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Sent: Monday, October 13, 2014 9:17 AM
To: stevenspl@live.com
Subject: Connecting - October 13, 2014

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Connecting

October 13, 2014

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning - and here's to a great week.

Ye Olde Connecting Editor is hoping his inclusion of the story on White House press secretary Josh Earnest following his hometown Kansas City Royals will not constitute charges of favoritism from Connecting colleague (and friend) **Brent Kallestad** - but you gotta admit, it's a good story!

And fresh from Iowa City this past weekend, the Connecting editor revels in his Iowa Hawkeyes' high-scoring victory over Indiana - a win that came at the expense of another Connecting colleague (and friend), **Julie Inskeep**, and other Hoosiers.

Onward!

Paul

AP names Josef Federman as Jerusalem bureau chief

JERUSALEM (AP) - The Associated Press has named Josef Federman, a veteran Middle East correspondent, as its chief of bureau for Israel and the Palestinian territories.



The promotion was announced Sunday by Ian Phillips, AP's Cairo-based Middle East news director, and Dan Perry, the regional editor for text. Federman has written about and helped direct coverage of Israel, the West Bank and Gaza in his previous role as Jerusalem news editor.

Phillips said Federman's "leadership and sophisticated knowledge of the story would help maintain AP's edge in delivering top-class, meaningful journalism in a region often convulsed by violence - but also a part of the Middle East known for its economic drive, pioneering technology and artistic creativity."

Federman, 46, joined the AP as an editor on the international desk in New York in 1993, transferred to Charleston, West Virginia, the following year and returned to the international desk in 1995.

A native of Westborough, Massachusetts, Federman worked as an editor at The Wall Street Journal from 2000 to 2003 before returning to AP as a correspondent in the Jerusalem bureau. He was named news editor in 2006.

He has guided coverage of numerous major events, including the 2007 Hamas takeover of the Gaza Strip, three wars between Israel and Gaza militants, several failed rounds of peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians, and Israel's struggles against foes in Lebanon and elsewhere around the region.

"Joe's expertise will yield balanced and sophisticated coverage of one of the world's most complex stories, where competing narratives, echoes of history and passionate grievances require journalists to apply the greatest care and sensitivity," said Perry, who preceded Federman as bureau chief in Jerusalem.

Federman has been a chairman of the local Foreign Press Association, an organization that promotes press freedom and safety in Israel and the Palestinian areas. He also has covered assignments in Rome, the Hague, the United Nations, Washington and Cairo and has appeared on U.S. and Israeli media.

Federman holds a bachelor's degree in government, summa cum laude, from Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts, and a master's in international affairs from Columbia University.

Connecting mailbox

Agnew's resignation makes meeting invite moot

[Joe McKnight](#) - Friday's "Today in History," prompts this reminiscence that you may - or may not -- want. In late September, 1973, Columbus (OH) Chief of Bureau Burl Osborne and I were brainstorming about a program for the annual fall meeting of The Associated Press Society of Ohio, composed of publishers, editors and managing editors of AP member newspapers in Ohio.

Watergate was in the news and Vice President Spiro Agnew had been questioned about some of his activities.

I suggested Agnew as a possible banquet speaker and Burl replied, "Go for it." I called Agnew's office. It was a real pain then to get past the White House switchboard, but I finally was put through to someone who said he was on Agnew's staff. I posed the invitation and was told to write a letter, giving details.

I wrote promptly and we got a response indicating this would be a tentative on Agnew's schedule. We heard nothing further but his resignation on Oct. 10 made the invitation moot. We never heard anything more from the vice president's office.

But it was a tantalizing thought.

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Wordage limits in stories

[Joe McGowan](#) - I don't remember for sure but I think it was 17 or 19 words that we old AP hands were supposed to keep in mind as length of a graf.

Well, here is one from the Washington Post as printed in the Denver Post. I count 63 words!

By Kimberly Kindy
and Wesley Lowery, the Washington Post

Washington--Despite federal and state attempts to intervene during the two months since 18-year-old Michael Brown was shot and killed, the Ferguson Police Department continued--and even accelerated--efforts to suppress peaceful protests using arbitrary and inconsistently applied arrest policies, according to Justice Department officials who are investigating the department and county police officials who have since taken over for the city.

Gasp!!!!

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Connecting sky shot - Indiana



Bob Daugherty shares his photo, Sunrise over Morse Lake, Noblesville, Indiana.

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A bit of history on those abbreviations for AP bureaus

[Doris Selig](#) - Regarding those city abbreviations, I suspect they started in the telegraph days with all the earlier cities ending in x --

AX -- Atlanta

BX -- Boston

CX -- Chicago

DX -- Denver

FX -- San Francisco

KX -- Kansas City

PX -- Philadelphia

LX -- Louisville -- I think

[Margy McCay](#) - At least some of the two-letter bureau designations were based on the name of the member/host newspaper: Tallahassee was TD for the Tallahassee Democrat, Providence was JO for the Providence Journal, Miami was MH for the Miami Herald, Des Moines was DC for an old daily, the Des Moines (Daily) Capital,

etc.

[Steve Graham](#) - Noting the wire-speak discussion, one of the first things I learned at The AP were the bureau abbreviations. I still use them today 10 years after retirement. Some were odd like DX for Denver but DN for Dallas.

I always liked MH for Miami, NA for Indianapolis, etc. Anybody know the origins?

I seem to recall that they were Western Union city designators with the 'x' designating a WU hub.

In any event, I was responsible for the switch to three-letter codes back around 1989 or '90 when we installed the first global AP computer network that allowed direct communications between bureaus, i.e. without message relays by "hubs," e.g. Denver, Dallas, Columbus.

When I joined the AP in Helena, Mont. in 1974, bureaus, including the General Desk had to send a message via Denver and marked "DX for HL" I forget, but I think operators in Denver received and re-transmitted messages via punched paper tape.

By the '80s, the bureau code list was pretty well sorted out for domestic bureaus since the "Mouse" computers had become the rule. When we looked at a company-wide list of bureau codes, however, we found duplication and even triplication of two-letter codes. In many cases, particularly with photo IDs, city codes were made up on the fly.

Something had to be done and the change to three-letter codes, managed by Mark Berns, caused a near-revolution, since nobody wanted to give up their traditional codes. It mattered not whether the familiar code duplicated some other bureau or whether it was logical. Had it not been for John Reid's support, the AP could still be in the telecommunications Jurassic.

Additionally, some found it unsettling that Grants Pass, Ore., for example, could now send a message to Paris, France.

Nowadays, of course, the Internet has made all that commonplace,

[Brian Horton](#) - I read with interest your entry in Connecting on bureau call signs. The lore caught my fancy long before I joined the staff in 1971 when, as a stringer at Indiana University, I tried to figure out where the photos were coming from.

In those days, the number on the photos used the bureau code. For instance, the first picture of the day out of Indianapolis would be NA1, from Philadelphia, PX1, etc.

From what I learned from some of the Traffic folks in the Indianapolis bureau like Walt Tabak, there was one person in Traffic (later Communications) who would assign the letters and they tried to make them make some sense for the location.

For instance, in Cincinnati, there were two bureaus at the time. One for the dayside (at the Times-Star) and one for the evening (at the Enquirer). The call letters were CS for the dayside and CE for the night side. Later, it was all folded into one bureau and that bureau took the CS call.

From what I understand, the bureaus with an X were the original terminus points for the wire - Philadelphia (PX), Boston (BX), San Francisco (FX), Chicago (CX), etc.

Some seemed odd years later when they weren't major locations - New Haven, Conn. (NX), Memphis (MX), Harrisburg (HX), etc.

I do remember years later being on a temporary installation on the photo network for a Presidential visit where I sent a couple of pictures, then got a call from someone in New York in New York telling me to change the letters. If memory serves, I had duplicated some long lost designation.

For several years, bureaus were two-letter sets and member installations were three-letter calls but that changed in the 1990's, I think.

For a long time being a veteran on the photo desk in New York or Chicago or one of the other major control points meant knowing all of the those calls by heart. To this day, when I make notes about a town for a trip or something like that, I use the AP code.

[Ruth Gersh](#) - To Hal's (Hal Bock) question on two letter bureau designations: I learned they were the old telegraph designations from the days when the telegraph operators were in newspapers. Which is why Providence was JO (for the Journal) and Des Moines was DC, for the Des Moines Chronicle. X represented hubs, as in WX and KX.

Stories of interest

[Leaning Forward, MSNBC Loses Ground to Rival CNN](#)

Rachel Maddow, the biggest star on the MSNBC cable network, just posted her lowest quarterly ratings results ever.

"Morning Joe," MSNBC's signature morning program, scored its second-lowest quarterly ratings, reaching an average of just 87,000 viewers in the key news demographic group.

And "Ronan Farrow Daily," the network's heavily promoted new afternoon show, which stars a 26-year-old Rhodes Scholar with a high-profile Hollywood lineage, has been largely a dud.

Though it has mostly happened quietly, which may be a comment on the cable

network's larger status in the media landscape, MSNBC has seen its ratings hit one of the deepest skids in its history, with the recently completed third quarter of 2014 generating some record lows.

Phil Griffin, the president of MSNBC, acknowledged that his network had been struggling, but put it in the context of the overall drop in cable news. "This has been a tough year all around," he said. "All three cable news channels are drawing a smaller combined audience than they were five years ago." He also emphasized that despite the plunge that caused it to trail CNN in the last quarter, the network remained ahead of CNN for the full year.

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[The biggest Royals fan in the White House takes in an ALCS game](#)

BALTIMORE - The man who normally acts as President Barack Obama's voice, wearing a suit and standing behind a lectern, stood Saturday on Eutaw Street, ready to watch his boyhood baseball team play in the American League Championship Series.



Josh Earnest, a Kansas City native and the current White House press secretary, stood amidst a sea of orange T-shirts, wearing a blue Royals cap and clutching a tallboy in his left hand on a rare day off. "What are the odds?" Earnest said. "The Royals are in the playoffs, and it's in Baltimore."

On most days in Washington, Earnest can be found conducting press briefings at the White House. On Saturday, he made the hour drive to Baltimore with a couple of friends as the Royals defeated the Orioles 6-4 and took a 2-0 lead in the ALCS. His job responsibilities aside, Earnest also has an 8-week-old son at home. So the playoff schedule took some finagling.

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[How personal essays conquered journalism - and why they can't cut it](#)

"My Life as a Little Person." "I Still Dreamed of the Abuser I Once Thought of as My Father." "My Startup Failed, and This Is What It Feels Like." "The Worst Day of My Life Is Now New York's Hottest Tourist Attraction." "I Understand Why Westerners Are Joining Jihadist Movements. I Was Almost One of Them."

They're everywhere these days: stories along the formula "I Am an X, and Y Happened to Me!" These kind of confessional articles long constituted the barbarians lurking around the gates of traditional newspaper culture, appearing on

XOJane or blogs or niche columns like Modern Love, while the serious journalistic real estate remained dominated by authority figures like Larry Summers or Aaron David Miller pontificating on the economy or Israel-Palestine.

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[Gaza: Media, myths and the mainstream](#) (Latrice Davis)

When the latest Gaza war broke out in July, there was a parallel conflict taking place in the global media. Myths and propaganda made their way into mainstream coverage and distorted the already conflicting, and highly contentious narratives.

Critics of Israeli government PR did not just take issue with the spin from the office of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, they lamented the fact that mainstream Western media bought into that story too readily. And there were pro-Palestinian voices questioning Israel's emphasis on so-called "human shields", calling for more contextualised reporting.

The pro-Israel camp then came back with a media counter-offensive, accusing the international media of directing too much attention to Palestinian suffering and underreporting the missiles fired by Hamas.

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[How journalists protect against Ebola risks](#)

More than 4,000 people have died of Ebola, nearly all of them in West Africa.

BBC Global Health correspondent Tulip Mazumdar has been reporting on the crisis in Sierra Leone.

Here she explains the measures journalists and medics are taking to prevent themselves becoming ill, and from and spreading the virus.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Oct. 13, the 286th day of 2014. There are 79 days left in the year. This is the Columbus Day holiday in the U.S., as well as Thanksgiving Day in Canada.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 13, 1914, the Boston Braves swept the World Series, defeating the Philadelphia Athletics 3-1 in Game 4 played at Fenway Park.

On this date:

In A.D. 54, Roman Emperor Claudius I died, poisoned apparently at the behest of his wife, Agrippina (ag-rih-PEE'-nuh).

In 1307, King Philip IV of France ordered the arrests of Knights Templar on charges of heresy.

In 1775, the United States Navy had its origins as the Continental Congress ordered the construction of a naval fleet.

In 1792, the cornerstone of the executive mansion, later known as the White House, was laid during a ceremony in the District of Columbia.

In 1843, the Jewish organization B'nai B'rith (buh-NAY' brith) was founded in New York City.

In 1932, President Herbert Hoover and Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes laid the cornerstone for the U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington.

In 1944, during World War II, American troops entered Aachen, Germany.

In 1957, CBS-TV broadcast "The Edsel Show," a one-hour live special starring Bing Crosby designed to promote the new, ill-fated Ford automobile. (It was the first special to use videotape technology to delay the broadcast to the West Coast.)

In 1962, Edward Albee's four-character drama "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" opened on Broadway.

In 1974, longtime television host Ed Sullivan died in New York City at age 73.

In 1981, voters in Egypt participated in a referendum to elect Vice President Hosni Mubarak (HAHS'-nee moo-BAH'-rahk) the new president, one week after the assassination of Anwar Sadat.

In 1999, the Senate rejected the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, with 48 senators voting in favor and 51 against, far short of the 67 needed for ratification. In Boulder, Colorado, the JonBenet Ramsey grand jury was dismissed after 13 months of work with prosecutors saying there wasn't enough evidence to charge anyone in the 6-year-old beauty queen's slaying.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush and Democratic rival John Kerry held their third and final debate in Tempe, Arizona, trading blows on the Iraq war, taxes, gun control, abortion and jobs.

Five years ago: The United Nations Security Council voted unanimously to extend the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Haiti for a year. Singer Al Martino, who'd played

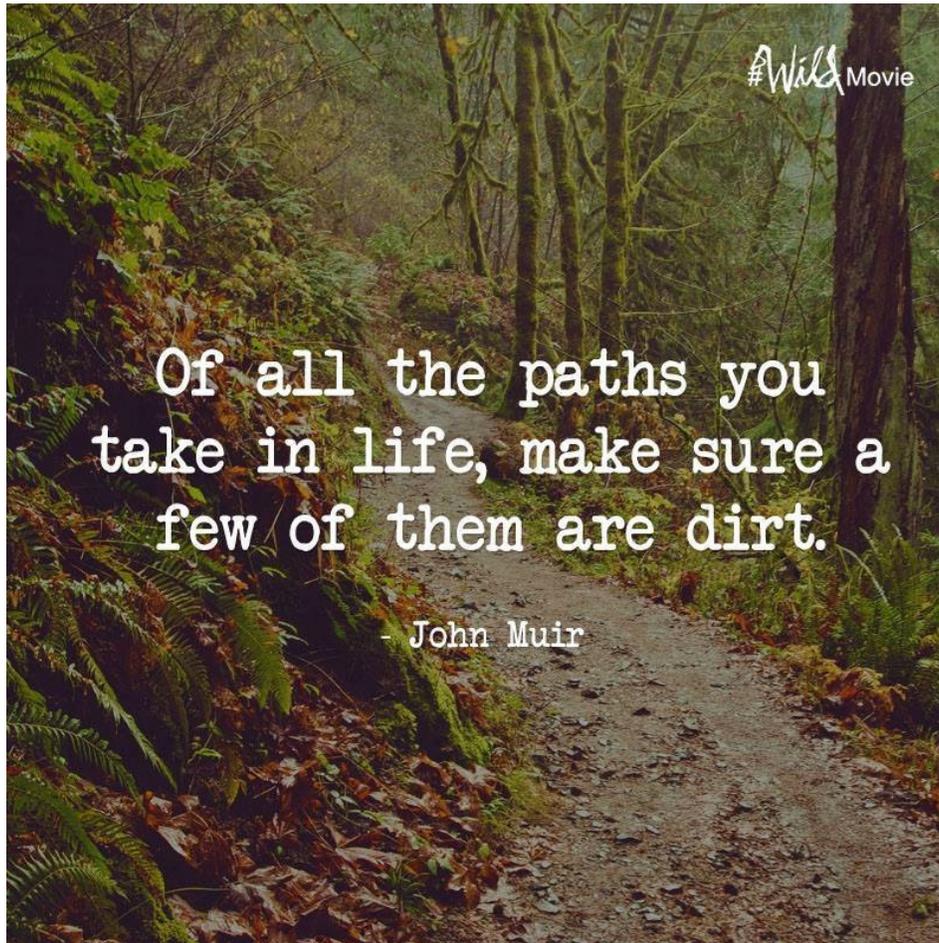
crooner Johnny Fontane in "The Godfather" and "The Godfather: Part III," died in Springfield, Pennsylvania, six days after turning 82. Movie producer Daniel Melnick ("Straw Dogs," "Network," "Midnight Express") died in Los Angeles at age 77.

One year ago: Gunmen abducted six Red Cross workers and a Syrian Red Crescent volunteer after stopping their convoy in northwestern Syria. (Four of the seven were released by the next day.) The Boston Red Sox beat the Detroit Tigers 6-5 to even the AL championship series at 1-all. Dennis Kimetto broke the course mark in capturing the Chicago Marathon in 2 hours, 3 minutes, 45 seconds, leading a 1-2-3 finish for Kenyan men.

Today's Birthdays: Playwright Frank D. Gilroy is 89. Gospel singer Shirley Caesar is 77. Actress Melinda Dillon is 75. Singer-musician Paul Simon is 73. Actress Pamela Tiffin is 72. Musician Robert Lamm (Chicago) is 70. Country singer Lacy J. Dalton is 68. Actor Demond Wilson is 68. Singer-musician Sammy Hagar is 67. Actor John Lone is 62. Model Beverly Johnson is 62. Producer-writer Chris Carter is 58. Actor Reggie Theus (THEE'-us) is 57. Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., is 56. Singer Marie Osmond is 55. Rock singer Joey Belladonna is 54. Former White House press secretary Ari Fleischer is 54. NBA coach Doc Rivers is 53. Actress T'Keyah Crystal Keymah (tuh-KEE'-ah KRYS'-tal kee-MAH') is 52. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Jerry Rice is 52. Actress Kelly Preston is 52. Country singer John Wiggins is 52. Actor Christopher Judge is 50. Actor Matt Walsh (TV: "Veep") is 50. Actress Kate Walsh is 47. Rhythm-and-blues musician Jeff Allen (Mint Condition) is 46. Actress Tisha Campbell-Martin is 46. Classical singer Carlos Marin (Il Divo) is 46. Olympic silver-medal figure skater Nancy Kerrigan is 45. Country singer Rhett Akins is 45. Classical crossover singer Paul Potts (TV: "Britain's Got Talent") is 44. TV personality Billy Bush is 43. Actor Sacha Baron Cohen is 43. Rock musician Jan Van Sichem Jr. (K's Choice) is 42. Rhythm-and-blues singers Brian and Brandon Casey (Jagged Edge) are 39. Actress Kiele Sanchez is 38. NBA All-Star Paul Pierce is 37. Singer Ashanti (ah-SHAHN'-tee) is 34. Christian rock singer Jon Micah Sumrall (Kutless) is 34. Olympic gold medal swimmer Ian Thorpe is 32.

Thought for Today: "Do you know the difference between education and experience? Education is when you read the fine print; experience is what you get when you don't." - Pete Seeger, American folk singer and activist (1919-2014).

The Last Word



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