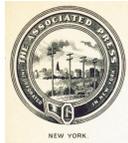

From: Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 08, 2014 9:32 AM
To: stevenspl@live.com
Subject: Connecting - May 8, 2014

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Connecting

May 8, 2014



Colleagues,

Wednesday's Connecting post on a story in The Atlantic, "Why don't older Americans want time machines," resonated with one of Connecting's most senior readers - 98-year-old [George Bria](#).

He wrote:

"At 98, I am comfortable with Windows 8, my iPhone, my iPad and my Kindle, all of which I use daily. I am curious about innovations and would enjoy a look into the future. As a native of Rome, I would also love to go back to the Augustan age and meander about in my toga."

So there, Atlantic! By George...

(George joined the AP from The Hartford Courant in 1942 and served as an AP correspondent in Italy in World War II, covered the Berlin Air Lift as an AP correspondent, served as an AP Broadcast writer and editor in New York, was chief AP correspondent at the United Nations and was supervising editor on the AP Foreign Desk in New York until his retirement in 1981.)



Obama at midterm: An inside view

New York University: With the control of both houses of the US Congress at risk, this program looks at the role of the President in the midterm elections during his last term in office.



Watch Associated Press journalists **Julie Pace** and **Matthew Lee**, along with **Sam Stein**, White House reporter for Huffington Post and **Kathleen Hennessey** White House reporter for the LATimes, for an insider's view as they examine the prospects for the president's unfinished agenda at home and abroad against the backdrop of his lame-duck status. This discussion is moderated by AP Washington Bureau Chief **Sally Buzbee** (photo at left).

Click [here](#) for the video of the program, held Tuesday in Washington. (Shared by Paul Colford)

News of the AP

AP Stylebook: A discussion of style changes

Want to read an interesting discussion on the various AP Stylebook changes of late? Then click [here](#).

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AP PHOTOS: A taste of school lunches around world

Here's a story, by **Donna Gordon Blankinship**, that few news organizations other than the AP could do.

It leads off:

SEATTLE (AP) - First lady Michelle Obama is on a mission to make American school lunches healthier by replacing greasy pizza and french fries with whole grains, low fat protein, fresh fruit and vegetables.

The Associated Press helps you compare her efforts in the United States with what kids are eating around the globe by sending photographers to see what kids in Asia, Europe, Africa and Latin America ate for lunch this week.



Click [here](#) to read more. (Shared by Mark Mittelstadt)

In this photo, Palestinian students during their half-hour mid-day break In the West Bank city of Nablus. (AP Photo/Majdi Mohammed)

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Indy Pro SPJ honors LoBianco, Davies

AP Indianapolis staffers **Tom LoBianco** and **Tom Davies** were honored in the annual Indy Pro SPJ contest.

LoBianco received the First Amendment Award for his reporting on the Tony Bennett and Mitch Daniels emails. He also won first place for Coverage of Government or Politics for his Bennett stories about the school grade changes and first place for Education Reporting for his coverage of Mitch Daniels' efforts to keep Howard Zinn's work out of Indiana classrooms and teacher preparation courses. Davies took third place in Coverage of Government or Politics for his work at the Indiana General Assembly last year.

The winners were honored May 2 at a dinner in Indianapolis. For details, see the Indy Pro SPJ site. (Shared by George Garties)

Eyes on Earth: The ISS HD Earth Viewing Experiment

One of the latest missions from the ISS is kind of amazing. The High Definition Earth Viewing (HDEV) experiment consists of four cameras that have been attached

outside of the ISS. Though temperature is controlled, the cameras are exposed to the radiation from the sun, which will allow astronauts to understand how radiation affects the instruments.



The experiment is being run in conjunction with High Schools United with NASA to Create Hardware (HUNCH) program that serves as outreach for students 9-12. Students participating in this program also helped design some aspects of the camera.

The cameras point down at Earth at all times, which makes for some breathtaking images. The feed will sometimes go down as the signal switches between the cameras, and it is hard to see when the ISS is on the dark side of the planet. If the cameras are down, the screen will be grey.

Watch the live stream by clicking [here](#).



Connecting wishes Happy Birthday

to

[Linda Zimmer Straw](#)

Stories of interest

MSNBC Apologizes for Tequila-Chugging Cinco De Mayo Segment (Michelle Morgante)

MSNBC has apologized for airing an offensive Cinco De Mayo segment on Way Too Early yesterday morning. During the segment, which featured a chyron reading "Mexican Heritage Celebration," host Thomas Roberts attempted to explain the significance of the holiday while producer Louis Burgdorf walked around in a sombrero, chugging tequila and shaking a maraca. "It's also an excuse to drink tequila on a Monday morning at work for Louis," Roberts said, later adding "you have to drink the whole thing and eat the worm." Shortly after it aired, Hugo Balta, the president of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, criticized the segment, calling it "abominable."

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Some news sites cracking down on over-the-top comments (Latrice Davis/FB)

Attention, reader comment-board trolls: News sites are getting tough on your crude, your rude and your sometimes lewd postings. Faced with the unbounded id of anonymous readers who can't resist posting nasty comments under online articles, some news sites are taking steps to rein in the verbal bile. And some, tired of the mess that occurs when free speech gets a little too free, are ending reader comments altogether.

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Report: readers more loyal to large news sites

The latest report by analytics firm Parse.ly indicates large news sites see a greater percentage of visitors return within 30 days than small news sites do. That finding runs counter to the company's internal hypothesis that niche sites would have higher return rates, the company said in an email. Sites with more than 10 million monthly visitors saw a 16 percent return rate, while sites with fewer than 1 million monthly visitors saw a 9 percent return rate.

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What's the best bonus you've ever gotten as a journalist?

Assuming you've ever gotten a bonus at all (or perks, at all) as a journalist, what was the best? On Wednesday, Erik Wemple wrote that staff at Washington City Paper will get \$250 bonuses.

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Jet Magazine to Stop Print Publication and Go Digital(Bob Daugherty)

Jet magazine will be bidding farewell to the newsstand, for the most part, moving

forward with plans to transition into a digital magazine-available as an app-at the end of June, Johnson Publishing Co. announced Wednesday. The black magazine, founded in the early 1950s as a popular news source for black people to get information about their community, has ranked among the top three African-American magazines throughout its existence.

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Exclusive: Cars.com investor Gannett mulls bid for entire company: sources

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Gannett Co Inc ([GCI](#)), one of the newspaper owners of Cars.com, is exploring a bid for all of the auto sales website and has discussed teaming up with private equity firms in a deal that could reach \$3 billion, people familiar with the matter said.

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Has the Word 'Impact' Lost Its Impact?

Two years ago, I wrote an article about the use of the word innovative in our field. The gist of the article was that those who trumpet the fact they are innovative probably aren't, and that, conversely, truly innovative organizations aren't in the habit of publicly defining themselves as "innovative." In this article I want to look at another word that is getting a workout. It's not sustainability, community, or empower -- although our sector could walk away from all three of those and not be any worse for it. No, the word I want to consider is impact

-0-

AP Beat of the Week

Colleagues,

Pentagon reporter **Lolita Baldor** noticed something interesting in, of all places, a women's bathroom at a U.S. military base in Afghanistan: posters on the wall advertising a sexual-assault prevention hotline and giving someone to contact in case of assault.

Baldor, who was traveling with the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the time, said that the posters made her wonder: Were similar posters up in the men's bathrooms? "Most people consider this a 'women's crime' -- but it's clearly not," she says. "Men are just too often embarrassed to report it."

Baldor had broken the news in December that the number of reported sexual assaults in the military increased by 50 percent last year. That reporting relied on information she obtained from two longtime sources and the gathering up of preliminary data piece by piece.

After her return from her February trip to Afghanistan, Baldor knew the final, full fiscal year numbers would be coming out soon from the Pentagon. A source tipped her that the military was beginning to plan the roll-out for its report, so she started asking around. In part because of her accurate reporting earlier, senior Pentagon officials agreed to speak to her and be quoted a day before the report's formal release - and ahead of the defense secretary's own announcement -- something that is extremely rare.

Baldor's May 1 story (<http://goo.gl/54FMgu>) ran a full cycle before other news organization. It reported not only the final data confirming her original scoop, but spotlighted that the Pentagon is concerned about the small number of men willing to report being victims of sexual assault.

As the story showed, only about 14 percent of the reports of abuse involved male victims, a lower fraction than what anonymous surveys would suggest. That, Baldor noted, opens a new front in the military's effort to fix the sex-abuse problem in the ranks, illustrating the need to encourage more men to come forward.

For persistence and determination in reporting on an important, long-term problem affecting the men as well as the women of the U.S. military, Baldor wins this week's \$500 prize.

Others whose work impressed the judges:

_ Candice Choi, food industry writer, New York, for reporting first and exclusively that Coca-Cola is dropping a controversial ingredient from Powerade. The decision to remove brominated vegetable oil is significant because it reflects the trend toward foods people feel are natural. Choi had friends and co-workers nationwide send her photos of labels to confirm the change was under way.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/business/2014/05/04/powerade-drops-controversial-ingredient/8695767/>

_ Dave Porter, newsman, Newark, New Jersey, for obtaining exclusive details on how much the Christie administration has spent on legal bills on its longshot bid to have sports gambling legalized in New Jersey. Using an open-records request, his story provided an example of costly legal work Christie is farming out to politically connected firms. <http://hrlid.us/1fN3hy6>

_ Marc Levy, newsman, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, for breaking news that Gov. Tom Corbett decided to support legalization of medical marijuana, at least for kids in some circumstances. Thanks to a tip from a statehouse source, the AP had the story alone for about a half-hour before the governor made an official announcement, an hour earlier than he originally had intended.

<http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2014/05/01pennsylvania-gov-tom-corbett-backs-marijuana-extract-treatment>

_ Scott Mayerowitz, airline writer, Business News, New York, for being first to report that the Transportation Security Administration would expand its expedited airport screening program, known as PreCheck, to passengers on some foreign airlines. <http://finance.yahoo.com/news/quick-screening-extended-international-airlines->

143749245.html

_ Gary Robertson, statehouse correspondent, Raleigh, North Carolina, for being the first to report that the state is facing a revenue shortfall despite promises that lower taxes would increase economic activity. A legislative source from the ruling Republican Party tipped him off to an internal memo because, the source said, he knew Robertson would report it fairly and accurately.

<http://www.wsocv.com/news/ap/north-carolina/apnewsbreak-analysts-expect-445m-nc-shortfall/nfngX/>

_ Dima Kozlov, videojournalist, Moscow, for capturing video of the moment pro-Russian protesters stormed the government building in Luhansk with baseball bats, seizing control of a key site in one of the largest cities in Ukraine's troubled east. Reuters missed it and initially had to rely on still photos.

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/protesters-storm-administration-eastern-ukraine;>

<https://vimeo.com/93612178>

_ Hyun-ah Kim, senior video producer; Hyung-jin Kim, correspondent, Foster Klug, chief of bureau, Youkyung Lee, technology writer, Seoul, South Korea, for obtaining rights to a heart-wrenching cellphone video taken by a boy whose body was found in the wreckage of the doomed ferry. The video provided details in the timeline and poignant material for the AP story on how panic rose in the students' cabin.

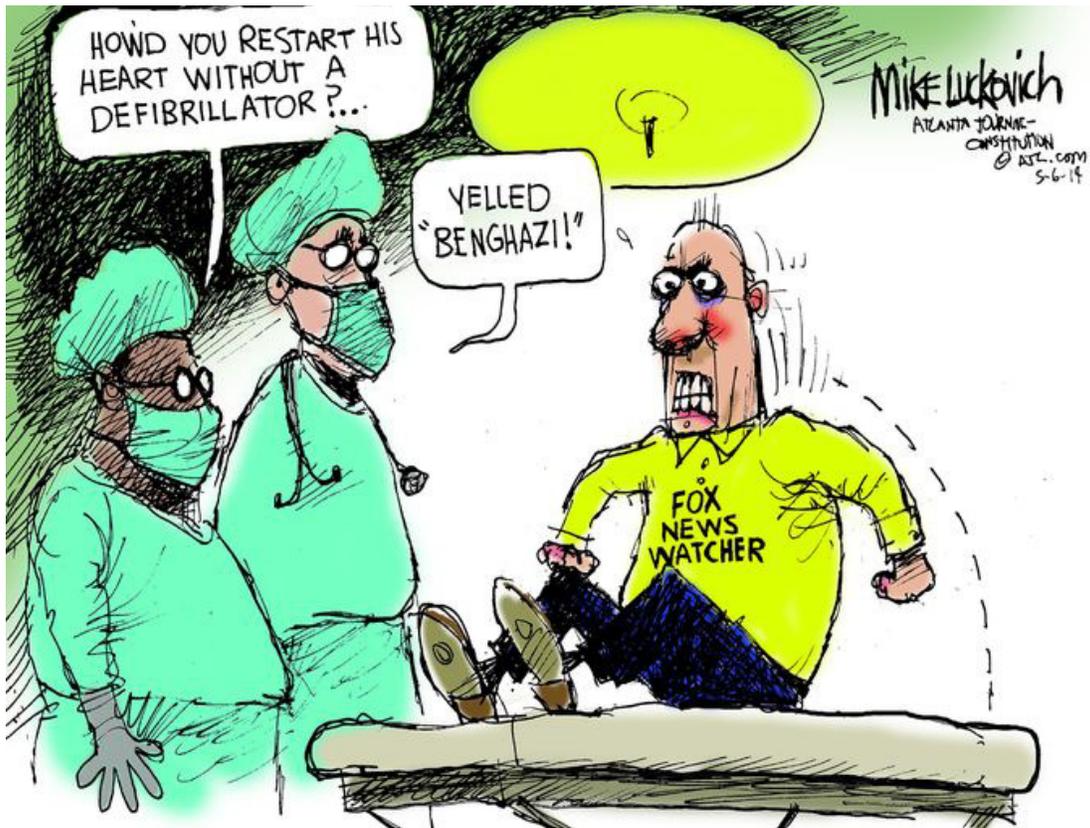
<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/heartbreaking-video-shows-students-ferry-sinks-23545255>

John Daniszewski

Benghazi a heart starter?

And finally, this editorial cartoon from Wednesday's USA Today, spotted by Connecting

co-editor Linda Stevens, should elicit a laugh no matter your political persuasion. I hope.



Paul Stevens
Connecting newsletter
stevenspl@live.com

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