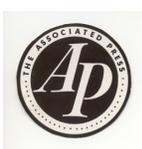

From: Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]
Sent: Friday, October 24, 2014 9:24 AM
To: stevenspl@live.com
Subject: Connecting - October 24, 2014

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Connecting

October 24, 2014

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning.



In today's Final Word, you will find a story from The Kansas City Star on a 6-year-old boy fighting cancer who got to attend Game 2 of the World Series, thanks to many angels who came to his support.

It's a great reminder that we have many angels among us in times of need.

That boy, Noah Wilson, shown at left with his father, is a member of the first-grade class in suburban Kansas City taught by my daughter Molly, who visits him weekly to help him keep up with his studies while he undergoes his treatment that we all hope will cure him.

Paul

AP error sparks lawsuit by former staffer

From the Richmond (Virginia) Style Weekly

A former Associated Press editor filed a lawsuit against the wire service in Richmond Circuit Court last week, alleging that she was unjustly fired for an error in a story edited by another staffer.

During Virginia's gubernatorial campaign last October, the AP published a story alleging that Democratic candidate and now Gov. Terry McAuliffe had lied to federal officials who were investigating a death benefits scam. The story turned out to be false, and the AP retracted it a little more than an hour and a half after posting it.

The AP fired three staffers in connection with the incident: longtime state political reporter Bob Lewis, Richmond news editor Dena Potter and an editor in the AP's Atlanta bureau, Norman Gomlak.



A year later, Potter is seeking \$950,000 in damages plus court costs, saying in a lawsuit filed Oct. 14 that the AP and its executive editor, Kathleen Carroll, defamed her by suggesting that she'd violated the AP's code of conduct and was unfit to serve as a news editor.

Potter says she didn't violate the AP's code of conduct because she wasn't the editor responsible for publishing the erroneous story -- Gomlak was, according to her lawsuit.

AP spokesman Paul Colford didn't comment on the suit, saying in an email he had "nothing to add." Gomlak didn't respond to a request for comment. A résumé posted on his LinkedIn profile says he works as a suburban editor for the Houston Chronicle.

Lewis declined to comment. After his dismissal he was quickly hired by the high-powered, Richmond-based law firm McGuireWoods, where he serves as its senior manager for media relations and serves as a senior adviser with its consulting arm.

"I'm out of that," he told Style. "I'm not going to comment in any way."

Potter, who took a job in August as communications director for the Virginia Department of General Services, referred questions to her lawyer, David R. Simonsen Jr.

"We feel good about the case," Simonsen said, adding that he's waiting to formally serve the AP with the suit to "see if they want to talk before we move forward with litigation. We're willing to talk settlement, at least."

The day the story ran, according to her lawsuit, Potter was busy working with a reporter on another story, a shooting at a courthouse in West Virginia. So around 4 p.m., when Lewis contacted her about a federal indictment in Rhode Island that listed McAuliffe as a passive investor in a death benefits scheme, she had the AP's Atlanta bureau assign an editor to work with Lewis on the story, according to the suit.

Gomlak and Lewis worked on the story together, the suit says. Around 9 p.m., someone from the campaign of Republican gubernatorial candidate Ken Cuccinelli called Lewis and noted that the indictment also said someone named "T.M." had lied to federal investigators, the lawsuit says. Lewis assumed it was the same "T.M." listed earlier in the indictment, whom he'd confirmed was McAuliffe, the suit says. (Gomlak thought Lewis should have caught the allegation of lying sooner, according to the suit.)

The "T.M." didn't stand for Terry McAuliffe, but Lewis and Gomlak ran the story without comment from the McAuliffe campaign, according to the lawsuit, after giving it 45 minutes to respond to an email.

Potter says she didn't become involved in the story until after it was published and the McAuliffe camp emailed Lewis to say it was false, she says in her lawsuit. She also says in the suit that Gomlak didn't report to her: "Potter trusted that Gomlak and Lewis had the facts right, as would be the common, normal, and customary procedure and standard within the AP."

The lawsuit says that later statements by the AP's executive editor, suggesting that Potter should have conducted her own "separate and distinct verification," are a "knowing lie."

Click [here](#) for the story that contains a copy of the complaint. *(Shared by Scott Charton)*

Connecting mailbox

Bradlee: 'He knocked me over!'

[Marc Wilson](#) - My lone encounter with Ben Bradlee.

Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein headlined a panel at the ASNE/NAA annual convention in Washington in the spring of 2012. Their discussion centered on how the Watergate scandal would/could be covered in today's digital age. Ben Bradlee sat in the front row of the audience, occasionally adding comments or quips.

I also sat in the front row, silently thinking I was witnessing a bit of journalism history.

At the end of the program, I went up to shake hands with Woodward and Bernstein. As I left the room, I realized I'd missed a chance to shake hands with their great editor. So I turned around and walked back to the front of the room.

I lightly tapped Bradlee on the shoulder.

I didn't realize how frail he was.

He turned slightly toward me, and fell back - thankfully - into a chair.

"He knocked me over!" the 91-year-old Bradlee said, loud enough for all in the half-filled room to hear.

"He knocked me over!" he said again.

"He knocked me over!" for a third time.

And he pointed at me.

I stood before America's greatest editor, stunned. Everyone in the half-filled room stared at us.

Then he smiled.

"Just kidding!" he said, but less loudly - to my ears, anyway -- than he had said "He knocked me over!"

I shook his hand and fled the room.

-0-

Putting leisure time to profitable use

[Bobbie Seril](#) - Some 2000 years ago, Cicero said: "For those of good character, there is nothing more admirable and nothing more to be desired, than putting your leisure time to profitable use."

I will be using this quote in my upcoming column for my college class, and you're

free to use it anytime --- especially since all your efforts doing Connecting truly exemplifies what he meant.

I really do enjoy the breadth of your articles --- you've got it all. Thanks again.

-0-

War spurs AP hiring of women

[Doris Selig](#) - Men went into the Service during WWII so AP had to hire women to replace them. Two that worked in Albany were Katherine Parker and Toni Adams. Toni was the supervisor at the time. Kay worked mostly at night. Kay later married Johnny Jones, a sports writer for the Albany Times Union. Back then, some men did not like taking orders from women. I believe it was Nat Boynton that quit AP for just that reason.

Juggling ethical dilemmas of user-generated content in the newsroom

"Local police confirm there is an active shooter situation in a shopping center. User-generated content is going to be the only source of content before your crews can get there. A producer identifies someone in the shopping center. You can see that they have a good vantage point because they've already tweeted a photo of what looks like bodies on the ground. If verified this would be the first image from inside. How do you proceed?"



That is one of the User Generated Content- (UGC) related ethical conundrums posed by a panel of experts at the International Newsroom Summit in Amsterdam last week. The panel, featuring the BBC's Steve Herrmann, AP's Fergus Bell and Google's Director of Communications for Europe, the Middle East and Africa Peter Barron, was moderated by UNHCR social media strategist Claire Wardle. Jessica Sparks and Alice Matthews explore the UGC issues that should have newsrooms ethically engaged. *(AP's Fergus Bell pictured at right.)*

Click [here](#) to read more.

AP Exclusive: A week on the road in North

Korea

By Eric Talmadge

LAKE CHON, North Korea (AP) - The Kaema Plateau, the "Roof of Korea," is a stunning, forest-covered highland nestled in such treacherous mountains that it was never taken by the Allies during the Korean War. It's now a truck stop.



As we squatted beside our lunches of kimchi and cold rice, in the distance, almost hidden in the thick mist, a woman sold refreshments in a tarp-covered stall. A half-dozen older people put down their loads and sat on a weed-covered embankment nearby; they had arrived on foot, even though the nearest town was hours away. One member of the group, a leathery man, rolled a cigarette and drew the smoke in deeply.

It's quite possible none of them had ever seen an American before. But our presence went unacknowledged. No glances were exchanged. No words were spoken.

We had been granted unprecedented access to see North Korea and travel through places that, we were told, no foreign journalists and few foreigners had been allowed to see before. We would drive 2,150 kilometers (1,336 miles) in a country that has barely 25,000 kilometers of road, and only 724 kilometers of those paved. By the time we returned to the capital a week later, our Chinese-made Great Wall SUV had a few new scratches and one less hubcap.

Click [here](#) to read more. *(Shared by Paul Colford)*

APME denounces school sanctions against student newspaper

APME joined The Society of Professional Journalists, Student Press Law Center and 16 other organizations in urging education leaders to denounce the actions of the Neshaminy School District in Bucks County, Pa., for punishing student journalists and their adviser for resolving not to publish the school's mascot name, a dictionary-defined racial slur.

The organizations sent a letter Oct. 13 to the National School Boards Association, National Association of Secondary School Principals, American Association of School Administrators and National Association of State Boards of Education, outlining their concern for teachers and students in the field of scholastic journalism.

In the letter, the journalism organizations also requested a meeting with the education associations' leaders to develop a set of standards for educationally responsible governance of journalism education, and for the ethical treatment of student voices in general.

During the 2013-14 school year, student editors of the Playwickian newspaper resolved to refrain from publishing the name of the school's athletics mascot, which they - along with many leading voices in mainstream professional journalism - regard as a racial slur.

In addition to Principal Rob McGee and members of the Neshaminy School Board introducing district policies that would force the student newspaper to use the word (a violation of the First Amendment and the Pennsylvania Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities), McGee, on Sept. 16, issued a directive suspending journalism adviser Tara Huber from her position for two days without pay. He also removed Playwickian editor Gillian McGoldrick from her position for a month and "fined" the newspaper \$1,200, an approximate cost of the June edition that was published without the racial slur.

While policies purport to be based on, and legitimized by, the U.S. Supreme Court's 1988 ruling in *Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier*, the publications and social media policies in Neshaminy extend well beyond the boundaries set by the Court in that case (for example, requiring that the faculty adviser delete any material from social media accounts affiliated with the newspaper if the material "has been posted for a reasonable length of time.")

"We want to ensure that no student must ever learn, and no teacher must ever work, in an environment of hostility toward the exchange of challenging views on social and political issues," said Frank LoMonte, executive director of the Student Press Law Center in Arlington, Va.

Neshaminy is a district of about 9,300 students northeast of Philadelphia.

(Shared by Sally Hale)

Brazil's Poor Voters



AP Images:

Children play amid tumbledown shacks in some of Rio de Janeiro's poorest hillside "favela" slums, places where armed drug traffickers lay down the law, stray bullets fly and raw sewage oozes into the streets.

For the poorest of Brazil's poor, daily life is a struggle.

This Sunday, they get a chance to make their voice heard when they join in the second round of voting for president, and they're expected to resoundingly support incumbent Dilma Rousseff and her Workers' Party.

Marcio Macedo, who lives in the Dona Marta shantytown, said he'll vote for Rousseff because she needs another term to fulfill her plans. "Even though she wasn't able to do all of her projects the past four years, she'll get to them now," he said.

While their circumstances remain dire, the lowest echelons of Brazil's social pyramid have seen the greatest improvement in their lives over the past decade

during three successive Workers' Party governments.

A host of new social programs are providing tiny but steady sources of income, helping lift tens of millions of Brazilians out of hand-to-mouth survival.

Those programs have turned the poor into Rousseff's bedrock support. Polls say the poor overwhelmingly support her against opposition candidate Aécio Neves.

In the photo above, three-year-old Carlos stands in the doorway of his shack home on the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Carlos' mother wrote on their wall in Portuguese : "If God changed my life, he'll also change my history... Two happy lives." Brazil will hold a presidential run-off election on Sunday, Oct. 26. (AP Photo/Felipe Dana)

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

[John Brewer](#)

Stories of interest

[The newsonomics of MLB's pioneering mobile experience](#)

Running a sports league and running a news operation aren't the same thing. But there are lessons to be learned from baseball's success in navigating mobile.

-0-

[CBS News readies 24-hour 'CBSN' digital network](#)

CBS News 24-hour digital news channel will be called CBSN, Capital has learned, and the network is preparing to launch a marketing campaign around it, a source

told Capital, featuring the tagline "CBS News. Always On."

CBS has filed trademarks for "CBSN" and the tagline in recent weeks.

The network is in the final stages of developing the project but an exact launch date for the network has not yet been set, though TVNewser reports that it is aiming to launch by election day, Nov. 4.

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FBI warns media: Journalists 'desirable targets' for ISIL

The Federal Bureau of Investigation sent a bulletin to reporters on Thursday warning that the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant had identified reporters and media personalities as "desirable targets" for retribution attacks against the United States.

"The FBI assesses, based on open source statements and postings, that [ISIL] members and supporters view members of the US media establishment as legitimate targets for retribution attacks as the US-led air campaign against ISIL in Iraq and Syria continues," the FBI bulletin states. "Online supporters of ISIL have called-via various social media sites-for retaliation against the United States and US interests abroad, especially since US-led air strikes in Iraq and Syria began."

In the bulletin, the FBI claims to have "recently obtained credible information indicating members of an ISIL-affiliated group are tasked with kidnapping journalists in the region and returning them to Syria. Members of this group might try to mask their affiliation with ISIL to gain access to journalists," the bulletin reads.

-0-

Globe launching documentary film series (Bill Kole)

BOSTON (AP) - The Boston Globe is getting into the documentary film business.

The newspaper says it's launching a new series of documentary films, and it also plans to present a documentary film festival next year.

Its new GlobeDocs series was kicking off Thursday evening with a screening of "The Irish Pub" at Kendall Square Cinema in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Janice Page, the Globe's movies editor and deputy managing editor for features, calls New England "a hotbed of outstanding documentary filmmaking." Page said the Globe hopes the new series will get people talking about people, places and ideas.

The newspaper said the series will expose New Englanders to films they otherwise might not have an opportunity to see.

What's happening in Hong Kong?

"What kind of Communists are these people?!" exclaimed Jon Stewart on the October 6 episode of The Daily Show, pointing to the orderliness and civility of the mass protests that having been taking place in downtown Hong Kong since late September.

While the segment likely brought awareness to a story that Americans might not be inclined to follow (considering how much big, competing news was occurring at the same time) it's noteworthy that Stewart uses "Hong Kong" and "China" interchangeably in the segment. And to fuse the two together for the sake of characterization, even in jest, is especially misleading considering that the reason for the protests in the first place is to assert the difference between Hong Kong and China's forms of governance.

Following a story like this one and knowing which sources are trustworthy is especially difficult for journalists and news consumers outside of Hong Kong, for several reasons, including decreasing numbers of regional experts in newsrooms, China's attempts to censor any news coming out about the protests, local sources' reluctance to identify themselves in news stories, and the fact that much of the movement's communication is happening on social media (and even Evernote!). But thanks to the far-reaching effects of news literacy training that originated in the United States, verification efforts exist and shed important light on why news literacy is important to understand, and how it has impacted coverage of the protests.

AP Best of the States

It's one of the most dramatic scenes that can happen in a courtroom -- a convicted killer locked up for decades is suddenly cleared of his crimes and allowed to walk out a free man.

New York City crime reporter Jennifer Peltz has covered several such cases and written extensively about the movement nationwide to revisit old homicides and determine whether justice was really served. So when Brooklyn District Attorney Kenneth Thompson was preparing to ask a judge to throw out two murder convictions from the 1980s, his office knew exactly who to call.

Peltz, who had cultivated sources in the prosecutor's office for years, was given a two-day heads up to put together the story of David McCallum and Willie Stuckey, who were 16 in 1985 when they confessed to kidnapping and killing a stranger to take his car for a joyride. They quickly recanted but were convicted of murder anyway.

Thompson, who is re-examining at least 90 homicide cases from the 1980s and

1990s, told Peltz that he found major problems with the 1985 case, specifically that the convictions were based on made-up confessions, with details seemingly supplied by police.

"These 16-year-olds were fed false facts," Thompson said.

The lead time allowed to Peltz to obtain court papers and get details of how the case was championed in a deathbed letter from former prizefighter Rubin "Hurricane" Carter, a symbol of wrongful confessions whose story was told in a Denzel Washington film and a Bob Dylan song.

Peltz had agreed with her sources to hold the story until midnight. But when the New York Daily News came out with an anonymously sourced blurb on the case, AP immediately moved Peltz's sourced story with full quotes and details nobody else could match.

The New York Times moved its own story a few hours later and had no choice but to use the attribution in the lead: "Thompson told The Associated Press."

Peltz's beat culminated with her coverage of the court hearing, where the judge freed the now-45-year-old McCallum into the arms of his tearful relatives. Stuckey wasn't in court to be freed. He died in prison in 2001.

"After 29 years, it's a bittersweet moment because I'm walking out alone," McCallum said.

Peltz's story, accompanied by Beбето Matthews photos and a Ted Shaffrey video, got prominent play in newspapers and portals including Yahoo, MSN and ABC News. It ranked No. 14 on AP Mobile; No. 19 on AP Hosted and No. 10 in AP Exchange.

For her terrific work in building sources that put the AP on top in the nation's most crowded and competitive media market, Peltz earns this week's \$300 Best of the States prize.

(Shared by Valerie Komor)

The Final Word

For a 6-year-old boy with cancer, Royals' big game is a win



There was a time, earlier in the day Wednesday, when Deb Wilson wasn't sure her son, Noah, would be able to do this.

Noah had complained of a stomachache. He'd felt warm, which had caught the mother's attention: If his fever reaches 101.5 or higher, he has to be at the hospital within an hour.

"There's always that panic now," she said.

But Wednesday was a special night, and so about 6 p.m., Noah and the rest of his family made their way into Kauffman Stadium, where - thanks to an inspiring stretch of kindness and generosity - they were set to watch game two of the World Series from some of the best seats in the house.

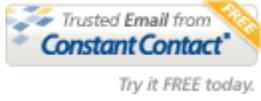
Click [here](#) to read more. Noah is shown in photo above with his father, receiving a signed baseball from Joe Torre of Major League Baseball.

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