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**Sent:** Saturday, September 06, 2014 9:21 AM  
**To:** stevenspl@live.com  
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# Connecting

September 6, 2014

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Colleagues,

Much of the past week's news has been sometimes depressingly difficult to read, so Connecting is putting on a "bright" face for its Saturday lead item.

NBC News' Kate Snow produced this handy piece of advice in Friday night's broadcast - and Connecting thinks that with the start of the new school year, the grandparents (and parents, in some cases) among us could benefit from the advice.

And to illustrate the story, the Connecting editor called on his oldest grandchild, Sophie, who is enjoying her first weeks of first grade and seems, for now, to have chosen her career path. I'll work on her about journalism. But at least now, I know the right questions to ask her.

Paul

## **Not Having Luck Asking the Kids (or Grandkids) 'So How Was School Today?'**

**By KATE SNOW, NBC News**

The start of the school year brings big fanfare from parents, but once kids say goodbye and get to school, what happens?

If yours give you a blank stare when you ask about their day, mommy blogger Liz Evans has some tips you might want to try. Before Evans was a mom to three, she was a teacher and comes with an expert's eye on how to get kids to spill.

Her post 25 Ways to Ask Your Kids "How Was School Today?" WITHOUT asking them "How Was School Today?" has had more than two million page views already, and she later added more questions for older kids. The questions range from asking kids about when they were bored during the day to who they'd want beamed up in a spaceship.

We share Evan's full list of 25 question here:

#1. What was the best thing that happened at school today? (What was the worst thing that happened at school today?)

#2. Tell me something that made you laugh today.

#3. If you could choose who would you like to sit by in class? (Who would you

NOT want to sit by in class? Why?)

#4. Where is the coolest place at the school?

#5. Tell me a weird word that you heard today. (Or something weird that someone said.)

#6. If I called your teacher tonight what would she tell me about you?

#7. How did you help somebody today?

#8. How did somebody help you today?

#9. Tell me one thing that you learned today.

#10. When were you the happiest today?

#11. When were you bored today?

#12. If an alien spaceship came to your class and beamed up someone who would you want them to take?

#13. Who would you like to play with at recess that you've never played with before?

#14. Tell me something good that happened today.

#15. What word did your teacher say most today?

#16. What do you think you should do/learn more of at school?

#17. What do you think you should do/learn less of at school?

#18. Who in your class do you think you could be nicer to?

#19. Where do you play the most at recess?

#20. Who is the funniest person in your class? Why is he/she so funny?

#21. What was your favorite part of lunch?

#22. If you got to be the teacher tomorrow what would you do?

#23. Is there anyone in your class that needs a time out?

#24. If you could switch seats with anyone in the class who would you trade with? Why?

#25. Tell me about three different times you used your pencil today at school.

## 40 Top Latinos in American media include 2 from AP's Washington bureau

This has been a really great year for Latino talent in American media. But before we get into the details of a year in Latino media excellence, I want to first share how this list comes together every year.

### Methodology

Like most media events in digital times this list of top latino talent begins on Twitter. Friends, fans, family, and especially colleagues of excellent Latinos in media recommend them to @vato, me. I add all of the recommended Twitter handles to a private Twitter List that I build and monitor throughout the year in Tweetdeck. I have created a Collection in Tweetdeck for storing specific top Latino tweets for embedding throughout next year's list, just as I have Alberto Ciurana's mighty tweet below.

### From AP:

**\*Trish Wilson** (Associated Press): As international investigations editor for the AP's Washington Bureau, this year has major journalism award written all over it for Trish. In April, she lead a team of investigative reporters who broke the story of Cuban Twitter, a US-led initiative to undermine Cuba's communist government. Four months later, she and her team did it again by uncovering covert efforts to recruit Cuban youth to anti-government activism via USAID programs on the island. What else do they have in store for this year? One thing's for sure: there's still plenty of 2014 left for breaking major news stories.

**\*Pablo Martinez Monsivais** (Associated Press): He is the son of migrant workers from Mexico and a Pulitzer Prize winning photojournalist. This is Pablo's 16th year on the White House beat for AP. In the last 12 months he's traveled with POTUS and Pope Francis to Vatican City; and has accompanied senior administration officials on visits to Alaska, Singapore, Afghanistan, Brussels, Romania, and Paris. Recently Pablo photographed Attorney General Eric Holder on his high-profile trip to Ferguson, Missouri. But even the highest-profile photo-ops in the world couldn't keep Pablo from documenting of his son Luca walking with his mother on his first day of school. That was the shoot that really made Pablo's year.

Click [here](#) to read more.

## My Life as an AP bureau chief In Israel

**By Steven Gutkin**  
**Published 06/09/2014**

When I led coverage of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict for the world's largest news organization between 2004 and 2010, my colleagues and I knew we were writing about the globe's most scrutinized story. But we tried to take it in stride. As long as we angered each side equally, we surmised, we were doing something right.



So when we were falsely accused of "erasing" a video of a young Palestinian boy getting shot by an Israeli soldier, we decided not to give it credence by responding. And when these past few days, a former colleague stated, again falsely, that we buried key stories that made Israel look good, among other transgressions, my initial reaction was the same. Just let it go.

But there was something different about this accusation. For one, it came from a reporter whom I hired personally in 2006 in the middle of a war. And from a person who I thought then and still think now is a good writer.

Click [here](#) to read more. (Shared by Bob Daugherty, Susana Hayward)

## Connecting mailbox

Reaction to Friday's lead Connecting story on a then-LA Times reporter, now with AP, who shared story drafts and summaries with CIA press handlers before publication. As noted,

AP Washington Chief of Bureau **Sally Buzbee** tweeted: AP is "satisfied that pre-publication exchanges Ken Dilanian had with CIA before joining AP were in pursuit of accuracy in his reporting." AP spokesman **Paul Colford** told The Intercept that the news organization is "satisfied that any pre-publication exchanges that Ken had with the CIA before joining AP were in pursuit of accuracy in his reporting on intelligence matters," adding that "we do not coordinate with government agencies on the phrasing of material."

[Brent Kallestad](#) - Have I become a grouch in old age or what? Don't understand how AP can have anyone working for them who has copy cleared by government agency "handlers." I have, by phone usually, double checked on facts that perhaps I was unsure of, but never even thought about letting someone read a piece I was preparing for the wire aside from one of our editors.

[Lew Ferguson](#) - The AP can rationalize that this Dilanian was just letting the CIA "fact check" his stories, but if it walks like a duck and quacks like a duck, it

probably is pre-publication approval of stories. And we never, ever do that - no matter if we get shut out by the news source. Bad, bad policy, and the fact the CIA compromised so many reporters (not just this relatively new AP hire), and even David Ignatius, is very disturbing to me as an old-guard reporter.

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### **AP Style or WITN style?**

[Sue Price Johnson](#) - People who know about my career sometimes write with grammar or editing questions. But a friend from high school, now a retired wildlife biologist, sends the most entertaining queries. This one had the subject line "AP Style or WITN style?" His query is about the last sentence of the story. I refer to him as PK.

PK to Sue:

Hi Sue- I found this humorous but typical for WITN(TV, Greenville, N.C.)

Tens of thousands of fish are floating in the Neuse River in Craven County. The fish kill is near Fisher's Landing in the Flanners Beach area, below New Bern. Travis Graves, the Lower Neuse Riverkeeper, is working to investigate the kill with a doctor at the marine lab in Morehead City. "Right now I'm not seeing any evidence of an infection in the fish," says Graves. "A couple of the things we watch for are slime mold and pfiesteria." It appears that very low oxygen in the water is creating the kill, which is made up of menhaden. "Temperature is partially responsible for it and the excessive amount of rainfall in the last few weeks," explains Graves. "As the fresh water comes down to the basin, it traps the saltwater wedge that the menhaden we see like to congregate in. As that saltwater wedge gets smaller, the oxygen is depleted and then the fish start dying." People are advised not to pick up or mess with the fish.

Sue to PK:

Uh, I am pretty sure it is "Down East" style. And what, I wonder, does that encompass?

PK to Sue:

I think I'll call WITN and ask just exactly what constitutes "mess with". I mean, like, how far can one actually go with these dead fish before crossing the threshold of "messing with" them. Surely there's a defined minimum distance one must stand from dead menhaden before the accusations of "messing with" them start flying. And, are there actually consequences to messing with them and are the consequences worth the temptation to mess with them that must be prevalent in the local community. Yeah, I'll call WITN. They should know.

But then I'd probably be referred to some bureaucrat fish biologist.

## Peek inside North Korea through a new set of (AP) eyes



**Wong Maye-E** knows a shot when she sees one.

An Associated Press photographer since 2003 - on a freelance basis after graduating from the Temasek Polytechnic School of Design and a stint with The Straits Times, until joining its staff in 2006 - she has covered everything from political protests in Thailand and the garment factory collapse in Dhaka to the impact of Typhoon Haiyan on the Philippines and the recent World Cup in Brazil. Now, her responsibilities also include news and everyday life in reclusive North Korea - a beat made famous by former AP photographer David Guttenfelder.

This opportunity "has awakened for me the enthusiasm I had when I chose to be a photojournalist," she tells TIME, "to be able [to] share my experiences with people, who do not have these opportunities to come to places like this, in the most accurate way."

Click [here](#) to read and see more.

## Max Desfor and the Enola Gay



Connecting colleague [Michael Putzel](#) shares:

There's a story behind this photo, but it hasn't been reported or written.

Those who know and like **Max Desfor** may appreciate the photos showing Max shooting the Enola Gay for the second time. The first time was when he took the picture of the B-29 Superfortress landing after dropping the A-bomb on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945.

Last year, Max visited the Smithsonian's Udvar-Hazy Center near Dulles International Airport in Virginia with Jim Wallace, a fellow photographer and retired Smithsonian image archivist. Wallace shot these pictures of Max looking at and photographing the bomber he had not seen since it returned from its historic mission.

Here is one more:



And speaking of Max, a reminder from a Connecting issue last week:

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.

**Connecting wishes Happy Birthday**



To

[Cliff Schiappa](#)

[Doug Tucker](#) (Sunday)

## Stories of interest

### [Why Do Newspapers Keep Publishing Op-Eds by John McCain?](#)

America's most prestigious op-ed pages are run by highly accomplished editors who know a tight argument when they see one. They reject so many pieces each day that even a minor factual error or logical inconsistency is enough to doom a submission—at least a submission from someone who isn't part of the ruling class.

But a much less rigorous standard governs articles written by well-known politicians. Take John McCain, the Republican senator from Arizona. I assume the op-eds he submits to The New York Times or Washington Post or Wall Street Journal are ghostwritten for him. But so long as McCain's byline is attached, the usual standards for subject-matter expertise, internally consistent argument, and factual accuracy are abandoned. In their place, newspaper readers get the ostensible benefit of knowing what a powerful person wants to be seen as thinking. The approach is widely accepted but journalistically indefensible.

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### [Holder: No jail for Risen](#)

Attorney General Eric Holder reaffirmed Thursday that the Justice Department will not seek to jail New York Times reporter James Risen in connection with a criminal case charging a former CIA officer with leaking national security secrets to the journalist.

During a press conference to announce a broadened probe of the Ferguson, Mo. police department, Holder was asked whether he stood by statements he has reportedly made in private meetings insisting that Risen is not at risk of being jailed for contempt despite prosecutors' success in defeating his legal effort to avoid testifying against his alleged source, Jeffrey Sterling.

"We will deal with the issue that you have raised, you know, in an appropriate way and consistent with what I have said on a number of occasions, and what you just quoted," Holder said.

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### [As Michael Bloomberg Returns to Run His Firm, Landscape Has Shifted](#)

When the founder of a company returns after having stepped aside, he usually is aiming to save from ruin the firm he built. That was the case with Steve Jobs, Charles Schwab and Michael Dell.

But former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg finds himself in a very different situation as he comes back to run Bloomberg LP. The media company is hardly in crisis. It has solidified its position as a dominant provider of financial information, and its revenue and subscribers have jumped sharply in recent years.

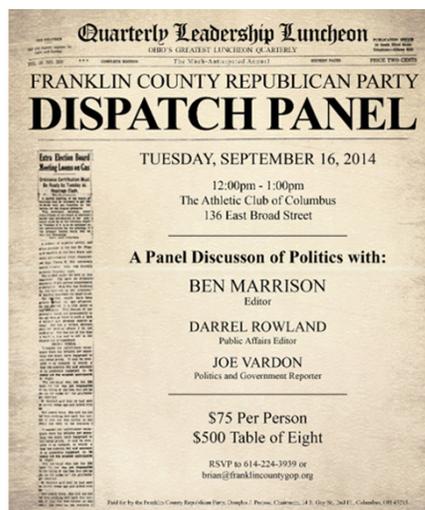
There are threats looming, however. Mr. Bloomberg is returning to a more competitive marketplace than the one he left in 2002 and to increasingly strained relations with the financial institutions that make up the company's core customer base.

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### [Columbus Dispatch decides not to participate in GOP's \\$75/person panel discussion](#)

Jim Romenesko: This morning I received this email from a reader: "I am an Ohio journalist, and this sure looks to me like the Columbus Dispatch is helping raise money for the Franklin County GOP. ...It's also worth noting that Dispatch publisher John Wolfe and his wife are maxed-out donors to Republican Gov. John Kasich's re-elect campaign."

I sent the note to Dispatch editor Ben Marrison and he responded:



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### [Veteran CBS, CNN newsmen Bruce Morton dies at 83](#)



Washington (CNN) -- Bruce Morton, a longtime CNN national correspondent, passed away Thursday at his Washington home at the age of 83.

Morton's broadcast career stretched across 40 years, first at CBS, where he hosted the "CBS Morning News" among other things, then at CNN, where he

was chief national correspondent before retiring in 2006.

After his last report for CNN, anchor Wolf Blitzer paid tribute to Morton by saying, "One of our colleagues likes to say that if there were a journalist hall of fame, Bruce Morton certainly would be in it."

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### [A Second Look At The Giant Garbage Pile That Is Online Media, 2014](#)

WARNING: This is a post, by a media professional, about the media. If you are a normal human being, you will not and definitely should not care, except inasmuch as it's part of a debate about whether or not we, the media, are failing you, the normal human being. If you are looking for something a little more general-interest, may I recommend, I dunno, a 10,000-word Grantland post about a prestige cable show. Or make some fantasy football trades. Or read a book, I don't know!

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## **The Last Word**

[Here, Ansel! Sit, Avedon!](#)



NEWPORT, R.I. - It was in 2007 that Juergen Perthold, an engineer living in Anderson, S.C., strapped a tiny camera of his own design to the collar of his cat, Mr. Lee. When the images Mr. Lee captured while roaming around their neighborhood were posted online, they went, predictably, viral. Mr. Lee received a flurry of attention from the international media and became the star of a documentary, "CatCam: The Movie," which made the film festival rounds in 2012 and even won a few awards.

Mr. Perthold has since refined his tiny camera, which was designed to record video or still photographs at programmable intervals, and has sold nearly 5,000 to pet owners in 35 countries, many of whom send their images back to Mr. Perthold, who displays them on his website. For Mr. Lee is not the only pet photographer, and his CatCam is not the only pet-oriented photographic device.



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