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**Sent:** Tuesday, June 17, 2014 9:17 AM  
**To:** stevenspl@live.com  
**Subject:** Connecting - June 17, 2014

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# Connecting

June 17, 2014

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## Remembering the Bronco Chase



AP Photo/Joseph Villarin/File

Today is the 20-year anniversary of O.J. Simpson's Bronco chase, and an AP journalist who covered it, [Brian Bland](#), shares this remembrance:

Millions remember O.J. Simpson's "Bronco chase" twenty years ago today, but not everyone remembers that Friday, June 17, was already the fifth day of the story, a day my 1994 journal calls "one of the most bizarre, sad and wild days of my career" with AP Radio up to that time.

"Wild" because of new developments seemingly every ten minutes; "bizarre" because of the nature of the chase and the story itself; and "sad," not only because two people had been butchered, but because Simpson was admired in L.A. for his USC football career, his comic turns in films and for his down-to-earth demeanor - a football hero who didn't take himself too seriously. Almost no one knew of the beatings, the threats, the self-absorbed outlook, the obsession with Nicole.

Yet, from the start, Simpson's words and actions didn't seem to add up and by the end of the day on June 17, people were expressing how guilty he appeared to be and how sad they felt, as if there had been a death in the family.

Reporters had been camped out at Simpson's home for days; early reports said a bloody glove had been found there. By day five, police already had questioned Simpson for hours and he had attended Nicole's funeral at St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church. I had watched him in the church courtyard and did live shots from outside the church.

On June 17, before the infamous chase began, I was crisscrossing L.A.'s west side myself, trying to ignore a bug I'd picked up a couple of days earlier. First, I raced from home to police headquarters downtown on word that Simpson was to surrender and be arraigned. Two hours later, we sat in the police auditorium to be told Simpson had disappeared.

I was sent to Nicole Simpson's home, but never made it through the terrible traffic before the desk realized it was a false alarm. I crawled back to my studio at the bureau. On TV, Simpson friend Robert Kardashian (the now-deceased father of the clan), read a note penned by Simpson that seemed to imply his suicide was imminent. I filed a couple of wraparounds; by now it was past 6 p.m. and I was taking a few steps toward the bureau kitchen when word came of the white Ford Bronco.

With the chase unfolding on live TV, my desk saw no point in my trying to hit a moving target or in going to Simpson's home. He could've killed himself or surrendered while I was stuck in traffic. Instead, I filed numerous live shots from the studio while the BNC (Broadcast News Center), with permission, pulled audio cuts from the TV coverage, including the police news conference that followed Simpson's surrender.

For me, day five of hundreds of "Simpson days" to follow ended at 2 a.m. when I medicated myself and tried to sleep as much as I could over the weekend before watching Simpson being arraigned on Monday. The "not guilty" verdict was still sixteen long months away.

## Connecting mailbox

### Joe McGowan remembers his dad

[Joe McGowan](#) - Many thanks to Paul for that wonderful tribute to his dad. I thoroughly enjoyed it.

There were many similarities between Paul's life with his dad and my life with my dad. Paul's dad was born in northeastern Nebraska. My dad was born in Fairbury, almost due south and near the Kansas line. My dad grew up on his parents' farm in Wilcox, a community of about 300 people. The area was devastated by the great Dust Bowl of the 1930s.

My dad had tough days because of the depression. He owned a tabloid daily in Grand Island, Nebraska, but lost it. He loaded the family (wife, 3 children) in the elderly auto and drove to Denver. Even when he was an editor or publisher, he kept his ITU (International Typographical Union) card. When he arrived in Denver, he had 25 cents in his pocket. He bought three 5 cent hamburgers and a 10 cent quart of milk and fed me, my brother and sister. Mom and dad went hungry. Then he went to the Denver Post and ITU rules said a visiting printer got one night's work. He worked the overnight, waited until the cashier's office opened, got his one day's pay and he and mom were able to eat.

Later, he owned the weekly Green River (WY) Star. The wife of a local doctor would come to the office each Thursday to get one of the first copies off the press. She would read the paper and make jokes when she found a typo. One day, my mother, who was office manager and bookkeeper, had had it. She told the woman, "Well, we get to correct our mistakes. Your husband buries his!" The woman quit coming in on Thursdays.

One day, my dad sent me to the local drugstore to get him a pack of cigarettes. I returned jubilant because I had been given too much change. My dad pointed out the cashier at the drug store would probably have the money taken from her salary and he sent me back to give the money to the cashier. It was a good lesson.

My dad was an officer in the army in World War I and had very grim duty. Thousands of soldiers were dying from the 1917 flu epidemic. He and a team of enlisted men accompanied each coffin to the soldier's hometown for funeral services. It was also in WWI that they gave free cigarettes to soldiers and my dad became a lifetime smoker, dying of lung cancer at a much earlier age than he should have.

When I went to the University of Wyoming and majored in journalism, I realized as time went by that I had learned more from my dad about writing, reporting, objectivity, etc. than I was to learn at UW.

### Kudos to Linda Deutsch

[Jim Lagier](#) - Many thanks for the Yahoo News story on Linda Deutsch, America's greatest trial reporter. One of my happiest memories of the AP was taking telephone dictation from Linda while I was news editor in Los Angeles. The stories were perfect, publishable as dictated. I once asked her how she did it. She said, "I can see the story in my mind before I start dictating."

## News of the AP

AP launches Middle East video service

The Associated Press has launched AP Middle East Extra, a service offering video packages of news, human-interest, cultural, economic and technology stories from the region.

It is targeted at media organisations in the Middle East, as well as those outside that have a strong interest in the area.

Click [here](#) for the rest of the story.

## Scenes From D-Day, Then and Now

While similar to D-Day images, then and now, shared in Connecting last week, this display in The Atlantic that also includes photos from a Reuters photographer is worthwhile to witness.

In anticipation of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day, two photographers traveled to France, seeking to re-photograph images captured back then. Getty photographer Peter Macdiarmid and Reuters photographer Chris Helgren gathered archive pictures from the 1944 invasion, tracked down the locations, and photographed them as they appear today. Starting with photo number two, all the images are interactive -- click on them to see a transition from 'then' to 'now', and see the difference 70 years can make.

Click [here](#) to continue with a fascinating display.

## Stories of interest

[The 60-second interview: Laurie Hays, senior executive editor, Bloomberg News](#)

CAPITAL: What are your responsibilities as senior executive editor in charge of beat reporting and editing?

HAYS: I lead 1,200 beat reporters around the world at Bloomberg News in delivering high-impact stories on business, finance and Washington for the terminal, the web and our magazines. Every day we look for exclusive scoops and data-driven analysis that give

readers unique, high-quality information they can't find elsewhere. Many of these stories are turned around on a daily - even hourly - basis, but we also have a group that reports in-depth investigative topics that have led to changes in behavior and how business practiced and regulated. One of our biggest stories we broke in the last year, and have continued to pursue, was on currency market manipulation. We were first to reveal that traders at some of the world's largest banks were involved in fixing benchmark currency rates. That story has led to regulatory investigations and changed behavior at many banks.

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### [New York Times Editor Treated for Cancer](#)

Dean Baquet, the executive editor of The New York Times, had a malignant tumor removed from his kidney on Saturday and will spend about a week away from the office while recovering, he said in an email to the newspaper's staff on Monday morning.

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### [The source may be anonymous, but the shame is all yours](#)

Twice over the past two weeks, New York Times reporters got taken for long rides by anonymous sources who ultimately dropped them off at the corner of Mortified and Peeved.

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### [Journalism Scholars Decry KU Social Media Policy: 'Welcome to East Germany, Kansas'](#)

The president of the Society of Professional Journalists has condemned a new social media policy at the University of Kansas that allows administrators to punish educators for social media post they deem inappropriate, saying in an interview with The College Fix that the policy reminds him of socialism.

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### ['Employee of the future': Bridging media's church-state divide](#)

As The New York Times' Innovation report recently highlighted, the changing realities of the industry demands that publishers rethink the church-state divide. But a new breed of cross-departmental employee who openly straddles news and business is already emerging at other publishing companies.

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### [Steve Buttry: My next adventure: teaching at LSU](#) (Ralph Gage)

The next chapter of my career will be at Louisiana State University. After I wrap up my work at Digital First Media July 1, I will become the Lamar Visiting Scholar at LSU's Manship School of Communication.

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### [John Temple joins First Look leadership team](#)

The challenge we have set for ourselves at First Look Media is to do things that haven't been done before, to find ways to combine journalism and technology to improve society. We're hard at work establishing a foundation for the company and part of that process has involved consulting with a number of people to help test our vision. Among those has been a former partner, John Temple, who helped found my first journalism start-up, Honolulu Civil Beat, as its first editor.

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### [Suit seeks to block Utah newspaper deal, argues it dooms The Tribune](#) (Bill Beecham)

The Salt Lake Valley is best served by two daily newspapers but a new deal threatens to put The Salt Lake Tribune out of business, a lawsuit filed Monday claims. Former employees of The Tribune are asking a federal judge to halt new financial dealings between the paper and its main rival, the LDS Church-owned Deseret News.

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### [After Louisville layoffs, reporters will be coached more than edited](#)

Louisville Courier-Journal Executive Editor Neil Budde tells WFPL's James Miller the budgetary imperatives behind last week's layoffs allowed him to reimagine the news organization: "The approach I took was rather than what we've done in the past - which is identify somebody here, somebody there - was to step back and say: If I had 'X' budget and that's the new budget and I was creating a news organization today from scratch, how would I do that?" The Courier-Journal laid off seven people last Tuesday, including Managing Editor Jean Porter, metro editor Mike Trautmann, graphic artist Steve Reed and multimedia manager John Mura.

## **And finally...**

### [13 Things Mentally Strong People Don't Do](#)

#### **1. They don't waste time feeling sorry for themselves**

Mentally strong people don't sit around feeling sorry about their circumstances or how others have treated them. Instead, they take responsibility for their role in life and

understand that life isn't always easy or fair.

## **2. They don't give away their power**

They don't allow others to control them, and they don't give someone else power over them. They don't say things like, "My boss makes me feel bad," because they understand that they are in control over their own emotions and they have a choice in how they respond.

## **3. They don't shy away from change**

Mentally strong people don't try to avoid change. Instead, they welcome positive change and are willing to be flexible. They understand that change is inevitable and believe in their abilities to adapt.

## **4. They don't waste energy on things they can't control**

You won't hear a mentally strong person complaining over lost luggage or traffic jams. Instead, they focus on what they can control in their lives. They recognize that sometimes, the only thing they can control is their attitude.

## **5. They don't worry about pleasing everyone**

Mentally strong people recognize that they don't need to please everyone all the time. They're not afraid to say no or speak up when necessary. They strive to be kind and fair, but can handle other people being upset if they didn't make them happy.

## **6. They don't fear taking calculated risks**

They don't take reckless or foolish risks, but don't mind taking calculated risks. Mentally strong people spend time weighing the risks and benefits before making a big decision, and they're fully informed of the potential downsides before they take action.

## **7. They don't dwell on the past**

Mentally strong people don't waste time dwelling on the past and wishing things could be different. They acknowledge their past and can say what they've learned from it. However, they don't constantly relive bad experiences or fantasize about the glory days. Instead, they live for the present and plan for the future.

## **8. They don't make the same mistakes over and over**

Mentally strong people accept responsibility for their behavior and learn from their past mistakes. As a result, they don't keep repeating those mistakes over and over. Instead, they move on and make better decisions in the future.

## **9. They don't resent other people's success**

Mentally strong people can appreciate and celebrate other people's success in life. They don't grow jealous or feel cheated when others surpass them. Instead, they recognize that success comes with hard work, and they are willing to work hard for their own chance at success.

## **10. They don't give up after the first failure**

Mentally strong people don't view failure as a reason to give up. Instead, they use failure as an opportunity to grow and improve. They are willing to keep trying until they get it

right.

### **11. They don't fear alone time**

Mentally strong people can tolerate being alone and they don't fear silence. They aren't afraid to be alone with their thoughts and they can use downtime to be productive. They enjoy their own company and aren't dependent on others for companionship and entertainment all the time but instead can be happy alone.

### **12. They don't feel the world owes them anything**

Mentally strong people don't feel entitled to things in life. They weren't born with a mentality that others would take care of them or that the world must give them something. Instead, they look for opportunities based on their own merits.

### **13. They don't expect immediate results**

Whether they are working on improving their health or getting a new business off the ground, mentally strong people don't expect immediate results. Instead, they apply their skills and time to the best of their ability and understand that real change takes time.

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