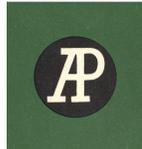


From: Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 26, 2014 8:58 AM
To: stevenspl@live.com
Subject: Connecting - November 26, 2014

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Connecting

November 26, 2014

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of the Teletype



Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning.

The continuing story out of Ferguson, Missouri, again tops Connecting by bringing you a compilation of stories relating to the media, beginning with an excellent analysis by **Jesse Washington**, AP's national writer for race and ethnicity.

Buzzfeed featured aerial photos of Ferguson taken by AP photographer **Charlie Riedel** - one of which is displayed at the top of this page. Click [here](#) for a look at more of the photos.

Connecting wishes Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours - with a reminder to the authors among us, please get information into me by Friday if you've authored a book you'd like to include in our Book Fair project set to run next Monday. See the reminder below.

Paul

Anger at Ferguson grand jury decision based on emotional history as much as evidence

By Jesse Washington
The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH - Anger and despair swept through many parts of America after a Missouri grand jury decided not to indict Darren Wilson, a white police officer, for killing Michael Brown, a black 18-year-old.

What was behind the wave of emotion? Why do so many refuse to accept the grand jurors' choice not to charge the cop with a crime in the death of Brown, who was unarmed? Why is there such disregard for the new evidence released with the decision?

Interviews around the U.S. show that these roiling emotions spring as much from America's troubled racial history - which in many eyes has drained the justice system of legitimacy - as from a rational examination of all the evidence.

For many people, this history is the inseparable context for



the 90 seconds of Brown and Wilson's fatal encounter - and a rationale for the fury that has followed.

"It feels like the lynchings that happened in the last century. Racial profiling is the 21st-century lynching of black males. We need to call it what it is," said Kevin Powell, head of the BK Nation advocacy organization, who has worked in Ferguson since Brown was killed in August.

"I'm depressed and numb, even though I expected the verdicts," Powell said. "I don't condone violence in any form, but I certainly understand all the anger out there. I'm very angry myself."

Since the St. Louis County grand jury decision was released Monday, the anger has manifested itself in various ways across America: raucous protests in several cities; sharp conversations at work and between friends; raging on talk radio; impassioned comments on social media. And, of course, the anger erupted into the burning, looting and gunshots that wracked Ferguson for hours on Monday night.

Many took issue with the way Prosecutor Bob McCulloch chose to present and frame the evidence, or with the shifting explanation of why Wilson first stopped Brown. Others were upset that only three of the 12 jury members were black in a scenario that did not require unanimity or permit the possibility of a hung jury.

Then there were the emotional reactions, and a preexisting lack of confidence, for many, in the fairness and integrity of the U.S. legal system.

"I'm very disappointed and angry," said Shakealia Finley, an economics teacher in Atlanta. "It's a miscarriage of justice."

"More than anything, as a citizen of the United States you want to feel you can rely on the justice system to get it right," she said. "I keep observing instances where the justice system gets it wrong when it comes to the black community. They find every kind of loophole and technicality to find that the murderer will go free."

Finley firmly believes that Wilson should have waited for backup instead of chasing Brown after they struggled inside the police cruiser. She does not believe the testimony, from the officer and several eyewitnesses, that Brown was advancing toward the officer when he was shot.

"I don't believe that he charged someone who had a gun pointed at him," she said. "No scenario in my mind makes me think that. It just doesn't make sense."

Is Finley reacting rationally or emotionally?

"I think it's both, and I think it's OK to be both," Finley responded. "It's OK to say this is another example of black people in society are not afforded justice. I am able to separate the fact that Mike Brown made a bad decision in that situation. It still

shouldn't have cost him his life."

That idea was echoed by Malaika Adero, a book editor in New York City. She said that Brown bore some responsibility for what happened, and that police have the right to defend themselves, "but still, there is nothing to me about this case that justifies that young man dying."

"It's part of a disturbing pattern that's been going on for a long time," Adero said. "It's heartbreaking because of what it represents in the direction the country is going in."

Adero acknowledged that she had not read all the grand jury evidence that had been released the night before, including previously unheard witness accounts said to support the officer's story.

"I have a suspicion that (Wilson) is a criminal. More important to me is that the police force is the criminal. Police leadership is the criminal," she said. "I don't know about Wilson. But I know that systematically there are crimes being perpetuated by the state."

"My outrage is not about Wilson," Adero said. "It is about the accountability of our law enforcement system."

Jo Cabey, a fourth grade teacher from Arkansas drove to St. Louis early Tuesday with two teaching colleagues. She said that Brown's death long ago came to represent much more than a single death of a young black male.

"I'm frustrated and disappointed in this justice system that says there's liberty and justice for all. But black males keep getting killed at the hands of people who are supposed to protect us," Cabey said.

So the anger springs from many elements, from how the grand jury weighed points of law and pieces of evidence to how an officer's gunshots ended a young life - and yet there's more.

The case is bigger than simple guilt or innocence, said Charles Gallagher, chair of the sociology department at La Salle University in Philadelphia.

"That Officer Wilson was legally justified in shooting Michael Brown is both beside the point and irrelevant when it comes to understanding the triggers of civil unrest," Gallagher said in an email.

"Justified or not, what the shooting brought to light once again was a white power structure (the police force, the school board, city council, mayor) treating blacks as second-class citizens."

He said that, as a result of things like racial profiling, inflated fines for minor violations that made up a large percentage of Ferguson's budget, white flight and declining

education budgets, "Michael Brown became a symbol of simmering mistrust and racism."

Which encouraged people to respond as much to the symbolism of the grand jury decision as the facts of it.

"We're traumatized and hurt," said Powell, the activist. "It's almost like being part of a family where you are forever outside of the house. You think you got in the house because President Obama is in the White House, you have Oprah and other successful black people, and then this happens. You wonder: Are we ever going to be treated as equals in this country?"

"We're not asking for much," he said. "Just to be treated as citizens. That's it."

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ABC Exclusive: George Stephanopoulos Interviews Police Officer Darren Wilson



In an exclusive interview with ABC News' George Stephanopoulos, police officer Darren Wilson breaks his silence about the shooting of Michael Brown.

Wilson told ABC News that he did not execute Brown on August 9 but was in fear for his life and was just doing his job.

Wilson told ABC News that Brown reached into his car and grabbed his gun. He described how Brown charged toward him and he felt that he had to shoot Michael Brown.

Click [here](#) to read and view more.

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Media Part of Ferguson Story

The media took some hits Monday, both from tear gas canisters fired at protestors in Ferguson, Missouri and from President Barack Obama.

The President, in a speech addressing the grand jury's decision not to indict Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson in the killing Michael Brown, said that there would be some "negative reaction" to the decision, which would make for "good TV."

But, he added, that the media does have the responsibility to focus on civil rights leaders, parents and law enforcement looking for long-term solutions.

Click [here](#) to read more.

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What Ferguson Says About the Fear of Social Media



"The most significant challenge encountered in this investigation has been the 24-hour news cycle and its insatiable appetite for something, for anything, to talk about. Following closely behind were the nonstop rumors on social media."

So said the St. Louis County prosecutor, Robert McCulloch, in his statement Monday night, explaining that Officer Darren Wilson would not be indicted in the killing of 18-year-old Michael Brown. His argument that social media had somehow hampered efforts to find out the truth about Michael

Brown's death rang false to many, who felt that social media had in fact been a crucial tool for standing up to a justice system that seemed to be failing its citizens.

"In Ferguson and the St. Louis area," writes Sarah Seltzer at Flavorwire, "social media has been there to document outrageous moments, large and small, from awful press conferences to terrifying nights of tear gas arrests and guns pointed at protesters. Social media brought the 'mainstream media' to town, kept the nation's eye on their city, and rightly turned this story into one with national, even global, symbolism and ramifications."

Click [here](#) to read more.

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Fox News Channel most watched for Ferguson coverage

Millions tuned in to cable news networks on Monday night to watch coverage of unrest and protests in Ferguson, Mo.

A Missouri grand jury decided not to indict Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson in the death of 18-year-old Michael Brown, sparking violent and peaceful protests across the U.S. News outlets broadcast coverage of the decision and its aftermath all night.

According to Nielsen Media Research, Fox News Channel led Monday night cable news network ratings in total viewers, averaging about 5.6 million people during its prime-time coverage from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. EST.

This was the Fox News Channel's second-highest-rated prime-time coverage since it changed its program lineup in October 2013. The network delivered its highest ratings during the midterm elections in November.

Click [here](#) to read more.

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Watching your former hometown burn in the Ferguson protests

At the BreadCo on South Grand, the windows were smashed.

That might not mean anything to you.

It was a small thing on a big night, a fleeting moment amid massive protests full of fire and riots and tear gas and police - all of it captured in images beamed across the nation from Ferguson and St. Louis, the chaos scrolling past on TV and social media. The unrest seemed to be unfolding on a stage so far away. So distant that everything melted away except the police and protesters in the foreground - unless you recognize the shorthand "BreadCo on South Grand."



If that means something to you - or if you know Sam's Meat Market in Ferguson before it was torched or had shopped at The Target there before it became a police staging ground - then everything about the images from that night looked different to you.

Click [here](#) to read more.

AP El Paso's Juan Carlos Llorca dies at 40

EL PASO, Texas (AP) - **Juan Carlos Llorca**, a veteran Associated Press journalist who covered immigration and the drug war along the U.S.-Mexico border, and whose reporting on illegal international adoptions helped prompt national reforms in Guatemala, has died at age 40.

Llorca collapsed at his home Monday in El Paso, Texas, and was rushed to a hospital, but he was pronounced dead, according to his sister, Maria Jimena Llorca. The cause of his death is pending.

"Juan Carlos was that rare mix of aggressive reporter and gentle soul," said **Maud Beelman**, AP's editor for Texas, Arkansas and Oklahoma. "He never turned away from an assignment, no matter how difficult, and his enthusiasm for the job was infectious."



Llorca spent years reporting on illegal international adoptions in Guatemala, becoming one of the first journalists to uncover a smuggling trade in which infants were placed for adoption with unsuspecting couples, mostly from the United States.

Authorities discovered evidence of fraud that was later revealed to include false paperwork, fake birth certificates, women coerced into giving up their children and even child theft. At least 25 cases resulted in criminal charges against doctors, lawyers, mothers and civil registrars.

Llorca's reporting helped prompt Guatemala to suspend international adoptions and adopt reforms in 2008. He'd joined the AP three years earlier in Guatemala.

As a political writer for El Periodico de Guatemala, a well-respected daily newspaper in Guatemala City, Llorca was selected for a Scripps Howard Foundation journalism fellowship in Washington, D.C., in 2002.

Llorca became AP's correspondent in El Paso, Texas, in 2011. In addition to covering Mexico's drug war and the border town of Ciudad Juarez - when violence there was at its worst - Llorca honed his photography skills, becoming a journalist who was able to report, write and shoot photos for his stories.

He covered a variety of topics from his base in Texas, including the surge of Central Americans coming across the U.S. border last summer and the exposure of potentially hundreds of infants to tuberculosis at an El Paso hospital. He also frequently covered

stories in neighboring New Mexico, including border and immigration stories.

Llorca's colleagues spoke Tuesday of his kindness and quick wit, his eye for what would make a great picture and the bulldog mentality he brought to stories large and small.

"He was one of the great voices of his generation," said Moises Castillo, a longtime AP photographer in Guatemala, who also worked with Llorca at El Periodico. "He was a talented journalist, a great writer and friend. He really made every day count."

Llorca had two teenage sons who had recently joined him in El Paso to attend school.

A few days before he died, Llorca posted a message on Facebook.

"If I could wish for something - anything at all - it would be to have dreadlocks like Bob Marley," wrote Llorca, who was balding. "With everything else you could ask for, I'm good."

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Dallas CoB and Central regional director **Dale Leach** added:

"Juan Carlos truly was a gentle soul but also a brave one. He was not afraid to venture across the border to Ciudad Juarez, even at a time when violence there was at its peak. And he approached his work with an enthusiasm that indeed was infectious. I would also point out that our colleagues at the El Paso Times, where Juan Carlos had an office, have been tremendously supportive and stand ready to help Juan Carlos' family at this difficult time."

An invitation to our authors



Connecting thanks several of our book authors who have already responded to a request of the authors among us to advertise your latest book on Connecting, for a feature that will run next Monday, Dec. 1.

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:

- 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.

Connecting mailbox

A correction to Today in History

Len Iwanski ([Email](#)) - This item in Today in History for Nov. 25 is factually incorrect:

"In 1783, the British evacuated New York, their last military position in the United States during the Revolutionary War."

The British did leave New York City in 1783, but British troops continued to occupy a string of frontier posts stretching from Michigan to Vermont along the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain, until 1796, after Jay's Treaty was signed.

I happen to know this because one of those British-held posts was Fort Ontario in my hometown of Oswego, New York.

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A simple description that is inflammatory

Joe McGowan ([Email](#)) - Probably I should not venture here, but what the heck. I have heard and read a million times about the white cop shooting an unarmed black youth. It is in the AP copy you provided in Connecting today. I feel that simple description is, of itself, inflammatory. I contend that right along with that description should have been information that the "kid" was 6'6" and I forget, but about 260 pounds, and that he had just robbed a nearby store.

I think in highly-controversial situations like this that the media should use extra care against using careless or incomplete descriptions.

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'I'm sorry man' 'Me too'

Mike Tharp ([Email](#)) - In Los Angeles on April 29, 1992, a jury acquitted four white

police officers on trial for alleged brutality against Rodney King, who was black. The beating of King was videotaped and--although we didn't realize it at the time--this public recording ushered in a news cycle driven by social media. That's what we are seeing in Ferguson, Mo., this week.

The LA riots lasted six days. More than 50 people died and more than 2,000 were injured.

When I heard the 1992 verdict in my home office in San Pedro, LA's port city, I called my boss in Washington, D.C., the chief of correspondents for U.S. News & World Report magazine. He and I agreed that some sort of violent reaction was inevitable. I then called Pastor William Johnson, a black minister I had met while reporting on a profile of Los Angeles. His church was in Compton, where gang warfare and poverty shackled its residents.

"Are you preaching tonight, Pastor Johnson?" I asked. "Sure am, Mike, at 7." I told him I'd see him then.

Tension seemed to hang in the air like the smog. I drove to Compton around 4. I wanted to drive in daylight. I sat in the back pew of Curry Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal Church on Rosecrans Avenue and waited for Pastor Johnson. He was a tall, soft-spoken, articulate man with a charming manner and a Ph.D. He walked in about 6. We talked about the verdict. He, too, expected violence.

As his flock began filling the church, I asked him if I could interview some of them after the service. He said sure. Pastor Johnson preached peace, tolerance and understanding. Many shouts of Amen! followed his words. When the service was over, I buttonholed seven or eight people. Not one could believe the trial verdict. The videotaped beating had seemed excessive to them all.

It was around 9 when the church emptied. Pastor Johnson and I walked to our cars. As we shook hands, a police helicopter hovered west of the church, its spotlight on a corner liquor store. Pastor Johnson drove east. I started to drive west. Within a block a mob had gathered on both sides of the street. They were screaming and breaking store windows. A cement block came out of the night and hit the side of my car. A brick spiderwebbed my windshield.

I didn't stop. As soon as I was clear of the crowd, I floored it and drove to the 110 Freeway South. The pucker factor during the five minutes it took me to get there was worse than any I had felt as a pool reporter covering the Persian Gulf War the previous year. The freeway ended in San Pedro. I stopped at a 7-11 to buy a beer. As I got out of the car, a black man about my size and age was getting out of his car.

At the door we looked at each other. "I'm sorry, man," I said. He stuck out his hand and we shook. "Me too," he said.

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Annual Thanksgiving week lunch



Marty Thompson ([Email](#)) shares this photo from his annual Thanksgiving lunch in New York with former AP colleagues. This photo shows, from left: **Mike Silverman**, **Margy McCay** and **Marty**. Also joining in were **Janet** and **Sean Thompson**. Others of the usual attendees were in Italy (**Barbara King**), Mexico (**Dave Tomlin**) or Chicago (**Kelly Tunney**).

Happy Thanksgiving!

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Washington bureau party fetes retiring Matt Yancey



Matt Yancey, who retired from the AP Washington staff after a 40-year career, was honored by his colleagues Monday with a farewell party. Shown in this photo are, from left: Seth Borenstein, Dina Cappiello, Jeannine Aversa (Matt's wife), Matt, and John Morrissey. Thanks to Washington ACoB/photographer David Ake for shooting and sharing this photo. Matt is now a member of our Connecting family.

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Ferguson elicits memory of covering riots in Rome

George Bria ([Email](#)) - Re covering riots:

A Communist-led mob attempted to storm the Royal Palace in Rome in the closing days of WWII. Some reporters were tipped ahead of time, so we got to stand on a balcony facing the Palace. A line of carabinieri guarding the palace suddenly opened fire. All of us on the balcony ducked. The mob scattered, leaving two or three bodies lying motionless in the empty square.

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Thanksgiving and the MGM Vegas fire

Norm Clarke ([Email](#)) - Thanksgiving always evokes memories of the sadness that enveloped Las Vegas in 1980, days after the MGM Grand fire that killed 85 and injured hundreds. But there were some remarkable survivor stories. In 2008 I was finally successful in tracking down the MGM Cowboy, who survived by going down 14 floors on a rope. Click [here](#) to read the story.

More stories of interest

[Eric Holder's lasting damage to press freedom](#)

The fact that outgoing Attorney General Eric Holder has prosecuted more people under the Espionage Act than all previous attorneys general combined is an inescapable legacy of his time in office. All of those cases were brought against government workers or contractors accused of leaking classified information to the media, which led Trevor Timm, co-founder of the Freedom of the Press Foundation, to call Holder "the worst Attorney General for the press in a generation."

Recently, Holder has seemed intent on escaping that title. Several weeks after announcing his plans to step down, he said during an interview at the Washington Ideas Forum that his biggest mistake in office was naming Fox News reporter James Rosen as a co-conspirator to commit espionage in one of the leak investigations

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[Catching the Catch on Camera](#) (Paul Shane)



Those who saw Odell Beckham Jr.'s acrobatic catch live on Sunday night at MetLife Stadium probably could not fully appreciate it in real time. Those who saw it on video - millions, once the awe spread on social media - were dazzled by his seemingly impossible body control. And those who saw still photographs of the catch might have wondered, how did the photographer capture that?

Jeffrey Furticella, a picture editor on the Sports desk at The New York Times, reached out to some of the photographers who shot the catch on Sunday night. Here are their email exchanges (comments were edited and condensed).

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[Ken Doctor: Why The New York Times hired Kinsey Wilson](#)

In a year of both triumphs and stumbles in The New York Times' ungainly digital business progress, today's appointment of Kinsey Wilson to the post of strategy and innovation editor makes a lot of sense. Wilson lost his job as NPR's chief content officer in October. His availability fits right in with still-new Times executive editor Dean Baquet's needs and plans as he prepares for 2015. The hope: Wilson will provide a missing link, both within and outside the Times newsroom.

Wilson will serve as one of six Baquet deputies in the recently reshaped newsroom. Most importantly, though, he's the one who is a full digital convert.

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[How the Southern press foiled FBI's attempt to smear MLK](#) (Bob Daugherty)

Is it possible that we have to thank the white Southern press of the 1960s - even the segregationist press - for its restraint in resisting FBI attempts to smear the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., with sexual scandal?

That question is raised, but not sufficiently developed, in a Nov. 11 New York Times piece written by Yale historian Beverly Gage. She discovered in the files of FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover an uncensored draft of what has been called the "suicide letter." The letter was part of an elaborate effort to discredit King, who was about to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

Based on wire taps and audio tapes, the one-page letter, supposedly sent by an outraged black citizen, described in the vivid language of the day examples of King's marital infidelities and sexual adventures. The writer, actually an FBI agent, threatened to go public in 34 days with details of King's affairs. "There is only one thing left for you to do," it read near the end. "You know what it is."

The letter is considered one of the low points in the history of the FBI. Tapping phones and bugging hotel rooms, Hoover became outraged at what he considered to be King's moral hypocrisy. "FBI officials began to peddle information about King's hotel-room activities to friendly members of press," wrote Gage, "hoping to discredit the civil rights leader. To their astonishment the story went nowhere."



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[Why Google is taking another shot at helping readers pay for news](#)

Google wants to be the wallet you use to pay for news. Again.

Last week, the company debuted Contributor, an experimental platform that lets people pay publishers for visiting a site. Instead of buying a subscription, readers put \$1 to \$3 a month into an account that is used to pay publishers on a per-visit basis. Currently 10 sites are participating in the experiment, including Mashable, The Onion, Science Daily, and wikiHow (others have not been announced by Google).

The way it works is that each publisher gets the equivalent of the market rate for an ad shaved off their contribution each time they visit a site, according to Google spokeswoman Andrea Faville. Users can support their favorite website and enjoy an ad-free (or at least Google-ad-free) reading experience. People using Contributor get a NSFW-looking pixelated box in the familiar ad slots on a page, along with a message thanking them for contributing.

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[News groups suing UNC for public records](#)

The Daily Tar Heel and nine other media organizations filed a suit against the University Monday for the release of personnel records for employees facing disciplinary action after they were named in the Wainstein report.

Media law professor Cathy Packer said the law gives Chancellor Carol Folt the discretion to release the names, an opportunity she thinks Folt should have taken.

"When I was watching the press conference on television in my living room - when the chancellor got to the part where she said she couldn't release the names of those people because of state personnel records - I started jumping up and down in the middle of my living room, yelling at the television," she said.

The Final Word

WEATHER IN THE UNITED STATES:



WEATHER IN OKLAHOMA:



(Shared by Larry Hamlin)

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Nov. 26, the 330th day of 2014. There are 35 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 26, 1864, English mathematician and writer Charles Dodgson presented a handwritten and illustrated manuscript, "Alice's Adventures Under Ground," to his 12-year-old friend Alice Pleasance Liddell; the book was later revised and turned into "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland."

On this date:

In 1789, this was a day of thanksgiving set aside by President George Washington to

observe the adoption of the Constitution of the United States.

In 1825, the first college social fraternity, the Kappa Alpha Society, was formed at Union College in Schenectady, New York.

In 1842, the founders of the University of Notre Dame arrived at the school's present-day site near South Bend, Indiana.

In 1933, a judge in New York ruled the James Joyce book "Ulysses" was not obscene and could be published in the United States.

In 1941, a Japanese naval task force consisting of six aircraft carriers left the Kuril Islands, headed toward Hawaii.

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered nationwide gasoline rationing, beginning Dec. 1. The motion picture "Casablanca," starring Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman, had its world premiere at the Hollywood Theater in New York.

In 1950, China entered the Korean War, launching a counteroffensive against soldiers from the United Nations, the U.S. and South Korea.

In 1965, France launched its first satellite, sending a 92-pound capsule into orbit.

In 1973, President Richard Nixon's personal secretary, Rose Mary Woods, told a federal court that she'd accidentally caused part of the 18-1/2-minute gap in a key Watergate tape.

In 1986, President Ronald Reagan appointed a commission headed by former Senator John Tower to investigate his National Security Council staff in the wake of the Iran-Contra affair.

In 1989, "America's Funniest Home Videos" debuted as a special on ABC-TV; it later became a successful regular series.

In 1992, the British government announced that Queen Elizabeth II had volunteered to start paying taxes on her personal income, and would take her children off the public payroll.

Ten years ago: Leading Iraqi politicians called for a six-month delay in the Jan. 30, 2005, election because of spiraling violence; President George W. Bush said, "The Iraqi Election Commission has scheduled elections in January, and I would hope they'd go forward in January." (The vote took place as scheduled.) French movie director Philippe de Broca ("King of Hearts") died at age 71.

Five years ago: An investigation ordered by Ireland's government found that Roman Catholic Church leaders in Dublin had spent decades sheltering child-abusing priests

from the law and that most fellow clerics had turned a blind eye. John Jones, a 26-year-old medical student stuck upside-down in a cave in Utah for more than a day, died despite the efforts of dozens of rescuers to extract him.

One year ago: The U.S. flew two B-52 bombers over the East China Sea, defying Beijing's move to assert greater military control over the area's disputed islands. Pope Francis denounced the global financial system that excluded the poor as he issued the mission statement for his papacy. Actress-singer Jane Kean, 90, best known for playing Trixie in a musicalized revival of "The Honeymooners" on "The Jackie Gleason Show," died in Burbank, California. Actor Tony Musante, 77, who'd starred in the ABC series "Toma" in the 1970s, died in New York.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Ellen Albertini Dow is 101. Impressionist Rich Little is 76. Singer Tina Turner is 75. Singer Jean Terrell is 70. Pop musician John McVie is 69. Actress Marianne Muellerleile is 66. Actor Scott Jacoby is 58. Actress Jamie Rose is 55. Country singer Linda Davis is 52. Actor Scott Adsit is 49. Blues singer-musician Bernard Allison is 49. Country singer-musician Steve Grisaffe is 49. Actress Kristin Bauer is 41. Actor Peter Facinelli is 41. Actress Tammy Lynn Michaels Etheridge is 40. Actress Maia (MY'-ah) Campbell is 38. Country singer Joe Nichols is 38. Contemporary Christian musicians Anthony and Randy Armstrong (Red) are 36. Actress Jessica Bowman is 34. Pop singer Natasha Bedingfield is 33. Country singer-musician Mike Gossin (Gloriana Rock) is 30. Ben Wysocki (The Fray) is 30. Singer Lil Fizz is 29. Singer Aubrey Collins is 27.

Thought for Today: "Don't for heaven's sake, be afraid of talking nonsense! But you must pay attention to your nonsense." - Ludwig Wittgenstein, Austrian-born philosopher (1889-1951).

Paul Stevens
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stevenspl@live.com

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