
From: Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]
Sent: Friday, June 13, 2014 8:34 AM
To: stevenspl@live.com
Subject: Connecting - June 13, 2014

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



Connecting

June 13, 2014

Click [here](#) for sound of the Teletype



"No, we wait for the AP to call it"

Dear Colleagues,

On Tuesday night, unaware of the potential for election drama in Virginia, AP's central Regional Director **Dale Leach** and **Kate Butler**, vice president for Membership and Local Media Markets, were having dinner with BH Media editors at the Richmond Times-Dispatch, part of the BH group's annual editors meeting at which Leach and Butler had been invited to speak.

After dinner, Times-Dispatch editor Danny Finnegan took Leach, Butler and a few of the editors on a tour of the newsroom. In the newsroom, editors were watching with amazement as House Majority Leader Eric Cantor fell behind early. Mike Reilly, editor of the Omaha World-Herald, asked Finnegan if the Times-Dispatch would call the race. "No, we wait for the AP to call it," Finnegan said. "They know what they're doing, so we just wait for them."

As the tour was ending, Leach and Butler asked to see the AP bureau, which moved into the Times-Dispatch building about two months ago. Dale said, "When we walked in, we were surprised to see **David Wilkison**, director of major accounts, in the bureau (he was filling in for COB **Dorothy Abernathy**, whose daughter was graduating from high school Tuesday night and who -- like almost everyone else -- expected little election drama). We

were even more surprised when we realized Wilkison was on the phone with Washington's **David Pace**, preparing to call the race. As Wilkison made clear the race was going to be called, Finnegan excused himself and bolted back to the Times-Dispatch newsroom to get everyone ready for the moment when Cantor's defeat would become official.

"That was really fun to be a part of," Finnegan said the next day. And, Dale notes, he was right: "We'd all had a front-row seat for a moment in history.

"After the Cantor call, I had to go back to my hotel room to call the Arkansas runoff election, which was interesting to our Arkansas members and customers but didn't offer nearly the same level of national drama!"

Where in the world is Bob Meyers?

Connecting colleague **Bob Meyers** files this report on his cross-country bicycle trip, which began April 28 in California:

Currently I am in Rosemary Beach on the Gulf Coast of New Orleans approaching the 3k mileage mark with under 400 miles to go to my "ocean fall"



At St Simons Island. I was 18 days riding across Texas from El Paso to The Sabine River east of Kirbyville. There were a lot of hills from end to end not only in the Hill Country. Got my first soaking on Saturday of Memorial Day weekend in Fredericksburg but was pretty dry when I visited the Lyndon Johnson boyhood home in Johnson City. I sheltered with a friend in Austin a few rainy days and had a great lunch and visit with **Harry Cabluck**, retired AP photographer who mentored a good chunk of senior staff.

From Austin easterly through ranchland between Dallas and Houston. AP photo contributor Dr. **Scott Lieberman** came down from Tyler to meet for lunch. Late that Sunday afternoon a guy lobbed a golf ball into my chest from an approaching car doing 75 mph. Still bruised from that.

Several rain showers a day through Louisiana then a visit with AP photographer **Gerald Herbert** for which my wife joined me for a few days exploring New Orleans. I rode out of the Big Easy Monday through coastal MS, the Dauphin Island ferry across Mobile Bay

and stayed dry camping in a curious thunderstorm at Gulf Shores state park and got to Rosemary Beach on a second 100-mile-plus day. The ride along Gulf Shores National Park Was sublime. When I leave on Saturday or Sunday, I will have four more days to ride and less than 400 miles to my destination.

Connecting mailbox

About Indianapolis CoB Bill Richardson's tragic death in 1966

[Ike Flores](#) - Bill was state editor and Sanky Trimble bureau chief in Albuquerque in the late 1950s when they quickly needed to replace a staffer, Bob Green, who had been drafted by the Army. Both of them called on the J-Department at the University of New Mexico to ask to speak to its top student. I was chosen, interviewed and hired within a week (on the books as a part-timer until Bob could come back).

Bill Richardson became my mentor, teaching me what it was really like outside the classroom. He was conversant in Spanish and needled me into polishing up my Spanish and trying to help with my scant knowledge of Portuguese. I also became the bureau's unofficial photographer -- college football and the Sun Bowl Game in El Paso, I remember -- when I wasn't working nights filing radio splits.

Anyhow, to make a long story short, Bob Green returned from his Army stint and I was politely asked to leave but to keep myself available. On a Thanksgiving weekend in 1958 (I believe) Sanky tracked me down by telephone at my mother-in-law's home in Deming (about 300 miles from AQ) and offered me a staff job with AP in Albuquerque. Was I still interested?

Was !! I dropped out of school, said goodbye to the GI Bill and was a loyal AP staffer for another 30 years. Bill kept mentoring, encouraging me and becoming instrumental in my going to Santa Fe and later to 50 Rock. We kept in touch for several years. I was shocked to learn of his death while I was on a foreign assignment. I recall him fondly -- as a teacher, good beer-drinking buddy and the smiling-est face in the room. To me, Bill Richardson and his wife were The AP.

The transfer flu

[Joe McKnight](#) - I don't recall being asked to write a "Letter To The General Manager" (AP had no president then) when I went to work for AP in March 1951. I had been working for a religious weekly in Birmingham and had never been to Atlanta until the Sunday before I walked into the Atlanta AP bureau on the second floor of The Atlanta Journal building on Monday.

The bureau at the time was transitioning between retiring Chief of Bureau W. F. Caldwell and Lew Hawkins, who was returning to Atlanta after a couple of years as Denver COB. So when I started work I wasn't sure who my boss was. Maybe neither Caldwell nor Hawkins thought to tell me to write a letter. O. P. "Pete" Hanes was day news editor and Roy Hutchins was night news editor and for practical purposes they were my bosses.

One thing I do remember was that I got sick that first week; caught a cold which developed into a full blown case of flu in two days. I was living in a room at the downtown YMCA, four blocks from the office, at the time. Fortunately, my wife, Peggy, had an aunt and uncle living in Atlanta, so on my first Saturday in town, her uncle took me to his house.

That illness turned out to be a pattern for me on transfers -- to Birmingham, Wichita, KS and Columbus, OH. On each move I came down with flu and had to spend most of the first week at each new job struggling to find strength to go out for a meal or two each day.

Fortunately those spates of illness lasted only a few days each.

Of the World Cup and OJ

[Mark Mittelstadt](#) - It was on the opening night of the World Cup 20 years ago that millions of Americans became glued to their televisions, watching not the action on the pitch from the Germany-Bolivia soccer match at Soldier Field in Chicago or Spain-South Korea at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas, but rather a slow-speed car chase unfolding in Los Angeles.

Shortly after O.J. Simpson was charged with the murders of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and Ronald Goldman, the gruesome case turned into a manhunt with Simpson in his white Bronco leading police along LA's streets and freeways as police tried to talk him into surrendering. Television cameras in the air and on the ground caught every turn, U-turn and maneuver through traffic, eventually ending at Simpson's home in Brentwood.

As the chase was playing out, I was attending a reception hosted by then New Jersey Gov. Christine Todd Whitman at the governor's mansion in Princeton for foreign dignitaries attending the Group E World Cup games being held at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford starting the next day. As AP's chief of bureau in New Jersey, I had been involved with planning of the coverage for the state.

The news event breaking and unfolding in seeming slow motion on the other side of the country brought a strange, almost surreal vibe to an otherwise joyous celebration as New Jersey and the United States took the global stage for a quadrennial sports competition keenly watched by the world.

News of the AP

Mexico protesters attack journalists, smash glass

MEXICO CITY (AP) - Four journalists have been injured when masked protesters attacked them after smashing windows during a march through Mexico City.

The protesters had joined a larger march Tuesday honoring students killed in government repression of a 1971 demonstration.

The youths broke windows at bus stops, stores and the ruling party headquarters Tuesday before turning on journalists, apparently angry they were being photographed.

A freelance photographer on assignment for The Associated Press, Marco Ugarte, suffered fractured facial bones.

The press freedom group Article 19 identified the others as Paris Martinez of Animal Politico, Luis Castillo of the Reforma newspaper and freelancer Nestor Negrete. None of the injuries was life-threatening.

The Mexico City police department said police kept their distance to avoid provocations and said that "not one single representative of the media was injured."

A police official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to be quoted said no policeman was close enough to the scene of the attack to witness it. The official said nobody had been arrested, because no criminal complaint had been filed.

Such black-clad, masked protesters have been known for years to commit violent acts during protests in Mexico City. Though their ideology is unclear, many spray paint anarchist graffiti on walls and windows during the marches.

After being criticized for questionable arrests in some previous demonstrations, Mexico City police have adopted a policy of setting up security perimeters just off the march routes, while allowing the youths to roam through the streets without confronting them.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday

To

[Jim Williams](#)

[Matt Sedensky](#)

More news of interest

[Photographer killed covering north Iraq clashes](#)

Kirkuk (Iraq) (AFP) - A news photographer was killed while covering fighting between Kurdish security forces and jihadists in northern Iraq on Thursday, medical and security

sources said.

Kamran Najm Ibrahim died and 14 Kurdish security personnel were wounded in the clashes west of the oil city of Kirkuk, where the militants have seized a string of mainly Sunni Arab towns in the ethnically divided province. Ibrahim, a well-known freelance photographer, was the first journalist to lose his life covering a major offensive spearheaded by jihadist group the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, which began late on Monday.



-0-

[Sulzberger scion's star rises](#)

As the 33-year-old son of New York Times publisher and company chairman Arthur Sulzberger Jr., whose family has steered the institution since 1896, Arthur Gregg Sulzberger is one in a handful of heirs presumptive in one of the world's last remaining great newspaper dynasties. A journeyman-by-design who started building his muscle at smaller papers in smaller towns (just like his dad), he's been a reporter and editor at the Times for the past five years and change. There's also a good chance he'll be running the place some day. So it's not a bad idea to start paying closer attention to what Sulzberger is doing right now.



-0-

[POLITICO Launches Journalism Institute](#)

POLITICO announced today the creation of POLITICO Journalism Institute, an initiative focused on training the next generation of journalists and supporting diversity in Washington newsrooms. The program will offer intensive, hands-on training for university students interested in covering government and politics.

-0-

[Jill Abramson, Ex-Times Editor, to Teach at Harvard](#)

Jill Abramson, the former executive editor of The New York Times, will teach undergraduate courses in narrative nonfiction at Harvard this fall, the university announced on Thursday. Ms. Abramson was abruptly dismissed last month by the newspaper's publisher, Arthur Sulzberger Jr. Her firing, less than three years after she was appointed the paper's first female executive editor, stunned The Times newsroom and the media world.

-0-

[Will withholding shooters' names and photos reduce violence?](#) (Mark Mittelstadt)

Sun News in Canada is not naming the person accused of killing three Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers and wounding two others last week in Moncton, New Brunswick. The network said in an editorial:

-0-

[5 reasons managers are addicted to "fixing" - and how to recover](#)

I admit it. I'm a recovering fixer. Show me a piece of copy and my fingers get itchy. I crave contact with a keyboard, with a gnawing urge to tweak someone's writing a little - or maybe a lot. Then I remind myself of the pledge I took years ago.

-0-

[Objectivity and impartiality in digital news coverage](#) (Latrice Davis/Facebook)

Are the traditional journalistic disciplines of objectivity and impartiality relevant or wanted in a digital news environment? Many practitioners and commentators argue that they are not - that editorial approaches suited to the middle of the last century, with a scarcity of bandwidth and in an age of media concentration, are now redundant in the digital age of plenty.

-0-

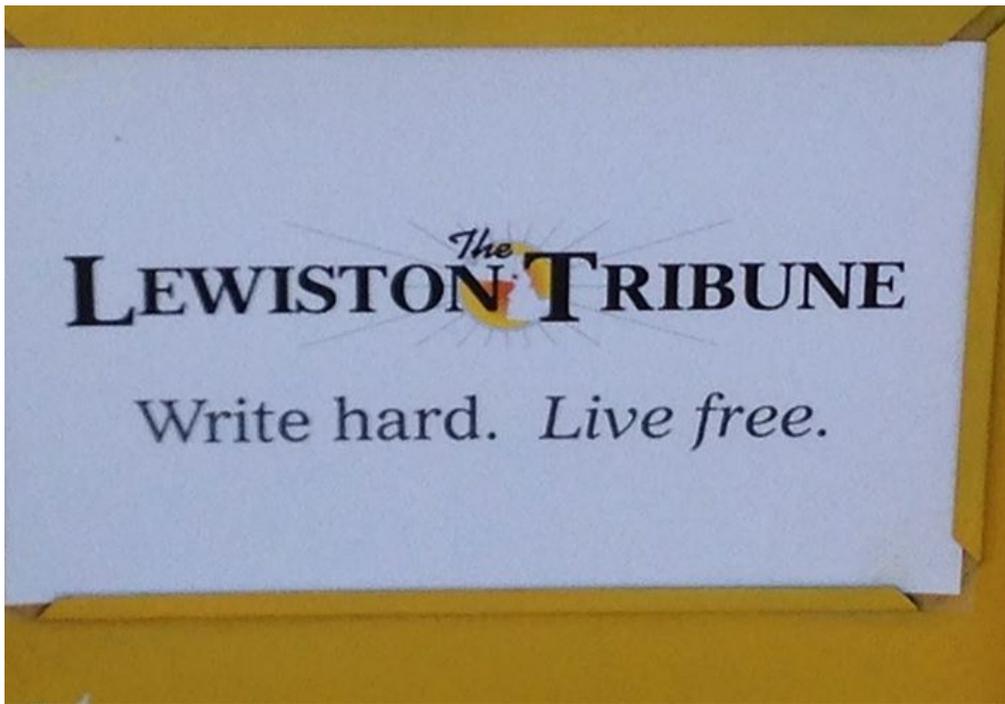
[Only about 10 percent of online readers pay for news](#)

Despite news organizations' efforts to offer readers more ways to pay for digital news, only about 10 percent of online users worldwide are actually paying, according to a new report from Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism at the University of Oxford. "Digital News Report 2014" surveyed more than 18,000 people in several countries, including the U.S., U.K., Brazil and Japan.

-0-

Write hard. Live free.

Gale Baldwin, business managing editor of the Savannah Morning News, posted on his Facebook page a photo that a friend had taken of a news rack of The Lewiston, Idaho, Tribune. "Gotta like their slogan," commented Baldwin, who some on the Connecting list will know from previous positions in Rockford, Ill., and Trenton, N.J.



And finally...

[George H.W. Bush rings in 90th birthday in style](#)

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine (AP) - Former President George H.W. Bush celebrated his 90th birthday on Thursday by making a tandem parachute jump near his summer home, fulfilling a goal he made five years ago after a similar jump even though he can no longer use his legs.

The nation's 41st president jumped from a helicopter at about 6,000 feet while harnessed to retired Sgt. 1st Class Mike Elliott, a former member of the Golden Knights, the Army's parachute team, who guided Bush to a safe landing on his 85th birthday.



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