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Sent: Thursday, November 27, 2014 9:33 AM
To: stevenspl@live.com
Subject: Connecting - November 27, 2014

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Connecting

November 27, 2014

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Colleagues,

Happy Thanksgiving!

Connecting colleague **Claude Erbsen** ([Email](#)) shares the turkey cartoon above - and speaking of turkeys, here is a Thanksgiving gift that keeps on giving:

The WKRP Turkey Drop, which was originally aired in 1978 and at least to me, only improves with age 36 years later. That's fictional newsman Les Nessman, reporting from the scene of the drop; the show was called 'WKRP in Cincinnati.'



Don't miss the best line of the video clip, from station manager Arthur Carlson, played by Gordon Jump: "As God as my witness, I thought turkeys could fly."

Click [here](#) for a link to the video.

The Thanksgiving holiday brought back this memory for **Joe Edwards** ([Email](#)), who worked in the AP Nashville bureau from 1970-2012: "I used to always volunteer for the Thanksgiving Day shift in Nashville that ran from 5:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. I still got home in time for a big holiday dinner and football on TV. And the overtime pay came right before Christmas."

Have a great day.

Paul

An AP takeout on what happened in Ferguson

In Ferguson, mundane choices lead to tragedy

By ADAM GELLER and DAVID B. CARUSO
The Associated Press

The two friends' morning intersected by chance in the parking lot of the Canfield Green apartment complex. Dorian Johnson had been up since 7 a.m. on this overcast August Saturday and after getting dressed, he was ready for a smoke - on any other morning a carefree ritual for easing into his day's routine in the St. Louis suburb of Ferguson.

Heading out in search of a cigarillo to roll some marijuana, Johnson spotted 18-year-old Michael Brown on the walkway threading the cluster of three-story brick buildings. "Big Mike" had just finished helping a woman get her children into a car.



Now the two men, who'd met just a few months earlier, fell into easy conversation.

"When I told him I was going to get cigarillos, he was like 'I need one, too. Let's walk to the store,'" Johnson recalled. It was the most mundane of decisions, of seemingly little consequence. But in that moment, Brown set off down a path that by a few minutes past noon would lead to his death in a burst of police gunfire, and a conflagration that upended his community and challenged many Americans' conceptions of justice.

Click [here](#) to continue reading.

AP staffers covering violence in Ferguson

St. Louis Correspondent **Jim Salter** ([Email](#)) provides this report on AP's coverage of events in Ferguson.

Coverage of the reaction to the grand jury decision has been, in many ways, more challenging than the events of August. First of all, the protests are happening in many different locations - two general areas of Ferguson but also downtown St. Louis, the Shaw neighborhood of St. Louis (where another 18-year-old was killed by an officer in October) and elsewhere.

The weather has also been a factor. The sweltering heat of August is unpleasant, but sub-freezing temperatures with wind chills in the teens makes matters much more difficult. Electronic devices aren't as reliable. Pens freeze. Fingers and toes freeze, too.

The protests Monday night were the most violent of any since Michael Brown was killed on Aug. 9. Many AP staffers were standing feet away as buildings and cars were set on fire, molotov cocktails and rocks were tossed at police. On Tuesday, the police and National Guard presence was much greater. Violence still broke out - City Hall had windows

smashed, two businesses were damaged, a squad car was burned.

Through the first two days and nights, AP staffers have remained unharmed. The AP provided gas masks, helmets and bulletproof vests for all of us in the field. The vests are cumbersome and heavy, but welcomed.

I fear that some media coverage (hopefully not ours!) has mischaracterized the situation in Ferguson. The vast majority of protesters are peaceful people generally concerned not only about what happened to Michael Brown but the issues that have been brought to the public consciousness: Racial inequality, relations between police and young black men, militarization of police, etc. Unfortunately, those issues tend to get lost because of the violent acts of a very small percentage of people.

Our coverage has involved the St. Louis staff - **Jim Suhr**, **Alan Scher Zagier**, photographer **Jeff Roberson** and me, as well as **David Lieb** from Jefferson City, **John O'Connor** from Springfield, **Cara Rubinsky** and **Andale Gross** from Chicago, Kansas City technician **Mark Steers**, videographers **Alex Sanz** and **Tony Winton**, Atlanta reporter **Phil Lucas** and photographer **David Goldman**, Charlotte reporter **Skip Foreman**, New York reporter **Rick Pienciak**, Jackson reporter **Bert Mohr**, and Kansas City photographer **Charlie Riedel**. Several Central Regional editors have been involved from Chicago. Reporters around the world have contributed stories not only on protests in their cities but enterprise related to Ferguson, or helped sort through the document dump that included the grand jury testimony.

Dwayne Desaulniers: Proud to be back in AP

Dwayne Desaulniers ([Email](#)), a former business and technology director for The Associated Press, recently was named the news cooperative's Director of Local Media for New England. Our Connecting colleague shared with me these thoughts:

I don't know if I've ever told you my single, most memorable AP story...one that I think of quite frequently, and in particular over the past three weeks. It's an experience that affected me and forever changed my respect for the company I work for. It schooled me, in short.

A few years back, after I first started at AP in NY, I found myself visiting some distant in-laws back home in Canada whom I'd never met. I was introduced to one gentleman - uncle Don - who was in his late 80s. Don

was sitting in his big, old Lazy Boy as he wasn't particularly mobile. Well-wishers would lean towards his ear or take a knee when they spoke to him. I was introduced to Don and reached to shake his hand. I was just a face in decades of faces. And then the person introducing me said Dwayne works for The Associated Press. Well, with that, Don stood straight up out of respect, a huge grin spread across his face, he swallowed my hand with one his and put the other on my shoulder shaking me vigorously exclaiming, "The AP? Well, I've never met an AP man before! This is fantastic!" And then he started to parade me around the room meeting others.

I was stunned. I was also embarrassed because, yes I worked at AP, but hadn't earned the AP news credential. But I was deeply proud. Don had lived through an incredible century and for him the AP was pure cultural fabric. That evening I realized - really realized - where I was working.

This is why I am so happy and proud to be back.

Campaign for Ray Kennedy awaits Pulitzer board decision

Connecting colleague **Ray March** ([Email](#)) reports:

More than 100 journalists nationwide have joined ranks in seeking a posthumous special Pulitzer for Ed Kennedy, the AP Paris bureau chief who filed the exclusive report of Germany's unconditional surrender ending World War II fighting on the European front and was virtually blackballed for his efforts.



"We recently submitted an application for special recognition to the Pulitzer Board and are now waiting its decision," said Ray A. March, co-chair of the Ed Kennedy Pulitzer Project.

"It's undoubtedly a historical moment in journalism history," March said. "Not only did Kennedy achieve the greatest scoop of his time, but to my knowledge this is the first time journalists have unified in support of one of their own. Typically, Pulitzer applications are on behalf of a given news outlet."

A total of 116 journalists are on the support list including Larry Kramer,

president and publisher of USA Today, John Curley, retired Gannett, Inc. president, six Pulitzer winners and 22 from the AP, either active or retired. AP supporters include Tom Curley, retired president, and 96-year-old George Bria of New York City who was assigned to the Rome bureau under Kennedy.

The Ed Kennedy Pulitzer Project was led by a core committee consisting of March, who worked under Kennedy at the then-Monterey Peninsula Herald; co-chair Eric Brazil, former USA Today's Los Angeles bureau chief; Ward Bushee, recently retired editor of the San Francisco Chronicle and Warren Lerude, former Pulitzer-winner and Reno newspapers publisher.

Ray adds: "There is no deadline for anyone wanting to sign up. They just won't be in the application. I would suggest letters to the Pulitzer Board at this point. Send to: Mike Pride cmp2208@columbia.edu And we do not know when a decision will be announced, if any announcement is made at all! Normally, if the board doesn't act, there is no announcement."

Santa Fe's Barry Massey leaves AP after 35 years

Josh Hoffner, AP Southwest News Editor based in Phoenix, shared this memo recently with staff:

After more than 35 years at The Associated Press, **Barry Massey** is leaving us for a new opportunity in the New Mexico Administrative Office of the Courts. As many of you know, Barry has been one of the nation's most revered and respected statehouse reporters in his more than 20 years in Santa Fe. Before New Mexico, he worked in Kansas and Washington, D.C.



In his time in New Mexico, he has earned a well-deserved reputation as a dogged political reporter who constantly holds the state's leaders accountable for their actions. He has also been a prolific legislative reporter, and his institutional knowledge of the body and its political players are unmatched. It is no surprise that when we presented him with his 35th AP anniversary plaque at the New Mexico Newspaper Association banquet in September, Barry received a standing ovation from the newspaper editors in attendance.

In his new role, Barry will be working as a legislative liaison and spokesman for the Administrative Office of the Courts for the New Mexico Judiciary. Because he currently covers the agency, Barry's last day will be today.

We will miss Barry very much, and wish him the best in his new endeavor.

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Click [here](#) for a story in The New Mexican of Santa Fe on Barry's departure. And below is a Tweet from Barry's last day with AP that shows, from left: AP reporters Susan Montoya Bryan and Russell Contreras, Massey and former AP Bureau Chief Julie Aicher.



Connecting mailbox

With race relations, we never learn from excesses

Victor Simpson ([Email](#)) - retired AP Rome chief of bureau, in response to a recent Connecting post by colleague Joe McGowan:

When it comes to race relations in the United States, it seems we never learn very much from the excesses - generally at the expense of the black community.

My first big story shortly after joining the AP in Newark were the 1967 race riots which pitted the virtually all white police department against a by then predominantly black population.

They exploded over allegations of police brutality and in the end the toll was huge - 26 dead, all but two black - hundreds injured and millions in property damage.

A commission named by Gov. Hughes blamed the police department for using excessive force.

.
A heard a BBC report from Missouri on TV yesterday note that the police force on the street was all white while the community was mainly black. Sound familiar?

I ask Mr. McGowan whether this might contribute to the tragedy, putting unarmed blacks at risk?

Stories of interest

Telling My Son About Ferguson



COLUMBUS, Ohio - MY son wants an answer. He is 10 years old, and he wants me to tell him that he doesn't need to worry. He is a black boy, rather sheltered, and knows little of the world beyond our safe, quiet

neighborhood. His eyes are wide and holding my gaze, silently begging me to say: No, sweetheart, you have no need to worry. Most officers are nothing like Officer Wilson. They would not shoot you - or anyone - while you're unarmed, running away or even toward them.

I am stammering.

For the past few years, I have traveled from coast to coast speaking to just about anyone who will listen about the horrors of our criminal injustice system. I have written and lectured extensively about the wars that have been declared on poor communities of color - the "war on crime" and the "war on drugs" - the militarization of our police forces, the school-to-prison pipeline, the millions stripped of basic civil and human rights, a penal system unprecedented in world history. Yet here I am, on Monday evening, before the announcement about the grand jury's decision has been made, speechless.

My son wants me to reassure him, and tell him that of course Darren Wilson will go to jail. At 10 years old, he can feel deep in his bones how wrong it was for the police to kill Michael Brown. "There will be a trial, at least - right, Mom?" My son is asking me a simple question, and I know the answer.

Click [here](#) to read more.

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[The Ferguson Fraud](#)

The bitter irony of the Michael Brown case is that if he had actually put his hands up and said don't shoot, he would almost certainly be alive today. His family would have been spared an unspeakable loss, and Ferguson, Missouri wouldn't have experienced multiple bouts of rioting, including the torching of at least a dozen businesses the night it was announced that Officer Darren Wilson wouldn't be charged with a crime.

Instead, the credible evidence (i.e., the testimony that doesn't contradict itself or the physical evidence) suggests that Michael Brown had no interest in surrendering. After committing an act of petty robbery at a local business, he attacked Officer Wilson when he stopped him on the street. Brown punched Wilson when the officer was still in his patrol car and attempted to take his gun from him.

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[How a false media narrative made Ferguson worse](#)

It was a split-screen spectacle, the president of the United States appealing for calm while Ferguson was starting to erupt in flames.

As Obama was saying "there is inevitably going to be some negative reaction, and it will make for good TV," the images of tear gas and looting were competing for attention.

I don't know that anything the president said at that point could have deterred the protesters and agitators after no indictment was returned, and here's why: They were reacting to a media narrative that hardened into cement soon after the tragedy. And we now know that narrative was filled with misinformation.

We now know that some eyewitnesses changed their stories, or admitted they never actually saw the shooting.

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[Statehouse staffing is down, but it's not all doom and gloom in Springfield](#)

SPRINGFIELD, IL - Fresh off of his successful run for the Illinois governor's office, Bruce Rauner took a victory lap of sorts in the state capital last week. The governor-elect made the rounds with state lawmakers and, at one point mid-morning, stepped in front of a scrum of reporters to take a few questions.

He must have spotted some familiar faces. Like Rauner, a throng of journalists had made the 200-mile trip from Chicago to Springfield to cover the fall veto session. On this day, the size of the visiting press contingent roughly equaled that of statehouse regulars.

That is an increasingly typical scenario. In July, when the Pew Research Journalism Project released a big report on America's shifting statehouse press corps, researchers found that less than half the statehouse reporters in the country are assigned to the capital on a full-time basis. The ratio is about the same in Illinois, which, like many other states, has seen a decline in full-time statehouse positions, marked by sharp cuts in newspaper staffing alongside a rise in nontraditional news sources.

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One of local television's best bids farewell to viewers

Wichita television legend **Larry Hatteberg** walked off the set for the final time after 51 years at KAKE news on Tuesday night. In this photo by Travis Heying of The Wichita Eagle, Susan Peters, Hatteberg's co-anchor for the last 19 years, holds on tight as they make one final walk away from Studio A.



"KAKE TV is the only job I've had in my adult life. But five decades is long enough even at the job I love," Hatteberg said earlier. "At this point in my career, I'm looking for a bit more freedom to pursue the video and still photography projects that I want, without the deadlines that TV news brings."

A native of Kansas, Hatteberg began his television career with KAKE-TV on May 23, 1963 - 51 years ago. Hatteberg, 70, has received more than 130 local, state and national awards for news photography and reporting. His "Hatteberg's People" video series has profiled more than a thousand Kansans since its inception in 1974. He's held nearly every position in the KAKE newsroom .

AP Beat of the Week

The AP breaks wedding plans all the time, but few as startling as this: Charles Manson has decided to tie the knot.

Behind this exclusive was Linda Deutsch's source development over decades, combined with Fresno correspondent Scott Smith's smart shoe-leather reporting - and it wins this week's Beat of the Week.

Manson, of course, was the leader of murderous "family" that gruesomely killed seven people and riveted the nation in 1969. Now 80, the convict with a swastika carved in his forehead is being held in a state prison in Kings County, California.

Deutsch, a special correspondent based in Los Angeles who has covered many major trials including his, has owned the Manson case for more than 45 years. So it was that a longtime source called her with a tip.

"When this person said there was news regarding Charlie Manson, my immediate thought was that he had died," Deutsch says. But no, the source suggested AP check the Kings County Recorder's Office for Manson's application for a license to marry a 26-year-old woman he calls Star who has been visiting him in prison.

Deutsch was surprised but, as she put it, "My immediate thought was, Oh no, it's Friday night."

The tip came too late to be verified until the office opened again on Monday.

After alerting news editor Frank Baker, who contacted Smith,

Deutsch went to work over the weekend. She found a few stories about the woman, who advocates Manson's innocence. In one piece a year ago, she even said they'd marry. Manson's response then: "Garbage." Deutsch put together a story, to be sent when the tip was confirmed.

On Monday, Smith arrived early at the courthouse, wary for other news media. He asked a clerk for help in locating a marriage license in the computerized file, and she read over his shoulder as he typed Manson's name.

"Oh, I hadn't heard that," she said, and the surprise in her voice made Smith "pretty confident ... that we were the first reporters on the story." Unable to make a copy of the license, he photographed the screen with his iPhone.

The document gave AP the legal name of the bride-to-be, but her address remained elusive _ until Deutsch, again tapping into her sources, was able to get it. Smith headed to the woman's home.

At first, she said she wasn't interested in talking, but Smith knocked once more, persisting: "I waited a moment and asked if she was Afton Elaine Burton, which she acknowledged was her name. I explained _ through the closed door - that I had confirmed she obtained a marriage license with Charles Manson. That got her to crack open the door just enough to see her face."

And as he showed her his iPhone copy of the license and asked a few more questions, she talked, and even agreed to his request to record their conversation - while repeatedly insisting that "there is no story."

Actually, there was - and it was a sensation.

<http://www.sfgate.com/news/us/article/AP-Exclusive-Charles-Manson-gets-marriage-license-5899163.php>

Quoting Burton as saying, "I love him. I'm with him," and detailing California prison protocols for inmate weddings (for instance, Mr. and Mrs. Manson can invite 10 non-inmate guests), the out-of-nowhere story generated media attention around the world, lit up Twitter "like a Christmas tree," Deutsch noted, and elicited tens of thousands of online comments.

For deftly blending truly long term source development with aggressive reporting skills, Deutsch and Smith share this week's \$500 prize.

AP Best of the States

When correspondent Carolyn Thompson heard the forecast for one to two feet of snow in the Buffalo area, she grabbed her laptop to bring home in case she had an impossible commute the next day. Four days later, her car remained where she'd parked it that night in the driveway at her south Buffalo home, immobilized by six-foot drifts.

Still, those conditions did not stop Thompson from filing a blizzard of content of her own _ in words, photos, video and audio - capturing days and days of back-to-back storms that buried the region in historic amounts of snow.

In the storm's bulls-eye, Thompson awoke day after day before the sun, getting updates on snow totals, deaths, road closures and real people stranded to keep the story fresh. Her own neighborhood - indeed her own front yard - helped capture the true depth of the conditions in photos and words.

It wasn't always easy to find sources when stuck inside. As Thompson retold it in a first-person essay she also wrote for the wire, "I pounced when a man went slogging by the house with a shovel, sinking to his waist with each step but determined to get to a friend's house after spending 36 cold and hungry hours at his warehouse job." She invited him in to rest and he agreed to speak on the record and be photographed as he pushed through the snow down the road.

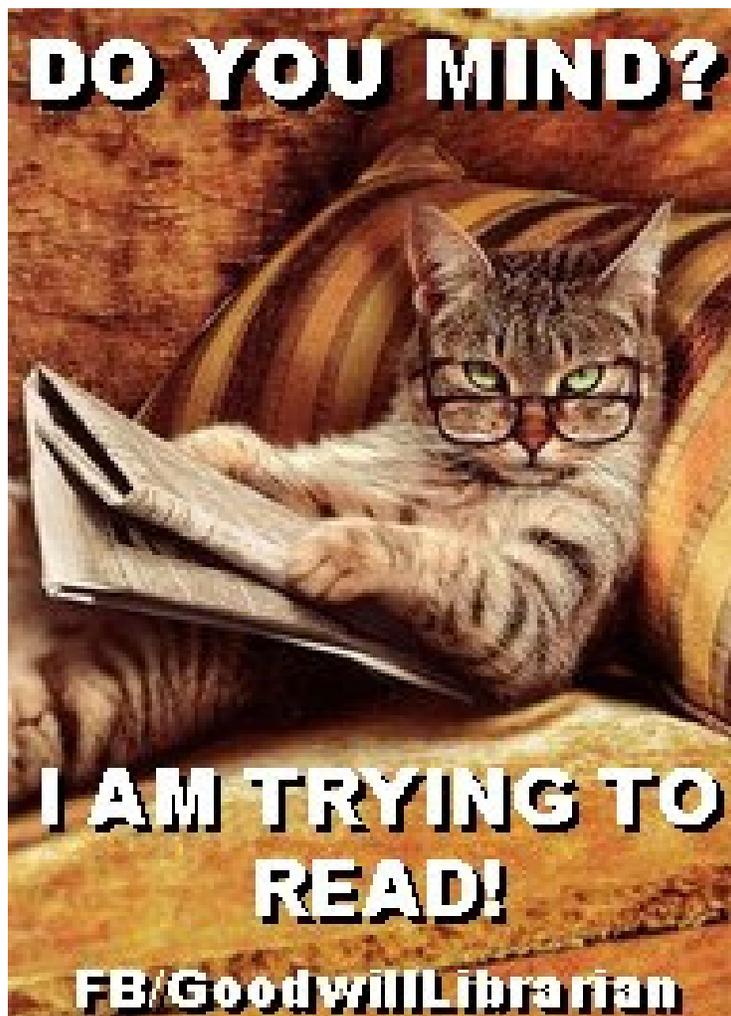
Thompson also provided key contacts to BNC for radio interviews, captured video on her iPhone, and shot some of the best-playing photos of the early storm, including one that played big in the New York Times, another that was a centerpiece, along with her story, on A1 of the Philadelphia Inquirer, and a two-page spread in Time magazine. Play was extraordinary. A snapshot from midweek:

"Round 2: Buffalo braces for another wintry wallop" was No. 1 AP Mobile, No. 4 AP Hosted, No. 7 Big Story Rank, No. 1 Exchange Rank and in Yahoo News top headlines.

For truly embodying the spirit of all-format journalism, Carolyn Thompson wins this week's Best of the States and the \$300 prize.

(Both of above shared by Valerie Komor)

The Final Word



Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Nov. 27, the 331st day of 2014. There are 34 days left in the year. This is Thanksgiving Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 27, 1924, Macy's first Thanksgiving Day parade ? billed as a "Christmas Parade" ? took place in New York.

On this date:

In 1839, the American Statistical Association was founded in Boston.

In 1901, the U.S. Army War College was established in Washington, D.C.

In 1910, New York's Pennsylvania Station officially opened.

In 1939, the play "Key Largo," by Maxwell Anderson, opened at the Ethel Barrymore Theater in New York.

In 1942, during World War II, the Vichy French navy at Toulon (too-LOHN') scuttled its ships and submarines to keep them out of the hands of German troops.

In 1953, playwright Eugene O'Neill died in Boston at age 65.

In 1962, the first Boeing 727 was rolled out at the company's Renton Plant.

In 1970, Pope Paul VI, visiting the Philippines, was slightly wounded at the Manila airport by a dagger-wielding Bolivian painter disguised as a priest.

In 1973, the Senate voted 92-3 to confirm Gerald R. Ford as vice president, succeeding Spiro T. Agnew, who'd resigned.

In 1978, San Francisco Mayor George Moscone (mahs-KOH'-nee) and City Supervisor Harvey Milk, a gay-rights activist, were shot to death inside City Hall by former supervisor Dan White.

In 1983, 181 people were killed when a Colombian Avianca Airlines Boeing 747 crashed near Madrid's Barajas airport.

In 1989, a bomb blamed on drug traffickers destroyed a Colombian Avianca Boeing 727, killing all 107 people on board and three people on the ground.

Ten years ago: After four decades in North Korea and less than one month in a U.S. military jail near Tokyo, U.S. Army deserter Charles Jenkins became a free man. The Ukraine parliament declared the recently held presidential election invalid.

Five years ago: Tiger Woods crashed his SUV outside his Florida mansion, sparking widespread attention to reports of unfaithfulness to his wife, Elin Nordegren. (The couple divorced the following year.) Former President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton announced to their friends daughter Chelsea's engagement to longtime boyfriend Marc Mezvinsky. Space shuttle Atlantis and its seven astronauts returned from the International Space Station with a smooth

touchdown.

One year ago: In a short ceremony inside their Chicago apartment, Vernita Gray and her partner of five years, Patricia Ewert, made Illinois history as they became the first gay couple to wed under the state's new law legalizing same-sex marriage. Rising anger over deadly drone attacks spurred a Pakistani political party to reveal the identity of what it said was the top U.S. spy in the country and demand he be tried for murder. A crane collapsed at a Sao Paulo stadium being constructed for the 2014 World Cup, killing two workers.

Today's Birthdays: Author Gail Sheehy is 77. Academy Award-winning director Kathryn Bigelow (Film: "The Hurt Locker") is 63. TV host Bill Nye ("Bill Nye, the Science Guy") is 59. Actor William Fichtner (FIHK'-nuhr) is 58. Caroline Kennedy is 57. Academy Award-winning screenwriter Callie Khouri (Film: "Thelma and Louise") is 57. Rock musician Charlie Burchill (Simple Minds) is 55. Former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty is 54. Rock musician Charlie Benante (Anthrax) is 52. Rock musician Mike Bordin (Faith No More) is 52. Actor Fisher Stevens is 51. Actress Robin Givens is 50. Actor Michael Vartan is 46. Rapper Skoob (DAS EFX) is 44. Actor Kirk Acevedo is 43. Rapper Twista is 42. Actor Jaleel White is 38. Actor Arjay Smith (TV: "Perception") is 31. Actress Alison Pill is 29. Actress/singer Aubrey Peeples (TV: "Nashville"; "Sharknado") is 21.

Thought for Today: "Pioneers are seldom from the nobility. There were no Dukes on the Mayflower." ? Mack Sennett, Canadian-born American movie producer (1880-1960).

Paul Stevens
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