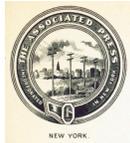

From: Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2014 9:18 AM
To: stevenspl@live.com
Subject: Connecting - May 15, 2014

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



Connecting

May 15, 2014



Colleagues,

Good morning. Here are some stories of interest.

The story of a prolific pedophile: How AP's investigation came together

The discovery of a teacher whom the FBI regards as one of the most prolific pedophiles in memory has set off a crisis in the close-knit community of international schools and prompted hundreds of people to contact the bureau, greatly expanding the potential number of suspected victims. There were decades of missed opportunities to bring William Vahey out of the shadows, The Associated Press revealed this week. Click [here](#) for the rest of the story, shared by Paul Colford.

News about the AP

Press Club Foundation directors

AP's **Sonya Ross** and the Washington Examiner's **Susan Ferrechio** are the newest members of the board of directors of the Washington Press Club Foundation.

The foundation works to create opportunities for students in DC newsrooms and highlight journalism accomplishments. Ferrechio and Ross will join the Board on June

20 for its annual "Welcome to Washington" lunch with summer interns from WPCF-partner newsrooms. Speaking at the luncheon will be ABC News' Jonathan Karl and NPR's Juana Summers.

This week, the board elected officers for 2014-15 including CQ's David Meyers as president, Bloomberg's Margaret Talev as vice president, The Hill's Sheila Casey as treasurer, and PolitiFact's Louis Jacobson as secretary.

Connecting mailbox

Excuse me, Ms. Quinn

[Charles Bennett](#) - reminded of an encounter years ago with The Washington Post's Sally Quinn after seeing her story in Wednesday's Connecting:

Things were tense in the White House as we awaited word on Nixon's resignation. Every outlet had at least two or more shooters on the scene. We expected word at any moment so I had positioned myself directly in front of the podium, leaving no room for anyone to get in front of me.

The briefing was about to begin when this cute petite blonde lady tried to work her way up and I blocked her. She was short and promised not to stand up so I let her; and damn if she didn't try to stand. I was using a short lens so I took my 180mm and rapped her on top of the head. She winced and got down.

After the event Wally McNamee (of Newsweek), who witnessed my stern measures, complimented me on my move and asked if I knew who I had just assaulted. I replied no, why? He informed me that it was Sally Quinn. Not knowing who she was; I replied ,so? Then he informed me that it was Ben Bradlee's squeeze.

I found a dark corner in the newsroom and did not answer the phone that day.

A look back at the Raleigh bureau

Sue Price Johnson - sharing on Facebook a mid-70s look at the Raleigh bureau:

This high-fashion image is from the mid-70s in the AP bureau that was perched in what's now a parking lot next to The News & Observer in downtown Raleigh. The N&O eventually evicted us in hopes of using the space. It learned instead that the building was riddled with asbestos.



Pictured:

Seated with his back to the camera on the front left is the late **Noel Yancey**, a longtime Statehouse writer for the AP in North Carolina. Wonderful man who remembered everything about everyone who ever walked through town. Great sense of humor, too. Seated behind him is **Glenn Stephens**, then news editor. He later returned to his home Alabama and worked at the Birmingham News until his retirement. Looking over Glenn's shoulder is **Dick Brinster**, then a Raleigh sports writer who went on to New York Sports. A side note on Glenn: he was color blind. We had a cord marked "gray cord" on the old Lenkurt (or is it Lenkert) bay so he would know which cord to use to set up reruns to members. (Geez. Telling that piece of technology history makes me feel ancient.) Across the desk from Glenn is **Skip Foreman**, who just celebrated his 35th AP anniversary. His Pitt T-shirt is part of his enormous collection of T-shirts from colleges around the U.S. (at least). Behind him, seated with the curly hair, is either me or **Naomi Kaufman Price** (who later went to the General Desk and is now in Portland, Oregon) in our misguided curly hair experiment days. Standing is **Lori Cook**, who left the AP. In the back at the far left is **Ann Wilson**, longtime AP Raleigh confidential secretary.

Editors: What do you do?

You be the editor:

Your newspaper lets readers upload photos to a Prom Gallery on your website, and a high school couple posts the picture below. The girl's mother calls and asks that you pull the photo. Your paper generally doesn't unpublish web content. What do you do?



Click [here](#) to read what the paper in question - the Knoxville News Sentinel - decided. (Shared by Bob Daugherty)

Stories of interest

[Times Ousts Its Executive Editor, Elevating Second in Command](#)

The New York Times dismissed Jill Abramson as executive editor on Wednesday, replacing her with Dean Baquet, the managing editor, in an abrupt change of leadership.



Arthur O. Sulzberger Jr., the publisher of the paper and the chairman of The New York Times Company, told a stunned newsroom that had been quickly assembled that he had made the decision because of "an issue with management in the newsroom." Ms. Abramson, 60, had been in the job only since September 2011. But people in the company briefed on the situation described serious tension in her relationship with Mr. Sulzberger, who had been hearing concerns from employees that she was polarizing and mercurial. They had disagreements even before she was appointed executive editor, and she had also had clashes with Mr. Baquet.

WITH

[Everything You Need to Know About Dean Baquet, the First Black Executive Editor of the New York Times](#)

A bit buried in the unexpected announcement that the New York Times is ditching its first female executive editor, Jill Abramson, after less than three years, is that the man replacing her is also historic.

Dean Baquet, 57, unexpectedly became the first African-American atop the paper's masthead today, calling it "an honor to be asked to lead the only newsroom in the country that is actually better than it was a generation ago." "There is no journalist in our newsroom or elsewhere better qualified to take on the responsibilities of executive editor at this time than Dean Baquet," said Times publisher Arthur Sulzberger Jr. "He is an exceptional reporter and editor with impeccable news judgment who enjoys the confidence and support of his colleagues around the world and across the organization." From New Orleans to New York, Chicago, L.A., and back, here's his story so far.



AND

[Why Jill Abramson Was Fired](#)

[N.Y. Times: Abramson's compensation 'was not less than' Bill Keller's](#)

[NPR's David Folkenflik explains Jill Abramson's downfall](#)

-0-

[All the news that's fit to Facebook](#)

In launching a mobile app that enables users to graphically view the latest news of their friends, their puppies and the world, Facebook has emerged as one of the most powerful contenders yet in the rapidly expanding cadre of digital news purveyors. Newspapers and other traditional media companies need to pay attention to this revolutionary platform because it represents the sort of compelling and personalized digital experience that modern consumers crave. We'll discuss the urgency of updating the traditional publishing paradigm in a moment. First, here's what Facebook is up to:

-0-

[40 McClatchy Tribune Information Services Positions to be Cut](#)

As many as 40 McClatchy Tribune Information Services (MCT) employees will lose their jobs as Tribune Publishing takes over the second largest supplemental photo wire in the U.S. "A portion of the jobs based in Washington will be part of the ongoing wire service or remain with the bureau," said McClatchy vice president for news and Washington editor Anders Gyllenhaal in the memo posted to Poynter. "But a majority of the Washington positions will be phased out over the course of the summer as the move to Chicago is complete."

-0-

[It's Time for News Outlets to Help with Insurance for War Zone Freelancers](#)

A dirty little secret of news publishing is that most of the pictures and videos we see on the front pages of our newspapers and magazines are taken by freelancers. The digital disruption of print news media has led to a staggering number of cuts in journalism jobs. With limited resources, publishers' reliance on freelancers is at an all-time high. Working with freelancers has huge economic advantages, especially in conflict zones. Publishers don't have to pay for salaries, travel expenses, insurance, lodging, safety equipment, first-aid or hostile environment training. On occasion, some publishers do pay for accommodations or expenses, but this is rare. Generally, they buy or license the content when they need it on an a-la-carte basis without any add-ons or advance commitment. Publishers reap all the rewards of working with freelancers, but assume none of the risks. If something terrible happens at any point leading up to, or following the transaction, the publisher bears no responsibility.

-0-

[The New York Press Club Journalism Awards](#)

Winners for 2014 were announced Wednesday. Our awards presentation dinner will take place June 9th at the Water Club in Manhattan. RSVP information for the dinner will soon be published on this page. An enduring tradition in New York media, the annual New York Press Club Awards For Journalism honor excellence in the craft by writers, reporters, editors, producers, shooters and multimediographers.

-0-

[Journalist shot by Syrian kidnap gang](#)

A journalist and a photographer have been kidnapped, beaten and shot by a rebel gang in northern Syria. Times journalists Anthony Loyd and Jack Hill, who had been travelling with bodyguards, had been in Aleppo and were attempting to return to Turkey when their car was driven off the road by two other vehicles. Only later did they realise that they had been double-crossed.

-0-

King County pays Seattle Times more than \$40,000 for public records violations

More than 1,900 pages of e-mails and documents help tell a story about what's happened to people with mental health issues in King County in Washington, and what the county's doing about it - not bad for a collection of documents the county couldn't seem to find.

-0-

NEFAC Calls on AG to Follow Court Order, Disclose Information on Drone Program(Mark Mittelstadt)

The New England First Amendment Coalition and more than 20 other organizations representing a broad range of interests have joined to urge the U.S. Attorney General not to appeal a recent federal court ruling that would provide the public with critical information about the legal analysis underpinning a targeted killing program.

-0-

AP Beat of the Week

For three weeks, the saga of the kidnapped Nigerian schoolgirls was shrouded in mystery. There were baffling few details about how the girls were targeted and abducted. Much remained unknown as well about why the Abuja government and the international community appeared hesitant to act.

Michelle Faul, AP's courageous Nigeria bureau chief, stepped in. She put together the first narrative of what really happened in Chibok, the remote Nigerian village where the girls were kidnapped by Boko Haram terrorists.

To do it, Faul, through days of persistence, reached people whom nobody else had talked to: One of the girls who escaped the Chibok Government Girls Secondary School, the mother of another missing girl, and the local official who sent out the warning to soldiers before the extremists even arrived. Their accounts allowed Faul to describe the details of the attack to the world for the first time.

(<http://goo.gl/3zbbLU>)

The girls in the school dorm, [she reported](#), heard the sound of gunshots from a nearby town [and](#) at first were relieved when armed men in uniforms burst in and promised to rescue them.

"Don't worry, we're soldiers," they told the girls. "Nothing is going to happen to you." The gunmen directed the hundreds of students to gather outside. Then they went into a storeroom, removed all the food and set fire to it.

The gunmen started shouting "Allahu Akhbar! (God is great!)" the 16-year-old girl told Faul. That was the end of any hope they were being rescued, the girl said, "and we knew."

The story received huge attention, and Faul was interviewed by eight media outlets the next day, including NPR.

She pulled the narrative together while covering spot news every day. It helped refocus the world's attention on the plight of the girls.

Faul followed it up with another story on the early refusal of the Nigerian government to accept aid and its general mishandling of the situation.

She had been on top of this story, a difficult one to cover for logistical and other reasons, from the day it broke. Most challenging, perhaps, was the fact that Faul couldn't actually get to Chibok. The entire town was closed down and the surrounding area remained too dangerous. So she spent days calling contacts in the north of the country, trying to find somebody who would put her in touch with Chibok villagers.

Faul struck gold with an old source she has developed over time, whose respect she had won for months of coverage of the overall Nigeria story, including reporting on child brides, the arrests of gays and the expanding use of Shariah law.

One source put her in touch with a local official in Chibok who had received a warning even before the attack happened.

The local official, however, was suspicious. Who was the AP? What did Faul want to know? What would she do with the information? The conversations, with the phone line breaking regularly, went on for a couple of days. Finally she persuaded her source to vouch for her with the local official, and it worked. But the local official still would not put her in contact with the parent of a missing girl or one who had escaped, because they were all too traumatized.

Then she got a response to an email sent three days earlier to a professor she'd met in Maiduguri. He had a student who had gone back home to Chibok because two of his sisters were kidnapped. But the language barrier and bad phone lines stood in the way of any reporting.

Finally, after four false starts with other girls, one mother, through her tears, said, "We must stitch ourselves together."

And Faul had her story.

For her persistence, imagination and determination to put AP ahead on the highest of profile stories, Faul is awarded this week's \$500 prize.

Others whose work impressed the judges:

_ Carla K. Johnson, AP medical writer, Chicago, for an accountability scoop showing that a Guatemalan immigrant held up by the Illinois governor and former HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius as the "face of the campaign" for health care under the U.S. Affordable Care Act had been denied Medicaid coverage and still lacked insurance 14 months later. Johnson enlisted two key elements of her tradecraft _ a searchable contact list she's created and an Outlook reminder to check in with them _ to track down the woman. Her story forced state officials to reverse their earlier decision.

_ New York photo editor Aaron Jackson and Seattle newswoman Donna Blankinship, for pulling together a unique, photo-driven package, launched by an idea from Deputy East Editor Evan Berland, that shows how far U.S. school lunches must go to catch up with healthy lunches in other countries. AP photographers around the world took pictures of school lunches over a 24-hour period, and Blankinship crafted a story based off the photos and cutlines.

_ Correspondent Michelle Smith, Providence, R.I., for landing the first interview with any of the circus performers injured when a "human chandelier" hair-hanging act went wrong, sending them plunging to the ground. Smith worked closely with a spokesman for the parent of Ringling Bros. to land the only print interview, which he granted because of her fair reporting and the AP's reach.

_ Salim Essaid, Washington video producer, for tapping his community connections to produce a text and video piece about Tarab NYC, a series of social events for LGBT Arab-Americans. He conceived both the video and text elements and used his community connections to gain access and ensure essential cultural nuances weren't overlooked.

_ Los Angeles Entertainment Writer Derrick Lang, for his scoop on Nintendo's refusal to include same-sex relationships in the upcoming English-language version of its life-simulator video game "Tomodachi Life." Lang was the only reporter with a statement from Nintendo. No one else pushed for a comment on a campaign by gamers to build in virtual equality.

_ Newsman Tran V. Minh and Southeast Asia News Editor Chris Brummitt, Hanoi, for a three-hour beat on Vietnam's decision to send patrol vessels to try to stop China's deployment of an oil rig in contested waters and the subsequent collisions between the vessels. Both tapped sources in three countries for the exclusive.

_ Newsman Shawn Pogatchnik, Dublin, Ireland, for his commitment to core AP values: getting the details right and correcting errors. Pogatchnik received contradictory information while reporting on the questioning of Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams in the 1973 death of Jean McConville. News outlets had reported her age as 37 for three decades, but Pogatchnik tracked down McConville's birth certificate and set the historical record straight: The widowed mother of 10 who had been abducted and killed by the Irish Republican Army was 38 at the time of her death.

_ Sadie Gurman, Denver newswoman, for reporting exclusively that a Colorado man sentenced to 98 years for robbery and kidnapping was released 90 years early because of a clerical error. The story included a video interview with the man's wife, who shared details of their life together during his years of mistaken freedom.

_ Stephen Ohlemacher, Washington newsman, for his story showing how the Internal Revenue Service was using a little-known law to make it more difficult for Russian banks to do business in America following the annexation of Crimea. Ohlemacher quoted U.S. tax and banking experts in Moscow as saying Russian bankers fear their business with U.S. customers as well as those in other countries would dry up.

_ New York energy writer Jonathan Fahey and Pittsburgh correspondent Kevin Begos for reviewing nine years of federal safety data in six states to find that a boom in oil and gas drilling has led to an increase in traffic fatalities in some locations.

_ New York City Newsman Jake Pearson, whose continued pursuit of scoops in the death of a mentally ill Rikers Island prisoner yielded new documents that showed officials knew about malfunctioning heating equipment a day before the inmate "baked to death" in a 100-degree cell. The documents revealed officials had put in a work order to have the problems fixed, only to have them delayed by the President's Day weekend.

_ Christina Huynh, temporary newswoman, Little Rock, Ark., for positioning AP to capture the effects of a ruling throwing out Arkansas' gay-marriage ban. Huynh traveled well into the night to Eureka Springs to ensure she was on the ground in the morning when the Carroll County courthouse began issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

Mike Oreskes

AP Best of the States

When the Obama administration announced final enrollment figures for the Affordable Care Act, AP Medical Writer **Carla K. Johnson** turned to her carefully tended, searchable contacts list and found just the right person to comment on the disappointing showing for Latinos.

More than a year earlier, she'd met Celeste Castillo, a Guatemalan immigrant who had been invited onto a stage with Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn to talk about how the ACA would enable her to finally afford health care for herself and her daughter. "They told me I would be the face of the campaign," Castillo recalled.

Needless to say, Johnson was surprised _ and rewarded _ when Castillo announced

over the phone that 14 months later she still did not have health care, despite her best efforts. As she told Johnson, at first she got bogged down with website problems, like lots of other people. But then she got questionable advice from one of the government "navigator" guides: She should seek coverage through expanded Medicaid. And then she got word that she had been rejected for Medicaid, too late to apply through Illinois' federal-state exchange.

Johnson's next call was to the governor's office, to ask what had happened. Within hours, Castillo suddenly had health insurance after a Medicaid casework specialist called to tell her that her rejection had been a mistake. Another official had erroneously counted as income a monthly "gift" from Castillo's husband dedicated to their 22-year-old daughter's education. Not counting that, the officials determined that Castillo qualified for expanded Medicaid, but only after getting a call from The Associated Press.

Featured in Johnson's story a few days later, Castillo indeed turned out to be a face of the 'Obamacare' campaign, but in a way that neither Sebelius nor Quinn could have imagined. Her story was even more embarrassing because of how badly the Obama administration wanted Latinos to sign up.

The episode showed the kind of impact that our journalism can have on people's lives. But it also showed the kind of diligent, sensitive and dogged work that Carla Johnson has done for years on her health care beat, both on the national and state levels. She has played an essential role in the AP's national coverage of the ACA, breaking news after spotting trends on addiction coverage and government marketing campaigns, and anchoring national news when needed. She also has repeatedly held officials in Obama's home state accountable for their performance on delivering the promises they made.

It was the second time Johnson had thought to check in with Castillo over the year since they had met. She often sets reminders for herself on her Outlook calendar.

[Johnson's story about Castillo](#) ran prominently on websites and in newspapers, including the front page of the Belleville News-Democrat outside St. Louis. Yahoo tweeted the story and got 500 comments on its news site. Kaiser Health News said: "It took a reporter's intervention to obtain coverage for a (suburban) Chicago resident who had touted the law's benefits at a news conference last year..."

Castillo, a U.S. citizen who immigrated 38 years ago, remembered Johnson from their previous conversations. The day the story appeared, she texted this message: "THANK YOU VERY, VERY MUCH CARLA!! YOU ARE OUR "STAY HEALTHY ANGEL." HAVE A J DAY!

Other work that impressed the judges this week:

_ Erika Niedowski, Providence newswoman, for being first to report that the former head of Rhode Island's economic development agency [would not testify](#) before a

House panel reviewing a failed deal to grant a \$75 million state loan guarantee to former Red Sox pitcher Curt Schilling's video game company.

_ Carolyn Thompson, supervisory correspondent, Buffalo, for her story looking at how law enforcement officers are increasingly using [text messages in crisis negotiations](#).

(Beat of Week and Best of States shared by Valerie Komor)

Paul Stevens
Connecting newsletter
stevenspl@live.com

[Forward this email](#)



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to stevenspl@live.com by stevenspl@live.com | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).
Connecting newsletter | 14719 W 79th Ter | Lenexa | KS | 66215