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**From:** Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 14, 2014 8:58 AM  
**To:** stevenspl@live.com  
**Subject:** Connecting - July 14, 2014

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# Connecting

July 14, 2014

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Colleagues,

Good morning - and here's to a great week ahead!

Here are some stories of interest.

Paul

## **AP names Vaughn Morrison to lead US video production**

The Associated Press has named **Vaughn Morrison** as its new head of US video production.

Morrison, who will be based in Washington, will focus on domestic video output for APTN, AP Video-US and online.

Morrison spent a decade at CNN in Atlanta as a network supervising producer and also as a supervising broadcast producer for CNN & Time. He then joined Fox Cable Networks as news director for Fox Sports Net South before becoming vice president of programming and production for TV Guide on Demand. There, he built and managed the first multiplatform broadband, mobile and video on demand network made up entirely of original production.



Morrison also worked as vice president of production for JibJab Media in Venice, California, and worked as a consultant building online and mobile businesses.

He won a regional news Emmy for outstanding sports newscast, a news and documentary Emmy for outstanding investigative journalism and a news and documentary Emmy for outstanding coverage of a single breaking news story.

Morrison has a master's degree in business administration from Georgia State University and a Bachelor of Science in journalism from the University of Colorado.

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## New Missouri Hall of Fame newspaperman has "AP in his blood"

**David R. Bradley Jr.**, who admits to having AP in his blood, is among the newest inductees to the Missouri Press Association's Newspaper Hall of Fame.

Bradley is chairman and CEO of News-Press & Gazette Company and president of NPG Newspapers of St. Joseph, Missouri.

He served on the AP board of directors from 1984-95, the third generation of his family with AP board service. His grandfather, **Henry D. Bradley**, served from 1960-67 and his father, **David R. Bradley**, served from 1970-79. Both are deceased. Bradley's father is also a member of the Hall of Fame.



"You know how some people say they grew up with ink in their blood?," Bradley said. "Well, I had AP in my blood. When I was growing up, AP was often the subject of discussion at the breakfast table."

A 1971 journalism graduate of Syracuse University, Bradley worked legislative relief for AP in Jefferson City and also worked with The Raleigh (N.C.) Times, the Omaha World-Herald and suburban weeklies in Hawaii. He has been president and editor of the News-Press and Gazette Company in St. Joseph since 1971. He also worked at a former NPG television station in Savannah, Georgia. He served as the chairman of the University of Missouri Board of Curators until Dec. 31, 2012, and continues to serve on the board.

Nine years ago, Bradley established the David R. Bradley AP Member of the Year Award, named in honor of his father, that each year honors a Missouri or Kansas newspaper for consistent and frequent cooperation with The Associated Press, including efforts to provide news stories, tips and photos for sharing with other member newspapers. The award is presented at the annual December luncheon of the Missouri and Kansas AP Publishers and Editors association in Kansas City, Missouri.

**Lou Boccardi**, AP's president and CEO when Bradley Sr. and Bradley Jr. were on the board, said: "When people speak of something's being 'in their blood', it's usually a friendly metaphor used to express kinship. But

when Dave Bradley says that about the AP, he may be talking reality. The Bradley family has been a vital part of AP's history for decades. I was privileged to serve in high AP executive positions while both Dave Bradley Sr. and Jr. were AP directors. I saw firsthand the simple, though not unsophisticated, wisdom they brought to the table. Figure out what's right, and go do it. That was the Bradley mantra. And it's fitting to see David R. Bradley Jr. recognized in the Missouri Press Association's Hall of Fame."

Bradley was among six newspaper people, including two husband-wife teams, who were named Friday for induction into the Missouri Press Association Newspaper Hall of Fame at its 148th annual convention, in Columbia, on Sept. 26. This will be the 24th group to be inducted into the Hall of Fame, which was established by MPA in 1991.

Others to be inducted are Judy Dixon, Festus, a cartoonist/illustrator with more than 30 years in the newspaper industry; Don and Kathy Ginnings, longtime publishers of the Hermitage Index; and Gary and Helen Sosniecki, former Missouri publishers of three community weekly newspapers and one daily.

## **AP Images Photo of the Day: A Window in Srinagar**



A Kashmiri woman watches from behind a curtain of a window in Srinagar, India, Sunday, July 13, 2014. Martyr's Day is observed on July 13 in Kashmir traditionally by both separatists and pro-Indian Kashmiris to commemorate the day in 1931 when the region's Hindu king ordered more than 20 Kashmiri Muslims executed in a bid to put down an uprising. On Sunday, separatist groups called for strike in memory of the day. (AP Photo/Mukhtar Khan)

# Connecting mailbox

## Out on a limb with the cat that spent its 9<sup>th</sup> life

[Charlotte Porter](#) - Not long after I became bureau chief for Louisiana-Mississippi, I came in to find one of the funniest things I'd ever seen on the wire.

Seems the big paper in Mississippi had run a front-page story about a cat that had been stuck in a tree for a few days. Normally, we'd have passed on a pickup, but other members wanted what the big guy had and the staff, always eager to please, checked with a neighbor, confirmed that the cat hadn't been rescued yet, and put out the story as a brite. A few minutes later, there was a "Withhold." Something wasn't right. And a few minutes after that came, "ELIMINATION -- News directors: ELIMINATE the Brite-Lofty Cat, which moved at 10:24 as v0316.. The cat has fallen out of the tree and is dead." (The neighbor hadn't really checked because it was raining). I laughed until I cried and sent the copy to everyone on my email list.

Then this, from Managing Editor Christian:

"I can't believe the AP would devote its stretched resources to even a broadcast version of a cat-in-a-tree story. Embarrassing. What a message to send to our members about our priorities."

When I saw an email come in a bit later from President Boccardi, I thought my goose was good and cooked. But no: "I know I'm going out on a limb, so to speak, by getting into this but the tale of the cat reminds me of the classic line attributed to the young reporter sent out to cover a wedding: "No story," he told his editor. "The bride didn't show up."

I made the mistake, in replying, that I was pleased to see LDB had more of a sense of humor than his ME, who promptly sent me a very terse email that made it clear Lou had spoken to him. Sigh.

But you can imagine how thrilled I was the next Monday when I heard that Darrell, in his easy chair with the Sunday paper, listened in shock as David Brinkley regaled his audience with the story of the demise of the Mississippi cat.

By the way, the cat was named Spunky.

## And the Pranks continue - two from Mike Tharp

[Mike Tharp](#) - Two pranks happened when I was a summer vacation relief editor on the Wall Street Journal's vaunted Page One desk. I'd been

asked to spend the month of June 1974 in New York City from the Dallas bureau. The first prank occurred my first week. Glynn Mapes, the Page One editor, asked me if Jon Kwitny, for decades one of America's best investigative reporters, knew me. No, I said, and I've only heard of him. Mapes and some other Page One folks then handed me an envelope stuffed with blank copy paper. Glynn led me down to the ground floor of the building housing the Journal--it was a Woolworth's or Kresge's, as I recall. He pointed out a wispy-bearded, curly-haired man reading a paperback book near the racks. You're a process server, Glynn told me, and just ask Kwitny if that's his name. He's hiding out from a guy who wants to sue him over a story. OK, I gulped. I shambled over, Jon looked up and I asked if he were Jonathan Kwitny. Who the bleep are you, Kwitny spat. I tried to hand him the envelope. He knocked it out of my hand. As I bent to pick it up, Kwitny spotted Mapes and several other Journal people cracking up behind us. He allowed himself a smile. And when I'd see him around during the rest of the month, he'd shake his head and grin.

The second prank was pulled on me. After three weeks on Page One, I was feeling like a big deal. I'd edited a bunch of leders and a-heds for the Journal's front page, widely regarded as the best-written in the business. Then one morning I got an envelope. It had the Dallas WSJ bureau logo on the upper left of the envelope with the name "Slocum" written in ink above. Ken Slocum was the bureau chief, the best boss I've ever had. I sliced open the envelope. Inside was one piece of copy paper, slugged "Tharp/2" at the top. It read, starting flush left, "any one of which could blight an otherwise promising career. Call me soonest. Regards, Slocum." Feverishly, I ripped open the envelope looking for the first page. There was only the one. I wracked my brain for what I could have done wrong. Nothing came up. Then I looked at the typing more closely. Back then, at least in a smaller office, each typewriter and typist left a distinctive fingerprint. I recognized this one. Its user was Dick Shaffer, a long-haired Okie who liked to read Fowler's Dictionary of Modern English Usage while he ate lunch at his desk. I called him. He answered. My stream of cusswords was cut short by Dick's maniacal giggles, which led me into my own laughter. I never again felt like a big deal.



**1955: Slammin' Sammy meets the press**

Connecting colleague [Mercer Bailey](#) shares this photo from December 1955 of Slammin' Sammy Snead meeting the press during a PGA tournament in

Florida. Interviewing Snead are, from left: Bob Howard, sports editor of the Orlando Sentinel; Mercer, and Jimmy Burns, Miami Herald sports editor. At the time, Mercer worked as a sports writer out of the AP's Atlanta bureau.

## A good read...

### War clouds over my sons' future

For my 10-year-old, Michael, and my five-year-old, Daniel, it was a first. Last Monday morning, when I saw the way things were going, I went into their room and asked them to sit down. I told them that in the coming days they may hear something they have never heard before: the howl of sirens.



Do not panic, I said. Remember, Israel is strong and your home is sound and your parents are here to protect you. But when the sirens go off, you must walk down the stairs quietly to the basement and find shelter in the security room until danger has passed.

So they did. On Tuesday evening, when - for the first time - Tel Aviv and its northern suburbs were targeted by Hamas rockets, Michael and Daniel heard their first sirens and clung to me as we all went down quietly to take shelter in the security room.

Michael asked if Iron Dome, Israel's anti-missile defence system, would intercept the incoming rockets. Daniel said he was afraid a missile would destroy our home.



## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday

To

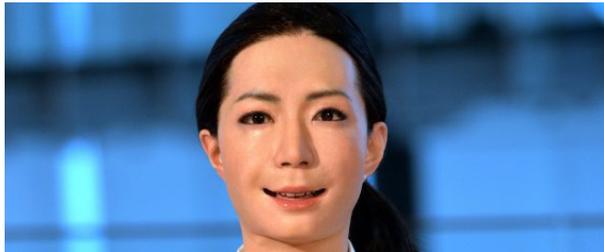
[Doug Anstaett](#)

## Stories of interest

[Should We Be Afraid Or Excited About Robot Journalism?](#) (Bill Beecham)

Robot journalism has gone from being an idea of the future to a real-life practice being utilized everyday in some newsrooms. But with more and more news outlets turning to technology to crank out stories, one has to wonder what the human journalist is to make of it all.

New York magazine's Kevin Roose noted in a piece on Friday a recent AP story summarizing Alcoa's quarterly earnings that took less than a second to produce. It was written by a robot.



Associated Press is one of a few news organizations to jump on board with robot journalism, using a program known as Automated Insights to write breaking business stories at an incredibly fast pace. Whereas human journalists might produce around 300 stories in a set time frame, the automation technology can produce as many as 4,400. The Los Angeles Times used robot journalism in March to break a story about an earthquake in the California area. The technology proved its worth: LA Times had the story out in just about three minutes and beat out every other news outlet.

*(In the photo above, the new humanoid robot named 'Otonaroid' gestures during a press preview at the National Museum of Emerging Science and Technology in Tokyo on June 24, 2014. Japanese scientists unveiled what they said was the world's first news-reading android, eerily lifelike and possessing a sense of humour to match her perfect language skills. AFP PHOTO)*

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[The Utah-filmed truth behind the gritty story of murderer Gary Gilmore](#)

Revisiting the true-crime TV movie "The Executioner's Song," a gritty period piece about the angry love story of convicted murderer Gary Gilmore, opens up a time capsule to the seedy small-town Utah life that served as a backdrop to two 1976 murders. Gilmore's death by firing squad at the Utah State Prison on Jan. 17, 1977, captured international headlines as the first execution in a decade after the death penalty was reinstated in the United States.

Connecting colleague **Bill Beecham** is quoted in the article:

Former Associated Press bureau chief Bill Beecham, now 10 years into retirement, still steams about the questionable ethics of that decision by state officials. "If I were bureau chief then, I would have gone to the governor in a shouting match, because it was so unnecessary to ban the media," he says.

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[Why doesn't the media ever mention the lack of progress in the Middle East?](#) (Latrice Davis/Facebook)

Once, we used to keep clippings, a wad of newspaper cuttings on whatever we were writing about: Israel, Lebanon, Iran, Gaza. Occasionally, we even read books. Maybe it's because of the internet, but in most of our reports, it seems that history only started yesterday, or last week.

For snobs, it's called the loss of institutional memory. We journos seem to suffer from it more than most. Our readers, I suspect, do not. So here we go...

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[Biggest Scorer in World Cup? Maybe Univision](#)

Months before the first whistle of the World Cup, Juan Carlos Rodriguez, the president of the sports division of Univision Communications, presented his engineers with a challenge: Could they figure out how to beam its soccer broadcasts into American homes faster than its English-language competitors?

About a half-million dollars in new technology later, the challenge was met - Univision's broadcasts beat ESPN's and ABC's, if only by a matter of seconds.

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[Dan Rather 'Cautiously Optimistic' About 'Rathergate' Biopic](#)

"Rathergate," the scandal that erupted in September of 2004 after Dan Rather reported that George W. Bush had received special treatment while serving in the Air National Guard during the Vietnam War, will be the subject of an upcoming film starring Robert Redford as Rather and Cate Blanchett as CBS News producer Mary Mapes.

Rather, whose reputation was tainted after it was revealed that CBS News was unable to authenticate some of the documents upon which his report was based, found out about the film deal just one day before the news broke, via a call from Mapes. The film is based on Mapes' 2005 memoir Truth and Duty: The Press, the President, and the Privilege of Power.

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### Sports Illustrated gets modern media; gets criticized for it

The LeBron James news dominated sports media for the past several days. Everyone - even people who don't much care about basketball - was interested in it at least on some level. Even if it was only to joke, snark and/or join in some fun collective happening.

And then the news came - bam! - straight from the horse's mouth, [in the form of a first person essay from James "as told to Lee Jenkins" of Sports Illustrated](#). We had the story and now the important business of analyzing it - or, if you don't much care about basketball, the important business of making Twitter jokes about it - was at hand.

But there are some who weren't as interested in analyzing it, joking about it or just reveling in the fun collective happening. There are some who are using all of this as an occasion to wring their hands about journalistic integrity.

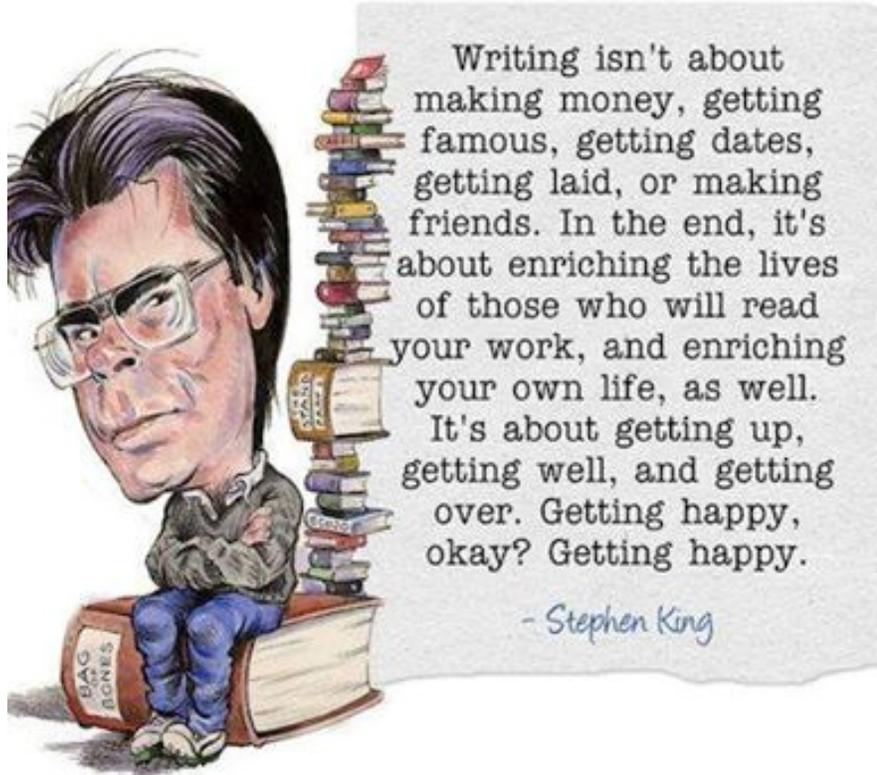
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### The journalists and the lost cat: A kind-of media story

Last Saturday, Ally Schweitzer was returning from a run when she spotted a neighbor "fussing over this cat." The cat, a ginger tabby, looked too healthy to be a stray, but it was collarless. Schweitzer, who works as an editor and reporter at the Washington, D.C., public radio station WAMU, took the cat into her apartment.

Later that day, she began putting posters around the neighborhood. The next afternoon, she discovered that one of her posters had won her an impassioned note: "Please set Scotch free!" it read. "You may traumatize a cat by suddenly capturing it."

**And finally...**



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