
Connecting - May 5, 2015

1 message

Paul Stevens <stevenspl@live.com>

Tue, May 5, 2015 at 9:22 AM

Reply-To: stevenspl@live.com

To: pjshane@gmail.com

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



Connecting

May 5, 2015

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



Happy 151st, Nellie Bly!



Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning!

The Google Doodle above pays tribute to trailblazing journalist Nellie Bly on the occasion of her 151st birthday today, and enjoy the CNN story below that explains.

Got your own story to tell? **George Zucker** and **Joseph Benham** did, and theirs are below. An opinion to share? **Charlie Hanley** did, and it is below. So send yours along to share with your fellow Connecting colleagues.

Here are some of the more popular topics of late:

- **"My boo boos - A silly mistake that you make"**- here's a chance to 'fess up with some of your more memorable mistakes in your journalistic career.
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.
- **Volunteering** - many have told me they benefited from others' volunteer stories with ideas on such work they can do themselves.
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?
- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.
- **Recollections** of your most memorable saloon, bar, watering hole--and explain why - foreign and domestic.
- **Life after AP** for those of you who have moved on to another job or profession.
- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

Paul

Karen O sings journalist Nellie Bly's praises in Google Doodle song

By Emanuella Grinberg, CNN

(CNN) - Tuesday's Google Doodle pays tribute to trailblazing journalist Nellie Bly on her 151st birthday with a melodic ode.

"Oh, Nellie, take us all around the world and break those rules 'cause you're our girl," the song goes.



If you listen closely, you might recognize the voice of Karen O, lead singer of Yeah Yeah Yeahs.

The indie rocker, whose real name is Karen Lee Orzolek, penned "Oh, Nellie" to go with the doodle of Bly, who was born Elizabeth Jane Cochran on May 5, 1864.

It's the first original song to be written for the delightful illustrations that appear on Google's homepage.

The song formed the basis of Google artist Katy Wu's doodle, which is also the first to feature stop-motion animation. The musical animation pays homage to Bly's extraordinary life as a pioneering journalist and adventurer in an era when little more was expected of women than child rearing and housekeeping, Wu said.

As Wu sees it, Bly and Orzolek have plenty in common even if they were born more than a century apart. They're bold, edgy and daring, unafraid to challenge conventional ideas of what a woman should be or do.

"If you see her onstage, she's daring in her own way," Wu said of Orzolek. "She doesn't conform; she does what she wants."

Compare that with Bly, who got her first job with the Pittsburgh Dispatch by penning an impassioned condemnation of its most popular columnist. In the column titled "What Girls Are Good For," Erasmus Wilson wrote that women belonged in the home doing domestic tasks and called the working woman "a monstrosity."

The first line in the Karen O's song evokes the column: "Someone's got to stand up and tell them what a girl is good for."

Cochran's letter impressed the paper's editors, and they hired her. She started writing under the pen name "Nellie Bly."

She eventually talked her way into the offices of Joseph Pulitzer's New York World and took on an assignment that would change her life. She spent 10 days posing as a mental patient in New York's notorious Blackwell's Island and returned with stories of cruel beatings, ice cold baths and forced meals.

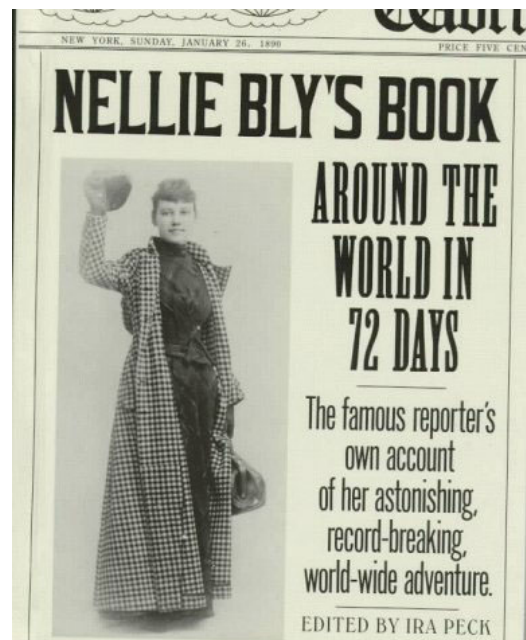
Her reporting led to reforms of the system and set the tone for her career. She exposed corruption and the injustices of poverty by telling stories of the disenfranchised, the poor and women. When she covered the Chicago Pullman Railroad strike in 1894, she was the only reporter to share the strikers' perspective.

As the song goes, "We've got to speak up for the ones who've been told to shut up."

She reached the height of her fame when she took a whirlwind trip around the world in 1889 to beat Phileas Fogg, the fictional hero of Jules Verne's "Around the World in Eighty Days." She returned to New York in 72 days, beating Fogg's record of 80 days.

All those moments figure in the doodle, which took Wu about two months to create in a sort of labor of love. She hopes Bly inspires others to question authority and challenge expectations.

"She gave women a space in newspapers when they were generally preserved for men's perspectives," Wu said. "She gave women a voice in current events and media and dared to do a lot of things that women weren't generally allowed to do."



Click here for the [link](#) to this delightful story, shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

Connecting mailbox

Judy Miller - a little humility would help

Charles Hanley ([Email](#)) - Judy Miller is getting play with her apologia book on the Iraq WMD fiasco, including in Connecting as recently as yesterday. Terry Anderson dealt incisively in Connecting with how Miller was viewed, pre-Iraq, by fellow journalists. As one who covered the same ground as Miller in 2002-2003, I feel I should offer two brief points, lest any Connecting colleagues, as discerning as they all assuredly are, fall for her line.

First, I see again in yesterday's CJR article she's quoted as writing, "I had not parroted the administration's line." This is a refrain in her interviews, that she was a hard-digging, ever-skeptical investigative reporter, not one to be fed material. But please read the first two grafs of her and Michael Gordon's pivotal front-page lead story from the Sunday 9/8/2002 NYT, attributed to unnamed officials (ALL-CAPS supplied by me):

"More than a decade after Saddam Hussein agreed to give up weapons of mass destruction, IRAQ HAS STEPPED UP ITS QUEST FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND HAS EMBARKED ON A WORLDWIDE HUNT FOR MATERIALS TO MAKE AN ATOMIC BOMB. ...

"IN THE LAST 14 MONTHS, IRAQ HAS SOUGHT TO BUY THOUSANDS OF SPECIALLY DESIGNED ALUMINUM TUBES, WHICH AMERICAN OFFICIALS BELIEVE WERE INTENDED AS COMPONENTS OF CENTRIFUGES TO ENRICH URANIUM."

Now read this graf from a White House "fact" sheet issued to everyone four days later:

"IRAQ HAS STEPPED UP ITS QUEST FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND HAS EMBARKED ON A WORLDWIDE HUNT FOR MATERIALS TO MAKE AN ATOMIC BOMB. IN THE LAST 14 MONTHS, IRAQ HAS SOUGHT TO BUY THOUSANDS OF SPECIALLY DESIGNED ALUMINUM TUBES WHICH OFFICIALS BELIEVE WERE INTENDED AS COMPONENTS OF CENTRIFUGES TO ENRICH URANIUM."

That hand-fed, verbatim Times report was pivotal because that morning Condi Rice and Dick Cheney took to Sunday talk shows to point to the Miller piece as evidence of a looming "mushroom cloud."

My second point is a deeper one. I've heard Miller protest in recent interviews that in the U.S. government and media, in effect, "no one lied, no one misled, we were all duped by incompetent intelligence work." But any journalist who read the September 2002 National Intelligence Estimate, key basis for war, with some knowledge of WMD, and of logic, would have suspected gross deceit: flimsy or no evidence leading, a page later, to conclusions Iraq was developing WMD. The deceit became even more apparent (but not to Miller?) in January 2003 when AP was able to report, exclusively, that U.N. inspectors had scoured every "facility of concern" identified by U.S. intelligence and all were clean. That essential fact was not taken aboard in Washington, in a new NIE, a congressional debate, or the media. Averting one's eyes from the truth can be as bad, and in this case as fatal, as a lie. There were plenty of outright lies, too, but we won't go into them here.

I feel Miller's been overly scapegoated, in view of the broad media falldown on WMD. But a little humility on her part would be in order.

-0-

Ohio AP photographers



Ohio AP staff photographer current, old, and new at **Mark Duncan's** retirement party Thursday, April 23, 2015, in Olmsted Falls , Ohio.

Connecting colleague **Brian Horton** shares this cutline:

From left, Cleveland staff photographer **Tony Dejak** (now flying solo after Mark Duncan's retirement), **Brian Horton** (was Cincinnati staff photographer and later Ohio NewsPhoto Editor in Columbus before transferring to New York), newly retired Cleveland staff photographer **Mark Duncan** (retiring after 34 years), recently retired Cincinnati staff photographer **Al Behrman**, national photographer **Amy Sancetta**, based in Cleveland, who recently left the AP on long-term disability, new Cincinnati staff photographer **John Minchillo** (was freelancer for AP in NYC, starts later this month) and **Kii Sato**, who was Photo Editor based in Columbus and is now Central Region photo editor based in Chicago.

Brian notes that this is "pretty much is the thread of Ohio AP photos from 1975 to the present. Only missing are long-time Columbus photo editor Gary Gardiner and the late Ed Reinke (who replaced me as the AP staffer in CS)." Photo by Charles Rex Arbogast

-0-

Moonlighting

George Zucker ([Email](#)) - "The FBI is on the phone and wants to talk to the editor," a staffer in the Indianapolis bureau told me one day in 1965. I picked up the phone, thinking "This can't be good." The FBI had some breaking news for me: "We just arrested one of your AP reporters for robbing a bank! He has an AP press card and claims to be an AP reporter."

Turned out the alleged bank robber was the news director of a small suburban radio station. The "press card" was a telephone credit card we gave our regular stringers. The man arrested for a series of bank robberies was one of our better stringers. He told the FBI he had ulcers, a sick wife and four children, and turned to crime to supplement his \$125 weekly salary at the radio station.

At my request, the FBI let me break the bad news to the station owner, an AP member. He had one complaint about my story.

"Did you have to say he was paid only \$125 a week?"

-0-

No Saigon memory to share - here's why

Joseph Benham ([Email](#)) - I wish that I had some Saigon memories to share. Here's why I don't:

Handling great copy from Mal Browne on the World Desk as the war heated up in the early 1960s, and having told the AP for years that I wanted a foreign job, I put in for the next opening in Saigon.

The reply was that Personnel didn't envision expanding the three-man bureau in Saigon, and that they had a Latin American assignment in mind for me, anyway.

I took some Berlitz Spanish courses and headed for Santiago, Chile, then a branch of the Lima, Peru, operation (although Keith Fuller told me before I left that it would be upgraded to full bureau status soon; which it was).

Before long, I began to hear from friends who were in Saigon or on their way there, as LBJ escalated the U.S. presence in Vietnam. Some of them felt that they'd been shanghaied to Vietnam, and planned to get back to the States ASAP..

So, I put in again for a Saigon assignment, only to be told that the AP had spent too much money on Spanish lessons and shipping me and my household goods to Chile to make the change.

When I shared this with one old hand in NY, he said, "You should have told Fuller that you didn't want to go to Vietnam. Then he'd have sent you to Saigon, just to show you who was boss."

Connecting '80s/'90s/100 Club'

Our clubs for those in their 80s and up are reserved for a precious fortunate few. So if you have earned your stripes by qualifying for one of those age plateaus and you are not listed below, send a note to Ye Olde Connecting Editor.

Any ideas on further proper recognition of our Connecting clubs is welcomed.

Members "admitted" to date:

Mercer Bailey ([Email](#)) - 88
Sibby Christensen ([Email](#)) - 80
Otto Doelling - 81 ([Email](#))
Phil Dopoulos ([Email](#)) - 83
Mike Feinsilber ([Email](#)) - 80
Lew Ferguson ([Email](#)) - 81
Albert Habhab ([Email](#)) - 89
George Hanna ([Email](#)) - 85
Bob Haring ([Email](#)) - 82
Gene Herrick ([Email](#)) - 88
Ferd Kaufman ([Email](#)) - 88
Joe McGowan ([Email](#)) - 83
Joe McKnight ([Email](#)) - 89
Walter Mears ([Email](#)) - 80
Reid Miller ([Email](#)) - 80
Charlie Monzella ([Email](#)) - 83
Arlon Southall ([Email](#)) - 83
Paul Webster ([Email](#)) - 83
George Zucker ([Email](#)) - 82

90s:

Jack Bausman ([Email](#)) - 91
George Bria ([Email](#)) - 99
Elaine Light ([Email](#)) - 92
Sam Montello ([Email](#)) - 92
Elon Torrence ([Email](#)) - 98

100s

Max Desfor - 101

Stories of interest

[The beta version of a new business model for news](#) (Medium.com) (Shared by Steve Buttry)

In the era of newspapers, people never really paid for news.

News have always spread freely among people, thanks to radio and television, word-of-mouth, small talks at bars, phone calls: "Did you hear what just happened?".

What people paid for, for years, were essentially two things: the work of research, curation and fact-checking conducted by journalists, and the physical support on which they were distributed. That is, paper.

The former is still valid, while less noticeable: if the role of filtering and monitoring of news by news organizations is getting more and more disrupted -in an era where information overload grows at a rate of millions of bits per hour- the role of reporters is still crucial to guarantee accuracy and truth, to debunk hoaxes and verify the reliability of the sources. In this sense, nothing has changed. What has changed is the way this process happens; the techniques have changed, the available tools have changed, the platforms have changed (Reported.ly, anyone?). But even in this radically transformed scenario, the role of journalists has stayed the same. They should provide reliable information: it is a service. And people, I think, are still willing to pay for it.

But what about paper, and newspapers? Newspapers were essentially made up of two elements: content, and the paper where this content is printed.

-0-

[Campaign Coverage via Snapchat Could Shake Up the 2016 Elections](#) (New York Times)

During the 2008 presidential race, two online upstarts, Politico and The Huffington Post, elbowed their way onto the rope line and, for better or for worse, helped change the way campaigns were covered. In 2012, it was BuzzFeed's turn. The site that specialized in cute kittens and funny lists turned up at the Iowa caucuses and sped up the news cycle even further, flooding Twitter feeds with tidbits from the trail.



Will 2016 be the Snapchat election?

The question arises after last week's reports that Snapchat, America's fastest-growing smartphone app, had hired Peter Hamby, a political reporter for CNN, to lead its nascent news division. Snapchat has said little about its plans, and both it and Mr. Hamby declined to comment for this article. But a couple of things are clear: A company known for enabling teenagers in various states of undress to send disappearing selfies to each other is getting into politics. And with well over 100 million users, a huge swath of whom are in the United States and between the ages of 18 and 31, its potential to shake up the next election is considerable.

-0-

When disgusting goes viral: Strong negative emotions can push social sharing through the roof (Nieman)

Most people will have heard a version of the story about the rat served instead of chicken. In one of the most popular accounts, a woman is eating Kentucky Fried Chicken as she watches TV at home when she notices it tastes odd. Turning up the lights, she sees it isn't chicken, but a rat with extra-crispy coating. A kid working at KFC had fried it as a prank. Or so the story goes. The Kentucky Fried Rat yarn has become one of the more widely known and persistent urban legends. By 1980, more than a hundred versions of the tale were in circulation in the U.S. alone.

The combination of eating something inappropriate and unsuitable contact with animals is irresistible. The yuckiness of a story contributes to its appeal. The persistence of the Kentucky Fried Rat story helps to explain why some material spreads rapidly online. At the core is the emotion of disgust. It may seem odd that such a negative emotion would be one that people want to share. But disgust is a surprisingly powerful motivation for sharing.

-0-

Indemnity clauses leave freelancers open to lawsuits (Poynter)

Forbes contributor Dolia Estevez is on her own.

Two years ago, Estevez identified a former spokesperson for Mexican president Felipe Calderon as one of the "10 most corrupt Mexicans of 2013" in a story she wrote on the Forbes website. The spokesperson sued Forbes and Estevez under New York law.

The claims were various: one for defamation, against Forbes and Estevez together; one for intentional infliction of emotional distress, against Estevez only; and two for interference with business relations, against Estevez only. The spokesperson demanded money damages.

Instead of defending its contributor, as it would have if she were a staff writer, Forbes told Estevez she was on her own, invoking a provision of its standard freelance contract stating that web writers are "responsible for any legal claims arising" from their work. Another provision says that web writers must "indemnify Forbes and hold (it) harmless against any liability, cost or expense...incurred as a result of" their work.

-0-

Paul Gigot of The Wall Street Journal named new Pulitzer Prize Board Chair (Pulitzer)

New York, N.Y. (May 4, 2015) - Paul Gigot, the editorial page editor and vice president of The Wall Street Journal, has been elected chair of the Pulitzer Prize Board, Columbia University announced today.

Gigot succeeds Danielle Allen, a scholar and author who is the incoming director of the Edmund J. Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard University. The Pulitzer Board chairmanship is a one-year appointment. Board members serve a maximum of nine years.

Gigot's career at The Wall Street Journal spans 35 years. He has held his current position since 2001. He is responsible for the newspaper's editorials, op-ed articles, arts criticism and book reviews. He also directs the editorial pages of the Journal's Asian and European editions and the OpinionJournal.com website. He is the host of the weekly half-hour news program, the Journal Editorial Report, on the Fox News Channel.



Gigot joined the Journal in 1980 as a reporter in Chicago. He became the Journal's Asia correspondent in 1982, based in Hong Kong. He won an Overseas Press Club award for his reporting on the Philippines. In 1984, he was named the first editorial page editor of The Asian Wall Street Journal, based in Hong Kong. In 1987, he was assigned to Washington, where he contributed editorials and a weekly column on politics, "Potomac Watch," which won the 2000 Pulitzer Prize for Commentary.

-0-

The Onion Is Not a Joke (Atlantic)



The Onion had a problem: It fell behind the times. The mock newspaper hadn't printed an issue on actual paper since 2013, and in the period since, it never redesigned its website. As the media world changed—as the New York Times and the Washington Post adapted the ways they published stories online—The Onion lost a key satirical weapon. Visually, it no longer looked like many of the publications it parodied. And so, like it had done many times before, The Onion tagged along.

A website redesign is a big deal for any publication. (Ahem.) It costs time and money, but more importantly, it's an opportunity for a publication to slow down and consider its purpose. Redesigns prompt conversations about editorial mission and business strategy, how the places on a page that hold "content" might be improved—or, at the very least, mixed around a little bit. The Onion unveiled its new website on Friday, and through it, we can see a glimpse of what The Onion might become: a real media empire.

-0-

Kansas GOP director: Media drawing attention to waitress' 'arrogant stupidity' (Topeka Capital-Journal)

A top Kansas Republican official is pushing back against a Topeka waitress who declined a tip from Gov. Sam Brownback and calling out the media for drawing attention to her "arrogant stupidity."

Clay Barker, Kansas GOP director, criticized the media and Chloe Hough, the waitress, in a Facebook comment under a story by posted by KSN-TV in Wichita.

"So you are publicizing her arrogant stupidity and utter ignorance. Typical liberal KS media," Barker wrote.

Hough, who worked at Boss Hawg's, posted a receipt with the space for a tip crossed out and the phrase "Tip the schools" written beside it on Facebook on Saturday night. She had posted shortly before she was waiting on Brownback during her last shift at the restaurant and asked her friends what they thought she should say.



The Final Word

**"One day, you will wake up
and there won't be
any more time to do the things
you've always wanted.
Do it now."**

Trench by Design

Today in History - May 5, 2015

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, May 5, the 125th day of 2015. There are 240 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On May 5, 1945, in the only fatal attack of its kind during World War II, a Japanese balloon bomb exploded on Gearhart Mountain in Oregon, killing Elsie Mitchell, the 26-year-old pregnant wife of a minister, and five children: Dick Patzke, 14; Jay Gifford, 13; Edward Engen, 13; Joan Patzke, 13; and Sherman Shoemaker, 11. Denmark and the Netherlands were liberated as a German surrender went into effect.

On this date:

In 1821, Napoleon Bonaparte, 51, died in exile on the island of St. Helena.

In 1862, Mexican troops defeated French occupying forces in the Battle of Puebla.

In 1865, what's believed to be America's first train robbery took place as a band of criminals derailed a St. Louis-bound train near North Bend, Ohio; they proceeded to rob the passengers and loot safes on board before getting away.

In 1915, musical film star Alice Faye was born Alice Leppert in New York.

In 1925, schoolteacher John T. Scopes was charged in Tennessee with violating a state law that prohibited teaching the theory of evolution. (Scopes was found guilty, but his conviction was later set aside.)

In 1934, the first Three Stooges short for Columbia Pictures, "Woman Haters," was released.

In 1955, West Germany became a fully sovereign state. The baseball musical "Damn Yankees" opened on Broadway.

In 1961, astronaut Alan B. Shepard Jr. became America's first space traveler as he made a 15-minute suborbital flight aboard Mercury capsule Freedom 7.

In 1973, Secretariat won the Kentucky Derby, the first of its Triple Crown victories.

In 1981, Irish Republican Army hunger-striker Bobby Sands died at the Maze Prison in Northern Ireland in his 66th day without food.

In 1985, President Ronald Reagan kept a controversial promise to West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl by leading a wreath-laying ceremony at the military cemetery in Bitburg.

In 1994, Singapore caned American teenager Michael Fay for vandalism, a day after the sentence was reduced from six lashes to four in response to an appeal by President Bill Clinton, who considered the punishment too harsh.

Ten years ago: Tony Blair won a historic third term as Britain's prime minister, but his Labor Party suffered a sharply reduced parliamentary majority. "Precious Doe," a slain girl in Kansas City, Missouri, was identified after four years as 3-year-old Erica Michelle Marie Green. (Harrell Johnson was later convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison without parole; Erica's mother, Michelle Green, pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and received a 25-year term.) Michael Jackson's lawyers opened their successful defense in his molestation and conspiracy trial.

Five years ago: Preliminary plans for a mosque and cultural center near ground zero in New York were unveiled, setting off a national debate over whether the project was disrespectful to 9/11 victims and whether opposition to it exposed anti-Muslim biases. Three people, trapped in an Athens bank torched by rioters, died during a nationwide strike against the cash-strapped Greek government's harsh austerity measures.

One year ago: A narrowly divided Supreme Court upheld Christian prayers at the start of local council meetings. Philadelphia guard Michael Carter-Williams won the NBA's Rookie of the Year Award.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Pat Carroll is 88. Former AFL-CIO president John J. Sweeney is 81. Saxophonist Ace Cannon is 81. Country singer-musician Roni Stoneman is 77. Actor Michael Murphy is 77. Actor Lance Henriksen is 75. Comedian-actor Michael Palin is 72. Actor John Rhys-Davies is 71. Actor Roger Rees is 71. Rock correspondent Kurt Loder is 70. Rock musician Bill Ward (Black Sabbath) is 67. Actress Melinda Culea is 60. Actress Lisa Eilbacher is 58. Actor Richard E. Grant is 58. Former CBS News correspondent John Miller is 57. Rock singer Ian McCulloch (Echo and the Bunnymen) is 56. NBC newsman Brian Williams is 56. Rock musician Shawn Drover (Megadeth) is 49. TV personality Kyan (KY'-ihn) Douglas is 45. Actress Tina Yothers is 42. Rhythm and blues singer Raheem DeVaughn is 40. Actor Vincent Kartheiser is 36. Singer Craig David is 34. Actress Danielle Fishel is 34. Actor Henry Cavill is 32. Actor Clark Duke is 30. Soul singer Adele is 27. Rock singer Skye Sweetnam is 27. Rhythm-and-blues singer Chris Brown is 26.

Thought for Today: "Some of us think holding on makes us strong; but sometimes it is letting go." - Hermann Hesse, German-born Swiss poet and author (1877-1962).

[Forward this email](#)



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



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