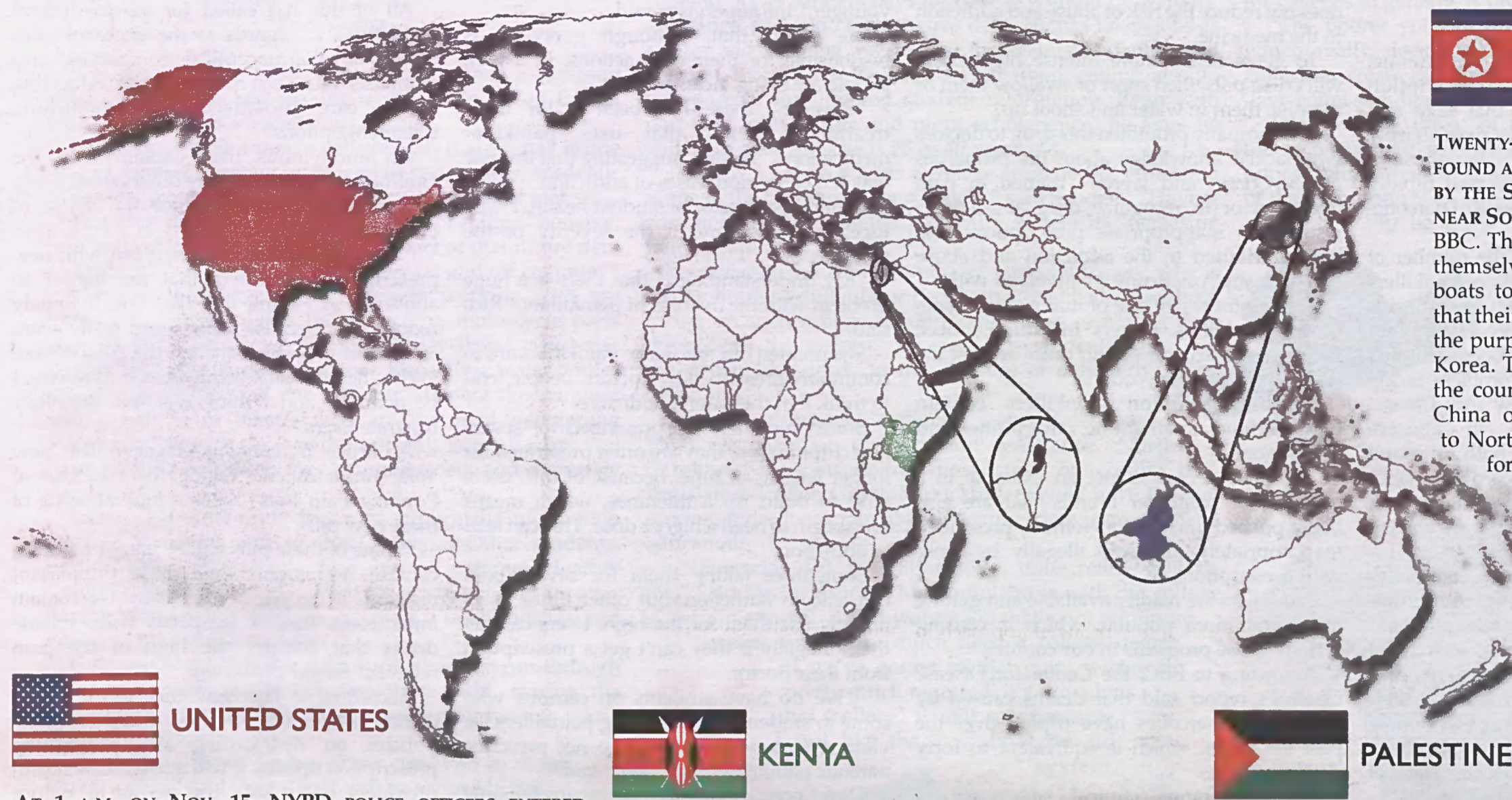


NEWS IN BRIEF

STORIES BY BECCA HELLER

GRAPHIC BY DANIEL VASILES



NORTH KOREA

TWENTY-ONE NORTH KOREANS WERE FOUND ADRIFT IN A BOAT AND RESCUED BY THE SOUTH KOREAN COAST GUARD NEAR SOCHEONG ISLAND, according to BBC. The group, who had concealed themselves among Chinese fishing boats to avoid detection, explained that their voyage had been made with the purpose of defecting from North Korea. The majority of defectors flee the country by foot into China, but China oftentimes sends them back to North Korea, ignoring their plea for asylum. According to BBC, more than 21,000 North Koreans have defected to the South since the Korean War ended in 1953, and the arrival of this group was the largest since February.



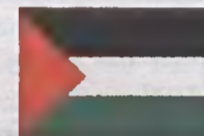
UNITED STATES

AT 1 A.M. ON NOV. 15, NYPD POLICE OFFICERS ENTERED ZUCCOTTI PARK IN RIOT GEAR, BREAKING UP THE OCCUPY WALL STREET PROTESTS AND EVICTING HUNDREDS OF PROTESTERS. According to Business Week, Brookfield Office Properties, owner of the park, had mandated an evacuation due to the "unsanitary and hazardous" state of the area. Protesters were told that they could return following the cleaning, but under stricter rules, disallowing tents, sleeping bags, or tarps, and essentially putting an end to the encampment. Many protesters left the area peacefully; however, 70 people were arrested in the process, including a group of people who had chained themselves together. Following the crackdown and clean up at the park, the group of protesters in Zuccotti has thinned out significantly, but a renewed movement seems to be converging at the University of California at Berkeley, in efforts to spark an Occupy California movement.



KENYA

AN OUTBREAK OF CHOLERA HAS STRUCK THE WORLD'S LARGEST REFUGEE CAMP IN DEDAAB, KENYA. Home to nearly 500,000 Somalis who have fled their country due to famine and conflict, the camp is now struggling to keep the outbreak at a minimum and has set up cholera treatment centers in the camp. One person has died, and there are now 60 cases in the camp, according to the U.N. This outbreak comes at the heels of the abduction of two western aid workers, speculated to be the work of Somali Islamist militants, and the discovery of a land mine that had not yet detonated in the heart of the camp. "We are talking about a very volatile situation along the border with the situation in Somalia not getting any better," said Andrej Mahecic, spokesman of the UNHCR, in a news briefing. "The insecurity is something that needs to be addressed."



PALESTINE

ON NOV. 15, THE PALESTINIANS ANNOUNCED THEIR DECISION TO RENEW THEIR REQUEST FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP ON THE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL. Their membership will rely on the approval of nine out of the 15 current Security Council members, and according to JTA, the Palestinians reportedly have eight members in favor at this time. The U.S., however, has threatened to veto the request in the case that their bid for membership is passed. Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas has not yet announced when he will call for a vote, but he has made it clear that if met with failure, he will return to the Council multiple times to request full membership for Palestine. "Our strategy now is to continue knocking on the door of the Security Council and not other doors," Foreign Minister Reyad Al-Malki told Voice of Palestine radio, Reuters reported.

The CIA harnesses power of Facebook & Twitter

By James Williamson
STAFF WRITER

The CIA has developed Twitter and Facebook into tools that predict revolutions, riots and terrorist activity overseas.

"It's another way of collecting data," said Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science Robert Duncan. "It's the next turn of the technological wheel."

The Open Source Center, a component to the agency that supplies foreign political, military, economic and technical information for President Barack Obama's daily security briefs, gathers up to five million tweets, as reported by National Public Radio.

The hundreds of staffers, known as the "ninja librarians," also analyze heaps of newspaper articles, radio broadcasts and public information. Many of the ninja librarians have a Masters of Librarian Science, and, thereby, have studied how to illuminate foreign movements or downfalls unseen by the public eye.

"Taking social networking seriously

demonstrates the power of social networking as a tool," said junior Tim Leisman, who majors in Peace and Conflict Studies. "It makes (the CIA's) job more convenient; they can have everything they need."

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Tim Leisman, junior

After the Green Revolution of 2009 in Iran that preserved President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's government, the CIA understood the value of social networks as a highly investigative resource. For instance, according to the Associated Press, the CIA foresaw a revolution like the "Arab

Spring," though not its precise onset, before the revolution occurred. The OSC has endowed policy makers a transparency of overseas political conflicts and progress.

In an interview with the Associated Press, the OSC director Doug Naquin confirmed

the center's expectations of the escalations in Egypt.

The center "predicted that social media in places like Egypt could be a game-changer and a threat to the regime," said Naquin.

However, the OSC cannot track all

tweets, wall posts and texts. Al Qaeda and the Taliban manipulate the SMS messaging to form their own networks. Only accessible to Al Qaeda and Taliban subscribers, texts circulate unless diffused by the merging covert techniques of the NSA and the CIA, the Associated Press reports.

At times the OSC cannot pinpoint the exact geography of these messages. To discern these, the ninja librarians examine the message's language, which potentially can lead the OSC to its source.

Social networks, however, remain a flexible resource that cannot always ensure legitimacy despite being an extremely powerful tool at this time. The ninja librarians peruse the millions of documents and information from the social network and use their expertise to provide leads on terrorist activity and other potentially threatening movements.

"That's intelligence collecting — that's what they do," said Duncan. "But when you have too much data, how do you select the needle from the haystack of all the needles?"