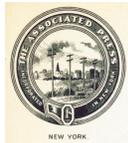


From: Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 9:44 AM
To: stevenspl@live.com
Subject: Connecting - February 11, 2015

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



Connecting

February 11, 2015

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



Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning!

NBC announced Tuesday night that news anchor Brian Williams has been suspended for six months without pay.

The last few issues of Connecting have contained the thoughts of many of you expressing opinions about Williams and what he did, and what his punishment, if any, should be.

Now that the punishment was decided, Connecting will welcome your reaction. Beyond the right or wrong of NBC's decision, what does it mean to us as journalists?

Paul

NBC suspends Williams for 6 months without pay

By DAVID BAUDER

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) -- NBC announced Tuesday that it is suspending Brian Williams as "Nightly News" anchor and managing editor for six months without pay for misleading the public about his experiences covering the Iraq War.



NBC chief executive Steve Burke said Williams' actions were inexcusable and jeopardized the trust he has built up with viewers during his decade as the network's lead anchor. But he said Williams deserved a second chance.

Williams apologized last week for saying he was in a helicopter that was hit by a grenade while covering the Iraq War in 2003. Instead, another helicopter flying ahead of his was hit, and some veterans involved in the mission called him out on it.

NBC News President Deborah Turness said in a memo that Williams "misrepresented" events that occurred while he was covering the war.

"It then became clear that on other occasions Brian had done the same while telling that story in other venues," Turness said. "This was wrong and completely inappropriate for someone in Brian's position."

Turness said Lester Holt would continue to substitute for Williams as anchor.

Williams had received some key support in the last 24 hours. Fox News Channel host Bill O'Reilly, frequently a critic of NBC News, suggested on Jimmy Kimmel's show that Williams should keep his job unless more stories come out. Columnist David Brooks in The New York Times suggested there was a need for forgiveness in instances of wrongdoing.

Jon Stewart, of "The Daily Show," who has hosted Williams as a guest 22 times, criticized Williams for vanity. But he had sharper words for media outlets going after Williams.

"I am happy," Stewart said. "Finally, someone is being held to account for misleading America about the Iraq War."

Even with the suspension, Turness said the network's probe into Williams' statements is continuing.

Shortly after it happened during a reporting trip to Iraq in 2003, Williams explained on NBC that one of a group of helicopters he had been flying with had been hit by a rocket-propelled grenade. When he appeared with David Letterman a decade later, the story changed to his helicopter had been hit, which Williams now admits is false. It wasn't until he told the story on "Nightly News" last month and veterans who had been there complained that the embellishment emerged.

In Israel in 2006, Williams explained to his news viewers that he'd been on an Israeli helicopter and saw a trail of smoke and dust where Hezbollah rockets had landed in the Israeli countryside, and he described seeing rockets being launched 6 miles from his location.

The story became more dramatic when he appeared on "The Daily Show" a month later.

"Here's a view of rockets I have never seen, passing underneath us, 1,500 feet beneath us," Williams said. "And we've got the gunner doors on this thing, and I'm saying to the general, some four-star, 'It wouldn't take much for them to adjust the aim and try to do a ring toss right through our open doors, would it?'"

An Israeli army official who traveled with Williams that day, Jacob Dallal, on Tuesday called the anchor's account "generally reasonable." He said it was fair to assume rockets flew beneath their helicopter.

*From: Deborah Turness (NBCUniversal)
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2015 7:47 PM
To: @NBC Uni NBC News All
Subject: Brian Williams*

All,

We have decided today to suspend Brian Williams as Managing Editor and Anchor of NBC Nightly News for six months. The suspension will be without pay and is effective immediately. We let Brian know of our decision earlier today. Lester Holt will continue to substitute Anchor the NBC Nightly News.

NBC NEWS



Our review, which is being led by Richard Esposito working closely with NBCUniversal General Counsel Kim Harris, is ongoing, but I

think it is important to take you through our thought process in coming to this decision.

While on Nightly News on Friday, January 30, 2015, Brian misrepresented events which occurred while he was covering the Iraq War in 2003. It then became clear that on other occasions Brian had done the same while telling that story in other venues. This was wrong and completely inappropriate for someone in Brian's position.

In addition, we have concerns about comments that occurred outside NBC News while Brian was talking about his experiences in the field.

As Managing Editor and Anchor of Nightly News, Brian has a responsibility to be truthful and to uphold the high standards of the news division at all times.

Steve Burke, Pat Fili and I came to this decision together. We felt it would have been wrong to disregard the good work Brian has done and the special relationship he has forged with our viewers over 22 years. Millions of Americans have turned to him every day, and he has been an important and well-respected part of our organization.

As I'm sure you understand, this was a very hard decision. Certainly there will be those who disagree. But we believe this suspension is the appropriate and proportionate action.

This has been a difficult time. But NBC News is bigger than this moment. You work so hard and dedicate yourselves each and every day to the important work of bringing trusted, credible news to our audience. Because of you, your loyalty, your dedication, NBC News is an organization we can - and should - all be proud of. We will get through this together.

Steve Burke asked me to share the following message.

"This has been a painful period for all concerned and we appreciate your patience while we gathered the available facts. By his actions, Brian has jeopardized the trust millions of Americans place in NBC News. His actions are inexcusable and this suspension is severe and appropriate. Brian's life's work is delivering the news. I know Brian loves his country, NBC News and his colleagues. He deserves a second chance and we are rooting for him. Brian has shared his deep remorse with me and he is committed to winning back everyone's trust."

Deborah

Memorial service for Matt Fanjola set for April 11;

Children seek assistance from his colleagues

The children of Matt Franjola, a reporter and photographer for The Associated Press who was among the last Americans in Saigon as it fell to the North Vietnamese in 1975, announced that a celebration of their father's life will be held April 11 in Washington, Connecticut.



Mass will begin at noon at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 34 Green Hill Road, Washington, with a reception to follow at the Washington Club Hall, 92 Green Hill Road.

In the lead of his eulogy for Matt, who died Jan. 1, 2015, at the age of 72, Connecting colleague **Richard Pyle** wrote:

NEW YORK - Matt Franjola, a Vietnam-era war correspondent who to many colleagues typified the intrepid reporter using all the tools of the trade - including courage, cameras and cultural expertise - to cover war and conflict, died on New Year's Day after a long, recurring illness.

Franjola, who in the 1960s and early '70s worked for both the Associated Press and United Press International, died in a Danbury, Conn., hospital where he was under care for major gastrointestinal ailments that had plagued him for decades. He dealt with rare fungal infections, peritonitis and colon cancer, that required experimental drugs, two liver transplants and other surgery.

In a note Tuesday to their father's friends and colleagues, Alexandra and Claire Franjola wrote:

As you all know, we lost our father, Matthew Franjola, on New Years Day morning after a long medical journey. We watched our father struggle with chronic illness our whole lives, but he was just as fearless in his final days as he was during his years as an AP reporter in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War.

Without a will, life insurance, resources or any clear instruction we have been overwhelmed with the financial and physical responsibilities resulting as fallout from his passing. Costs for the memorial, damage to his place of residence as well as reclaiming, recovering goods from storage units along with the transporting and discarding of goods from several locations has been quite costly without enough redeemable salvage value. The only items of value to dad were his novel, photos, clippings, films and documents from his life. His final wish was that these items be saved, restored and archived as his legacy. This is also a costly endeavor.

Left with no other resources, we are asking that in lieu of flowers or other gifts, your donations toward these mounting costs would be most appreciated.

Please [click here](#) for the link to our fundraiser, at the bottom of the fundraising page will be a link to RSVP for the memorial service. Please contact those you think might be interested in attending who may not have received this information.

We look forward to seeing you this April.

Our heartfelt thanks,

Alexandra and Claire Franjola

A tale of two Tom Eblens

With the recent addition of **Tom Eblen** of the Lexington Herald-Leader to Connecting, we now have two **Tom Eblens** in the membership fold.

They are the only members of our 650-member-plus Connecting family to share the same name. But there are a number - 140 to be exact - who share the same LAST names, and the list is below this story.

Kansas Tom Eblen ([Email](#)), as I will call him, is a former managing editor of The Kansas City Star and longtime instructor and adviser to the Daily Kansan at the William Allen White School of Journalism at the University of Kansas before he retired and went into news consulting work. He is 78.

Kentucky Tom Eblen ([Email](#)) is a former AP staffer, former managing editor of the Lexington Herald-Leader and today is a columnist for that newspaper. He is 56.



Both journalists provided valued service to The Associated Press through their participation on the national board of the Associated Press Managing Editors. It was at an APME convention where they first met in 2001.

I have asked both **Tom Eblens** to contribute their thoughts. Enjoy!

Kansas Tom:

It must have been in the late 1970s when I was managing editor of the Kansas City Star. Our telegraph editor raised up and shouted that my byline was on an AP story. Several of us looked and, sure enough, my byline was there.

Except that that Tom Eblen wasn't this Tom Eblen.

After the initial shock, we got to know each other and learned that we might be distant relatives. Two distinctions, however: Kentucky Tom was on the writing side, and Kansas Tom was on the editing side.

Kentucky Tom remembers that I wrote at the time and told him that my friends thought I had lost my mind and gone to work for the AP. But we didn't meet until some years later when Kentucky Tom had become managing editor of the Lexington Herald-Leader, and Kansas Tom was teaching at the University of Kansas.

We finally connected at several APME conventions. I had been an APME participant for some years and had served on the APME board.

Kentucky Tom was destined to do the same. We have stayed in touch over the years.

But the real fun came when we were together at APME functions and met fellow attendees. The second Tom Eblen had some explaining to do after he stopped laughing.

The best anecdote was from Kentucky Tom, who shared this:

My daughter, a master's student at Columbia Journalism School, just went to a lecture by your barbecue-eating buddy, Calvin Trillin. She just texted me that when she went up to introduce herself, he said, "Oh, so you're not the real Tom Eblen's daughter."

Kentucky Tom:

I was 24 years old in 1981 and The Associated Press' correspondent in Knoxville, Tenn., when I discovered that I shared my name.

A flack called from New York to pitch me a story I have long forgotten. Then she asked if I was the Tom Eblen who eats barbecue with Calvin Trillin. I was puzzled. I admired The New Yorker writer, but I had never met him, much less eaten barbecue with him.

She explained that in Trillin's 1978 book, "Alice, Let's Eat", he wrote about exploring Kansas City barbecue with his friend, Tom Eblen, then managing editor of The Kansas City Star. No, that wasn't me, I told her. Then I hung up the phone and began tracking down this guy.

Eblen is not like Smith or Jones. The Eblens immigrated from Germany in the mid-1700s, but there aren't many of us around. I had encountered only a few Eblens who weren't close relatives, and none



was a journalist with the same name as me.

So I wrote Tom a letter of introduction, probably hoping he might hire me someday. He sent a nice reply, saying, as I recall, that when my byline started appearing on the wire, wire, friends called alarmed that he had lost his mind and gone to work for the AP.

I left the AP in 1984 for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. In 1998, I returned to my Kentucky hometown and became managing editor of the Lexington Herald-Leader. A few months later, I went to my first Associated Press Managing Editors convention, at Disneyland in California, and finally got to meet the other Tom Eblen.

As I expected, he was a great guy. But here was the shocker: he looked enough like my father and uncle to be their brother. He looked more like them than I did, or ever will. The resemblance was jaw-dropping.

The then-new Internet had gotten my father interested in genealogy, so he quickly figured out that we were, in fact, distant cousins. Our great-great grandfathers were brothers in Tennessee before the Civil War, or something like that.

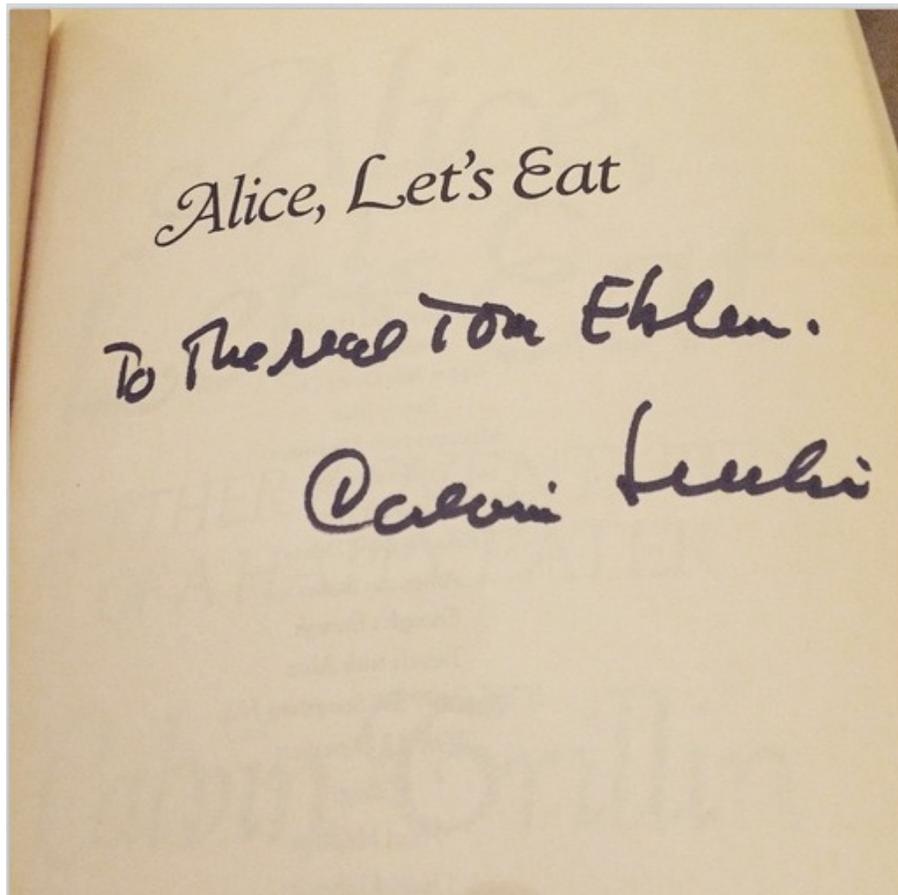
During the 10 years I was managing editor of the Herald-Leader, I spent time with Tom at several APME conventions. I quickly came to like and respect him. We still exchange Christmas cards.

I have two grown daughters. Mollie works for Kentucky Educational Television, and she is married to a state capitol reporter for the Louisville Courier-Journal. After a successful four-year career in New York's fashion industry, Shannon decided to become a journalist, too. She is working on a master's degree in journalism at Columbia University.

A few nights ago, Shannon attended a lecture at Columbia by Calvin Trillin. Afterward, she went up to introduce herself. In her hand was a copy of "Alice, Let's Eat", which I had given her several years ago.

"Oh, so you're not the real Tom Eblen's daughter," Trillin told her.

But, then, he signed the book for me: "To the real Tom Eblen."



Connecting members who share the same last name

Anderson - Jim, Polly, Terry
Baker - Bobby and Frank
Brack - Dennis and Ric
Buzbee - Dick, John and Sally
Christensen - Jean and Sibby
Christian - Darrell and Shirley
Clarke - Jim and Norm
Cook - Dennis and Jacqui
Crowley - Candy and Steve
Dalton - Evelyn and Rob
Daugherty - Bob and Stephanie
Dodd - Monroe and Jean
Dubill - Bob and Mary Gordon
Elliott - Dan and Steve
Ferguson - Eric and Lew
Fields - Dana and Ken
Fox - Ben and Steve
Gannon - Kathy and Richard
Graham - Gary and Steve

Hale - Ellen and Sally
Hamrick - Dan and Mark
Haney - Chuck and Dan
Hanna - Bill and George
Herman - Steve and Thomas
Hodgman - Bruce and Marion
Hunt - Bud and Terry
Johnson - Carla, Mimi, Ron, Sandy and Sue
Jones - Bryan, Lee and Terril
Kienitz - Doug and Nolan
Kraft - Betsy and Scott
Mangan - Andy and Jim
Manning - Carl and Sue
March - Julie and Ray
Martin - Brad, David, Frank and Jacquelyn
Matthews - Beбето and Lisa
Mears - Fran and Walter
Miller - Eve, Reid and Stan
Murray - Eileen and Keith
Neikirk - Bill and Mark
Newton - Ken and Ray
Peterson - Bettye and Deb
Pyle - Dave and Richard
Reed - Ebony and Lisa
Richardson - Bruce and Rod
Robinson - Carl and Keith
Seaton - Ed, Dave, David and Ned
Shaw - Robert and Susanne
Simpson - Doug, Rande and Victor
Smith - Greg, Jack and Melinda
Sosniecki - Gary and Helen
Thompson - Estes, Marty and Ron
Walker - Barbara, Chris and Jack
Walsh - Kevin, Peggy and Robert
Waters - Andy and Hank
Weaver - Doug and Kendal
Welch - Bill and Bryan
White - Celcilia, Glenn and Jane See
Williams - Jim and Michelle
Wilson - Jeff, John and Marc
Wyman - Susan and Tom
Yeomans - Adam and Jeannine

Connecting mailbox

Remembering Dave Goldberg

Doug Tucker ([Email](#)) - I remember Terry Taylor saying to everybody once that the way to learn how to write an NFL game story was to read Dave Goldberg. She was sure right. But even more instructive than reading Dave's stories was sitting next to him when he wrote them.

Whenever Dave's travels led him to Arrowhead Stadium, it was both a pleasure and a learning experience for me. As everybody knows, Dave loved conversation. A pressbox seat next to Dave would be packed with discussion of national politics, AP politics, various wars, economic philosophy, sports psychology and NFL history, strategy and scuttlebutt. The Chiefs loved having Dave in town. They always treated him, quite fittingly, as visiting media royalty and seemed flattered by his presence.

Every time I worked with Dave I learned something about the NFL and how to cover it. How to cover everything, really. I don't think I ever knew an AP staffer who was more professional than Dave Goldberg.

-0-

Tom Jory ([Email](#)) - I met Dave Goldberg when we were both transferred to the General Desk in 1974, I think Dave a month or two before me, and we bonded right away on our mutual interest in sports. Dave could discourse extensively on almost anything, as colleagues at the time will remember, but mostly on sports. Once someone on the desk asked Dave which sport was his favorite. "Anything that moves," interjected veteran slotman Jerry Yale, who sat in the middle of the conversations. Over the years, Dave would often use Jerry's observation on himself. A quarter-century later, I was chatting with, or more likely, listening to Dave, at his desk in Sports when one-time General Desk colleague G.G. Labelle, recently back from years of foreign service, walked by. "Glad to see nothing's changed," Gerry quipped, walking on. Dave chuckled but did not interrupt his commentary to me.

We both retired in 2009 after 41 years, and coincidentally both had open heart surgery soon thereafter. I began more or less monthly visits with Dave at his home in Westchester that continued until a week or so before the fall that led to his recent hospitalization. He would pick me up at the train station with a ready observation he knew would provoke a response. Nothing had changed.

-0-

Bob Haring ([Email](#)) - Sorry to hear about Dave Goldberg. I hired him in jersey - he was a friend of Victor Simpson who was working in Newark (and later became Vatican correspondent). I made Dave Trenton correspondent when I moved Bob Dubill to Newark as news editor. Dave was an amazing talent - fast, accurate, very versatile and wonderfully pleasant.

On the Sharon Tate houseboy arrest

Victor Simpson ([Email](#)) - I just read Jim Lagier's note on the Sharon Tate houseboy arrest

and I think we need what they used to call a ``clarification."

I was still in my 20s with little experience but I was late night supervisor on the general desk that Saturday night. I think Kent Prince was with me at the time.

Anyway, it was about 11 pm and the first edition of the NYTimes came in. (Way before the on line days).

I read their Sharon Tate story and it said the houseboy was held for questioning while ours said he was arrested.

So I called Jim and he said they have some odd charges in California and that he would send me a SUB of the paragraph. He did, I sent it on the wire and went home it now being around 2 am.

When I came in Monday my boss, Lou Boccardi, had written me a stinger of a note saying I should have killed it and not to let myself get pushed around by people in the field. Lesson learned!

On Ed Dennehy

Hal Bock ([Email](#)) - Noting George Bria's anecdote about Ed Dennehy, I have my own. Ed was the early (midnight-8a) supervisor on the general desk and I was breaking in, running the overnight sports wire. Every night, he'd stroll by with a cup of coffee and pop into sports just to see that everything was OK. It was great to know that he was looking out for this rookie.

Years later, I had Baltimore slugger Boog Powell on the phone, discussing a long Orioles losing streak. He used a common expression to describe his old team's condition. I used the quote this way: ``(It) happens."

On Brian Williams

Art Loomis ([Email](#)) - When are we going to get off poor ol Brian Williams' back. Can't we get it in our heads that he is a showman and not a run of the mill reporter? Anchors fit into my category of some reporters. "Never let the truth get in the way of a good story." Try watching Diane Sawyer, if you can stand it, and you will get the picture. OK, I said it and I feel better.

On expense accounts

Joe McGowan ([Email](#)) - The most incredible expense account activity I ever witnessed was when AP sent Horst Faas into India to photograph a story I was doing on the huge famine of 1967. I was told privately that Horst would not take any time off and they felt he needed some time away from Saigon. So I was asked to send a cable to Ben Bassett at the foreign desk saying I needed a photographer.

So, Horst and I met in Calcutta. We went to dinner at one of the finer restaurants (even so, not too great) and the meals probably cost a couple bucks. Horst brought out his expense book and entered something like \$45 plus tip. For the rest of our trip across northern India it was the same. We stayed at one of the Indian government's dak bungalows (a small inn-like place with no A/C, but it did have mosquito netting which dropped down over the bed). It probably cost a buck or two a night. Horst wrote down something like \$30. I don't know if anyone in AP treasurer's office ever compared his expense account with mine!

A list to remember him by...

Michael Juley, assistant metro editor at the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, was famous for his humorous Top 10 lists for colleagues on their last day of work.

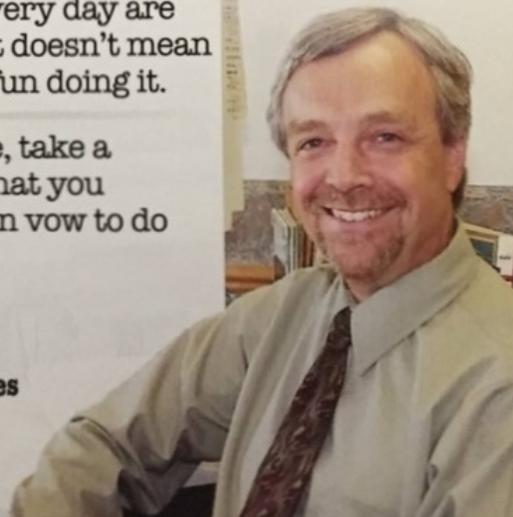
When he himself retired a few weeks ago, he left co-workers with "a top 10 list of a different sort," Deputy Managing Editor Thomas Koetting said, "one that has sort of the best, most positive advice I've heard for anyone in a newsroom." Koetting added that it transfer easily to any work. Managing Editor George Stanley said it was so good the newspaper made a poster of it and hung it in the middle of the newsroom.

Mike Juley's

TOP 10 TIPS TO THE NEWSROOM:

- 1** Ignore the haters. Time spent with them is time wasted.
- 2** Appreciate the work of your colleagues, and tell them so.
- 3** Know that, as busy as you are, there is someone in the newsroom who is busier.
- 4** Get to know the rest of the newsroom beyond your desk, for you are all in this together.
- 5** Don't be afraid to pick up a ringing phone. It's good to find out what an actual reader thinks.
- 6** Figure out your niche, and then own it.
- 7** Find a balance between recognizing great investigative work and recognizing great daily journalism.
- 8** Appreciate those who work during the day to generate our award-winning content, and also appreciate those who work anonymously at night to make that content look good and read well.
- 9** Putting out a newspaper and producing a website every day are difficult tasks, but that doesn't mean you can't have a little fun doing it.
- 10** When your day is done, take a second to marvel at what you accomplished, and then vow to do even better tomorrow.

**Follow these simple guidelines
and it will all come together**



Profile of new Connecting member

Bill Chevalier

Bill Chevalier ([Email](#)) - I was only three years out of the University of Minnesota Journalism School when I was invited to join the AP.

I had worked those three years at a daily in Watertown, South Dakota, when I made my way to Minneapolis to start my first PM shift. I worked there five years before moving on to an advertising and public relations career. Highlights of those years included the northern Minnesota helium balloon flights to test life support systems for future astronauts. So while the pilots floated 100,000 feet above the earth, AP Photographer Gene Herrick and I followed them by car, as described by Gene recently in a Connecting e-mail. Our lead paragraph on the record-breaking flight put the adventure at "The Edge of Space" which was picked up by a great number of member newspapers.

Another memorable event occurred when I was sent to the airport for a news conference by Minnesota's premier politician, U.S. Sen. Hubert Humphrey (later V.P. and nominee for President). Humphrey was returning to Washington DC from Moscow where he had an audience with Nikita Khrushchev. On his way to Washington, he stopped in New York, then Minneapolis, leaking the fact he was carrying a "secret message" from Khrushchev to President Eisenhower. Curious about the circuitous route to see the President, I asked him whether the "secret message" was Khrushchev's idea or his own. As any practiced politician would answer, Humphrey said, "We won't be taking any more questions."

After leaving the AP, I worked in promotion departments at Honeywell, Inc. in Minneapolis and Denver, then moved on to Portland, Oregon, to work for an ad agency as an account executive. The owner retired three years later and five of us became the agency's stockholders for a bumpy ride until, one by one, the other guys left and I was the last man standing. We moved from industrial accounts to sporting goods, mostly hunting, shooting, camping and marine accounts, none of which required suits and ties at work!



In the mid-70s my son Greg and daughter Cindy joined the agency, now called Chevalier Advertising, Marketing and Public Relations, and later became its owners after I retired, My wife Gerri and I had five children (the first and last born on the same day!) and celebrated our 60th anniversary last July.

I have edited a couple books on ammunition reloading (for pay) and a couple more for Portland Yacht Club (pro bono), We have enjoyed cruising and fishing aboard our 44' diesel powerboat. I now spend much of my time heckling Gene Herrick by e-mail and waiting for his nasty retorts.

AP expands live video offering as 'slow television' grows online

The Associated Press (AP) is expanding its live video offering as digital publishers from across the media spectrum look to show more live video online.

Multiple live streams will now be available on AP's digital Video Hub platform, which launched in 2012, as the number of live events AP delivered more than tripled between 2013 and 2014.

"We've known for a few years now that broadcasters don't own video anymore," Sue Brooks, director of international products and platforms at AP, told Journalism.co.uk, "and they certainly don't own live video anymore.

"So we created an online delivery platform to get our video to customers like the big newspapers, who want to have a big video presence and increasing video presence, who want to use video to sell their story. Video becomes another tool in the storytelling tool box."

Previously, AP had supplied live video through its satellite capability but this proved to be too restrictive, said Brooks, as it only allowed one story to be streamed to news outlets at a time.

The satellite service will remain for broadcasters but in the digital environment Brooks said it was vital to serve different digital customers with live streams relevant to different parts of their audience.

Click [here](#) to read more.

Stories of interest



[Jon Stewart's exit as a phony newsman is a loss to real news](#) (Shared by Valerie Komor)

By **FRAZIER MOORE**

NEW YORK (AP) - Jon Stewart's fans were gobsmacked by the sad news he delivered on Tuesday's edition of "The Daily Show": He's leaving his phony anchor desk and ending his reign as phony newsman, and the loss is to real news.

"This show doesn't deserve an even slightly restless host and neither do you," he told his audience. He said he might depart in July, September or maybe December. He didn't say what he means to do next.

To appreciate the impact of his 16-year Comedy Central reign, and the loss his impending exit represents, the distraught viewer need only consider Monday's broadcast.

It was then that Stewart turned his attention to what was the biggest story in the journalism biosphere that night: the scandal surrounding NBC News' Brian Williams.

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[Newsquest/Gannett plans to charge students to write for its titles](#) (Shared by Mark Mittelstadt)

Newsquest, the UK's third largest publisher of local and regional newspapers, is charging students £120 for the chance to have their work published in its titles.

Colleges with journalism courses have received letters inviting students to write articles, for free, in what it calls "an exciting and unique chance to experience working for a local

paper".

The initiative has drawn fire from the National Union of Journalists, which says it has received complaints from colleges about the letter.

The Final Word

Seeking a 'Beautiful Death'



By JANE E. BRODY
The New York Times

Virgie Divinigracia had the kind of death last month that most Americans say they want: at home, relieved of physical and mental pain, surrounded by those she loved, "a beautiful death" as those present described it. Alas, this is true for too few Americans. Most still die in costly medical facilities tethered to machines, often unable to communicate, in a futile attempt to prolong their lives.

Dr. Angelo E. Volandes, the author of an enlightening new book, "The Conversation," said that although Americans received some of the best health care money could buy, "they also experience some of the worst deaths in the developed world," mainly because people failed to articulate what they wished for at the end of life, and doctors failed "to recognize that fixing specific problems may not fix the whole patient."

Mrs. Divinigracia's experience is illustrative. At 88 and in need of full-time care after 10 years with Alzheimer's disease, she developed acute kidney failure. Her doctor suggested dialysis.

But after a clearheaded review of her prospects, her devoted husband and primary caregiver, Paul, and their son and daughter acknowledged that, had she been able to say so, she would not have chosen aggressive medical treatment that would only further

diminish the quality of her remaining days.

Click [here](#) to read more.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Feb. 11, the 42nd day of 2015. There are 323 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 11, 1945, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet leader Josef Stalin signed the Yalta Agreement, in which Stalin agreed to declare war against Imperial Japan following Nazi Germany's capitulation (in return, the Soviet Union would acquire territories lost to Japan in the Russo-Japanese War).

On this date:

In 1812, Massachusetts Gov. Elbridge Gerry signed a redistricting law favoring his Democratic-Republican Party - giving rise to the term "gerrymandering."

In 1858, a French girl, Bernadette Soubirous (soo-bee-ROO'), reported the first of 18 visions of a lady dressed in white in a grotto near Lourdes. (The Catholic Church later accepted that the visions were of the Virgin Mary.)

In 1862, the Civil War Battle of Fort Donelson began in Tennessee. (Union forces led by Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant captured the fort five days later.)

In 1929, the Lateran Treaty was signed, with Italy recognizing the independence and sovereignty of Vatican City.

In 1937, a six-week-old sit-down strike against General Motors ended, with the company agreeing to recognize the United Automobile Workers Union.

In 1963, American author and poet Sylvia Plath was found dead in her London flat, a suicide; she was 30.

In 1972, McGraw-Hill Publishing Co. and Life magazine canceled plans to publish what had turned out to be a fake autobiography of reclusive billionaire Howard Hughes.

In 1975, Margaret Thatcher was elected leader of Britain's opposition Conservative Party.

In 1989, Rev. Barbara C. Harris became the first woman consecrated as a bishop in the Episcopal Church, in a ceremony held in Boston.

In 1990, South African black activist Nelson Mandela was freed after 27 years in captivity.

In 2012, pop singer Whitney Houston, 48, was found dead in a hotel room in Beverly Hills, California.

In 2013, Pope Benedict XVI announced his resignation during a routine morning meeting of Vatican cardinals. (The 85-year-old pontiff was succeeded by Pope Francis.)

Ten years ago: Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld made an unannounced visit to Iraq, where he observed Iraqi security forces and declared "there's no question progress has been made" in preparing the nation for building a new government. CNN chief news executive Eason Jordan quit amid a furor over remarks he'd made about journalists being targeted by the U.S. military in Iraq. Samuel W. Alderson, inventor of crash test dummies, died in Marina Del Rey, California, at age 90.

Five years ago: Former President Bill Clinton had two stents inserted in one of his heart arteries after being hospitalized in New York with chest pains. Iranian security forces unleashed a crushing sweep against opposition protesters as President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (ah-muh-DEE'-neh-zahd) used the 31st anniversary of the Islamic revolution to defy the West. British fashion designer Alexander McQueen, 40, was found dead in his London home.

One year ago: President Barack Obama, during a joint White House news conference with French President Francois Hollande, vowed to come down like "a ton of bricks" on businesses that violated Iranian sanctions while nuclear negotiations were underway, and conceded "enormous frustration" with stalled Syrian peace talks. At the Sochi Games, Carina Vogt of Germany won women's ski jumping's first-ever Olympic gold medal.

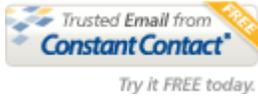
Today's Birthdays: Actor Conrad Janis is 87. Fashion designer Mary Quant is 81. Actor Burt Reynolds is 79. Actress Tina Louise is 77. Actor Sonny Landham is 74. Bandleader Sergio Mendes is 74. Rhythm-and-blues singer Otis Clay is 73. Actor Philip Anglim is 63. Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush is 62. Actress Catherine Hickland is 59. Rock musician David Uosikkinen (aw-SIK'-ken-ihn) (The Hooters) is 59. Actress Carey Lowell is 54. Singer Sheryl Crow is 53. Former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin is 51. Actress Jennifer Aniston is 46. Actor Damian Lewis is 44. Actress Marisa Petroro is 43. Singer D'Angelo is 41. Actor Brice Beckham is 39. Rock M-C/vocalist Mike Shinoda (Linkin Park) is 38. Singer-actress Brandy is 36. Country musician Jon Jones (The Eli Young Band) is 35. Actor Matthew Lawrence is 35. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kelly Rowland is 34. Singer Aubrey O'Day is 31. Actress Q'orianka (kohr-ee-AHN'-kuh) Kilcher is 25. Actor Taylor Lautner is 23.

Thought for Today: "Life does not count by years. Some suffer a lifetime in a day, and so grow old between the rising and the setting of the sun." - Augusta Jane Evans, American novelist (1835-1909).

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