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

July 9, 2014

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Colleagues,

Good morning! Here are some items of interest.

Paul

News of the AP

AP names Peter Leonard as its Ukraine correspondent

LONDON (AP) - The Associated Press has named Peter Leonard to be its correspondent for Ukraine, whose Western-leaning government is struggling to unite the nation in the face of a deadly insurgency.

The appointment was announced Tuesday by Caro Kriel, AP's incoming Europe news director.

From a base in Kiev, Leonard will lead AP's coverage of the government's attempts to build a new nation and a pro-Russian insurgency's efforts to achieve greater autonomy in the east of the country.



"Leonard has covered Ukraine and the troubles in the east intensively over the last three months as a freelancer for the AP. He has shown courage and clarity in his reporting of a complicated story," Kriel said.

Leonard, 35, previously worked for the AP from a base in Kazakhstan from 2007-13 as the news cooperative's Central Asia correspondent. He traveled extensively to cover major stories in the region while managing a small team of stringers. There, he received the Associated Press Managing Editors' John L. Dougherty Award for exemplary work by a younger staffer.

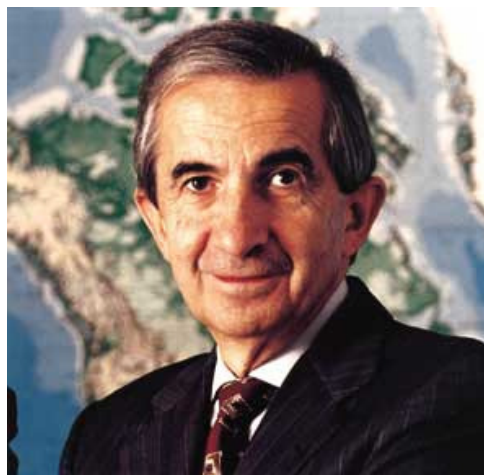
Prior to joining the AP, Leonard was deputy business editor of the Moscow Times and managing editor of Neweurasia.net, a blogging network.

A native of Ireland, Leonard speaks fluent Russian, Italian and Maltese as well as some French. He graduated from Oxford University in 2006.

Pranked - by the boss

Paul Stevens: When I was Kansas City chief of bureau, I invited newly named AP President and CEO **Lou Boccardi** to be the featured speaker at our annual December meeting of Kansas and Missouri publishers and editors - then one of the largest, best-attended state meetings in the country.

Lou accepted the invitation and all was fine until the Friday before his Sunday speech when I got a phone call from him. I could barely recognize his voice, and for good reason - he had come down with laryngitis and was calling to say that there was no way he could make the trip and speak. In his stead, **Charlie Hanley** came from New York to speak in his place and Charlie did a fine job.



Lou promised to make sure his schedule was clear to speak at the meeting the following year and I was most appreciative. All the promotional mailings went out that fall and a strong turnout was expected. On the Thursday before the

Sunday meeting, I was visiting a member newspaper in Jefferson City, Missouri, when the bureau tracked me down to say that Lou Boccardi had called and needed for me to get back to him right away. My mind was racing on the reason why when I called his office. After a few moments, Lou came on the line and in a nearly unintelligible, raspy voice, said, "Paul, you're not going to believe this but I have come down with laryngitis again and I just won't be able to make the trip."

My heart sunk. And after a few seconds of silence - that seemed like hours to me - he said, in normal voice, "GOTCHA!"

Indeed, he had.

Pranked: The pica pole



[Dick Lipsey](#) - Kent Zimmerman previously wrote about the adventures of Jim Bagby's pica pole. It took me a while to find it, but here's a photo of Jim's pole at the highest point on Trail Ridge Road in Rocky Mountain National Park. From there it returned to the KC buro, but I don't know where it went after that.

Background: Kansas City Broadcast Editor Jim Bagby's beloved heavy gauge pica pole that he used to rip copy at his desk for many years was kidnapped and made stops in Sweden, the Middle East, Rome (Ga.) and elsewhere before ending up in California during one of the political conventions. At each destination, the visit would be memorialized with a picture sent back to the Kansas City Bureau to let Bagby know his pica pole was still on tour. At that last stop, it was stuck in a sandy beach and photographed before it was carried away by a wave never to be seen again.

Connecting mailbox

Reaction to Mary Lou Howey's essay Tuesday on unusual names

[George Bria](#) - Re unusual names: back in 1945, when Italy's monarchy was struggling to survive, I found a source in the Minister for the Royal House. He got me an interview with King Umberto. But for his side, it was all for naught. The monarchy was overthrown in a referendum. His name, however, has lasted a long time in my memory. It was Falcone Lucifero, Speak of the devil....

[Marty Thompson](#) - One of my favorite names, from time spent as Reno correspondent, was when Reno's Bill Lear (Lear jet, 8-track tapes) and his wife named their daughter Shanda.

An uncommon love of words

By Steve Wilson
Executive Editor, The Paducah Sun
Published Sunday, July 6

On a local TV newscast a few days ago, the sports anchor said St. Louis Cardinals' catcher Yadier Molina had received "the lion's share of votes" and would be a starter in this summer's all-star game.



His use of "lion's share" seemed dubious and sent me back to a favorite book called Words on Words. It's written by the late John Bremner, an exuberant college professor who was obsessed with the proper use of the English language.

As expected, he had an entry for "lion's share" that didn't square with the usage on TV.

"If you use this cliché, know its proper meaning. In one version of the fable, Aesop's lion got all the meat except a few scraps snatched by the fox. In the other versions, the lion got it all. Properly, the lion's share means all or almost all of something, not merely a majority."

Bremner was a charismatic figure - 6-foot-5, 260-pounds, white bearded, a native Australian who spent the biggest part of his career teaching journalism at the University of Kansas. He also put on seminars for newspaper editors around

the country, which is how we met and became friends.

He was an animated instructor, pacing the room, digressing to tell a story about British history one moment, then raging about the confusion caused by a misplaced comma the next. More than once he had thrown open a window in his classroom, waved his white handkerchief and shouted, "Help, I'm being held captive by a roomful of idiots."

Such theatrics, he said, were less about ego than connecting with the audience.

"You don't hold students and professionals by simply filling them with facts and snippets of knowledge. You have to keep them interested, keep them alert."

He enjoyed pointing out the illogic of many word usages.

"You want the word couple to be singular?" he asked. "All right, the couple was married yesterday. It went to Florida on its honeymoon. OK so far. But it had an argument. So it decided to get a divorce. And it went its separate ways."

His book is a pleasure to peruse:

Advance planning - Have you planned backward lately?

At the present time - Now.

At this point in time - Now.

Better part of - "She stayed for the better part of an hour" means she stayed for more than a half-hour. Why better? Are the first 30 minutes better than the last 30? Make it "most of the hour."

Chair - Keep it a noun. What's wrong with "Smith presided at the meeting" or "Smith was the chairman"? Pretty soon we'll be saying Smith "podiumed the orchestra" or "pulpited the church." Some fingers need to be kept in the verbal dikes.

Facilitate - A windy word for "make easier, aid, assist, help."

Goes without saying - So why say it?

Irregardless - Regardless of the school of "a word is a word if people utilize it," there is no such word as irregardless.

Precipitate/Precipitous - Though both adjectives derive from the same root (Latin *praeceps*, headlong), precipitate means excessively hasty and refers to actions, whereas precipitous means extremely steep and refers to physical objects. The bishop who counseled against "precipitous marriage" either was

ignorant of the distinction or was jumping to the conclusion that rash decisions lead to rocky adventure.

Split infinitive - Splitting an infinitive means inserting one or more words between the to and the verb, as in "to thoroughly appreciate." Banning the split infinitive is ridiculous. The so-called rule has no foundation in logic, rhetoric or common sense. Go ahead and split. Let euphony be your guide. Never to split is to seriously stifle.

Toward/Towards - Most authorities consider toward American and towards British. But a case can be made for towards in American usage when the following word begins with a vowel sound. There is sibilant smoothness in "towards evening."

Ugly scar - Don't say, "He has an ugly scar on his face." Drop ugly. Ugliness is in the eye of the beholder. Don't force the reader to subscribe to your sensitivities.

For all his wit and wisdom about editing, one of the most memorable moments of our seminar came at the end when Bremner said he wanted to share a poem by John Ciardi.

He first explained that a widgeon is a duck, a wicopy is a tree and widgeons do not roost in trees. When the editors gave him quizzical looks, he smiled and proceeded to recite the lines from memory:

A widgeon in a wicopy
In which no widgeon ought to be,
A widowed widgeon was.
While in a willow wickiup
A Wichita sat down to sup
With other Wichitas,
And what they whittled as they ate
Included what had been of late
A widgeon's wing.
'Twas thus
The widgeon in the wicopy,
In which no widgeon ought to be,
A widowed widgeon was.

When he finished, he told the group in a soft-spoken voice, "If you don't like that, get out of this business."

Bremner devoted his life to the best use of words. A tender, alliterative arrangement could make his day.

(Shared by Susanne Shaw)

Stories of interest

[Making digital journalism pay: doable. Making a living: difficult](#)

It is perfectly realistic for journalists to make money out of digital journalism, but the problem comes from making a decent living. That was the theme to emerge from the NUJ Oxford event on making digital journalism pay.

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[New York Times to add digital deputy editors](#) (Bob Daugherty)

A memo from New York Times executive editor Dean Baquet and obtained by Capital New York says the Times is planning to add digital deputy editors to news desks throughout the organization. According to the memo, the new editors will be in charge of increasing the "energy and imagination" of the Times' news report.

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[Gannett Closes on London Broadcasting Acquisition](#)

Gannett has completed its acquisition of six Texas-based London Broadcasting stations for \$215 million. The stations are KCEN Waco-Temple-Bryan, KYTX Tyler-Longview, KIII Corpus Christi, KBMT and subchannel KJAC in Beaumont-Port Arthur, KXVA Abilene-Sweetwater and KIDY San Angelo.

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[The 60-second interview: Gerard Baker, Wall Street Journal managing editor and Dow Jones editor-in-chief](#)

CAPITAL: The Journal turns 125 today. Are you doing anything special to celebrate?

BAKER: We've come a long way since July 8th 1889, when the original Wall Street Journal - a hand-written, four-page newsletter - was distributed to a few hundred readers each afternoon. Today, we're taking a pause to reflect on our history, but more importantly, look toward the future - with a keen eye on innovation...

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[Why you can no longer expect that the news will find you](#)

The power that corporations like Google and Facebook have to influence the digital content you consume means that you shouldn't necessarily depend on

them to surface the things you need to know.

[Diana McLellan, Gossip Columnist With an Ear to Washington, Dies at 76](#)

Diana McLellan, a grande dame of Washington gossip who perforated the pretentious, skewered the powerful and sometimes felt honor-bound to keep fact-checkers from coming between her bons mots and her "darlings," as she called the devoted readers of her syndicated newspaper column, died on Thursday in Easton, Md. She was 76.

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[This is what happened when I drove my Mercedes to pick up food stamps](#) (Mark Mittelstadt)

Sara Bareilles played softly through the surround-sound speakers of my husband's 2003



Mercedes Kompressor as I sat idling at a light. I'd never been to this church before, but I could see it from where I was, across from an old park, abandoned in the chilly September air. The clouds hung low as I pulled the sleek, pewter machine into the lot. But I wasn't going to pray or attend services. I was picking up food stamps.

Even then, I couldn't quite believe it. This wasn't supposed to happen to people like me.

I grew up in a white, affluent suburb, where failure seemed harder than success. In college, I studied biology and journalism. I worked for good money at a local hospital, which afforded me the opportunity to network at journalism conferences. That's how I landed my first news job as an associate producer in Hartford, Conn. I climbed the ladder quickly, free to work any hours in any location for any pay. I moved from market to market, always achieving a better title, a better salary. Succeeding.

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[Rieder: Why investigative reporting is crucial](#)

Mark Katches has spent the last five years as editorial director of the Center for Investigative Reporting. Before that, he oversaw accountability journalism at the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and the Orange County Register. So it's probably not a shock that when he was asked what he would stress in his new role as editor

of Portland's Oregonian, he told media analyst Ken Doctor, "We're going to be aggressive about breaking news and watchdog reporting,"

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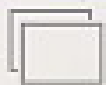
And finally....

Seattle Times columnist handwrites everything for 2 days

Journalists have been filing copy nonstop for years now. Done with that story? Go tweet it. Then return that email. Then text a source back. Then post an article on Facebook and answer reader comments - and do that before transcribing an interview for tomorrow's story.

But how much writing is that, really?

Monica Guzman, a Seattle Times columnist, wanted to "get a tactile feel" for how many words she was churning out every day, so in late June she decided to ditch her keyboard, pick up a pen and go analog.



Photos



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