
From: Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 28, 2014 9:12 AM
To: stevenspl@live.com
Subject: Connecting - August 28, 2014

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Connecting

August 28, 2014

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



Colleagues,

Good morning!

AP's oldest retiree, **Max Desfor**, 100 years young, is undergoing physical therapy for at least the next three weeks, after having a pacemaker installed.

His son Barry tells our Connecting colleague **Valerie Komor** that his father would welcome get-well mail.

Max is at:

Bedford Court Healthcare Center
3700 International Drive
Room 164
Silver Spring, Maryland 20906

Barry asks that any cards should be written in BOLD and LARGE letters, as Max has difficulty seeing now.

(Photo above shows Max in front of a picture of him when covering the Korean War. He won the 1951 Pulitzer for Photography for his war coverage.)

Services set for Sept. 6 for Toby Massey



Memorial services for **Toby Massey**, a photographer and photo editor for AP for 38 years, will be held on Saturday, Sept. 6, at the Pierce Funeral Home, 9609 Center Street, Manassas, Virginia 20110.

Funeral home phone: 703-257-6028

web: www.piercefh.com

Directions: <http://www.piercefh.com/driving-directions/230965>

The family will receive friends at 5 p.m., and the service begins at 6 p.m.

Toby died August 21 at the age of 80. Click [here](#) for a link to his obituary.

If you wish to send cards or notes to Toby's family, you can do so at this address. They will be shared with all of the family members:

Christine McNeill
1809 Woodvalley Ct.
Columbia, SC 29212

Connecting mailbox

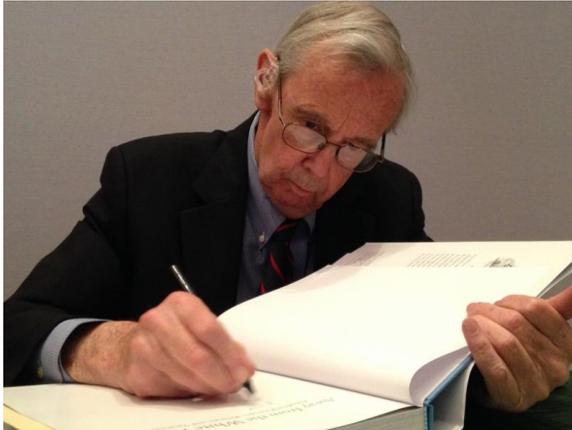
Recalling the Teletype

[Peggy Walsh](#) - When the teletype was "silenced" and the Atlanta bureau got some of the first "new" CRTs (I can't believe how clunky they were compared to today), I took a tape recorder (another dying tool) and recorded the teletype so I could play it in the newsroom.

Everyone thought I was crazy to record the racket, as they called it, but when the silence began they were glad to hear the noise for awhile until they got used to the new machines (and they actually worked for more than an hour).

I don't have a machine but I do have one of the AP plaques that were attached to them.

Book signing by Larry Knutson



[Carole Feldman](#) shares this photo of retired AP Washington journalist (and Connecting colleague) **Larry Knutson** signing copies of his new book, "Away From the White House: Presidential Retreats, Escapes and Vacations," at a book

launch party hosted by the White House Historical Association.

Stirring the sauce for a spicy story

In a memo to AP staff, Managing Editor for U.S. News **Brian Carovillano** explains how a saucy story that questioned a politician's charitable claims generated wide interest in New England:

For years, former Providence Mayor Buddy Cianci's face has beamed from the label of his Mayor's Own Marinara Sauce, which promises that sales are "Benefiting Providence School Children" and that it has helped hundreds of students attend college.



Something was fishy about the sauce, and Providence, R.I., correspondent Michelle Smith could taste it.

Smith dug into the charitable claims and discovered in recent years that in truth, no money from the sauce's sales had been donated to Cianci's charity scholarship fund. And from 2009 to 2012, the sauce made a total of \$3 in income.

A Cianci adviser acknowledged to Smith that the label could be seen as false advertising and that he'd like to see it changed. Cianci himself admitted to Smith that even if the sauce didn't make money, "There's a certain public relations aspect to it all to me," he said, "I can't deny that."

The concessions did not come easily. Over 10 days of reporting _ around her other daily news duties _ Smith dogged Cianci's lawyer for answers. Smith also pulled hundreds of pages of documents, set up a spreadsheet and got watchdogs to analyze the finances. She finally got what she needed from the lawyer by showing up in person to a Cianci event and eliciting a promise that he would turn over the relevant documents. This was critical because the specific financials were not available in any public documents.

A day after the sauce story, Smith followed up with an examination of Cianci's charity's finances, finding it gives just a small fraction of assets out in scholarships every year, and spends most of its money on

expenses other than for kids.

The one-two punch, both crafted in partnership with East day supervisor Jon Poet, created a ton of buzz.

The stories played atop the website for the Providence Journal, Rhode Island's biggest newspaper. Both the Projo and The Boston Globe editorialized on it. Smith received notes and comments of congratulations from several [AP] members and sources.

Smith accompanied her reporting with her own photos, use by several members.

For hitting the sauce in a way that made the AP proud, Smith wins this week's \$300 Best of the States prize.

(Shared by Bob Daugherty)

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

[Rick Cooper](#)

[Larry Heinzerling](#)

Stories of interest

[Brokaw, execs fuming over NBC chief's remark](#) (Doug Pizac)

NBC News president Deborah Turness had to apologize after infuriating

top execs and talent by announcing the network news organization had been asleep for 15 years.

Turness, who came to the job from Britain's ITV News one year ago, dropped the tactless clanger in a New York Times interview on Sunday, saying, "NBC News hadn't kept up with the times in all sorts of ways, for maybe 15 years ... I think the organization had gone to sleep."

Sources tell us Tom Brokaw, managing editor and anchor of NBC's "Nightly News" from 1982 until 2004, Turness' predecessor Steve Capus (NBC News president from 2005 to 2013 and now executive producer of "CBS Evening News") and CNN chief Jeff Zucker "are apoplectic" over Turness' remark.

One network insider fumed, "Turness is making enemies. Her 'asleep' comment is incredibly disrespectful to many of NBC's top journalists, especially Tom Brokaw and Brian Williams, and her predecessors Steve Capus, Andy Lack, Neal Shapiro and Jeff Zucker."

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21 Years Of Evasive Answers From The White House

Since 1993, 12 brave souls have accepted the challenge of briefing the White House press corps on a daily basis. As the chief communicators of White House goings-on, press secretaries (official and de facto) must walk a fine line between answering important questions and...not answering them at all.

BuzzFeed analyzed more than 5,000 press briefings since the beginning of the Clinton administration in

PRESS BRIEFER	PRESIDENT	WEASEL PHRASES PER 1,000 WORDS
GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS	CLINTON	12.5
DEE DEE MYERS	CLINTON	11.0
JAKE SIEWERT	CLINTON	10.9
JOE LOCKHART	CLINTON	8.2
ROBERT GIBBS	OBAMA	7.7
TONY SNOW	BUSH	7.2
DANA PERINO	BUSH	7.1
MIKE MCCURRY	CLINTON	6.0
JAY CARNEY	OBAMA	5.6
SCOTT MCCLELLAN	BUSH	5.3
JOSH EARNEST	OBAMA	4.6
ARI FLEISCHER	BUSH	3.4

* SOURCE: PRESS BRIEFINGS FROM THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY PROJECT

1993, looking for "weasel phrases" such as "I can't comment on," "I'm not aware [of/that/etc.]," and "I don't know." (For more details, see the methodology at the bottom of this post. Counting weasel phrases is, of course, an imperfect measure of evasiveness. It does not, for example, capture idiosyncratic methods of misdirection.) Here's what we found:

[James Foley's Murder Highlights The Risks Freelance Journalists Take](#)

WASHINGTON (AP) - Journalists James Foley, Steven Sotloff and Peter Theo Curtis all had one thing in common when they were captured by Islamic militants in Syria, the title "freelance journalist."

The role of freelancers, who make a living by selling individual stories, photos and video to multiple outlets, has expanded across conflict zones in recent years with the spread of technology and social media, which provides a ready canvas for their work. Some are cautious and well-trained; Others take major risks. And they often lack the institutional support staff journalists receive if they get into trouble in a conflict zone.

"There is no question that people with less experience and less support are venturing out into conflict zones and seeking to make their name as journalists," said Joel Simon, the executive director of the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists.

AND

[Hostage's mother makes emotional plea to Islamic State for the release of her son, Steven Sotloff](#)

The mother of Steven J. Sotloff, an American journalist who was captured last year by the Islamic State, has made a video plea to the head of the terrorist organization asking for her son's release.

In a video released Wednesday, Shirley Sotloff asks Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi to "please release my child. And as a mother, I ask your justice to be merciful and not punish my son for matters he has no control over."

Steven Sotloff was covering the civil war in Syria and is said to have been kidnapped after entering northern Syria from Turkey on Aug. 4, 2013, The Post has reported. Until recently, Sotloff's family has been

publicly quiet about his kidnapping in the hopes that public silence might keep him safe.

AND

[Voices: Remembering James Foley, 'strong to the end'](#)

By Clare Morgana Gillis, Special for USA TODAY

I knew James Foley well, and we'd become very close both in the field and during the six weeks we were detained together in Libya. Many of the dispatches I sent to this newspaper were based upon fieldwork with him.



One late afternoon in March 2011, not long after we'd met, we walked along eastern Libya's front line, drifting between rebel checkpoints - more like, a few trucks pulled over in the shade, men drinking tea - in one of the rebel army's furthest westward pushes, around Ras Lanouf. We spoke about luck. Both of us thought of ourselves as lucky, having gotten close enough to real scrapes to, one hopes, learn from past mistakes. But we also agreed on a sobering point Jim made: "Maybe if you keep using up all your luck all the time, eventually it runs out."

Our philosophizing was interrupted by a barrage of Grad missiles from the Libyan army side, driving the rebels back. We jumped in a car and rode under fire from anti-aircraft artillery the rebels were aiming at the positions of dictator Moammar Ghadafi's forces - the tracers shot red across the sky over us. Knowing about their weapons and primitive skill level, it was not clear which side posed the greater danger, and it was a white-knuckled ride.

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[Why The Obama Administration Wants This Journalist In Jail](#)

President Barack Obama came into office in 2009 promising a new era of unprecedented transparency in his administration. But when he leaves office, reporters may remember him for an effort that has largely turned out to be the opposite - and for being what one affected

reporter has called the "greatest enemy to press freedom in a generation."

At a time when journalists' roles in covering different, critical conflict zones have been under the microscope, renewed attention has come to the case involving James Risen. He is the New York Times journalist who has been fighting efforts by two different Departments of Justice - under Presidents Obama and George W. Bush - to compel him to identify sources from a 2006 book that reveals a secret CIA plan to sabotage Iran's budding nuclear program.

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[Nikki Finke Outed in New Video, Photos Amid Legal Settlement Talks](#)

In perhaps the most bizarre chapter of the Nikki Finke saga, photos and video of the famously camera-shy Hollywood journalist have been posted to NikkiStink.com, a mysterious website that has recently surfaced online.

After teasing a placeholder message reading, "Something special is coming ... trust us," the site went live early Wednesday morning. "GOTJA!" a headline screams in red letters - a play on Finke's "TOLDJA!" catchphrase - below which is embedded a parody music video and several recent photos of the reclusive Finke. Set to a version of Toni Basil's 1980s pop hit "Mickey," the video features footage of Finke strolling to a car from the lobby of her West Hollywood condominium. A male vocalist sings "Hey Nikki!" and mean-spirited lyrics mocking Finke for her weight.

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[Elizabeth M. Fowler, Financial Reporter for The Times, Dies at 95](#)

Elizabeth M. Fowler, an author and financial reporter for The New York Times who was one of the first women to cover the Wall Street beat for a daily newspaper, died on Aug. 11 at her home in Chatham, N.J. She was 95.

Her death was confirmed by her daughter Katrina Azoy.

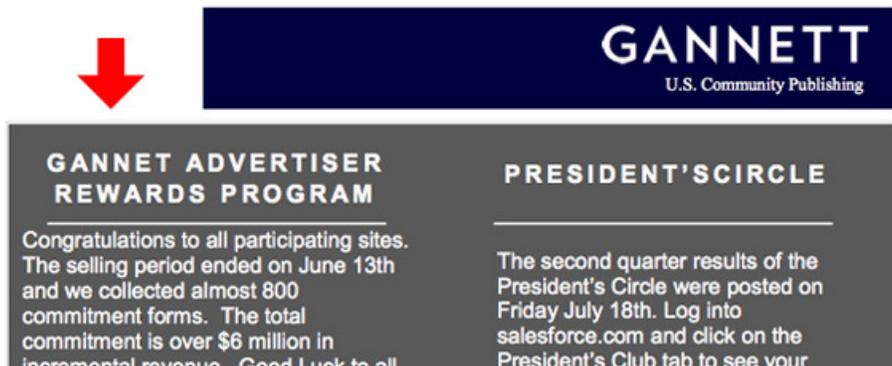
Ms. Fowler had been a copy editor at The Wall Street Journal, had earned an M.B.A. when few women did, and had been a reporter for an investors' newsletter when she joined The Times's male-dominated business staff in 1956, beginning a 36-year career with the paper.

The Last Word

[Newspaper chain that's laying off copy editors misspells its own name in a newsletter](#)

Poynter: Gannett U.S. Community Publishing president Bob Dickey's USCP Quarterly Newsletter went out this afternoon, and employees noticed that the name of their company was spelled "Gannet."

"This is a great example of what happens when a company lays off almost all of its copy editors," writes one of my many tipsters on this. The PDF version of the three-page newsletter [is here](#).



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