

**From:** Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]  
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# Connecting

May 3, 2014



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# AP STYLEBOOK

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Colleagues,

The AP Stylebook - "The journalist's bible" - has been making news in the journalism industry lately, thrust out of its customary behind-the-scenes role. And here are some recent examples. Leading off, this story from Copyediting.com:

### **Guard Changes on 'AP Stylebook' Team of Editors**

A highlight of the national conference of the American Copy Editors Society has been the AP Stylebook sessions, featuring **Darrell Christian** and **David Minthorn**, two of the three Stylebook editors. Both are understated fellows who treat every Stylebook change as no big deal before Twitter erupts in glee or consternation over website as a single word, hyphenless email, or over as a perfectly fine synonym for more than.

At the last such gathering in Las Vegas, Christian announced that the 2014 Stylebook would be his last. He retired after wrapping up work on the book, which is due out at the end of this month.

Along with style duties, Christian was responsible for AP's Top Stories desk, a desk he created in 2008. He has served as sports editor, business editor, managing editor and editor at large during more than 40 years with the Associated Press.

"Darrell's retirement party on Good Friday might be the best sendoff I've ever attended," said **Colleen Newvine**, product manager for the AP Stylebook. "It was heartfelt and funny and really spoke to the excellence he demanded of himself and others."

Christian's retirement announcement from AP had this to say:

When the Stylebook team was faced with drafting a new entry that was likely to be controversial, the writing job was often given to Darrell. With clarity and precision, he crafted entries that broke new ground for the industry while always reflecting AP's high standards for balance and objectivity.

Christian started in journalism while still in high school, as a sports writer in Henderson, Kentucky. He was sports editor two years later, in 1966. After leaving the Navy in 1972, he joined AP in Indianapolis. He moved to the Washington bureau in 1980 and soon joined the sports desk in New York. He was named AP managing editor in 1992.

I like to quote something Christian said at the ACES conference in Phoenix when I think people are taking the AP Stylebook positions a bit too seriously.

"We don't impose our style," he said; local stylebook are important and encouraged.

Newvine said veteran AP editor **Paula Froke** will be joining Minthorn and **Sally Jacobsen** on the three-person Stylebook editors team. *(Shared by Mark Mittelstadt)*

## 5 AP style changes illustrated with GIFs

The spring is fraught for copy editors as the new edition of the AP Stylebook draws nearer. (This year's is due at the end of May.) What sacred cows will meet a captive bolt pistol? What shibboleths will be banished from all but the most stubborn lips?

Posts about changes to AP style have melted Poynter's servers as the journalism world bemoans or celebrates changes to the language guide that animates most newsrooms.

Herewith, I revisit a few of those moments, along with GIFs that illustrate the resonance of each change. (Here's a wonderful timeline of changes to style from 1980 on, and here's a gallery of covers going back to 1982.)

## Arizona Republic Style Committee mocks AP's style changes

The Arizona Republic Style Committee sent this note to staff on Thursday - with the images attached (see link). THIS WEEK'S RULINGS: When AP announced that it was going to stop abbreviating state names this month, reverberations were felt from North Carolina to California to West Virginia to Washington to South Dakota to ... pretty much everywhere but Iowa, Ohio and Utah.

**Romenesko Update: The Style Committee received this from a member a week earlier, when AP announced the change:**

Date: April 23, 2014 at 4:43:28 PM MST  
To: Phx IC Style  
Subject: M-I-S-S-I-S-S-I-P-P-I ... better start practicing!

I try not be such a hater or a conspiracy theorist, and I love the idea of conforming to the AP Stylebook to keep our lives simple, but ...

- \* I don't think AP uses good logic or justification for its decisions and changes.
- \* I don't think they prioritize effectively. Looking to them for guidance on Molly or the latest LGBT terminology? Maybe in 10 years ... they're too busy rewriting the rules for "under way" and state abbreviations.
- \* I think it's pretty obvious they have an aggressive quota of changes to make every year to keep themselves in the news and, more importantly, force everybody to buy updated versions of their stylebook.

## **News of the AP**

### Obama at midterm: An AP discussion at NYU in Washington

The prospects for President Barack Obama's unfinished agenda at home and abroad, viewed against the backdrop of his lame-duck status, will be the focus of a discussion next Tuesday, May 6, presented by The Associated Press at New York University's campus in Washington. Registration is free and can be found in the link.

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### [AP's Kevin Shinkle named chief communications officer for Delta Airlines](#)

Delta Air Lines has named **Kevin Shinkle** senior vice president and Chief Communications Officer. Shinkle, 48, joins Delta from the executive ranks of the Associated Press where he began in 2008 as assistant business editor directing financial markets coverage. He held positions of increasing responsibility at the Associated Press, most recently serving as business editor, managing coverage of business and finance worldwide with a team of approximately 70 editors and reporters in the U.S., Europe and Asia.

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### [AP debuts puzzle app featuring news, entertainment video](#)

The Associated Press, in collaboration with Autonomy, Inc., and The G-Machine, Inc., today announced the debut of AP Video Puzzles, a mobile puzzle app, using AP's news and entertainment video footage.

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### [Seizing Control: A Better Way to Cover the White House](#)

From **Ron Fournier**, former AP Washington chief of bureau:

The typical White House reporter considers President Obama's team the most secretive in memory, stingier with information than the tight-lipped Bush White House and, according to a Politico survey, prone to lie. The press corps also is relatively inexperienced, with 39 percent on the beat five years or less, and nearly 60 percent in their first decade.

Most of these extraordinary reporters were never stonewalled by President Clinton's team, deceived by Bush's advisers or bullied by any of their predecessors. I was. Yes, I'm pretty old. With age comes the experience and arrogance required to advise the hard-working White House press corps. Here are five suggestions (confession: I didn't always abide by them while on the beat, but wish I had):

Don't let the White House set the ground rules. Everything a White House official does, says or writes is on the record, meaning it can be reported at your discretion, unless you determine that it's in your audience's best interest to adjust the rules.

Click the headline link for more.

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## Link for Richard Pyle story on visit to Normandy American Cemetery

In Friday's Connecting, a link to a story by [Richard Pyle](#) relating to AP World War II photographer George Bede Irvin did not work. Click [here](#) for the link, which tells about a visit to Omaha Beach and the U.S. cemetery where Irvin is buried. Richard and his wife Brenda visited there in 2011.



## Welcome to Connecting

[Sheila McCarthy Gardner](#)- Sheila retired this week after 33 years at The (Gardnerville, NV) Record-Courier, via AP Columbus, AP Newark, and AP NY Personnel. The night before her retirement, she told Connecting she called **Jim Lagier**, her former bureau chief in Columbus, and was alerted to our newsletter. "I really enjoy running across AP bylines from so many years ago. I worked for AP for a total of eight or nine years. I feel as though I remember every single day of it."

[Diane Pleines](#) - worked as a photo editor in New York Photos from 1984-2003.

## **Editorial Talking Points / week through April 27, 2014**

**SUICIDE BY STARVATION:** The AP reported exclusively the story of James Embry, a mentally ill inmate at the Kentucky State Penitentiary in Louisville who starved himself to death. Last December, after weeks of erratic behavior including banging his head on his cell door, Embry began refusing meals. "I don't have any hope," he told a prison psychologist. By the time of his death in January at age 57, the 6-foot-tall prisoner weighed just 138 pounds.

The story by AP's Brett Barrouquere was reported from a unique perspective: For a decade, Barrouquere has corresponded with inmates about pastoral visits, lethal injection, prison food, medical and other issues. After the late February tip from a death row inmate, he tapped legal and prison sources and learned about a possible starvation. That was confirmed by the coroner's autopsy report. Barrouquere also obtained other records, including a Department of Corrections internal report on Embry's death. An internal investigation said medical

personnel failed to give Embry drugs that could have kept his suicidal thoughts at bay and failed to monitor him as his health declined.

The story prompted editorials expressing outrage about Embry's callous treatment and followup stories in Kentucky news media. Online, the story drew top billing and furious comments. MSN News told AP the story was "our top performer by far."

<http://goo.gl/5WkF4T>

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**CANONIZATION COVERAGE:** AP provided unrivaled cross-format coverage of the canonization ceremony conducted by Pope Francis for two of his 20th-century predecessors. The approximately three hours of live TV footage in Rome \_ along with reactions from Poland and as far away as the Philippines \_ capped a week of multi-format reporting. AP journalists from several continents explored the influence of the two new saints \_ popes John Paul II and John XXIII \_ on the current pope and their impact on Catholics worldwide.

AP provided clients with customer-friendly profiles, bio boxes, travel pieces and explainers on everything from the significance of relics in Catholicism to how the Vatican's sainthood process works. Exclusive interviews \_ with a Costa Rica woman "miraculously" healed by John Paul's intercession, a nephew of John XXIII in Italy and the monsignor who worked by John Paul's side for over a decade \_ gave AP's coverage unrivaled breadth and authority.

The coverage also explored the controversy surrounding the selection of John Paul II, with some claiming his failure to do more about child sex abuse should have disqualified him from the honor. AP's aggressive use of advisories well in advance meant customers could plan on what they would receive and when.

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

## Stories of interest

### [White House Correspondents' Association Dinner: A theme party has little to do with D.C. \(Bob Daugherty\)](#)

**And so it begins: The annual bacchanal known as the White House Correspondents' Association dinner. What started as a small gathering for White House reporters, an all-white, all-male enclave of power and privilege for decades, has evolved into a four-day explosion of pre-parties, after-parties, tweets, photo-ops and corporate branding.**

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### [This Week in Review: The FCC defends its plan, and Facebook's \(sort of\) privacy concession](#)

This week's essential reads: If you're in a hurry, read Bill Keller and Marcus Brauchli's interview with Politico on the state of the news industry, Adrienne LaFrance and Robinson Meyer on Twitter's decline as a network, and Cindy Royal telling her fellow journalism professors that they work in tech now.

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### [Oregon Republican calls out Liberal reporter, gets THROWN OUT of candidate meeting](#)

This has to be the best thing I've seen since Newt Gingrich was calling out the liberal media in 2012. Republican Mark Callahan, who is running for US Senate in Oregon, was in a candidate review meeting with other colleagues in order for Willamette Week, a publication in Portland, to decide who they would endorse in the upcoming primary. An opponent of his, Republican Joe Rae Perkins, was on speaker phone. There were others in the room but I'm not sure who they were specifically.

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### [More And More People Say Media Freedom In Their Country Is Declining](#)

Just one day before World Press Freedom Day, a new poll by Gallup found that people around the world think their media is becoming less free. Out of adults polled from 132 countries, a median of 26 percent of people said they did not have media freedom in 2013. A median of only 63 percent said that they felt a lot of freedom, representing a new low since 2010.

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### [IU survey: U.S. journalists say they are less satisfied and have less autonomy](#)

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. -- The reporters, editors and producers who put out the news every day are less satisfied with their work, say they have less autonomy in their work and tend to believe that journalism is headed in the wrong direction, according to the initial findings of "The American Journalist in the Digital Age," a representative survey of U.S. journalists conducted by the Indiana University School of Journalism.

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### [Uncomfortable truths: how free is the press?](#) (Latrice Davis/FB)

The UN has been drawing attention to the role of journalists as the World marks Press Freedom Day. Speaking in New York, Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said that every day of the year "the fundamental freedom to receive and impart information and ideas through any media is under assault, to the detriment of us all."

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### NABJ names Stephen Henderson 2014 Journalist of the Year



Stephen Henderson, editorial page editor at the Detroit Free Press and a 2014 Pulitzer Prize winner, has been named the 2014 Journalist of the Year by the National Association of Black Journalists. In a press release Friday, NABJ noted that Henderson won the Pulitzer for commentary, according to the citation, "on the financial crisis facing his hometown, written with passion and a stirring sense of place, sparing no one in

their critique."

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### ONA Launches Crowdsourcing for DIY Ethics Code for Digital Journalists

PERUGIA, ITALY -- (Marketwired) -- 05/02/14 -- The Online News Association, the world largest organization of digital journalists, today opened up crowdsourcing for its "do-it-yourself" ethics code project, aimed at helping news organizations, startups and individual bloggers and journalists create their own ethics codes.

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### Marsh retiring from Freedom Forum

Longtime media and foundation executive Jack Marsh has retired from the Freedom Forum as president of the Al Neuharth Media Center at the University of South Dakota.

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APME UPDATE - May 2, 2014 - excerpt

FROM AP

Beat of the Week: Lee, Kim

Best of the States: Thompson; Kole

WATCHDOG REPORTING

Washington Post: Tea Party PACS spend little on candidates

News Journal: Hundreds of Delaware drug cases could walk

Maine Sunday Telegram: Demand for home care unmet in Maine

The Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel: County board pays law firm for unrelated work

[Read more Watchdog Reporting](#)

#### INDUSTRY NEWS

Seigenthaler honored by city of Nashville

Senator presses Kerry on safety of journalists

Silver City newspaper reopens

NBC honors Tom Brokaw in LA

Documentary on life, not death, of Ruben Salazar

Kansas professors weigh in on social media policy

Lee promotes Nebraska newspaper publisher

Philly DA to probe claims of sex abuse by officer

NBC supports David Gregory for 'Meet the Press'

D. Lee Carlson named president of Pennsylvania Media Group

Defense wants report on ex-prosecutors' posts on Times Picayune site

Oxford Eagle sold to Boone Newspapers

Former NPR correspondent named journalism dean

Vancour hired as Nevada Media Alliance coordinator

Newseum opens 'Pictures of the Year' exhibit in DC

New York Times 1Q profit falls 51 pct

Philadelphia newspaper guild won't bid for company

US journalist released in east Ukraine

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1. **Do no harm.** Correct what is wrong in the manuscript without introducing any errors.
2. **Respect the writer.** Make only necessary changes.
3. **Respect the reader.** Ensure that readers will understand the text.
4. **Whenever practical, read the entire manuscript first.** Avoid having to re-edit sections by getting to know the manuscript first.
5. **Don't be a search-and-replace editor.** Don't automatically make changes. Think them through first.
6. **Match the editing to the project.** Match the precision of your editing with the needs of the project, text, audience, and publisher.
7. **Look it up.** If a rule gives you pause, look it up. If you're sure you know the rule, look it up.
8. **Enforce consistency.** Ensure that the meaning shines through the language mechanics.
9. **Don't ignore errors; triage them.** When time is tight, thoughtfully decide what should be corrected.
10. **Remember: he who pays makes the rules.** Publishing is a business. The publisher gets to make the rules.

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