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"MORE MELISSA, MORE OFTEN"


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Jan
20
2011

The Most Fascinating Stories Never Told: No. 1

This Is My Job

So, the blog has been quiet. I have been quiet. In a cold like this, all sharp elbows and sort of oppressive, I think many of us have been quiet. After being slapped in the face by nature, all you want to do is come home after work, heat up some tea, and watch marathons of Say Yes To The Dress, yes?

But lo, tonight I come bearing a gift. The first of many gifts of this nature, I hope.

Today, during a lull in what was the itchy last day of my week, I decided to clean my desk. This had two benefits: first, I may now have the cleanest desk in the newsroom:



Pics or it didn't happen.

Second, while going through piles of debris I discovered some true gems of unreported stories. And it got me thinking about all the spectacular letters, emails and phone calls we get in this biz, featuring story tips for fascinating stories — fascinating stories, that is, that we never do tell.

When I stumbled on this card, I just *knew* I had to start blogging some of them.

this just in

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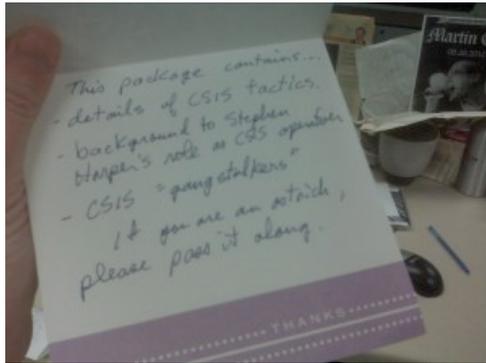


Tasteful design.

I got this card many months ago in a package. The package was passed to me by a colleague, with a quizzical glance and scant explanation.

“Oh how nice!” I thought. “Someone sent us a thank-you card.”

I wonder what it says on the inside...



Wait, what?

“This package contains... -Details of CSIS tactics. -Background to Stephen Harper’s role as CSIS operative. -CSIS ‘gangstalkers.’ If you are an ostrich, please pass it along.”

The key points of this fascinating story never told in a major newspaper are [here](#).

What is missing from that report are the photos of a “CSIS operative,” who had intercepted the author’s emails to a prominent newspaper reporter. Using those emails, the operative arranged to meet with the author while *posing* as that prominent reporter.

They met, if I recall correctly, at an airport coffee shop. The author then snapped some photos of the, uh, “operative,” who bore a *truly remarkable resemblance* to the reporter in question. Right down to the detail of looking really, really weirded out by having her picture taken. CSIS must have some incredible plastic-surgery technology these days.

Getting curiosities such as this are one of the most entertaining parts of this job. I sort of desperately wanted to find some way to make this card, and the contents of the package, into a story. I have a feeling it wouldn’t be quite the story the writer was aiming for — but what do I know? I’m just an ostrich. Pass it on...

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Tweeting

Come tweeter with me

@wfpdeal @bkives @hacksandwonks @riseandsprawl @jenskerritt Kahler's wife won the health beat IIRC. She still hasn't shown up for work... @riseandsprawl to be announced! @ShelleyACook thank you so much. I wish I could have stayed longer and done more, but my fingers froze off.

blender

damnit melissa i'm a city not a miracleworker driveby blogging i can't believe i get paid to do this lookit me i have things to say media killed the media star most fascinating stories never told new year's resolutions opinionated is such a strong word rants rtlyp stories my father tells TIWITARN winnipeg i won't forget you winter word nerding

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Posted by [Melissa](#) at 8:37 pm[Add comments](#)Tagged with: [most fascinating stories never told](#)**10 Responses to “The Most Fascinating Stories Never Told: No. 1”**1. **cherenkov** says:[January 21, 2011 at 9:05 pm](#)

I had no idea how many CSIS agents there were in Winnipeg until I went to their Christmas party. But perhaps I've said too much ...

2. **Melissa** says:[January 22, 2011 at 11:20 am](#)

Did you go to their Christmas party... or did all of them go to YOUR Christmas party?

3. **cherenkov** says:[January 22, 2011 at 10:03 pm](#)

A little bit of both actually. Hmm... were you there?

4. **Melissa** says:[January 22, 2011 at 11:19 pm](#)

I would tell you, but then I'd have to... well, you know.

5. **Gareth Llewellyn** says:[January 23, 2011 at 10:00 am](#)

Dear Melissa:

(I imagine your name is Melissa).

I sent your paper that card. On the disk are scan of letters sent to me by CSIS telling me I was (am?) a 'subversive' even though I was cleared to Top Secret Special Access, and another admitting to investigating me, though their tactics were "appropriate." If you don't believe a tip about CSIS abuse, that's your right. My only quibble is about the "truly remarkable resemblance" to [*edit - the reporter - mm*]. Do you know her? If not, call me at the phone number on the disk provided to discuss this episode.

Finally, the chapters on the Radical Press shouldn't have been posted. I have requested he remove them but so far he hasn't. If you can persuade him to do so, I would appreciate it.

Respectfully, Gareth Llewellyn

6. **Melissa** says:[January 23, 2011 at 10:46 am](#)

If he hasn't listened to you Gareth, I really doubt he'll listen to me, especially coming from the "mainstream media" as I do.

It's been awhile since I went through the disc but if I recall, I don't doubt some of what you report. But as some free advice, there are a number of elements in there that I think, respectfully, are so subjective and appear so significantly different to an outside observer, that you should reconsider presenting them as being solid or even circumstantial evidence to support the conclusion. The issue with the reporter is one of them.

7. **Gareth Llewellyn** says:

January 23, 2011 at 12:01 pm



Melissa, I just sent you a reply but I received a error response. Did you get it? gl

8. **Gareth Llewellyn** says:

January 23, 2011 at 12:32 pm



Melissa:

So, do you know whether this is the real (reporter)? Believe it or not, I don't like making mistakes.

This episode was very difficult for me to interpret. She responded to my e-mail inquiry very quickly, a couple of minutes really, at a time (spring 2009) when I wasn't getting any e-mails at all. She was also conveniently in Ottawa, so I was suspicious enough to bring a camera. Her reaction when I took her picture was something I found evasive (she was a celebrity, after all), although my wife had argued that it was entirely reasonable for her to act that way (we had a lot of discussion about it). So... maybe I was wrong. The most incriminating thing didn't have to do with her at all. A very distinctive man approached immediately after I took her picture. Very short (5'4") with long, dark hair to his belt. (We are all balding geeks in Ottawa) We sat alone at the back of Starbuck's and this guy swaggered in to offer himself to keep us company. I found that very odd. By that time, too, social justice groups had advised me that CSIS likes to impersonate the media. I went to some lengths to confirm whether it was a true picture of (reporter), but she lived in Toronto and in early 2009 there were few pictures of her, and the one I found didn't look like the picture I took. I put that picture on my monitor as its wallpaper.

A couple of months later, my wife and I took a trip to Waterloo, and when we returned her picture was removed from my monitor, replaced by a nauseous green background. Why? I have no other explanation for these "indicators." But if I'm wrong, I'm wrong.

The thing that offends me the most of this has nothing to do with me. I have been methodical enough to support my charges my grievances at work and I don't really care about Harper's past with CSIS. However, the woman in Peterborough who received the same harassment treatment as myself had no chance at all. In Ottawa, the antics of CSIS are common knowledge and I have beaten off the harassers by taking countless pictures. After having a brief affair with a former PM wasn't her fault, and for a PM not to respect the constraints of high office reminds me of the treatment meted out by Saddam's son, Uday. I hate bullies and I don't believe in abusing national security rules.

Thus endeth my rant for today. Thank you for your time, Melissa. Can you confirm those pictures were the real (reporter)? I will take recompensory measures, naturally.

Respectfully, Gareth

9. **Melissa** says:

January 24, 2011 at 12:17 am



A quick note Gareth, I'm preferring to edit her name out of this. I can't articulate my exact reasoning as to why, especially as it is out there elsewhere, but it feels more comfortable to me for right now — and this being my space for my casual blogging, my comfort zone has to be the final word, heh.

I also don't really want to get into it, but I am quite confident the image on the disc was indeed of the

reporter in question. And perhaps that's what makes me itchy about having her name on here — I know that in the same shoes, I would feel uncomfortable with my identity being debated in a situation that I really didn't have much to do with. I don't know that most newspaper reporters consider themselves "celebrities" in that way — most newspaper reporters are actually camera-shy. We don't get paid to look pretty, heh.

10. **Gareth Llewellyn** says:
January 24, 2011 at 5:27 am



Melissa:

I'm sorry to burden your blog with my posts, but I don't want my subjectiveness or a photo of a reporter to divert you from the story: it is about the use of CSIS to harass the bringers of politically-inconvenient information. In 2005, a woman who may have had an affair with a PM was traumatized by the identical harassment methods endured by myself after I complained to SIRC and mentioned Stephen Harper's past affiliation with CSIS. Many in the Parliamentary Press Gallery know about both. Enough evidence is there. For example:

1. "Vigorous harassment" is how Jim Judd, the former CSIS Director, describe the same "gangstalking" methods that have caused the creation of victim's websites like "gangstalkingworld.com."
2. I have a half-dozen documents to substantiate CSIS participation.
3. There is an editor available to substantiate the ordeal of the woman in question, and why it happened.
4. My own history with Harper cannot be denied.
5. The fact that Harper's past with CSIS was enough to provoke CSIS to act is, to my mind, the grounds for a good story

Whatever is missing could be obtained, surely? You went to the trouble to photograph the card sent to the WFP. And you don't have interest in the story or CSIS abuse by itself?

This, Melissa, I don't understand. Investigating this story is good for the country, no?

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