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Connecting

September 18, 2014

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning.

Today's Connecting leads off with news from **Ray March** of the renewed campaign to get a Pulitzer Prize for AP World War II correspondent Edward Kennedy, who in the war's final moments gave the AP perhaps the biggest scoop in its history.

Kennedy reported, a full day ahead of the competition, that the Germans had surrendered unconditionally at a former schoolhouse in Reims, France. For this, he was publicly rebuked by the AP for defying military censors to get the story out, and then quietly fired.

We also include some news items from the APME/ASNE/APPM conference in Chicago.

Paul

New effort under way to get Pulitzer for Ed Kennedy

[Ray March](#) writes his Connecting colleagues:

As you will recall, the "Ed Kennedy Project Committee" was unsuccessful last year in its effort to gain a special Pulitzer for Ed Kennedy. Undaunted, we are going to try again and it is in regard to our new effort that I seek your help.

Eric Brazil, my co-chair, and I, with the support of Frank McCulloch, Ward Bushee and Warren Lerude, are refreshing our campaign with intentions to reapply to the Pulitzer Board and we feel our efforts can be strengthened immensely by the support of both retired and active AP staffers. In addition to those already on our committee from the last effort, we need "a wave of support" from all ranks, including war correspondents, photographers, editors and bureau chiefs.



Any word you can spread via "Connecting" or other methods you may have will give us the momentum we need to urge the Pulitzer Board to award Kennedy a much-deserved special Pulitzer. All we ask is a "Yes" from those who believe Ed Kennedy, the AP bureau chief who defied the 1945 military embargo of the WW II German surrender and was blackballed until AP out-going president Tom Curley absolved him in 2012, is deserving of a Pulitzer.



Anyone in support of this Pulitzer campaign for Ed Kennedy can send an e-mail addressed to me at ramarch@frontiernet.net

(Two photos of Ed Kennedy taken during the war - one is from about 1940, showing him in a British desert military uniform. This was during the time that he was attached to the British 8th Army. The other is his Italian press card, circa 1939.)

This Associated Press story from 2012 provides background and AP's apology for his firing. Then AP President and CEO Tom Curley said, "It was a terrible day for the AP. It was handled in the worst possible way."

Click [here](#) to read more.

Journalists criticize White House for 'secrecy'

CHICAGO (AP) - Editors and reporters meeting in Chicago raised concerns Wednesday about what they described as a lack of access and transparency undermining journalists' work, several blaming the current White House for setting standards for secrecy that are spreading nationwide.



Criticism of President Barack Obama's administration on the issue of openness in government came on the last day of a three-day joint convention of the American Society of News Editors, the Associated Press Media Editors and the Associated Press Photo Managers.

"The White House push to limit access and reduce transparency has essentially served as the secrecy road map for all kinds of organizations - from local and state governments to universities and even sporting events," Brian Carovillano, AP managing editor for U.S. news, said during a panel discussion.

James Risen, a New York Times reporter who is facing potential jail time as he battles government efforts to force him to testify at the trial of a former CIA officer accused of leaking classified information, also spoke at the conference. Risen said intense pressure on reporters and their sources is having a chilling effect on news gathering.

He spoke of scaring one source just by going to his home and knocking on the front door.

"He opened the door and he turned white," Risen said. "He marches me back through the kitchen (to a back exit) and said, "'Go out that way.'"

Risen added that the government appeared to be taking advantage of how the media industry is off balance amid the growing influence of online news sources and financial hardships. He asked if the government would have taken such a hard line when traditional media were on firmer footing decades ago.

"I kind of think the answer is no," he said. Media shouldn't shrink before the challenge, Risen said, adding, "The only response ... is to do even more aggressive investigative reporting."

The AP's Washington chief of bureau, Sally Buzbee, (photo above) said the Obama administration's efforts to control information extend even to agencies not directly involved in intelligence gathering. Some sources, she said, have reportedly been warned they could be fired for even talking to a reporter.

"Day-to-day intimidation of sources is also extremely chilling," she said.

Buzbee said she's frequently asked if the Obama administration, when it comes to transparency, is worse than the administration of President George W. Bush.

"Bush was not fantastic," she said. She added, "The (Obama) administration is significantly worse than previous administrations."

White House spokesman Eric Schultz said Obama is committed to transparency.

"Over the past six years, federal agencies have gone to great efforts to make government more transparent and more accessible than ever, to provide people with information that they can use in their daily lives, and to solicit public participation in government decision-making and thus tap the expertise that resides outside of government," Schultz said in a emailed statement.

Some speakers Wednesday also broached questions of reporters' safety after recent beheadings of journalists by Islamic militants.

John Daniszewski, vice president and senior managing editor for international news at AP, said organizations that threaten reporters today have more chaotic chains of command. As a result, he said, militants might act on orders of an immediate commander rather than a government authority.

"While danger is nothing new ... there has been a shift," he said.

Santiago Lyon, AP vice president and director of photography, added freelancers are also more prevalent in conflict zones. He said among the questions media groups must ask about freelancers they are considering relying on is, "Are they bona fide journalists ... rather than just thrill seekers?"

Panelists say prepare for no daily newspapers

Saving community journalism means preparing your readership for a time when they'll be no daily newspaper, panelists said Monday at the APME/ASNE Convention.

"Print will continue to be a part of the mix, but a diminished part of the mix," said panelist Penelope Muse Abernathy, Knight Chair of journalism at the University of North Carolina.

Abernathy had four questions for editors at Monday's session, "How to save community journalism and thrive doing it."

1. Do you know how loyal your current readers are?
2. Do you know who your emerging and potential audiences are?
3. How are you tracking the changes in people's habits?
4. Do you know what story your advertising sales people are telling about your readers?

Click [here](#) to read more.

Alan Miller elected president of APME

Alan D. Miller, managing editor for news at The Columbus Dispatch, was elected president of the Associated Press Media Editors at the group's annual conference in Chicago.

Miller has been involved with APME for more than a decade and on the board since 2008. As vice president this year, Miller helped oversee APME's committees, including NewsTrain, the trade organization's marquee continuing-education program.

"The continued strong interest in NewsTrain workshops, and the big turnout for this year's annual conference in Chicago shows the importance of this organization for the future of the industry," Miller said. "I'm honored to be part of an association of such hard-working journalists whose goal is to support newsrooms amid constant change."



Following the success of the first-ever joint conference by APME and the American Society of News Editors this year, Miller said two groups are planning a joint conference again in 2015 - in October on the Stanford University campus in Palo Alto, Calif.

APME is an association of editors at Associated Press member news organizations - print and broadcast - in the U.S. and newspapers served by The Canadian Press in Canada. The group works closely with the AP to strive for journalism excellence. APME also supports training and development of editors; champions First Amendment rights, particularly when it comes to public-access issues; as well as initiatives in diversity and accuracy.

Miller began his career as a reporter and editor at The Daily Record in Wooster, Ohio; worked as a business reporter at The Repository in Canton, Ohio; and started at The Dispatch in 1984 as a regional reporter. He covered several beats before moving into the editing ranks, becoming managing editor for news in 2004.

Miller will serve as APME president until the next APME conference in October 2015. He takes over from Debra Adams Simmons, former editor of The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer and now an executive with that newspaper's parent company, Advance Publications. Adams Simmons will become president of the APME Foundation.

Other officers elected to APME board leadership were vice president Teri Hayt, executive editor of The Repository in Canton; and secretary Laura Sellers, managing editor of The Daily Astorian, in Astoria, Ore. Joining the leadership ladder is Bill Church, executive editor of the Herald-Tribune in Sarasota, Fla., who will become president in 2017.

Re-elected to the board were Church; Lawrence "Sonny" Albarado, projects editor at the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette; and Gary Graham, editor of the Spokesman-Review in Spokane, Wash.

Others elected to the board were: Cate Barron, a previous APME board member who is vice president for PA Media Group that includes The Patriot-News in Harrisburg, Pa.; George Rodrigue, vice president and managing editor of the Dallas Morning News; Russ Mitchell, managing editor and lead anchor for the 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. news broadcasts for WKYC-TV in Cleveland; Ray Rivera, editor of the Santa Fe New Mexican; Chris Quinn, vice president of content for the Northeast Ohio Media Group, representing Cleveland.com, The Plain Dealer and Sun newspapers; Jack Lail, a previous APME board member and director of digital operations at the Knoxville News-Sentinel; and Kelly Fry, editor and vice president of news at The Daily Oklahoman Publishing Co.

iOS 8: AP among 5 news orgs updating apps for Apple's new operating system

ABC, the AP, Breaking News, The Guardian, and The New York Times have all updated apps (or introduced new ones) to take advantage of new features on iOS 8.

Click [here](#) to read more.

Connecting mailbox

[George Krimsky](#) - I think the new fixture ("Where in the world is ???"), introduced by Bob Daugherty, is likely to be a winner, as was the first shot in the Sept. 17 edition. But, if Connecting is asking old timers to tell us what they are up to, perhaps it should be called "Where in the world am I?"

Only kidding (slightly), but if someone wants to spotlight a former colleague, is that fair game?

At some point in the future, you may want to consider another fixture called "Gone but not forgotten" - notable AP veterans who are no longer with us.

I have particularly in mind Joseph Morton, the only allied correspondent to have been executed by the enemy in World War II.

Stories of interest

[Master interviewer Charlie Rose honored with Fourth Estate Award at National Press Club](#) (Myron Belkind)



Charlie Rose, the affable North Carolinian known for his thoughtful, low-key interview style, was awarded the National Press Club's Fourth Estate Award for a lifetime of achievement.

Rose, who accepted the award Saturday, Sept. 13, at a gala dinner, dedicated it to those journalists who "give their lives for the story," and

noted the dramatic courage and sacrifice of American journalists James Foley and Steven Sotloff, murdered recently by the Islamic State group. Rose also acknowledged British aid worker David Cawthorne Haines, whose apparent death at the hands of the same group had been reported shortly before the Saturday evening event began.

As a recipient of the Fourth Estate Award, Rose joins a distinguished roster of the nation's top journalists. The first award was bestowed in 1973 to Walter Cronkite of CBS News.

NOTE: Myron Belkind is president of the National Press Club and an AP retiree, and is shown, at left in photo above, presenting the award to Charlie Rose. Article is by Will Lester of the AP.

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[In Brutal Year, 7th Journalist Is Killed in Afghanistan](#)

KABUL, Afghanistan - An Afghan woman has become the seventh journalist killed in Afghanistan so far this year, an Afghan media group said Wednesday, adding to a toll that has already made 2014 by far the deadliest year for the news media here since the fall of the Taliban.

Palwasha Tokhi, who worked for Bayan Radio in the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif, was called out of her home purportedly to receive a wedding invitation from a visitor Tuesday night. (Wedding invitations are typically delivered by hand in Afghanistan.)

She was then stabbed to death by the visitor, who fled, according to Hafizullah Majidid, the head of Bayan Radio. Ms. Tokhi had just returned to Afghanistan after earning her master's degree in Thailand.

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Politico names new editor

From this morning's Mike Allen Politico Playbook:

NEW EDITOR OF POLITICO - President and CEO Jim VandeHei, Editor-in-Chief John Harris and COO Kim Kingsley emailed the staff a few minutes ago, with subject line, "breaking news...": "Susan Glasser, the architect of our award-winning magazine and soon-to-be-unveiled digital platform, will be the new Editor of POLITICO. ... Susan has shown the great power ambitious long-form reporting can have on our site. But she's also as obsessed as we are with dominating news coverage of Congress, politics, the White House and policy. ... She shares our belief that POLITICO is better positioned than any company to exploit this moment in journalism. We have a brand powerful people need, read and enjoy, and an exceptionally talented staff delivering the goods each and every day.

"Our challenge is to extend our dominance in this space and expand our reach – in Washington, key states and the world. That is why we are redesigning our digital properties, redoing all of our technology, expanding into Europe, exploring new state versions of POLITICO and growing our operation and leadership here. Thanks to you, we are creating a rare sustainable oasis for serious, reported journalism. ... John ... will be turning his attention to expansion and play a huge role in getting Europe up and running. ... Robert Allbritton, our Publisher, has given all of us a firm mandate to put in place a robust enough leadership team and staff to sustain big growth. ...

"Susan ... reinvented a Capitol Hill publication (Roll Call); transformed a venerable institution (the Outlook section at The Washington Post); revolutionized a niche digital company (Foreign Policy) and created from scratch the smartest magazine, here at POLITICO. Susan is also an accomplished reporter who has covered everything from wars overseas to the influence of money in politics in Washington. ... Our collective objective is [to] make sure this is the place where the best editors, reporters and digital minds come and stay to do the most consequential work of their careers. And have a ton of FUN doing it. ... Thank you for all you do for POLITICO, Jim, John, Kim."

--SUSAN B. GLASSER email to staff, with subject line, "looking ahead": "We all know what we want: a POLITICO that is an indispensable first read for anyone whose business is Washington - and for millions more who are as captivated as we are by what is happening here. I hope we can aim to win not only the morning, but the afternoon and evening too with smart, authoritative, impactful, independent and original journalism. Together, we should strive to be the most excellent news organization that covers Washington, period."

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[Off-the-Record Session With the President on ISIS Raises Concerns](#) (Latrice Davis)

President Obama's session last week with opinion columnists and magazine writers included some journalistic big guns. And the subject could not have been more important: his strategy on dealing with the terrorist group known as ISIS.

But regular citizens can't know much of what was said there, because it was off the record. Word of it crept out in a Times story by Peter Baker, the chief White House correspondent titled "Paths to War, Then and Now, Haunt Obama." The article noted that columnists from The New York Times were in attendance but that they were not the sources of its information.

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[David Gregory hits media 'laziness'](#)

David Gregory, the ousted moderator of NBC's "Meet The Press," thinks Washington's political media are too lazy to go against the "narrative."

Moderating a panel at the No Labels's National Strategic Agenda meeting on Wednesday, Gregory said journalists often fail to report on anything that fights the set narrative in Washington media.

"[I]n Washington political journalism the narrative gets set, and it gets set early and built on. And things that fight the narrative get harder to report out, I think, often because of laziness in media," Gregory said. "I think that the media...has gotten very attached to the idea that Washington is so dysfunctional and that the country is so frustrated with it. There is a self-fulfilling part of that."

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[On media freedom, United Nations plays by its own rules](#)

From Ukraine to Syria to Gaza, a relentless summer of international strife is raising the stakes for the United Nations on the eve of its General Assembly session this week. In a rare move, President Barack Obama is personally chairing the Security Council to build support against terrorist groups like ISIS, all but guaranteeing the media spotlight and underscoring the central role of the UN, where the most powerful figures in the world flock for the yearly occasion of rubbing shoulders and brokering deals.

Yet the toughest stories to squeeze out of the UN are not just about crises discussed there, but investigations into the UN itself, where journalists enter an environment with different rules and procedures than any other government institution they might have covered.

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[Trust in Mass Media Returns to All-Time Low](#)

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- After registering slightly higher trust last year, Americans' confidence in the media's ability to report "the news fully, accurately, and fairly" has returned to its previous all-time low of 40%. Americans' trust in mass media has generally been edging downward from higher levels in the late 1990s and the early 2000s.

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[St. Louis Post-Dispatch Editor Troubled By Fox News, NY Post Ferguson Coverage](#)

(Scott Charton)

St. Louis Post-Dispatch editor Gilbert Bailon criticized some conservative media outlets and national press for their coverage of the shooting death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri.

Bailon singled out Fox News for focusing on looting and "chaos" while ignoring the "deeper story" in Ferguson, and also cited The Washington Post and the New York Post for running thinly sourced negative stories about Brown.

Bailon, editor of the largest local paper covering the aftermath of the August 9 police shooting that left Brown dead and sparked a national debate on police tactics, spoke to Media Matters at the American Society of News Editors conference in Chicago this week.

While the editor and former ASNE president praised much of the national press coverage, he cited Fox News for criticism.

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[How a Nebraska newspaper kicked off a major prison sentencing scandal](#)

PRAIRIE VILLAGE, KS - "Had the World-Herald not broken the story, nothing would have happened."

So said Nebraska state Sen. Ernie Chambers at a dramatic Sept. 4 hearing on a scandal that has rocked the state's Department of Corrections, spurred litigation and criminal investigations against state officials, become a political football in the governor's race, and disrupted the lives of hundreds of convicts.

The reverberations followed a June investigative report by the Omaha World-Herald that revealed corrections officials had released dozens of convicts, many with violent records, too early after miscalculating their release dates. The scandal has shed light not only on bureaucratic misdeeds and incompetence, but also on the state's acute prison-overcrowding crisis and on the mandatory-minimum regime that has helped create it.

[The New York Times Could Never Have Published TMZ's Ray Rice Video](#)

Over the past week, The New York Times has busied itself by dissecting TMZ's graphic video of Ray Rice punching Janay Palmer in an Atlantic City casino. This is partly motivated by professional envy: Executive editor Dean Baquet told The Daily Beast that "TMZ had a great scoop. I wish I had it." But it's also motivated by the paper's misunderstanding of what TMZ actually published.

Baquet's colleagues have heaped praise on the video's visual impact. "It is impossible to separate the impact of TMZ's Rice scoop from the way it was delivered-via a vérité video taken inside a casino elevator," reporter Jonathan Mahler argued last week. "It was, you could say, the opposite of gossip; it was powerful, verified proof of Rice's brutal behavior."

The Last Word/Photo

Before summer is too far in the distant past, Ye Olde Connecting Editor shares this photo of his granddaughter Sophie and her prize bubble, outside the homestead Wednesday night. Now that is one big bubble!



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