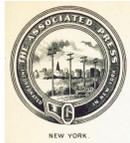

From: Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 9:24 AM
To: stevenspl@live.com
Subject: Connecting - September 30, 2014

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Connecting

September 30, 2014

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning.

Connecting extends congratulations to two well-known AP retirees - former Washington chief of bureau Sandy Johnson, the new president and COO of the National Press Foundation, and longtime AP Washington journalist Larry Margasak, honored by his alma mater Temple University.

They bring us joy.

And speaking of joy, the essay in The Final Word is guaranteed to make you think. And appreciate your life.

With that, here are stories of interest.

Paul

Sandy Johnson named president, COO of National Press Foundation

WASHINGTON - The National Press Foundation today (Monday) announced the appointment of veteran journalist Sandy Johnson as President & Chief Operating Officer.

"The Board of Directors is very excited to begin working with Sandy," said Chairman Heather Dahl. "She has the perfect blend of executive-level management, strategic thinking and experience implementing innovative ideas. Combine these qualities with her deep roots as a journalist; I know she will lead our Foundation to the next level."



Ms. Johnson succeeds Bob Meyers, who led the nonprofit foundation for 21 years in its mission to educate and train thousands of journalists on critical issues confronting the public.

"I'm delighted that Sandy has been selected to lead NPF forward," said Mr. Meyers. "Her vision and commitment to journalism and democratic values will make an immediate impression. I look forward to working with her on the transition. "

Ms. Johnson has held senior management positions at several national news organizations, including The Associated Press, AARP Bulletin, Stateline and the Center for Public Integrity. She was AP's Washington Bureau Chief for 10 years, overseeing coverage of the federal government, elections and politics and working with AP journalists in all 50 states as well as across the globe. Under her direction, AP refused to call the 2000 presidential race for George W. Bush despite enormous pressure after the television networks made the erroneous projection. She was a Pulitzer Prize finalist for her decision.

Ms. Johnson has served on NPF's Board of Directors since 2001 and was Chairman of the Board from 2007-2008.

"I am honored to take the reins from Bob Meyers and transition NPF into its next chapter," said Ms. Johnson. "As the news business adapts

to revolutionary changes, journalists of all stripes need the education and training that NPF provides, now more than ever."

NPF has offered free professional development to journalists since 1976. Through seminars and webinars, NPF helps journalists better understand and explain the impact of public policy and other issues to readers and viewers. Upcoming programs focus on finance literacy for young people, lung disease research and entrepreneurship in China, for example.

(Shared by Mark Mittelstadt)

Larry Margasak honored by Temple University



Longtime Washington journalist Larry Margasak was honored by his alma mater, Temple University, on Friday with a Lew Klein Alumni in the Media award. Larry worked for the Temple News, and after graduation in 1965 launched an AP career that took him to Philadelphia, Harrisburg and then Washington, where he covered Congress and was a member of the investigative team. (Larry is pictured at left with his wife Rochelle.)

Among his assignments: the trial of John Hinckley, the impeachment proceedings against President Bill Clinton, the investigation of Clinton's affair with intern Monica Lewinsky, and a sex scandal case involving U.S. House members and teenage pages.

Larry retired in 2013, but is keeping busy volunteering for the News Literacy Project, which sends journalists into high schools to explain the business. He also volunteers at the Smithsonian American History Museum and the American Film Institute's annual documentary film festival.

He was in good company at the awards luncheon. Fellow honorees included NBC's Brian Williams and musician John Oates, of Hall and

Oates fame.

(Written, photographed and shared by Sally Hale)

AP Exclusive: Ferguson demands high fees to turn over city files

WASHINGTON (AP) - Officials in Ferguson, Missouri, are charging nearly 10 times the cost of some of their own employees' salaries before they will agree to turn over files under public records laws about the fatal shooting of 18-year-old Michael Brown.

Missouri's attorney general on Monday, after the AP first disclosed the practice, contacted Ferguson's city attorney to ask for more information regarding fees related to document requests, the attorney general's spokeswoman said.

The move to charge high fees discourages journalists and civil rights groups from investigating the shooting and its aftermath. And it follows dozens of records requests to Ferguson under the state's Sunshine Law, which can offer an unvarnished look into government activity.

The city has demanded high fees to produce copies of records that, under Missouri law, it could give away free if it determined the material was in the public's interest to see. Instead, in some cases, the city has demanded high fees with little explanation or cost breakdown.

In one case, it billed The Associated Press \$135 an hour - for nearly a day's work - merely to retrieve a handful of email accounts since the shooting. That fee compares with an entry-level, hourly salary of \$13.90 in the city clerk's office, and it didn't include costs to review the emails or release them. The AP has not paid for the search because it has yet to negotiate the cost.

Price-gouging for government files is one way that local, state and federal agencies have responded to requests for potentially embarrassing information they may not want released. Open records laws are designed to give the public access to government records at little or no cost, and have historically exposed waste, wrongdoing and corruption.

On Monday, the Radio Television Digital News Association, a media advocacy organization, asked Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster to investigate Ferguson for charging high fees for records requests.

Click [here](#) to read more.

De Pury named AP's news director for Russia, CIS

LONDON (AP) -- The Associated Press has named Kate de Pury, an award-winning journalist with more than 15 years' experience in video newsgathering, as its news director for Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

De Pury, who has spent many years working in Russia, will lead AP's video, text and photo report across one-seventh of the earth's surface, stretching from the Baltics to Central Asia. She will take up her position at the end of the year, based in Moscow and reporting to AP's London-based Europe News Director, Caro Kriel, whom she also replaces in Moscow.



Her appointment to one of AP's key international posts is part of a wider strategy by the news cooperative to create leadership roles that span all the formats in which the agency reports news.

"Kate is a first-class journalist who knows the Russia story and brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to the job," Kriel said Monday. "She is an accomplished leader both in coverage of Russia and in video journalism, a winning combination for AP in the region."

De Pury, 55, previously helped pioneer AP's premium live news service, and is returning to the company after nine years with Reuters.

She first traveled to Moscow in the late 1980s as an exchange student at the Moscow Film School VGIK, and went on to cover the breakup of the Soviet Union; conflicts in Chechnya, Moldova and the Caucasus; the evolving Russian political story and the development of independent states - including Ukraine - in the former Soviet sphere.

She headed the Reuters video operation in Moscow from 2008-12, winning the Reuters Video Story of the Year award for her team's coverage of the Russia-Georgia War. De Pury led that team through

coverage of ethnic violence in Kyrgyzstan, unrest in Belarus and the growth of an opposition movement in Russia itself after December 2010 elections.

From 2003-05, de Pury worked at AP's global video headquarters in London as content manager of AP Direct in the first years of the AP's premium live news service. Recently, she has led the team that developed and launched Reuters' online streaming service.

De Pury, a British national, holds a bachelor's degree in French and drama from Bristol University and a master's in film art from the University of California, Los Angeles. She is fluent in Russian and French.

AP reporter apologizes for tweeting Dennis Allen is fired

[An](#) Associated Press reporter created a stir on Sunday evening by writing on Twitter that Raiders coach Dennis Allen had been fired. Then the reporter deleted his tweet without explanation. Now the reporter has apologized.

Terry Collins, who identifies himself on Twitter as "Veteran award-winning journalist," initially tweeted that Allen is already fired and that an announcement could come as soon as Tuesday. Collins does not have a history of breaking news in the NFL, and no other reporter had confirmed the report, so there were immediately questions about it. Soon Collins had deleted his tweet, and later Collins tweeted an apology saying that what he had previously called a report from sources were just unconfirmed "rumors."

Connecting mailbox

Praise for Hanley story on No Gun Ri Park

[Linda Deutsch](#) - This (Monday issue) is such a rich and affecting issue of "Connecting." I don't know how you do it and I can't possibly enumerate all the pieces that touched me. Charlie Hanley's piece on his visit to No Gun Ri Park is monumental. It seems that it should have a place on the AP wire, but I guess it is not being published there. Your own reports on the Ferguson panel are fantastic. And, of course, I appreciate Mike Tharp including me in his tributes. Sally Quinn's piece is heartbreaking and certainly instructive to those dealing with similar situations. I could go on and on but I just wanted to say thank you for such a grand reading experience.

73s
Linda

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Terril on Terril



[Terril Jones](#) - This isn't exactly an oddball newspaper name but I offer it as a Brite --

While fishing around the Internet for an old story I wrote, I came across this shot of a newspaper in Terril, Iowa, that existed at least until the 1930s. It serves as a nice banner for various purposes; I may make personal stationery out of it :-)

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Unusual newspaper names

[Darrell Christian](#) - Henderson (Ky.) Gleaner

[Marc Wilson](#) - When we (Rob Dalton, Ginny and I) bought the Bigfork (MT) Eagle in 1983, we also inherited the brand "The Mountain Standard Times." The Eagle and the Times had merged several years before we bought the Eagle, and the MST brand not used. We didn't use it either, but I always thought it was a great name.

The other paper I mention was the Choteau (MT) Acantha. Owners Jeff and Melody Martinsen explain the name on their web site: We certainly have one of the more unique names in newspaper lore. The way we understand the story, the original owners called their newspaper the "Acantha" from the Greek root word "acanthus," which can mean a thorn on an Acanthus plant or a spine on a fish. It's our understanding that the first Acantha was founded to be a thorn in the side of those who wanted the county seat in Choteau. Ask any county official around here - we can still be a little thorny some times!

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A few more who helped Mike Tharp along the way

[Mike Tharp](#) - How could I forget my Tokyo and ongoing friendships with Terry Anderson (who got me out of a fight in a country & eastern bar) and Barry Shlachter (who introduced a recipe for bagels in the bureau)?

Stories of interest

[How Iowa reporters are teaming up to cover a tight Senate race](#)

PRAIRIE VILLAGE, KS - Politics has long been a key beat for Iowa media. But today, political campaigns in the Hawkeye State are about much more than caucuses, straw polls, and steak fries. As the site of one of the most closely watched Senate races in the country, the state has been swamped with TV ads, many from super PACs or other outside groups that can spend unlimited amounts of cash.

So eight papers that serve the state have teamed up to track those ads, using a new tool and support from a watchdog group to follow the money, identify the key players and describe the balance of political power. The project might not deliver any race-changing scoops, but it still suggests that collaboration and a little legwork can help even small and mid-sized publications get a handle on the ad-spending free-for-all and give readers a clearer sense of what's going on.

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[Good news is good business, but not a cure-all for journalism](#)

Most news consumers probably know that the news these days is mostly dire, and that the act of staying informed about world events can leave us feeling more pessimistic, hopeless, and apathetic. The news is so bad it's even making the journalists covering it anxious and depressed.

To counter bad-news fatigue, some media outlets, in addition to stories about ISIS and climate change, are turning their attention to the antipole of anxiety-inducing daily stories: positive news.

A few established outlets have launched designated verticals within the last few years, such as Huffington Post Good News, started in 2012, and ABC Good News. And there's a number of dedicated good-news-only sites: one of the oldest is Positive News, with a 25,000-circulation quarterly print publication in England, the Good News Network, and Happy News, among others. Sites like Upworthy, although not promising a focus on positive stories only, collect all that is fun,

shareable, and inspiring-which is rarely depressing.

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[Is Journalism Education Changing Fast Enough?](#) (Mark Mittelstadt)

Last week at the Online News Association convention in Chicago, we did a "lighting round" on our update of Searchlights and Sunglasses, the free digital learning resource Knight Foundation offered up last year to journalism education.

Did we just say the first edition launched last year? That seems like a lifetime ago - maybe because, in iPhone years, it is. If anything, the accelerating pace of change reinforces the Searchlights and Sunglasses message: We in journalism and journalism education still aren't changing fast enough.

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[Billionaire's Conservative PAC Tries, Fails to Buy St. Louis Journalists](#) (Scott Charton)

Grow Missouri, the conservative political-advocacy group founded entirely by a billionaire bent on paying less in taxes, recruited five Missouri journalists last week, offering \$250 a pop to anonymously write one-sided political articles.

In an email that is completely deaf to the ethical code that prohibits journalists from accepting money from groups they cover, Grow Missouri representative Molly Berry -- who describes herself as a "crazy mother trucker, undercover lover" on Twitter -- offers to pay for blog posts "with a focus on tax reform, political news, family life in Missouri and Grow Missouri's 'Create a Great State' initiative" from reporters who cover state politics, including some from the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and St. Louis Public Radio (90.7 FM).

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[Why Rumors Outrace the Truth Online](#) (Latrice Davis)

It's no surprise that interesting and unusual claims are often the most widely circulated articles on social media. Who wants to share boring stuff?

The problem, however, is that the spread of rumors, misinformation and unverified claims can overwhelm any effort to set the record straight, as we've seen during controversies over events like the Boston Marathon bombings and the conspiracy theory that the Obama

administration manipulated unemployment statistics.

Everyone knows there is dubious information online, of course, but estimating the magnitude of the problem has been difficult until now.

The Final Word

Beware of Joy

By Anna North

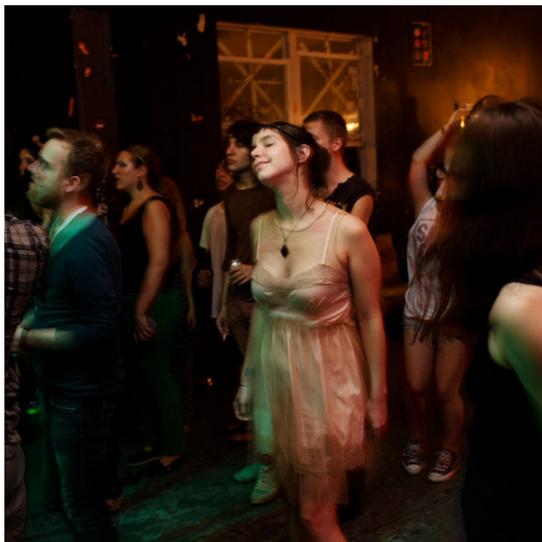
Published in *The New York Times*

If you're a defensive pessimist (or even just a regular pessimist), you may already be familiar with the phenomenon known as "fear of happiness."

If you're not, Bettina Chang of *Pacific Standard* offers a baseball-related example:

"Give me a game where my team is winning in the final seconds, and I'll enumerate the ways to lose the lead before it's over. It's come to the point where I get more anxious when my team is winning than when it is losing. I would rather root for them to pull off a stunning comeback than deal with the psychological torture of a premature celebration or a last-minute defeat."

Fear of happiness is that creeping feeling that you shouldn't get too comfortable, because something bad is bound to happen. Ms. Chang reports that the postdoctoral researcher Mohsen Joshanloo, of Chungbuk National University in South Korea, has studied this feeling across a variety of cultures, asking people how much they agreed with statements like "I prefer not



to be too joyful, because usually joy is followed by sadness," and "Something might happen at any time and we could easily lose our happiness." He found fear of happiness more common in less-developed countries, where, he told Ms. Chang, "the conditions of life are more uncertain and changing."

But does fear of happiness work? Does looking for the sorrow around the corner actually make it easier to handle when it arrives? On the one hand, Mr. Joshanloo says countries where this attitude is common also tend to have lower levels of happiness overall. And at Scientific American, Tori Rodriguez looks at the downsides of fear of happiness:

"Past research supports the idea that an aversion to positive emotions often coexists with mental disorders. Patients with major depressive disorder, for example, have been found to fear and suppress both negative and positive emotions more than healthy people do."

She quotes the psychiatrist Paul Gilbert, who has also studied the phenomenon: "It is very important that the fear of happiness become a focus for therapy in its own right, and that means treating it as you would any other fear."

And Mr. Joshanloo told Op-Talk in an email that he currently believes "extreme fear of happiness is not adaptive based on any standards." However, he added, "milder versions of it may be justifiable in certain cultural contexts, or certain social contexts." For instance, "in a culture where harmony is a supreme value, achieving this ideal has lots of material and psychological benefits." Seeking one's own happiness at the expense of harmony with others might cost one those benefits. "This justifies the avoidance of expressing, pursuing or experiencing personal happiness at the expense of the overarching value of social harmony, at least at times," Mr. Joshanloo said.

Feeling too happy for too long may have cognitive downsides, too. Sadness, he explained, may increase our memory, make us better at sniffing out lies and reduce our tendency to commit what psychologists call the "fundamental attribution error." "Seen in this light," he said, "we do need to feel bad at times, and an extended and uninterrupted sense of happiness and positivity may at times come with some costs, e.g., unrealistic optimism and diminished sustained effort to achieve long-term goals."

Ultimately, he said, both the fear of happiness and the pursuit of happiness may be best in moderation: "Extremely passionate or direct pursuit of personal happiness (in the hedonistic/emotional sense of the word) may backfire and lead to unhappiness. But a more balanced and more thought-out interest in pursuing personal happiness in my view

may contribute to achieving a good life."

As Ms. Chang points out, Mr. Joshanloo is not alone in questioning the value of trying to feel great all the time. She cites the psychologist Julie Norem, who studies defensive pessimism, and a group of happiness skeptics who call themselves the "Negateers." Their attitudes, she writes, "aren't welcome among some psychologists, who tend to stress optimism and gratitude as the best ways to deal with hard times. The positive psychology movement has had such success that some proprietors aren't willing to entertain the idea that negative thinking could have benefits."

If your goal is to be happy, fear of happiness does sound like a pretty big problem - but for the Negateers, happiness isn't the be-all and end-all. And the notion that we should be cautious about counting too much on our happiness is ancient. One of the more famous Western exhortations to beware of joy comes from the very end of "Oedipus Rex" (this one's the Dudley Fitts and Robert Fitzgerald translation):

"Let every man in mankind's frailty
Consider his last day; and let none
Presume on his good fortune until he find
Life, at his death, a memory without pain."

The only time you can really stop fearing happiness, according to Sophocles, is when you're dead.

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