

## Green, Scott

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**From:** Paul and Linda Stevens <stevenspl@live.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 27, 2013 8:33 AM  
**To:** Paul H. Stevens  
**Subject:** CONNECTING: Harper's on AP; Texas execution; Rich's death; AP promotions; Reporter-Taliban; Survive, thrive; Hastings car hacked?; Twitter CEO advice; CNN layoffs; Reading survey; Instagram stories; SF papers suit; Beat of Week

Colleagues,

Here are some items of interest, leading off with the fifth installment of the Harper's Monthly article on the early AP, shared by Claude Erbsen.

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### **Texas' 500<sup>th</sup> execution**

AP's Michael Graczyk on Wednesday witnessed the 500<sup>th</sup> death-penalty execution in Texas and shared this story on the wire:

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_289563/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=6JWSqsj](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_289563/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=6JWSqsj)

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### **Rich's death and the writing test**

The story on the death of pardoned financier Marc Rich had special meaning within the AP. The story:

[http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-500395\\_162-57591058/pardoned-financier-marc-rich-dead-at-78/](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-500395_162-57591058/pardoned-financier-marc-rich-dead-at-78/)

Little Rock news editor Kelly Kissel shared the following:

For the better part of 20 years, applicants for most jobs at The Associated Press were required to take a Story Editing and Story Writing test that featured a sentences and stories that either appeared on the AP wire or were sent as electronic carbons and offered for publication.

News editors graded these tests by the dozens while reviewing job candidates. Over the years we knew that Trent Lott wanted to build a post office at Diamondhead, that motorists on Afton Mountain need to watch out for fog and that kids don't need a city permit to sell lemonade on the streets of Charleston, S.C.

Why bring this up now? Because Marc Rich died. The King of Commodities was the subject of Question 7 in the Story Editing section:

*"Marc Rich is an international criminal, he's a fugitive from justice," said Humphreys, D-Kanawha. "He owns Ravenswood through front organizations, that's been established."*

We will leave it to history to determine whether Rich was really an international criminal or a fugitive from justice. He was a public figure and I believe the quoted material above was from the floor of the West Virginia Legislature. I never heard any question raised about our talking about him this way on our test.

Kelly noted that "grading was entirely in the eyes of the beholder" and that he was "OK if applicants just fixed the punctuation but would give Brownie points if they wrote in the margin something like: 'Are we sure we can say this?' Nearly everyone would just roll through the quote and fix it. Ten applicants at the most would raise their hand and ask a deeper question."

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**Latest AP promotions: Paul Haven deputy editor for Latin America-Caribbean, Desmond Butler chief correspondent for Turkey**

<http://www.ap.org/Content/AP-In-The-News/2013/AP-names-Paul-Haven-deputy-editor-for-Latin-America-Caribbean-region>

<http://www.ap.org/Content/AP-In-The-News/2013/AP-names-Desmond-Butler-chief-correspondent-for-Turkey>

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**An AP reporter's eyewitness account of Taliban attack**

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_289563/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=TyTRNS9V](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_289563/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=TyTRNS9V)

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**One newspaper cuts to survive; another invests to thrive**

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/columnist/rieder/2013/06/25/rem-rieder-newspapers/2457629/>

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**Michael Hastings' car hacked?** (Shared by David Briscoe)

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/06/24/michael-hastings-car-hacked\\_n\\_3492339.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/06/24/michael-hastings-car-hacked_n_3492339.html)

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**Twitter CEO sees role for editors: Weed through tweets** (Shared by Latrice Davis)

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/business/2013/06/26/twitter-ceo-at-asne/2460835/>

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[CNN Lays Off Some Staff In DC](#) (Shared by Mark Mittelstadt)

[http://www.mediabistro.com/tvnewser/cnn-lays-off-some-staff-in-dc\\_b185734](http://www.mediabistro.com/tvnewser/cnn-lays-off-some-staff-in-dc_b185734)

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**Survey: People Aren't News Reading; They're 'News Snacking' [Infographic]**

[https://www.mediabistro.com/10000words/news-consumption\\_b20432](https://www.mediabistro.com/10000words/news-consumption_b20432)

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**No shortage of compelling stories being shared on Instagram**

<http://instagram-business.tumblr.com/post/53940884090/video-highlights-news-theres-no-shortage-of>

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**San Francisco Examiner paper sues rival Chronicle; claims low ad rates undermined competition** (Shared by Bob Daugherty)

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/sf-examiner-sues-sf-chronicle-claiming-ad-rates-cut-to-undermine-competition/2013/06/25/2965299c-ddf8-11e2-bc84-8049224b33e1\\_story.html?wpisrc=emailtoafriend](http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/sf-examiner-sues-sf-chronicle-claiming-ad-rates-cut-to-undermine-competition/2013/06/25/2965299c-ddf8-11e2-bc84-8049224b33e1_story.html?wpisrc=emailtoafriend)

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**Beat of the Week** (Shared by Valerie Komor)

Colleagues,

Members of Congress were upset. Even before their scheduled briefing by military officials on the plans to move women into combat roles, AP Pentagon reporter Lolita Baldor was on the wire with them.

Furious congressional aides complained that their bosses had to learn about the plans from the AP, not the Pentagon.

So one Pentagon liaison staffer had a suggestion:

Just send Baldor's story to Capitol Hill, he joked, with a note that said: "Any questions?"

Actually, Baldor was ahead there, too, already rounding up reaction and updating the exclusive story that would win this week's "Beat of the Week."

Baldor had been working the story since January, when then-Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs, signed an order lifting generations of restrictions on women fighting for their country.

Baldor knew the services, including elite special operations forces, were working on timing and mechanics for opening thousands of combat jobs to women. She kept asking questions about how it would work, and finally a longtime Army source gave her its report to Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel on how the Rangers, Green Berets and Delta Force would gradually be integrated.

That would have been a big scoop in its own right, but Baldor wanted more. She took the Army report to the Navy and prodded officials there to divulge their own plan to add women to the storied SEALs. With that, she pried more details from other sources, until finally she had a complete picture of the report on Hagel's desk.

It was the same day that selected members of Congress were to be told, 24 hours before Hagel's scheduled public announcement.

Baldor quoted from Hagel's memo telling the services to move ahead, and reported that women may be able to start training as Army Rangers by July 2015 and as Navy SEALs the next year. She added that they will be required to meet the same physical and mental standards as men.

The bulk of the nearly 240,000 jobs currently closed to women are in the Army, including those in infantry, armor, combat engineer and artillery units that are often close to the battlefield. Some of those jobs not involving special operations forces are to be opened over the next two years.

To round out the package, Baldor added glances on the history of women in combat and the physical requirements for an Army Ranger.

For a 24-hour beat on details of a fundamental shift allowing women to fight alongside men in combat, Baldor wins this week's \$500 prize.

Any questions?

Others whose work impressed the judges:

\_ Victor Caivano, photographer, Rio de Janeiro, for an exclusive image of a police officer in full riot gear shooting a woman in the face with pepper spray, a moment that showed the brutality behind what has been described as a peaceful protest movement sweeping the country. There were many photographers at the protest, but Caivano positioned himself in the right place at the right time to capture the photo that made the front page of newspapers including The New York Times.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/06/18/police-pepper-sprays-woman-brazil-photo\\_n\\_3460325.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/06/18/police-pepper-sprays-woman-brazil-photo_n_3460325.html)

\_ Michael Kunzelman, newsman, New Orleans, for an APNewsBreak about allegations that a lawyer who worked for the administrator of a multibillion-dollar settlement from the 2010 BP oil spill had collected portions of settlement payments from a law firm to which he had once referred claims. The allegations were included in a report presented during a closed-door meeting with a federal judge, but Kunzelman got a tip from a source and was able to get a story to the wire hours ahead of the competition. The attorney resigned the next day.

<http://bit.ly/17xFYDG>

\_ Kathy Gannon, special regional correspondent for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Islamabad, for exclusive reporting on a Taliban proposal to free U.S. Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, held since 2009, for five senior operatives in custody at Guantanamo Bay. The AP was the only news organization to speak directly to the Taliban in Doha, and the story was cited by outlets including the BBC.

<http://news.yahoo.com/ap-exclusive-taliban-offer-free-us-soldier-073132683.html>

\_ Niniek Karmini, newswoman, Jakarta, Indonesia, for a scoop that a Facebook page with radical Islamic messages belonged to a suspect in custody for allegedly attempting to bomb the Myanmar Embassy in Jakarta. Karmini, who worked her antiterror sources for several weeks to get the story, was also able to report that Facebook has become increasingly popular among Muslim extremists in Indonesia for recruiting potential militants and spreading extremist messages.

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/06/20/ap-exclusive-suspect-facebook-page-tipped-indonesia-cops-to-myanmar-embassy/>

\_ Marc Levy, Statehouse reporter, Harrisburg, Pa., for revealing that the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation had built a website to compare competing plans to spend billion dollars in state transportation money, but was refusing to release that information to the public. Three days later, PennDOT released the information.

<http://bit.ly/1aHJ7j0>

\_ Tim Reynolds, sports writer, Miami, for revealing that Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade's knee problems during the playoffs and NBA Finals were more troublesome than he had acknowledged. Reynolds pressed for the exclusive interview after Wade made an offhand remark that "if you only knew" what he had to go through to be able to play. He told Reynolds he had a platelet injection in his right knee in April and then had his left knee drained and needed eight hours of therapy the day before the last game of the season.

[http://espn.go.com/nba/playoffs/2013/story/\\_/id/9412923/dwyane-wade-miami-heat-needed-knee-drained-play-game-7-finals](http://espn.go.com/nba/playoffs/2013/story/_/id/9412923/dwyane-wade-miami-heat-needed-knee-drained-play-game-7-finals)

\_ Anita Hofschneider, temporary legislative reporter, Honolulu, for an accountability story showing that 90 percent of individual lobbyists reported zero expenses for the first half of the legislative session, thanks to lax oversight, old laws and wide loopholes that allowed them to hide their activities. To get the story, she reviewed 400 disclosure forms, many of them in person at a state office because they were not available online.

<http://www.staradvertiser.com/news/breaking/211886771.html?id=211886771>

\_ Mike Baker, newsman, Olympia, Wash., for reporting that state transportation officials had known for decades that an interstate bridge had been repeatedly struck by trucks carrying over-sized loads, but hadn't taken precautions as they had done with similar spans in the state. The bridge in question collapsed recently when it was hit by a truck. Baker got the scoop \_ one of several on this particular story \_ using documents obtained by filing a series of Freedom of Information Act requests with state transportation officials.

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/wash-dot-didnt-flag-caution-i-5-span>

**Mike Oreskes**

article exposing the operations of the rebel Commissary, and showing how supplies for the rebel army were obtained from the North. He was referred to the sub-editor having such matters in charge. The article was appropriate, and was purchased at the author's own modest price of eight dollars per column. Mr. Bennett on reading it, when published in his paper, was much pleased with it, and calling for the editor who had accepted it he asked who the author was. On being told he made a minute of the name. "How much did you promise to pay him for it?" was the next question. "Eight dollars a column," was the answer. "How much did it make?" "Six columns." Running the calculation over in his mind the editor-in-chief remarked, "Forty-eight dollars—that ain't much. Give him a hundred. He may have something else as good." The shrewd surmise was not without foundation, and the author soon after turned up with another interesting *exposé* of the then just defunct Confederacy.

Great events of course increase the number of special correspondents, or concentrates them in great numbers at the points of interest. More correspondents than Fenians appear to have swarmed over the Canadian border during the Canadian invasion, for, judging from the trials which have taken place, only correspondents and priests appear to have been captured. The *Herald* had fifteen or twenty correspondents engaged in that wild-goose chase, and spent in a month at least twenty thousand dollars. The same paper sent eight men, and the other papers one or two each, to witness the war in Europe, but none of them got there in time. During the rebellion they were more successful; the *Herald* maintained a corps of sixty-three of the most enterprising, though by no means the most learned, correspondents. But a fair knowledge of English, united to plenty of energy and some ingenuity, was all that was required by the *Herald*. Promptness in action, not perspicuity in English; a clear head, not a concise style; and common-sense, not a collegiate education, were the qualifications demanded in a *Herald* war correspondent. Not elegance of description, though it was not objected to, was urged on the correspondent; but he was carefully impressed with the idea that to be "ahead" of his rivals was to be successful. The correspondents were told, in a printed circular issued by the editor of the *Herald*, that there was no particular merit in being "up" with his rivals; dismissal was to be expected if he fell behind them, but advancement in position and salary would follow if he came in "ahead." Every thing was done to encourage the energetic, to get rid of the drones. The successful correspondent did as he pleased; his wishes were consulted, his advice asked, his requests granted, his accounts unquestioned, his salary advanced unsolicited. The unsuccessful correspondent handed in his account with fear and trembling; every item

was examined and questioned, and paid with apparent reluctance; while the items of the successful correspondent's bill were never questioned, not even examined, and paid with a compliment. The consequence of this was that, before the war had advanced to a battle—before the troops had been got beyond the "awkward squad" drill—the *Herald's* correspondents were veterans. Their *esprit du corps* was superior to that of any similar body I ever saw, and nothing could have been more admirable. This spirit was not confined to the *Herald* correspondents, however, though not so much developed and encouraged in other offices; and some of the Western papers had most admirably energetic as well as able correspondents, such as Reid and Furay, of the Cincinnati *Gazette*, and Cadwalader, of the Chicago *Times*; while energy and ability were equally united in such of the Eastern correspondents as Coffin ("Carleton"), of the Boston *Journal*, Swinton, of the *Times*, Smalley, of the *Tribune*, and others. The spirit of rivalry engendered by this system of discipline, and the circumstances under which the correspondents always labored, naturally produced some singular incidents. During the war it was customary for a correspondent, after a battle, to start for the office of his paper with what notes he had collected during the engagement, and write up his account as he went. This practice saved time, though it paid dearly for postage. On one occasion I was *en route* for New York, from Nashville, Tennessee, with important news, accompanied by Mr. W. S. Furay, of the Cincinnati *Gazette* (correspondents of non-rival journals frequently collected and used their notes of a battle in connection). We were compelled to take at Nashville a military train, which was being sent through to Bowling Green after reinforcements, and it happened that the engine-driver was a rebel, though he was not suspected as such. He thought it to the interest of the Confederacy to delay the forwarding of reinforcements to Rosecrans, and managed to have his train run into by a second, which was in the rear, and smashed up. I happened to be in the rear car, writing, and when the alarm was given jumped from the car, dropping some of my papers as I did so. Although the danger was imminent, I could not resist the temptation to stop and pick them up. I did so, and again started to get out of the way of the rapidly-approaching train. Other slips of paper fell from my grasp. I gave a look at the coming train, a glance and a grasp at the papers, and then ran for it, laughing in spite of myself at hearing, above the screech of the locomotive, the voice of Furay loudly beseeching me not to "lose the list of killed and wounded!"

After some hours' delay, in which Furay and I wrote at our accounts instead of assisting at the repair of the cars, the two demolished trains were patched up so as to make one whole one, and off we started with the rebel engineer, who had thus far escaped suspicion, again in charge. When within about ten miles of Bowling Green,

Kentucky, I was looking out of the door of the box-car in which Furay and myself had taken passage, when I noticed that the locomotive of the train was detached from the cars, and was some distance ahead, still standing at the bottom of a heavy grade, down which the train was going with great rapidity. I saw what the consequences of the threatened collision must be, and called Furay's attention to the approaching crash. As the first car struck the locomotive it split in two and fell on either side of the road; the second car did the same, as did the third and fourth; and the train was fast becoming a total wreck when Furay exclaimed to me, "Jump!" I did so at the word. I had not been blind to the danger, but, strange enough, as the train was going to pieces I was thinking not how to escape, but how to get to Bowling Green, where we could get another train, and go on toward our destination without delay. While in the act of jumping the solution of that problem came to my mind; and I had no sooner alighted safely on the ground than I called out to Furay—"Get on the locomotive; that will carry us to Bowling Green!" For the sake of any reader who may be interested in the sequel I will add that my surmise proved true: the locomotive did carry us to Bowling Green, where we stated the facts and our suspicions of the engineer to General Manson; and the rebel was arrested, tried, found guilty, but never executed, for the reason that he escaped from confinement and got into the Confederacy.

The same gentleman who participated with me in this adventure once had a not dissimilar one in Georgia. A rival correspondent with a very full and valuable list of the killed and wounded in one of the Atlanta battles was on a train with Mr. Furay, both *en route* to Cincinnati with full details of the battle. The train was thrown from the track at night, and the car in which the correspondents were seated broken into fragments, and several passengers killed and many wounded. Fortunately both correspondents were unhurt, and managed to extricate themselves from the ruins. The ruling passion was strong amidst death, and ten minutes after the two correspondents met each other groping about in the dark, each looking for the other's dead body and *notes of the battle!* It was a grim joke, but each enjoyed it.

This system of carrying one's own account of a battle to the office of course cost considerable money; but army mails were not to be trusted, and the money thus spent was never begrudged by the publishers. It was these expenses which made the cost of the war correspondents so heavy, for they were not paid large salaries. The expenses of a correspondent were frequently as heavy as his salary; and thus the battle accounts of the *Herald* often cost a pretty handsome sum. Its account of the capture of New Orleans cost that paper \$1000, and it paid for its account of the battle of Chickamauga at the rate of about \$250 per column; while the

siege of Chattanooga cost the same paper over \$400 in *starved* horse-flesh alone.

The collection of the news by agents and correspondents is not the last process through which it passes before being given to the printers, and by them to the public; it has yet to be prepared—*i. e.*, "edited;" and this process is not less interesting than that already noticed. A very large force is necessary, or at least is employed, in every New York newspaper office to edit the news, and this force is generally carefully divided into distinct classes or departments. There are in the *Herald* Editorial Department eight separate and distinct departments, giving employment to about 40 persons. There are first of all eight or nine "Writing Editors," who hold about the same rank to the other editors that seniors in college do to their fellow-students, but do not command quite so much consideration. These gentlemen write the original articles which appear upon the fourth page of the paper, and which are known as "Editorials." They meet in the private room of the Editor-in-Chief daily, the Chief or the Managing Editor presiding, discuss for an hour or two the topics of general interest, and suggest subjects for the editorials for the next day's paper. After comparing the various opinions with his own the presiding Editor, either Mr. Bennett or his son, decides how each subject is to be treated, and assigns it to the sub-editor best calculated to "work it up" in the peculiar vein or style of the *Herald*. These meetings are often very interesting, and the editors look forward to them with positive pleasure. I was once present at an "editorial council" when the card of Senator Henry Wilson, of Massachusetts, was handed to the senior Mr. Bennett. He read it aloud and ordered the porter to show the gentleman in. When Mr. Wilson entered he was somewhat surprised at the evidences of a literary levée, but recovered his composure as soon as Mr. Bennett introduced the gentlemen as "his editorial staff." The Senator at once sat down and conversation recommenced. For two hours a sharp discussion between the Senator and the Editor ensued, the "staff" joining in whenever occasion offered or warranted, and a very agreeable, entertaining, and rambling debate on political topics in general, and Congressional proceedings in particular, was the result. At last Senator Wilson, rising, apologized for disturbing the "Council," and as he was leaving the room remarked that he would understand better hereafter "how a great paper is edited." "Will he?" remarked the Editor-in-Chief, as the door closed on the Senator, and a peculiar smile on his countenance indicated to those who knew him best that something funny was in the "old gentleman's" mind. "He thinks he'll understand how the *Herald* is edited, does he? I want each of you," he added, "to take some one idea Mr. Wilson has expressed, state it briefly in one paragraph, and answer it in a second. I want them all short." If Mr. Wilson read the *Herald* of the next morning he