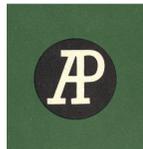

From: Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]
Sent: Monday, November 24, 2014 8:41 AM
To: stevenspl@live.com
Subject: Connecting - November 24, 2014

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Connecting

November 24, 2014

Click [here](#) for sound of the Teletype



Colleagues,

Good Monday morning!

Expected at any time is a long-awaited decision from a St. Louis County grand jury on whether to charge white Ferguson, Missouri, police officer Darren Wilson with a crime in the killing of unarmed black 18 year old Michael Brown.

I know you join me in wishing and praying for the safety of everyone involved, including all the journalists who will be covering the reaction, not only in the St. Louis area but throughout the country. The grand jury was expected to reconvene this morning.

Click [here](#) for the latest AP story from overnight.

Paul

An invitation to the authors among us

Connecting is beating Black Friday to the punch by proposing that the authors among you advertise your latest book on Connecting, for a feature that will run next Monday, Dec. 1.



What better gift to give for the upcoming holidays than a book written by one of your colleagues? Anyone on Connecting is invited to take part. And Ye Olde Connecting Editor is waiving his agent's fee, to boot!

So here's the deal:

If you have written a book, send along the following information to me at - stevenspl@live.com

And if you have written more than one book, send information on the one you would most want to list, and then list the names of the others at the end. Send me:

Your name.

Name of the book, and if you can, include a photo of the cover of the book and a current headshot of you.

200-word synopsis - please try to stay within this limit.

Information on how to order a print version or, if applicable, an e-book version (iBooks, Amazon, Barnes and Noble, etc.)

The names of other books you have written (if applicable).

Please respond no later than this Friday, Nov. 28. I will compile the responses and list them in Connecting on Monday, Dec. 1.

Paul

Veteran Washington journalist, educator Michael Shanahan dies at age of 71

**By Will Lester
The Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) - **Michael Shanahan**, a veteran Washington political reporter for The Associated Press and Newhouse Newspapers who used that experience to teach new generations of students at George Washington University about the business he loved, died Saturday. He was 71.



Frank Sesno, director of George Washington's School of Media and Public Affairs, said Shanahan died Saturday morning, surrounded by family, after suffering a severe stroke earlier in the week.

"We are all devastated by this news," Sesno said in a letter to students, faculty and staff. "Professor Shanahan was an unshakable friend and advocate of the School of Media and Public Affairs. He brought a reporter's eye and a professor's dedication to his work."

Sesno said Sunday that Shanahan's death was a surprise. "It was totally out of the blue," he said.

Shanahan, who was assistant director for student affairs at SMPA, also had taught various journalism courses at the school.

"There is nothing like being in a classroom and teaching and making some broader point ... and suddenly a memory from my own experience as a journalist will pop into my head. I will tell a yarn, a story, an anecdote from my long experience as a reporter and that cements the broader theoretical point that I was making in the classroom," he said in a video posted on his school website. "I can tell I've connected with the students when they say: 'Aha! Now I understand what you mean.'"

For more than a quarter-century, Shanahan worked as a reporter, covering many areas of politics, from campaigns to federal agencies to Congress to the White House.

Shanahan joined the AP in 1965 after his graduation from Penn State. But after several months, he interrupted his journalism career for a stint in the military, including a tour as intelligence officer with service in the Vietnam War. He was awarded the Bronze Star.

He returned to journalism in 1969, working for the AP's Pittsburgh bureau and covering such stories as the assassination of United Mine Workers leader Jock Jablonski and the 1970 shooting of four student demonstrators at Kent State University.

Soon after that, Shanahan moved to the Washington bureau of the AP. His coverage included presidential campaigns, top federal agencies, Congress and the White House. He covered the White House and politics at Newhouse Newspapers for six years after that. And for a decade he was a media spokesman for the American Petroleum Institute, before going into teaching.

Tom Raum, a longtime colleague at the AP, said Shanahan was a commuting partner, sailing companion and close friend. They would frequently cross paths on the campaign trail.

"He was low-key with a delightful sense of humor," said Raum.

That wry sense of humor was in evidence during the early part of this decade, when a different Mike Shanahan was head coach of the Washington Redskins. Al May, a GWU colleague, said Shanahan would take calls from irate Washington Redskins fans and listen to their beefs. After letting them vent for a while, Shanahan would patiently tell them they had the wrong Shanahan, May said.

Shanahan brought the same enthusiasm he had for journalism to teaching and to advising students, said May, a GWU journalism professor who initially hired Shanahan at the school.

"He was an excellent professor," May said. "He had an energy that comes with a second career, had an extraordinary commitment to teaching and to the kids, especially in passing along his experiences in Washington."

Those experiences went far beyond Washington in a career that touched on many major events of the last half-century.

Shanahan returned to Vietnam early this year with his wife and toured many sites from the war that ended almost 40 years ago.

Among those was the town of An Loc, where Shanahan had served for seven months as an intelligence officer. With the help of a guide, he searched for familiar scenery.

"But there had been heavy combat in An Loc late in the war, including air strikes on part of the town, and everything from that era seemed gone," he wrote in a story for The Boston Globe. "All the physical memories and symbols of my war had seemingly been bombed to smithereens."

May said Shanahan had a session on Watergate scheduled for this coming week and talked in his lecture about actually covering the Watergate scandal. "His lecture showed the joy and enthusiasm he had for American journalism," said May. "He really did convey that to the students."

"I can remember so many times when students were troubled," May said of Shanahan's role as a student adviser. "Mike would never give up on them."

Shanahan is survived by his wife, Victoria Elliott, and three grown daughters - Tina Spurlock, Martha Shanahan and Claire Shanahan.

CNN's Stelter to AP Reporter: 'Was It Ethical' to Release Cosby Video?

Amid all the allegations this week about Bill Cosby, the Associated Press made the decision to release previously unseen video from its interview with the comedian earlier this month. And not only did they get Cosby refusing to comment, but they showed a snippet, from after the interview had formally wrapped, of Cosby asking them to cut the video of him refusing to comment.

They showed it anyway, and for tomorrow's Reliable Sources, CNN's Brian Stelter spoke with AP entertainment reporter Brett Zongker to ask about their decision to release the video despite Cosby's request not to.



Stelter asked, "Was it ethical then, do you think, for the AP, for you and your colleagues to now share the video of the exchange that happened after the interview had formally ended?"

Zongker explained that no one had actually said the interview was over, no one had ever said this part was off the record, and Cosby continued to speak as the cameras were rolling. Stelter agreed it was fair game because "everything should be assumed to be on the record," especially in a setting like that.

Click [here](#) to read more. (Shared by Bill McCloskey)

And...

Why Did the AP Suppress the Sexual Assault Portion of Its Bill Cosby Interview?

On Nov. 10, the Associated Press released a video featuring Bill Cosby and his wife, Camille, chatting about the collection of African-American art the couple had recently loaned to the Smithsonian. More than a week later, the AP published additional footage from the Cosby sit-down that hadn't made the original cut.

In the clip, a reporter mentions numerous allegations of sexual assault that have been made against Cosby over the past decade. "I didn't want to-I have to ask about your name coming up in the news recently," the reporter told Cosby. "No, no, we don't answer that," Cosby replied. The reporter tried twice more to get a comment out of Cosby, and Cosby denied him each time. The clip released by the AP also includes an exchange recorded after the formal interview concluded, but before Cosby had removed his mic. "Now, can I get something from you? That none of that will be shown?" Cosby asked the reporter, adding that he thought the AP had the "integrity" not to ask. "If you want to consider yourself to be serious," Cosby told him, "I would appreciate it, if [the footage] was scuttled."

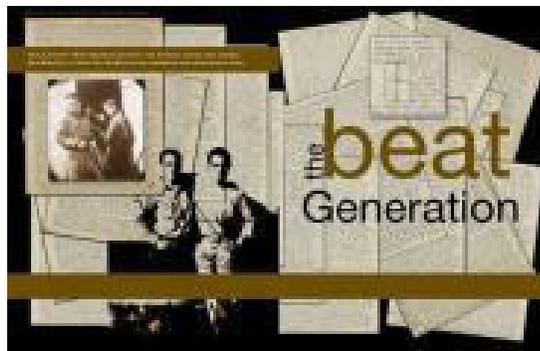
The clip is troubling, because Cosby appears studied in the art of soft intimidation. But I'm also troubled by the ease with which the AP buckles to his demands. Until Wednesday night, the AP had opted to suppress the sexual assault portion of the interview, accommodating Cosby at the expense of reporting the news. Why would it do that?

Click [here](#) to read more. (Shared by Bill Beecham)

AP Exclusive: Letter that inspired Kerouac found

By John Rogers
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) - It's been called the letter that launched a literary genre - 16,000 amphetamine-fueled, stream-of-consciousness words written by Neal Cassady to his friend Jack Kerouac in 1950.



Upon reading them, Kerouac scrapped an early draft of "On The Road" and, during a three-week writing binge, revised his novel into a style similar to Cassady's, one that would become known as Beat literature.

The letter, Kerouac said shortly before his death, would have transformed his counterculture muse Cassady into a towering literary figure, if only it hadn't been lost.

Turns out it wasn't, says Joe Maddalena, whose Southern California auction

house Profiles in History is putting the letter up for sale Dec. 17. It was just misplaced, for 60-some years.

Click [here](#) to read more.

Remembering Fred Waters



The family of longtime AP photographer Fred Waters keeps his memory alive with a Facebook memorial page.

Fred, who died last year, would have been 87 on Saturday, Nov. 22. During his 35-year AP career, he covered everything from the Korean and Vietnam wars to construction of the Gateway Arch as AP's St. Louis photographer.

The family has established a scholarship in his name: the FRED O WATERS JROTC Memorial Scholarship. 11 Hoffman Dr, Gulf Breeze, FL 32561

Lisa Saxon, the woman who helped change sports writing forever

Vice Sports magazine recently profiled the career of Lisa Saxon, the wife of AP Los Angeles photographer **Reed Saxon**. The two are pictured at Anaheim Stadium in 2012.



She now teaches and advises the student magazine at Palisades Charter High School in LA's Pacific Palisades. But in 1979, she began covering sports for the Los Angeles Daily News. From 1983 to 1987, she was one of only three women covering major league baseball full-time.

Here is the Vice story by **Jack Ross** on her remarkable career:

Ever wonder what you would've said to Red Sox first baseman Bill Buckner after he flubbed Mookie Wilson's grounder-that-will-live-in-infamy to hand the Mets the 1986 World Series?

Lisa Saxon lived that hypothetical, she was the first reporter to ask Buckner a question in the game's aftermath: "Bill, what happened on that ground ball in the 10th?"

Remember where you were when UCLA point guard Tyus Edney traversed the length of Boise's blue court in 4.8 seconds and kissed home his layup to beat Missouri 75-74 en route to the Bruins' 1995 national title?

Saxon's recap of that game won an AP Sports Editors' award that year, one of two such awards to her name.

Over more than twenty years, Saxon covered and chronicled thousands of games, and practically everyone and everything in the sports world. She manned the Angels beat for four seasons (1983, 1985-87), the Dodgers for another (1984), and the then-L.A. Raiders for three years (1988-90). She worked and witnessed NBA Finals, NCAA Finals, World Series, Rose Bowls, Super Bowls, and more.

But what truly sets Lisa Saxon apart was her fight—a lightly chronicled struggle that was usually waged behind closed doors in stadiums around the country; a battle fought by a handful of female sports writers in a closed off and closed-minded world that did not want them there. A fight for professional dreams, sure, but also for access, equality, and at times, for basic human rights and dignity.

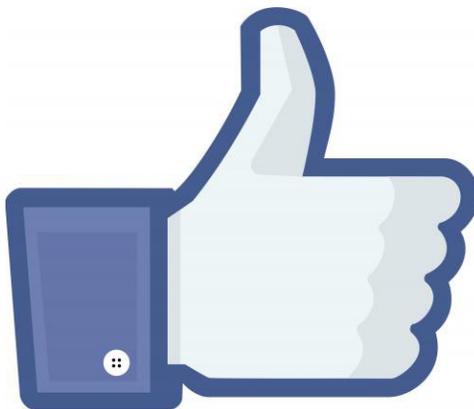


Click [here](#) to read more.

In the Comments section of the article was this from former AP sports journalist **Ron Rapoport**:

As someone who shared many a press box with Lisa, I have a couple of observations about this very fine article. One is that I never saw Lisa show up for work without a smile on her face. It took a special kind of woman with a special kind of determination to survive and even thrive in the atmosphere so well described in this piece and the remarkable thing is how many of them there were all over the county. Joan Ryan in San Francisco, Lesley Visser in Boston, Claire Smith in Philadelphia, Lisa Olson in Boston, Christine Brennan in Washington, Johnette Howard in New York, Linda Robertson in Miami and many others all fought the good fight.

The second point that should be emphasized is the antagonism these women faced not only from the players but from the teams, leagues and conferences they represented. There were no rules against harassment, no regulations allowing equal access, none of the protections women sportswriters take for granted today. I'm not sure the male colleagues of these women--and here I include myself--did as much as we could to make things easier for them. Lisa and the women like her really did make it on their own, which is just another reason they should be remembered and congratulated.



Stories of interest

[Facebook 'newspaper' spells trouble for media](#) (Bob Daugherty)

Facebook's move to fulfill its ambition to be the personal "newspaper" for its

billion-plus members is likely to mean more woes for the ailing news media.

The huge social network has become a key source of news for many users, as part of a dramatic shift in how people get information in the digital age.

Company founder Mark Zuckerberg told a forum in early November that his goal is to make Facebook's newsfeed "the perfect personalized newspaper for every person in the world."

Zuckerberg said that while a newspaper provides the same information to every reader, Facebook can tailor its feed to the interests of the individual, delivering a mix of world news, community events and updates about friends or family.

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[TV seems to know what you want to see; algorithms at work](#)

Your TV is inside your mind.

It knows what you watch. More than that, it knows how you watch. When you pause a program, your TV is taking notes. When you rewind or fast-forward, the machine jots that down too.

But here's maybe the scariest part of all: Your TV knows what you want, maybe even before you do.

This is where technology has led us. The algorithms that spit out online recommendations for television series, movies and more are taking artificial intelligence to a new level. Top providers such as Netflix, Hulu and Amazon - which tens of millions of Americans get either through set-top boxes such as Roku or via personal computers - employ large engineering teams dedicated to cracking the code of what users want and guiding them to it.

Nothing less than the future of the entertainment business is at stake, as the industry continues its landmark shift from broadcasting to time-shifting and niche programming.

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[Tribune Publishing rescinds its Discretionary Time Off policy](#)

The Discretionary Time Off policy that Tribune Publishing unveiled last Thursday has been rescinded, "based on valuable input from employees."

A Los Angeles Times employee says in an email that "a group of Times employees had been planning to sue Tribune Publishing over the new policy, which would have removed the monetary value of the vacation days that

long-term staffers have accrued. Traditionally, staffers cashed those days out when they left the company."

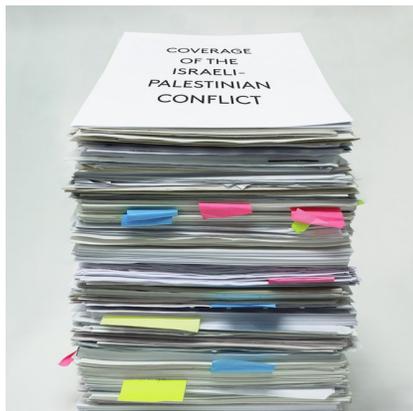
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[NY Times Public Editor: The Conflict and the Coverage](#)

By Margaret Sullivan

THIS is the column I never wanted to write.

For many months I have received hundreds of emails from readers on both sides of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, complaining about Times coverage. And though email is a cold medium, their furor has practically burned through the screen.



The Times is biased, both sides charge. The Jerusalem bureau chief, Jodi Rudoren, somehow manages to be - as the critics would have it - both wildly anti-Israel and practically a tool of the Israeli government.

One organization, Camera, even pays for a billboard across the street from the Times building to accuse the paper of regularly attacking Israel. And pro-Palestinian websites like The Electronic Intifada have detailed the ways in which, as they see it, Times coverage fails to do justice to an outcast people. Many readers have castigated me for not jumping into the fray to represent their position. I have searched for a way to write something useful and productive amid all this emotion and criticism, and have - until now - put it off.

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[Texas Speaker Straus Questions Whether Online Media Deserve Press Passes](#)

AUSTIN, Texas -- In a keynote conversation at The Texas Tribune Festival on Saturday, Speaker of the Texas House Joe Straus (R-San Antonio) made several comments regarding changes he would like to see to the process for granting media credentials for reporters at the Capitol who wish to cover the Texas Legislature. As the Legislature continues to make preparations for the upcoming 2015 legislative session, the issue of which media outlets will be granted the highest level of access to cover the Legislature has been a topic of debate, and Breitbart Texas reached out to several other Texas media outlets for their reactions to Straus' comments.

An interesting read...

[The Secret Life of Passwords](#)

Howard Lutnick, the chief executive of Cantor Fitzgerald, one of the world's largest financial-services firms, still cries when he talks about it. Not long after the planes struck the twin towers, killing 658 of his co-workers and friends, including his brother, one of the first things on Lutnick's mind was passwords. This may seem callous, but it was not.

Like virtually everyone else caught up in the events that day, Lutnick, who had taken the morning off to escort his son, Kyle, to his first day of kindergarten, was in shock. But he was also the one person most responsible for ensuring the viability of his company. The biggest threat to that survival became apparent almost immediately: No one knew the passwords for hundreds of accounts and files that were needed to get back online in time for the reopening of the bond markets. Cantor Fitzgerald did have extensive contingency plans in place, including a requirement that all employees tell their work passwords to four nearby colleagues. But now a large majority of the firm's 960 New York employees were dead. "We were thinking of a major fire," Lutnick said. "No one in those days had ever thought of an entire four-to-six-block radius being destroyed." The attacks also knocked out one of the company's main backup servers, which were housed, at what until that day seemed like a safe distance away, under 2 World Trade Center.

Hours after the attacks, Microsoft dispatched more than 30 security experts to an improvised Cantor Fitzgerald command center in Rochelle Park, N.J., roughly 20 miles from the rubble. Many of the missing passwords would prove to be relatively secure - the "JHx6fT!9" type that the company's I.T. department implored everyone to choose. To crack those, the Microsoft technicians performed "brute force" attacks, using fast computers to begin with "a" then work through every possible letter and number combination before ending at "ZZZZZZ." But even with the fastest computers, brute-force attacks, working through trillions of combinations, could take days. Wall Street was not going to wait.

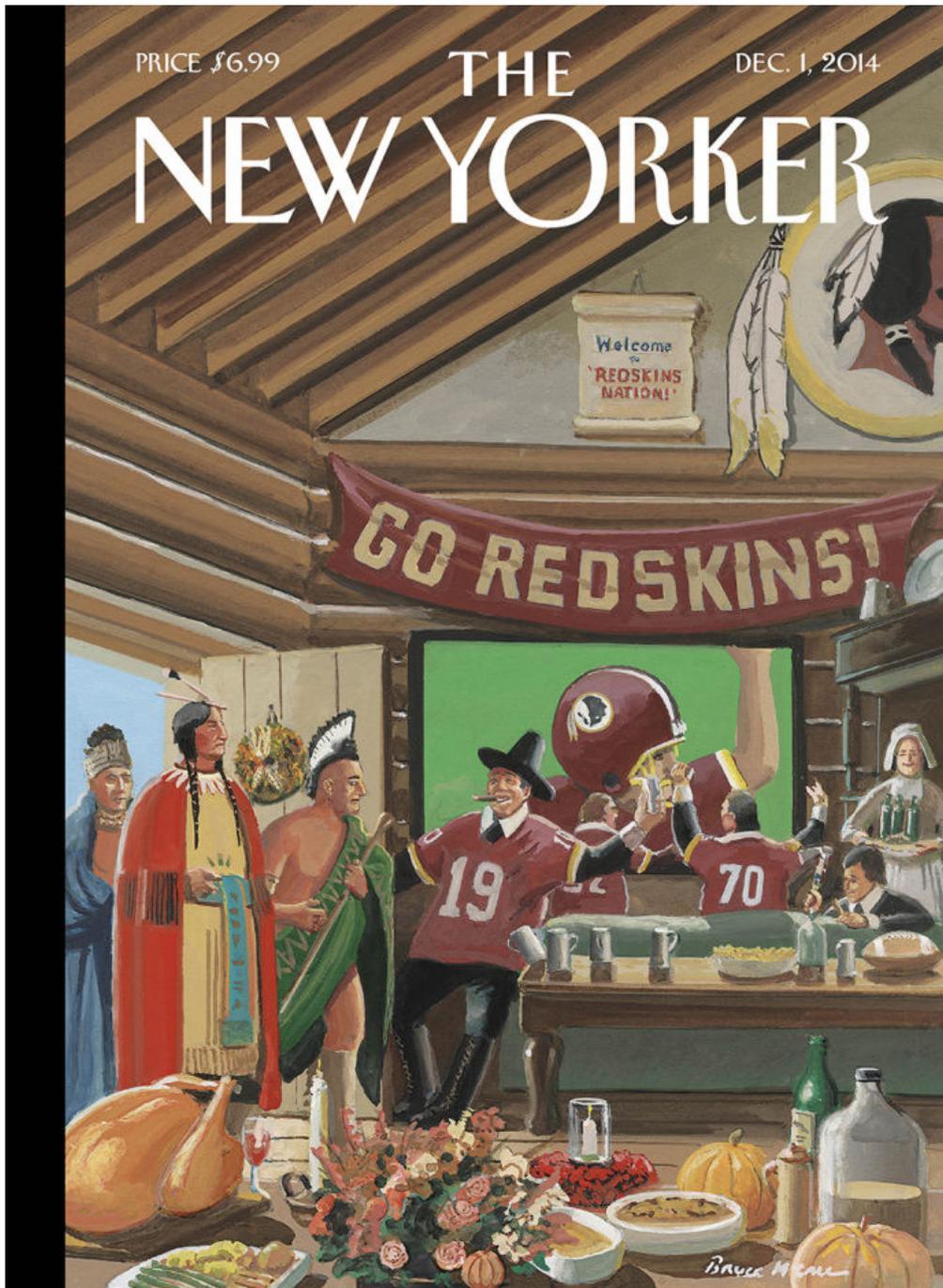
The Final Word

New Yorker Cover Story: Bruce McCall's "First Thanksgiving"

PRICE \$6.99

THE NEW YORKER

DEC. 1, 2014



It's not profound, you know-nothing I do is profound-but I wanted to address the whole kerfuffle over the Redskins' name," Bruce McCall says.

Many Native Americans have said that the longstanding name of Washington's N.F.L. franchise is repugnant and offensive to them. Bruce McCall's cover brings attention, through satire, to what has become the subject of numerous editorials and rallies. In August, the Washington Redskins franchise, owned by Dan Snyder, filed a lawsuit to overturn the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to cancel its trademark registration. Snyder has said that he'll never change the name, because "it was, and continues to be, a badge of honor."

McCall thinks differently. "This is 2014, and it seems a little late to be dealing with that stuff," McCall says. "It should have been quashed a long time ago. We did everything to the Indians that we could, and it's still going on. It seems crude and callous. Names like the Atlanta Braves come from another time. So, in my cover, I've brought the cultural arrogance of one side back to the sixteen-hundreds and the first Thanksgiving dinner, just to see what would happen."

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Nov. 24, the 328th day of 2014. There are 37 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 24, 1944, during World War II, U.S. bombers based on Saipan attacked Tokyo in the first raid against the Japanese capital by land-based planes.

On this date:

In 1784, Zachary Taylor, the 12th president of the United States, was born in Orange County, Virginia.

In 1859, British naturalist Charles Darwin published "On the Origin of Species," which explained his theory of evolution by means of natural selection.

In 1864, French artist Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec was born in Albi.

In 1922, Irish nationalist and author Robert Erskine Childers was executed in Dublin by Free State forces.

In 1939, British Overseas Airways Corp. (BOAC) was formally established.

In 1950, the musical "Guys and Dolls," based on the writings of Damon Runyon and featuring songs by Frank Loesser (LEH'-suh), opened on Broadway.

In 1963, Jack Ruby shot and mortally wounded Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy, in a scene captured on live television.

In 1969, Apollo 12 splashed down safely in the Pacific.

In 1971, a hijacker calling himself "Dan Cooper" (but who became popularly known as "D.B. Cooper") parachuted from a Northwest Orient Airlines 727 over the Pacific Northwest after receiving \$200,000 dollars in ransom - his fate remains unknown.

In 1974, the bone fragments of a 3.2 million-year-old hominid were discovered by scientists in Ethiopia; the skeletal remains were nicknamed "Lucy."

In 1989, Romanian leader Nicolae Ceausescu (chow-SHES'-koo) was unanimously re-elected Communist Party chief. (Within a month, he was overthrown in a popular uprising and executed along with his wife, Elena, on Christmas Day.)

In 1992, a China Southern Airlines Boeing 737 crashed in southern China, killing all 141 people on board.

Ten years ago: Ukraine's election officials declared that Kremlin-backed Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich (yah-noo-KOH'-vich) had won Ukraine's bitterly disputed presidential runoff balloting; thousands of opposition supporters demonstrated in Kiev. Popular author Arthur Hailey died in New Providence, Bahamas, at age 84.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama played host at the first state dinner of his presidency to visiting Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, an event marred by two gatecrashers, Tareq and Michael Salahi (mih-KEL' sah-LAH'-hee). Kentucky officials said census worker Bill Sparkman, found bound and hanging from a tree with the word "fed" scrawled across his chest, had in fact committed suicide. Albert Pujols won the National League MVP unanimously, becoming the first player to repeat since Barry Bonds won four in a row from 2001-04.

One year ago: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu harshly condemned the international community's nuclear deal with Iran, calling it a "historic mistake" and saying he was not bound by the agreement. The Vatican publicly unveiled a handful of bone fragments purportedly belonging to St. Peter, the first pope. Taylor Swift took home four American Music Awards, including top honor artist of the year for the third time.

Today's Birthdays: Basketball Hall of Famer Oscar Robertson is 76. Country singer Johnny Carver is 74. Former NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue (TAG'-lee-uh-boo) is 74. Rock drummer Pete Best is 73. Actor-comedian Billy Connolly is 72. Former White House news secretary Marlin Fitzwater is 72. Former Motion Picture Association of America Chairman Dan Glickman is 70.

Singer Lee Michaels is 69. Actor Dwight Schultz is 67. Actor Stanley Livingston is 64. Rock musician Clem Burke (Blondie; The Romantics) is 60. Record producer Terry Lewis is 58. Actor/director Ruben Santiago-Hudson is 58. Actress Denise Crosby is 57. Actress Shae D'Lyn is 52. Rock musician John Squire (The Stone Roses) is 52. Rock musician Gary Stonadge (Big Audio) is 52. Actor Conleth Hill is 50. Actor-comedian Brad Sherwood is 50. Actor Garret Dillahunt is 50. Actor-comedian Scott Krinsky is 46. Rock musician Chad Taylor (Live) is 44. Actress Lola Glaudini is 43. Actress Danielle Nicolet is 41. Actor/writer/director/producer Stephen Merchant is 40. Olympic bronze medal figure skater Chen Lu is 38. Actor Colin Hanks is 37. Actress Katherine Heigl (HY'-guh) is 36. Actress Sarah Hyland is 24.

Thought for Today: "I don't comment. I record." - Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec (1864-1901).

Paul Stevens
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