight attendant was killed and more than 60 persons injured when part of the roof of an Aloha Airlines Boeing 737 tore off during a flight from Hilo (HEE'-loh) to Honolulu.

In 1990, the musical "A Chorus Line" closed after 6,137 performances on Broadway.
Ten years ago: A military jury at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, condemned Army Sgt. Hasan Akbar to death for the 2003 murders of two officers in Kuwait. (Akbar is appealing his sentence.) More than 100 volunteers joined police in Duluth, Georgia, in searching for Jennifer Wilbanks, a bride-to-be who had vanished two days earlier. (Wilbanks turned up in Albuquerque, New Mexico, having run away on her own.)

Five years ago: Coast Guard Rear Adm. Mary Landry said a massive oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was worse than officials had believed, and that the federal government was offering to help industry giant BP contain the slick threatening the U.S. shoreline. British Prime Minister Gordon Brown committed a gaffe during his country's short election campaign when an open microphone caught him slamming a voter he'd been trying to win over. (Brown personally apologized to Gillian Duffy for calling her a "bigoted woman" over the issue of immigration.)

One year ago: President Barack Obama arrived in the Philippines on the last stop of a weeklong Asia tour that also included Japan, South Korea and Malaysia. The United States and its European allies hit more than two dozen Russian government officials, executives and companies with new sanctions as punishment for their country's actions in Ukraine. Two dozen tornadoes ripped through Mississippi, killing 14 people.

Today's Birthdays: Pulitzer Prize-winning author Harper Lee is 89. Former Secretary of State James A. Baker III is 85. Actor Frank Vincent is 78. Actress-singer Ann-Margret is 74. Actor Paul Guilfoyle is 66. Former "Tonight Show" host Jay Leno is 65. Rock musician Chuck

Leavell is 63. Actress Mary McDonnell is 62. Rock singer-musician Kim Gordon (Sonic Youth) is 62. Actress Nancy Lee Grahn (TV: "General Hospital") is 59. Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan is 55. Rapper Too Short is 49. Actress Simbi Khali is 44. Actress Bridget Moynahan is 44. Actor Chris Young is 44. Rapper Big Gipp is 42. Actor Jorge Garcia is 42. Actress Elisabeth Rohm is 42. Actress Penelope Cruz is 41. Actor Nate Richert is 37. Actress Jessica Alba is 34. Actor Harry Shum Jr. is 33. Actress Jenna Ushkowitz is 29. Actress Aleisha Allen is 24.

Thought for Today: "It takes a long time to understand nothing." - Edward Dahlberg, American author and critic (1900-1977).

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