Connecting - March 31, 2015

1 message

Paul Stevens <stevenspl@live.com>
Reply-To: stevenspl@live.com
To: pjshane@gmail.com

Tue, Mar 31, 2015 at 9:07 AM

Having trouble viewing this email? Click here

Connecting

March 31, 2015

Click here for sound of the Teletype

Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning.

The month of March ends today, and that means Wednesday is - drum roll, please - **April Fool's Day.**

In my day, that meant frequent advance wire and email warnings to bureaus from New York to be alert to attempts to be pranked with a bogus story or photo. If you have a memory of an attempted, or heaven forbid!, successful prank during your career, send along that memory for sharing with your colleagues for use Wednesday morning.

Fair warning: Ye Olde Connecting Editor will be alert to keep Connecting from being pranked.

Today's Connecting leads with the text of AP President and CEO **Gary Pruitt**'s speech to the Foreign Correspondents Club in Hong Kong on Monday in which he proposed

international law be changed to make a war crime the killing of journalists or taking them hostage.

And we also feature the great news of two Associated Press journalists being named to their states' journalism halls of fame.

The late Louisville photographer **Ed Reinke** will be inducted posthumously into the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame.

Former Salt Lake City, New York GEN, Oklahoma City and Raleigh AP journalist **Judy Gibbs Robinson** will be inducted into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame.

We take great pride in the recognition of both their accomplishments.

Paul

Dying in pursuit of the news

Monday's Connecting featured a story from Hong Kong on a speech by AP President and CEO **Gary Pruitt** to the Foreign Correspondents Club that called for changes to international law that would make it a war crime to kill journalists or take them hostage.

The text of his prepared remarks are as follows:

Every time I go in the newsroom at our headquarters in New York, I pass by the AP Wall of Honor - a memorial to the 35 journalists who have died on assignment since AP was founded nearly 170 years ago.

The first was Mark Kellogg, killed in 1876 while covering the Battle of the Little Big Horn between Native Americans and the U.S. cavalry, led by General Custer. Last year, we added four more names to the list. It was as deadly as any year in AP history.

As you might imagine, it was also one of the most difficult for our staff and for colleagues around the world.

Today I want to talk to you about the growing risks that journalists face in trying to gather and report the news -- and what can be done to reduce those risks. At stake is the first-hand original reporting from trusted sources, like those of you in this room, that lets citizens around the world make informed decisions and hold their governments and other large institutions accountable.

Last year, 61 journalists were killed in the line of duty, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists. More than 1,000 have died since 1992.

With our global footprint, gathering news in more than 100 countries and covering war and conflict wherever it happens, The Associated Press sees these dangers up close every day.

In one of the most high profile killings of a journalist last year, AP photographer Anja Niedringhaus was essentially assassinated when an Afghan policeman who was supposed to be protecting her turned his rifle on her instead, calling out "Allahu Akbar"-- "God is Great." AP special correspondent Kathy Gannon was severely wounded in the attack, although I am happy to report that she is recuperating and is determined to return to Pakistan and Afghanistan and continue her work.

AP takes the safety of its staff very seriously. Our global security team regularly visits and updates security at all our worldwide locations, particularly those in conflict zones. Reporters covering dangerous situations, from Afghanistan to the front lines of the Ebola outbreak, carry the latest safety equipment and receive intensive hostile environment training. Covering conflict or dangerous environments is voluntary for AP journalists.

We also understand that there will always be risks: Two of our staff killed last year -- videographer Simone Camilli and translator Ali Abu Afash -- died when an unexploded missile went off in Gaza. One of our photographers lost a leg as a result of the explosion.

But the nature of conflict today compounds the dangers.

Wearing PRESS on your jacket once offered some degree of protection for journalists in the most dangerous areas. Today, it more often makes them a target.

Extremist organizations don't need us to get their story out-- they can use social media and other means. And they certainly don't want an independent media to observe them. They want to control their message from start to finish. The larger world, however, needs us there to get out the real facts.

Adding to the danger, the kidnapping and ransoming of journalists has become a business model for these groups.

Now, most perniciously, we find ourselves in the sickening situation where terrorists are killing journalists not to stop a story -- but to create one.

However, there are steps that can and should be taken to reduce the risks that journalists face and to increase the chances that those who kill them are brought to justice.

One immediate step is for media organizations around the world to follow common safety principles and practices, even when freelancers or contractors are involved.

Last month, AP and other journalism organizations endorsed just such a set of guidelines in a new report, A Call for Global Safety Principles and Practice. It calls for news organizations to treat freelancers just as they would regular employees. They should, for example, make sure freelancers have first-aid and survival training and have proper safety equipment.

News organizations should not make or accept assignments with a freelancer unless they are prepared to be responsible for the freelancer's wellbeing. There is a "moral responsibility" to support them from the start of the assignment to the finish, the group said.

AP wholeheartedly supports these guidelines.

But there are further steps that should be taken to protect journalists.

Under existing international law -- the Geneva Conventions and additional protocols -- journalists are considered civilians in conflicts between states. The most recent action involving journalist safety occurred in 2013 when the United Nations adopted a resolution condemning attacks on journalists and underlining the obligations of nations to bring perpetrators to justice.

But the framework sets forth that protections for journalists stem from laws within each country, making each nation responsible for investigating and prosecuting those who kill journalists.

It is at best a patchwork system. At worst, totally ineffective: In 90 percent of journalists' murders, there are no legal proceedings or investigations. Only four percent of killers are convicted.

The nature of both war and media have changed dramatically in recent years, and it is

clear that existing protocols no longer address the increasingly perilous challenges facing journalists.

AP believes there needs to be a new international legal mechanism for protecting journalists --one that makes killing journalists or taking them hostage a war crime. One approach would be to create a new protocol to the Geneva Conventions that makes the assassination of a journalist a specific war crime. Another approach would be to adapt articles of the International Criminal Court, which deals with war crimes, to specifically cover journalists.

At least when Anja Niedringhaus was killed the policeman who murdered her was put on trial. Last week he was sentenced to 20 years in prison. There was solace in knowing justice was done, and we are grateful for that.

I'm not naive. I realize that many extremist groups routinely ignore international law and that making the targeting and killing of journalists a war crime likely won't change their behavior. However, there are many places and circumstances where I believe it will have a beneficial effect, especially over time and when it comes to prosecuting the killers.

The single most treacherous threat to journalists is killing with impunity. Impunity for those who kill journalists only empowers them. AP believes that international actions must be taken to assure that those who kill journalists are brought to justice.

Journalists cover conflicts so the rest of us can know what is happening in the most dangerous places. The growing challenges to their ability to gather news should be a worldwide cause for concern. When independent media cannot provide eyewitness original reporting, freedom suffers. A free press is the most powerful bulwark against tyranny.

We must never forget that.

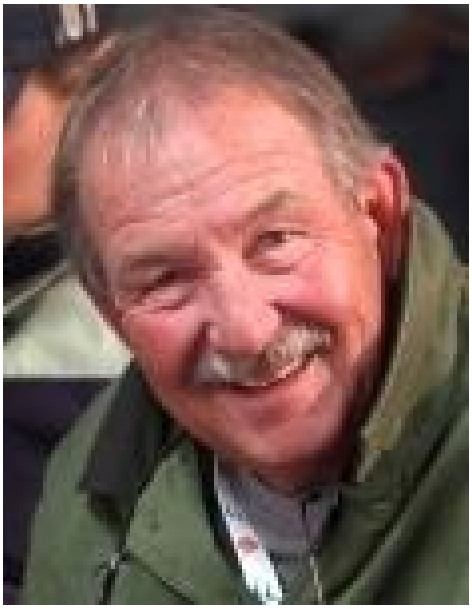
Thank you.

New AP Hall of Famers in Kentucky, Oklahoma

Ed Reinke

Ed Reinke, a photographer with The Associated Press in Kentucky for more than 25 years, will be inducted posthumously into the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame at a luncheon in Lexington on April 16.

He is among six members of the Class of 2015 in the Hall of Fame, established in 1980 by the University of Kentucky Journalism Alumni Association to recognize Kentuckians who have made significant contributions to the profession of journalism.



Reinke, an award-winning Associated Press photographer who traveled worldwide and was known for his striking pictures of Kentucky news and sporting events, died in 2011 at the age of 60 following a head inury while an IndyCar race at Kentucky Speedway in Sparta.

During more than 25 years with AP, Reinke often was selected for assignments across the world: Super Bowls, World Series championships, Final Fours, Summer and Winter Olympics, Masters and PGA championships, the Indy 500, President Bill Clinton's first inauguration and Hurricane Andrew. And, starting in 1988, every Kentucky Derby.

He was AP's lead photographer for virtually every major news event in Kentucky's modern history, including the Aug. 27, 2006, crash of Comair Flight 5191 that killed 49 at Lexington's Blue Grass Airport and the 1988 Carrollton bus crash, which killed 24 children and three adults in the nation's deadliest drunken-driving collision.

Reinke began his photojournalism career at the Cincinnati Enquirer, starting as an intern in 1972 and becoming a full-time staffer in 1973. In 1979, he went to work for AP in Cincinnati and three years later transferred to the Washington, D.C., bureau.

He rejoined the Enquirer in 1983 and was named director of photography in 1984.

He returned to The Associated Press in Louisville on Aug. 31, 1987, becoming AP's first staff photographer in Kentucky in 25 years.

Connecting colleague **Ed Staats**, as Louisville chief of bureau, hired Reinke back into AP, and provides this comment:

"The Hall of Fame is the highest journalistic honor in Kentucky and Ed Reinke greatly merited his posthumous selection. The relative anonymity of news agency journalism is such that deserving Associated Press staffers sometimes fail to receive proper recognition. Ed was the consummate professional and an unusually gifted sports photographer. In addition, he had the people skills that enabled him to put together an unmatched cadre of freelance photographers. Under his guidance, Ed and his team for 25 years produced for AP members and their readers an amazing photographic record of happenings in Kentucky and beyond."

These inductees spent all or a significant amount of their career with AP. The descriptions came from the HOF site. UK's Journalism Alumni Association founded the HOF in 1980.

1982: **Don Whitehead** -- Pulitzer Prize-winning war correspondent for the Associated Press; 1984: **Sy Ramsey** -- State Capitol correspondent for the Associated Press for 21 years, 1962-1983, spanning the administrations of six governors. 1985: **Roy Steinfort** --

Vice president and director of broadcast services for the Associated Press. 1988: **George Hackett** -- Veteran Associated Press newsman who has spent entire 44-year career with wire service in Kentucky. **Ralph E. Johnson** -- Photographer, reporter, editor for the Associated Press for 26 years. 1993: **Terry Hunt** -- Senior White House correspondent for the Associated Press. 1994: **Burl Osborne** -- Publisher and editor, Dallas Morning News, and distinguished newspaper executive. Joined the Associated Press in 1960, serving in West Virginia, Colorado, Wyoming, Kentucky and Ohio before becoming a news executive in the AP's Washington bureau. 2003: **Howard E. (Ed) Staats** -- Reporter, editor and administrator in 10 Associated Press (AP) offices, including AP's headquarters in New York. 2009: **Thomas Shelby Watson** -- Fifty-year career in journalism began at WBKY at the University of Kentucky. Was Kentucky Broadcast Editor for the Associated Press.

-0-

Judy Gibbs Robinson

Former AP journalist **Judy Gibbs Robinson** - a veteran of four AP bureaus - will be inducted into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame on April 30 in ceremonies at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond.

A native of St. Joseph, Missouri, she joined AP in November 1979 in the Salt Lake City bureau, then transferred to the AP General Desk in New York in January 1981. She moved to Oklahoma City in 1985. She was broadcast editor nine of her 10 years in Oklahoma City.

Judy was the first AP reporter at the scene of the Murrah Federal Building bombing on April 19, 1995.

In June 1995, she became AP news editor in Raleigh, N.C.

She currently is assistant director of student media and editorial adviser to The Oklahoma Daily at the University of Oklahoma.

She earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Missouri and a master's from the University of Oklahoma.

Judy was named a College Media Association Honor Roll Adviser in 2012.

Other former AP staffers in the Oklahoma Hall of Fame include George Cornell, national religion writer; Lew Ferguson, long-time Topeka correspondent; Bob Haring, former New Jersey bureau chief, New York executive and executive editor of the Tulsa World; Edith Gaylord Harper, a Washington AP reporter during World War II and president of the Women's National Press Club; Lindel Hutson, former Oklahoma City bureau chief; Ron Jenkins, long-time Oklahoma City statehouse reporter; Paul Miller, former AP president and later Gannett Corp. president and CEO; Gareth B. Muchmore, an AP war

correspondent in World War II who later headed AP's financial operations in New York, and Gaylord Shaw, AP foreign correspondent and a winner of the Pulitzer Prize.

Connecting colleague **Lindel Hutson** provided this comment on Judy:

``Judy was one of those people who made the AP such a great, professional news organization. When Judy was working the desk, you didn't have to worry about the news report - she took care of it.' She has carried her news and administrative skills to her current position as faculty adviser of the University of Oklahoma's daily newspaper. I envy those kids who are getting to work with her. They're learning from the best.''

If you would like to send Judy a note of congratulations, click **here** for her email address.

Brian and Mar: An amazing journey of love

Brian Horton (Email) shares this latest entry in his blog, "Mar's Amazing Journey," a magical and loving look at his wife Marilyn "Mar" Dillon:

Eight years ago this weekend, I wondered if Mar would last a few more days. Starting on Thursday morning, she had slowly been losing the ability to move her legs, then her arms, then lift her head. It was if she was drifting away.

She went into Robert Wood Johnson and things seemed to begin to turn around. Then, tragedy struck again and she came so close to dying. For weeks, her life was measured by the beeps and buzzes of a whole collection of machines that seemed to measure a million different things every second.

Last night, we got together with neighbors Rita, Sue, Joe, Laura and Greg at Lin and Ed Reilly's for a belated St. Patrick's Day celebration at the shore. Tonight, we sat at the bar and enjoyed some wine and a dinner from the Happy Hour menu at Tucker's on LBI while watching the end of the Duke-Gonzaga NCAA game.

What a journey it has been.

She was a managing editor at a newspaper back then, often waging a one-person battle to bring them in to the online world. I was in the online world at the AP after 30 years in Photos there. The future seemed to be a wide-open horizon. What could change that?

Life seemed to be great for us. We loved our jobs. We spent weekends at our home on the Jersey shore or vacationed with friends on the Mayan Riviera in Mexico or traveled through Ireland and Portugal and explored London and Sydney.

The hardest thing about making our dreams come true was just finding the time to do everything we wanted to do.

Eight years ago this weekend, that changed.

We have a great life now. It's just different.

Mar fought an amazing battle through those early stages of MS and the near-fatal situation that required countless surgeries and seven months of hospitalization back in 2007. She went in to the hospital as the last days of winter went by, and the trees were just beginning to show some life, and came home again for the first time at the end of October as the leaves changed to their fall colors.

Luckily, for her, it is all just a hazy memory.

Since then, there have been many challenges. They told her she might not spend time out of bed. She proved them wrong, They told her she might never walk again. She proved them wrong. She's faced each challenge and overcome it and moved on. She's been in the hospital several times in the years since for everything from a kidney stone to anemia to a

broken hip this past August, but each time she has fought back to have as good a life as we could ever expect in this situation.

It takes a little more planning for us to do many things. Our travel is done by car now, more for convenience than anything, and she gets around in a wheelchair and using a walker.

Along the way, we've depended on the generosity of our family, our friends and an amazing group of medical people to keep the train on the tracks. We've felt so lucky that you all have been there when we needed a helping hand, or when we wanted to share a happy moment, or when we weren't sure what tomorrow was going to bring or when we had something to celebrate.

Thanks? Seems so inadequate. Give each of you a hug? It would take many, many years or more if we started right now. We just can't imagine how we will ever be able to express our gratitude to all of you. But, we hope you all know how we carry you in our hearts every day and how we'll always be there for you if you need us.

Today, I was looking back over the blog, which we started seven years ago this month, and I came upon an entry (click here) from March of 2008. It amazed me how it still stands and, at that point, we were only a year into this journey! If we had only known!

"Watching Mar get better and stronger, inch by inch, every day has been an inspiration to me and to so many of you," I wrote back then. In the years since, we've heard from so many of you how much Mar meant to you. We've gotten emails and notes from long-forgotten colleagues reminding Mar of something she did for them that changed their career. Or, in a couple of cases, made them commit to making past friendships stronger.

People have even told her that her battle these past eight years has given them the courage to battle a challenge they were facing.

She is an amazing woman and these past eight years have given us all a chance to know just how amazing she is.

Thanks for being there for us. And, welcome aboard for the next adventures!

Click **here** for a link to the blog.

Connecting mailbox

Meeting Marv Arrowsmith

Joe Benham (Email) - Walter Mears' mention of Marv Arrowsmith reminded me of the first time I met Marv.

When President Eisenhower stopped in Austin on his way to meet with the president of Mexico, I met the plane at Bergstrom AFB and introduced myself to Marv, just as the UPI staffer was doing the same with Merriman Smith.

Without so much as a smile, Smith told the Unipresser, "Get an arrival story out under my byline and make sure you get everything right! I'll be at the Officer's Club."

Marv asked politely if I'd show him the way to the press room. There, he wrote his own arrival story, handed it to me and said, "I'd appreciate your checking this to make sure it's OK before we send it." Marvin Arrowsmith wants ME to make sure his copy is OK? I felt like Moses must have when he was entrusted with the Ten Commandments.

I went over it word by word, twice, and assured him that it was just fine and that I'd give it to the teletype operator immediately. He thanked me and headed off to rejoin the White House Press Pool.

I saw him again on another presidential trip and when Nixon campaigned in San Antonio. He always greeted me cordially, as if we were old friends.

-0-

John and Kazu, up there talking about minka

Sibby Christensen (Email) - After seeing Connecting's coverage of the film about the late AP Special Correspondent John Roderick's Japanese farmhouse and his relationship with the Takishita family, his adopted son, Yoshihiro Takishita, responded. "John loved AP, and AP was so good to John."

Takishita, known as Yochan, reported that days earlier, his mother Kazu, who had scouted for Roderick's farmhouse, had died. "I know they will be together up there and talk(ing) about minka," he wrote.

If you would like to send a note of sympathy to Yochan, click **here** for his email address.

-0-

Greenwich native launches alternative news site Russia-Insider.com

Larry Heinzerling (Email) shares this story about the son of the late Jack Bausman, who served AP in Warsaw, Budapest, Frankfurt and as Moscow chief of bureau and later as a general executive in the World Services department. It begins:

Greenwich native Charles Bausman (photo above) has been living in Moscow for the better part of 29 years, raising a family while working as an investor in agribusiness in Russia. In the past dozen years or so, he's developed a perspective on Russia he said he does not see reflected in western news reporting.

So six months ago, he created an alternative news website called Russia-Insider.com that is getting millions of international viewers -- and Russian attention as well.

"This is citizen journalism," said Bausman. "It's like an online movement, user generated, democratic. People are very devoted to the site. It's gone beyond what I could imagine."

Click **here** to read more.

-0-

Another story from when former chiefs stayed on staff

Dave Tomlin (Email) - The entertaining accounts of Dorman Cordell's ordeal as Ed Tunstall's successor in New Orleans really resonated with me. I was chief of two AP bureaus, and in both cases I too was assigned to rescue dysfunctional operations whose former chiefs stayed on staff. Both also answered to "Ed".

When I replaced Ed Rowland in Columbia, New York was so eager to soften his landing that the lede on the E&P blurb was that Rowland was being promoted to "South Carolina political writer." I was mentioned in passing as his backfill.

Of course we had no room on our tiny staff for a political writer other than the capitol

correspondent. It was left to me to explain to Ed that he was still young enough to launch a new career and would be smart to do so. He insisted that Keith Fuller had told him he could be a chief of bureau again some day. I told him that's not the way I heard it. He phoned the president's office and, to his credit, resigned a week or two afterward.

Four years later when Fuller sent me to Des Moines it was to take over from Ed Nicholls. He had no illusions and left under his own steam after a couple of months.

It's awkward at best to run a small newsroom where a failed former chief is now staffing desk tricks. It seems to me it hardly ever happened. I wonder what the odds were that three of these rare birds would be named Ed.

-0-

Connecting reconnected a friendship

Jack Smith (Email) - Gene Herrick hit the nail on the head, Connecting has given us a chance to connect with colleagues that we lost contact with years ago.

Gene is a great story teller and friend. We first met when I joined the AP in Chicago during the Christmas holidays in l966. He was a great mentor and helped a kid just out of the Army get settled into my first AP photo job.

We had lost contact over the years, but were able to connect thanks to Connecting. I have also been able to reconnect with Bob Daugherty, Mike Doan and others.

Thanks for providing the vehicle and keep up the good work.

-0-

Discussion of access to government records, emails

Doug Anstaett (Email) - Here is a video in which members of the Kansas Sunshine Coalition for Open Government discuss access to governmental records and emails archived at public institutions.

Guests include: Doug Anstaett, Kansas Press Association; Kent Cornish, Kansas Association of Broadcasters; Ron Keefover, Sunshine Coalition; Bob Harte, Leawood resident; Mike Kautsch, KU Law School; and Sara Shepherd, Lawrence Journal-World.

Click **here** to view the video.

-0-

Make sure the robots know

Joe Edwards (Email) - Re: Style changes for sports stories: Make sure the robots know.

-0-

Complicated logistics to cover pope way back in, 1979

Ric Brack (Email) - Just back from Texas APME, catching up on Facebook, when this popped in from Bob Modersohn's page - not AP, but maybe worth sharing for the incredible logistics involved in those days.

The Des Moines Register

THE NEWSPAPER IOWA DEPENDS UPON ■ Des Moines, Iowa, Friday Morning, October 5, 1979
Four Sections, price 25 cents

350,000 HAIL THE POPE IN STIRRING D.M. VISIT

HE BRUSHES RURAL IOWA WITH HIS LOVE

Pontiff touches lives of all at St. Patrick's

Historic Iowa day in tranquil pasture

POPE GATHERS BUMPER CROP OF HUMANITY

Pope John Paul II enjoys his historic visit to Living History Farms.

Save the land as God's stewards, John Paul says in Iowa message

ANOTHER FRONT PAGE

Energy Mobilization Board approved by Senate

Wholesale prices up 1.4 percent

UAW, Ford agree on contract terms

Where to find it

TODAY Souvenir Section on historic visit

THE POPE AND THE CRUCIFIX - It was October 1979 and Pope John Paul II made his way through America - eventually to Urbandale, Iowa. It was one of the biggest stories in Iowa's history. Looking in any direction and you could see hundreds of people, many from far away towns and states from Living History Farms.

I guess I had a plum assignment, being placed straight out in front of where the pope would speak, for six or so hours. But would he ever arrive? The weather was lousy. Vern Brown masterminded a logistical plan (I imagine Frank Folwell worked with him) where a darkroom was set up across Hickman Rd. to handle processing black and white film, possibly printing photos there, too. Ankeny High School cross country runners couriered raw film shot by most of the Register staff of photographers off the premises. Then it was shuttled by helicopter to a downtown Des Moines building rooftop.

I remember being up on a 10-15 feet high deck supported by four posts along with TV shooters. My primary job was to get a color photo of the pope speaking to some 350,000 visitors. In those days we shot transparency color - slide film, probably Kodak Ektachrome - which could be processed at 715 Locust St. in the newspaper's photo lab. It was scary up there, knowing you're being counted on for a very important photo, stressful to be sure. I always felt a heap better after seeing images on the film.

Nowadays with a digital monitor on the back of a camera, you can see immediately what you got - or didn't get. Here, there was no second chance. Finally, the sun comes out. The pope shows up. We shoot and ship. I had no strong feelings for the image that was selected by editors for page one. But then, I wasn't there to present a case for another. I know they were set on running a color shot.

My favorite photo never was published. It wasn't in color, and sometimes it's the little things that make it regarding what we see as successful. A personal thing, I guess. I waited and waited until the moment when Pope John Paul II moved the crucifix to perfectly line up against the huge cross tapestry behind him. Cross on cross. It's a small thing but it's all I really cared about capturing.

New Connecting member profile - Ira Dreyfuss

Ira Dreyfuss (Email) - I worked at the AP for 26 years, retiring in 2004. In that time, I worked at New York Broadcast and then transferred when New York Broadcast was consolidated with AP Radio in Washington in 1983. For the last 18 months or so of my career at the AP, I was in the Washington bureau print side as food and farm writer. In my broadcast writing, I wrote national news summaries, a daily 60-second script on fitness, and a humor in the news script. For the network, I became the health and medical specialist and I had a daily humor in the news audio feature. In the years before I transferred to print side, I had a weekly physical fitness column for the bbb wire and I did other features as I saw the interest.

Mad cow broke just as I was starting my food and farm writing stint, so it dominated my time as a print side writer.

After the AP, I spent 10 years as a public affairs specialist with the US Department of Health and Human Services, in the office of the assistant secretary for public affairs. I was able to change the style and approach to writing for most of the department to AP style - which the department considers its official style. There were still some holdouts, though - people whose position made them impervious to change. I created 60-second daily radio program similar to my work in Health at the AP. And I created a network for the emergency broadcast messages I developed to help people recover from disasters.

I retired from HHS in January, but my interest in emergency messaging continues. I am about to get my master's degree from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. My thesis compares the use of Facebook and Twitter as people self -organized to help each other in the Atlanta snow disaster of January 2014. My wife and I have lived in Reston, Virginia, since 1983. We have three children and three grandchildren. I was born May 11, 1947, and there are still some who say this was a good thing.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday

To

Ed Bailey (Email)

Welcome to Connecting

Julie Doll (Email)

Teresa Schmedding (Email)

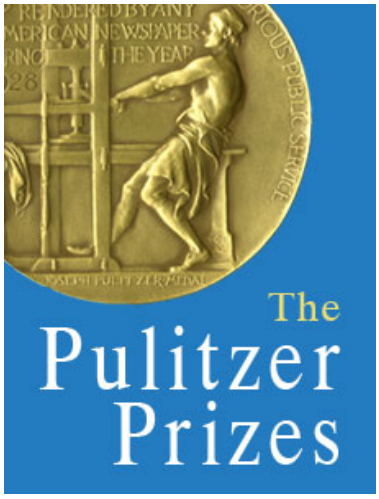
Stories of interest

Pulitzer Prizes to launch national "Campfires Initiative" to celebrate 2016 Centennial (Pulitzer Prize site)

The Pulitzer Prize Board, in preparation for the 100th awarding of the Prizes in 2016, is launching a $1.5-million national initiative to ignite broad engagement with the journalistic, literary and artistic values they represent.

The project, called the Pulitzer Prize Centennial Campfires Initiative, will generate

grassroots events and conversations across the country throughout 2016 about the impact of journalism and the humanities on our lives and times, illuminating their value to public life today and imagining their future.



"We intend to reach diverse audiences, using Campfire events to foster invigorating discussions - much as actual campfires create circles of conversation - both in person and through social media," said Joyce Dehli, Pulitzer Prize Board member and chair of the Campfires Initiative. "We also hope to inspire new generations of practitioners."

The Pulitzer Prize Board developed the initiative with the Federation of State Humanities Councils. It is supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Ford Foundation, Carnegie Corporation of New York, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, as well as Columbia University, which is home to the Pulitzers.

-0-

Scripps papers say farewell to blue lighthouse (Blog)

On April 1 E.W. when E. W. Scripps and Journal Communications merge, the group's newspapers, including Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, will be spun off into a new company called Journal Media Group.

The Journal Sentinel will be the group's flagship paper, but it will not be the only one undergoing a transformation.

So will the 14 daily newspapers owned by Scripps.

The newly formed newspaper publishing entity will have its headquarters in Milwaukee and operate in 14 markets. It will have about 3,600 employees. Over the weekend numerous Scripps papers took note the upcoming changes.

Each mentions the disappearance of the Scripps logo, a blue lighthouse.

One of them suggests the Journal Media Group will have its own flag. That I wanna see.

"We may be losing the trademarked Scripps motto - 'Give light and the people will find their own way'- but our light will continue to shine on what matters in the Memphis area," said a story in the Commercial Appeal.

-0-

Under Surveillance in Abu Dhabi: A Reporter's Saga of Being Followed, Bribed, and Recruited as a Spy (Newsweek)

Sean O'Driscoll, who co-wrote a damning investigation into human rights violations and brutal labor practices endured by migrant workers building New York University's campus in Abu Dhabi published by The New York Times, was officially deported from the United Arab Emirates last October. Before that happened, he says he was tailed for months by pursuit cars, bribed, propositioned to spy on other foreign journalists and possibly traced by way of his cell phone. Here's the story of what allegedly happens when a journalist tries to report on unflattering activity in the UAE.

O'Driscoll had been working in Abu Dhabi as a journalist for nearly two years when the trouble started. In December 2013, the Guardian published an article he co-wrote under a pseudonym (Glenn Carrick) examining the labor conditions involved in erecting the Guggenheim, the Louvre, and a New York University campus on Saadiyat Island in Abu Dhabi. O'Driscoll, who is Irish and tall, used the pseudonym for his safety, but when a video circulated with the Guardian story showed a tall guy-face obscured and voice deepened, but with a distinct Irish accent-asking questions, O'Driscoll figured he'd had his cover blown.

-0-

Use good words, not bad ones (Economist)

"WRITE with nouns and verbs, not adjectives and adverbs" is a traditional bit of style advice. The aim is to get young writers picking a few words that tell, rather than bulking out their prose in the hopes of convincing by sheer mass.

But does good writing really prefer nouns and verbs over adjectives and adverbs? Mark Liberman of the Language Log blog and the University of Pennsylvania tried a brief experiment, choosing several pieces of "good" writing (both fiction and non-fiction) and "bad" writing (such as two winners of the "Bad Writing Contest" competition and an archetypally purple novel of 1830, "Paul Clifford", which begins with "It was a dark and stormy night"). The surprising result was that the "good" selection had relatively more verbs and adverbs, and the "bad" writing, relatively more nouns and adjectives.

How can usage-book writers have failed to notice that good writers use plenty of adverbs? One guess is that they are overlooking many: much, quite, rather and very are common adverbs, but they do not jump out as adverbs in the way that words ending with -ly do. A better piece of advice than "Don't use adverbs" would be to consider replacing verbs that are combined with the likes of quickly, quietly, excitedly by verbs that include those meanings (race, tiptoe, rush) instead.

-0-

Trevor Noah to Succeed Jon Stewart on 'The Daily Show' (New York Times)

In December, Trevor Noah, a 31-year-old comedian, made his debut as an on-air contributor on "The Daily Show With Jon Stewart," offering his outsider's perspective, as a biracial South African, on the United States.

"I never thought I'd be more afraid of police in America than in South Africa," he said with a smile. "It kind of makes me a little nostalgic for the old days, back home."

Now, after only three appearances on that Comedy Central show, Mr. Noah has gotten a huge and unexpected promotion. On Monday, Comedy Central announced that Mr. Noah would be the new host of "The Daily Show," succeeding Mr. Stewart after he steps down later this year.

The network's selection of Mr. Noah comes less than two months after Mr. Stewart, 52, revealed on Feb. 10 that he was leaving "The Daily Show" after a highly successful 16-year run that transformed the show into authoritative, satirical comedy on current events. (An exact timetable for Mr. Stewart's departure has not been decided, Comedy Central said.)

-0-

New streaming apps could boost citizen journalism (AFP) (Shared by Mark Mittelstadt)

Washington (AFP) - When three buildings collapsed and ignited a blaze in New York, a smartphone app brought the live video feed to anyone online wanting to watch.

The disaster took place, coincidentally, the same day as the launch of Twitter's new livestream app Periscope, which became a window for the breaking news event.

The event showed how Periscope and rival app Meerkat, which can deliver live video through Twitter to anyone online, could become an important tool for citizen journalism.

By feeding live video through Twitter to anyone online, these apps eliminate the need to upload to YouTube or transfer to broadcasters like CNN to get a wide audience.

-0-

10 inspirational quotes to help you feel better about not getting anything done (Washington Post) (Shared by Victor Rocha)

I love getting things done. That's why I spend several hours a day reading productivity articles. And when the day is done, I bookmark the ones I didn't get to for later. I learned that trick in a productivity article.

I also learned that you can't make yourself feel bad when you don't get anything done. Apparently that can be extremely counter-productive. With that in mind, here are 10 inspirational quotes to make you feel better about getting absolutely nothing done today.

1. "We are all failures - at least the best of us are."

- J.M. Barrie

This quote from J.M. Barrie says that the best people are failures, so why not be one, too? Some people say you can't fail if you don't try, but not trying is also failing, isn't it? Probably.

The Final Word

The Phone Call Is Dead. Can Texting Fill Its Void?

A.A. Gill prepares to say good-bye to "hello."

Hello." "Who is this?" (Wary.) "It's me." "Dad?" (Even more wary.) "Yes, it's your father." "What's the matter?" (Panicked.) "Nothing, well, except-" "Oh God, it's Mom." (More panicked.) "No, your mom's fine, apart from-" "It's you. Where are you calling from?" (Suspicious panic.) "I'm trying to talk from home." "Is the dog O.K.?" (Forgetful panic.) "The dog died last year." "Oh, yeah. So, what happened?" (Irritated concern.) "Nothing, I just wanted to talk to you, see how you were." "Why didn't you just text? God, you frightened me." (Accusatory self-pity. Adrenaline withdrawal.) "Look, I'll text you later. Bye."

I still have a telephone with a curly cord on my desk. If it rings, and it does ring like an old telephone, it's either my mother or the Vanity Fair office to take copy. I'm the last hack in the room who still dictates copy the way Cary Grant might have in His Girl Friday. Well, not actually like Cary Grant. But, as you read this, imagine me speaking it into the phone to a young woman with a nice New World voice whom I've never met and who's thinking, Why hasn't this Old World Downton-voiced Limey just pressed "Send" like everyone else who made it out of black and white?

Nobody talks on the telephone anymore. In a recent survey, respondents said that speaking into it was the sixth thing they did with their phone. This isn't going to be one of those eye-rolling, tooth-sucking, eyebrow-jerking general face-manipulating columns of nostalgia complaining about the new technology and slug-like geek kids with double opposable thumbs. Really, I like the future. I appreciate my automatic alarm-call necklace in case I get lost and confused in a mall. I appreciate the watch that tells the hospital my blood pressure's gone ballistic. I like my computer, just as long as it doesn't get ideas above its workstation. Actually, this is a bit of a nostalgia rant. We are coming to the end of the age of the telephone call and that may be a good or a bad thing, but it is a thing.

After inventing the telephone, Alexander Graham Bell came up with how to answer it. No one had ever answered a telephone before. They would brace themselves, pick it up, and look at it. He suggested that we confidently and clearly say "Ahoy!" because that's what you said aboard a ship. It didn't catch on. But it may be that the invention of a landlubber's Ahoy was more important than the instrument itself. It was the telephone conversation that really changed the way we lived. For more than a century, the telephone was the punctuation of life. The stage device that concerns love, or its passing, that was a Sunday filial duty, a confirmation of old friendships. A telephone call had gravitas, social importance; calls were memorable. You called because you had something to say and that became the stuff of drama. The phone was the great plot device of theater-it took the role that had been vacated by Shakespeare's missive-bearing messengers or the Greek chorus channeling fate and the gods-and even film and music: the fatal call; the kidnapper's call; the president's hotline; Glenn Miller's Pennsylvania 6-5000, the most famous phone number in all music; Dial "M" for murder; Blondie in the phone booth, the one across the hall.

In Richard Linklater's 1995 film, Before Sunrise, the two lovers, played by Ethan Hawke and Julie Delpy, sit in a booth in a café sharing an imaginary phone conversation of charmed humor with a great deal of 18-karat sentiment and love. The ruse of the pretend phone call gives them a freedom and an inside-your-ear intimacy that even face-to-face doesn't provide. They're in love with each other, but they're also in love with being in love on the phone. I just watched the film again and I realized that no one is ever again going to make that pinkie-to-the-mouth thumb-to-the-ear sign across the room at me for "I'll call you." What are we going to do? Jab our fingers at each other?

Mourning the loss of the phone call is like pining for buggy driving or women in hats or three-martini lunches. They've gone. And that's how the culture works. And what about answering machines? Remember voice mail? No one speaks, so no one bothers leaving messages anymore. Now we're just all missed calls, like dead leaves on the lawn.

That same survey revealed that texting is the No. 1 function people use on their phones. This is the art of letter writing come back, they say. The literature you are always complaining that no one writes anymore, but now you're complaining that we don't talk anymore. You just like the contrarian grouching. And they have a point. But it's the wrong point. Texting isn't writing. It's not like letter writing. Texting is short scriptwriting. It's a collaborative soap opera where nothing happens. I say, you say. Which is why no one has discovered an elegant way of terminating a text. I've been trying to stifle a slow, lackluster, line-by-line conversation I've been having with a woman I met at dinner a year ago, simply because neither of us knows how to say, "This has gone on long enough and it's not going any further." There are no full stops in texting. You have dashes and to-be-continued dots and endless flaccid commas, but here's the thing: it's not really writing; it's not really a conversation. There's a name for what it is. It's phatic communion, communication without content.

There is no way to have profound or emotionally nuanced conversation by text. Imagine Doris Day texting Rock Hudson in Pillow Talk, or Meg Ryan and Billy Crystal in When Harry Met Sally, or Liam Neeson texting the bad guy in Taken ("IDK who u r. IDK wut u want ... "). Imagine Cuba Gooding Jr. texting "Show me the $!!!"

This antiseptic chitchat is worsened by the embrace of the emoticon. These grins, winks, and dangling tongues are a lexicon of our cavemen ancestors and hieroglyphic stamps. Using emojis is the cave wall, the scratched sooty image before writing, an evolutionary step backward.

Click **here** to view this Vanity Fair article.

Today in History - March 31, 2015

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, March 31, the 90th day of 2015. There are 275 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 31, 2005, Terri Schiavo, 41, died at a hospice in Pinellas Park, Florida, 13 days after her feeding tube was removed in a wrenching right-to-die dispute.

On this date:

In 1814, Paris was occupied by a coalition of Russian, Prussian and Austrian forces; the surrender of the French capital forced the abdication of Emperor Napoleon.

In 1889, French engineer Gustave Eiffel unfurled the French tricolor from atop the Eiffel Tower, officially marking its completion.

In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Emergency Conservation Work Act, which created the Civilian Conservation Corps.

In 1943, "Oklahoma!," the first musical play by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II, opened on Broadway.

In 1949, Newfoundland (now called Newfoundland and Labrador) entered confederation as Canada's tenth province.

In 1957, the original version of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella," starring Julie Andrews, aired live in color on CBS.

In 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson stunned the country by announcing he would not seek re-election.

In 1975, "Gunsmoke" closed out 20 seasons on CBS with its final first-run episode, "The Sharecroppers."

In 1976, the New Jersey Supreme Court ruled that Karen Ann Quinlan, who was in a persistent vegetative state, could be disconnected from her respirator. (Quinlan, who remained unconscious, died in 1985.)

In 1986, 167 people died when a Mexicana Airlines Boeing 727 crashed in a remote mountainous region of Mexico.

In 1993, actor Brandon Lee, 28, was accidentally shot to death during the filming of a movie in Wilmington, North Carolina, when he was hit by a bullet fragment that had been lodged inside a prop gun. "Star Dust" lyricist Mitchell Parish, 92, died in New York.

In 1995, Mexican-American singer Selena Quintanilla-Perez, 23, was shot to death in Corpus Christi, Texas, by the founder of her fan club, Yolanda Saldivar, who was convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison.

Ten years ago: A damning report by a presidential commission concluded the United States knew "disturbingly little" about nuclear and biological threats from dangerous adversaries. The World Bank approved Paul Wolfowitz as its new president. South Carolina defeated Saint Joseph's, 60-57, in the NIT championship game. Chicken entrepreneur Frank Perdue died in his hometown of Salisbury, Maryland, at age 84.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama threw open a huge swath of East Coast waters and other protected areas in the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska to oil drilling. A Chechen militant claimed responsibility for deadly attacks on the Moscow subway two days earlier that claimed 40 lives; the claim came hours after two more suicide bombers struck in the southern Russian province of Dagestan, killing a dozen people.

One year ago: In a flood of last-minute sign-ups, hundreds of thousands of Americans rushed to apply for health insurance as deadline day for President Barack Obama's overhaul brought long waits and a new spate of website ills. North and South Korea fired hundreds of artillery shells into each other's waters. An umpire's call was overturned for the first time under Major League Baseball's expanded replay system, with Milwaukee Brewers star Ryan Braun ruled out instead of safe in a game against the Atlanta Braves. (The Brewers won, 2-0.) Charles H. Keating Jr., 90, the notorious financier who'd served prison time and was disgraced for his role in the costliest savings and loan failure in the U.S., died in Phoenix.

Today's Birthdays: Actor William Daniels is 88. Hockey Hall-of-Famer Gordie Howe is 87. Actor Richard Chamberlain is 81. Actress Shirley Jones is 81. Country singer-songwriter John D. Loudermilk is 81. Musician Herb Alpert is 80. Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., is 75. Former U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., is 75. Actor Christopher Walken is 72. Comedian Gabe Kaplan is 71. Former Vice President Al Gore is 67. Author David Eisenhower is 67. Actress Rhea Perlman is 67. Actor Ed Marinaro is 65. Rock musician Angus Young (AC/DC) is 60. Actor Marc McClure is 58. Actor William McNamara is 50. Alt-country musician Bob Crawford (The Avett (AY'-veht) Brothers) is 44. Actor Ewan (YOO'-en) McGregor is 44. Rapper Tony Yayo is 37. Actress Kate Micucci is 35. Jazz musician Christian Scott is 32. Pop musician Jack Antonoff (fun.) is 31. Actress Jessica Szohr is 30.

Thought for Today: "The reading of all good books is like a conversation with the finest minds of past centuries." - Rene Descartes (ren-AY' day-KART'), French philosopher and mathematician (born this date in 1596, died in 1650).

Forward this email

SafeUnsubscribe

This email was sent to pjshane@gmail.com by stevenspl@live.com |
Update Profile/Email Address | Rapid removal with SafeUnsubscribe™ | Privacy Policy.

Trusted Email from Constant Contact FREE
Try it FREE today.

Connecting newsletter | 14719 W 79th Ter | Lenexa | KS | 66215