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## Connecting - May 16, 2015

1 message

**Paul Stevens** <stevenspl@live.com>

Sat, May 16, 2015 at 9:36 AM

Reply-To: stevenspl@live.com

To: pjshane@gmail.com

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# Connecting

May 16, 2015

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# YOU ARE STRANDED ON A DESERTED ISLAND, YOU CAN CHOOSE 4 OF THE FOLLOWING...



TARP



SUNSCREEN



TOILET PAPER



POT



IPOD



HIKING BOOTS



HAND SAW



FLARE GUN



INFLATABLE RAFT



FLASHLIGHT



INSECT REPELLENT



HAMMOCK



COMPASS



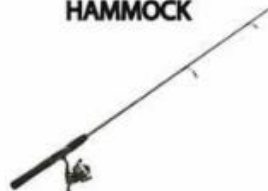
MIRROR



VITAMINS



WATER PURIFIER



FISHING ROD



ROPE



HUNTING RIFLE



5 OUNCES OF WEED



FIRST AID KIT



TENT



KNIFE



MATCHES



VOLLEYBALL

Colleagues,

Good Saturday morning.

I spotted the above on Facebook and somehow it reminded me of a conversation I had years ago with the legendary AP journalist **George Esper**, when he came to Kansas City to speak to a state meeting about his experiences in Vietnam and other AP assignments.

George told me that he always kept a get-away case in the trunk of his car packed with clothes and toiletries that would last him at least three days - just in case he got called out

to an assignment with no notice. From then on, I did the same - although the supplies never got much use and the locations the AP would send me were less than exotic.

How about you? Anyone do something similar that you'd like to share? Anything unusual that you packed?

Here are stories of interest as we begin the weekend.

Paul

## Donations site established for Jim Gaines' family

Connecting colleague **Jim Gerberich** shares that a site has been established for donations to the family of AP's **Jim Gaines**, who was among eight killed in the Amtrak crash in Philadelphia this week.



He wrote on Facebook:

Jim's family needs our help. If you can't give, please, please share. Or both! As many of you know, a good friend of mine Jim Gaines passed away on the Amtrak crash in Philadelphia this week. Our community is devastated by the loss of our dear friend. Jim's positive energy and thoughtfulness had an overwhelming effect on everyone around him. Jim had the biggest heart of anyone I know! It was an honor and a privilege to call Jim a friend and he will be sorely missed. This site below has been set up for donations for Jim's family during this difficult time.

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

## AP's Todd Pitman named Nieman Fellow

**Todd Pitman**, Bangkok bureau chief for The Associated Press, was among 24 journalists selected for the 2016 class of Nieman Fellows.

The Nieman Foundation for Journalism, training newsroom leaders and fostering journalistic innovation for 78 years, announced the class on Friday that includes reporters, editors, columnists, a political cartoonist, a network producer, bureau chiefs, photographers, digital strategists and news executives who work around the globe in all media. They will begin an academic year of study at Harvard University in the fall.

Pitman will study the causes and consequences of military intervention in emerging nations and examine ways to advance reporting in countries under army rule.

Nieman also will host several Knight Visiting Nieman Fellows for shorter periods throughout the year to work on research projects designed to advance journalism. Click [here](#) for the Nieman announcement.

In 2010, Pitman was named chief of bureau in Bangkok, responsible for directing coverage of Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos.

Pitman joined AP in 2001 in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. From 2002-2003, he was posted to Kabul, where he led the AP's Afghanistan coverage as chief correspondent.



In 2005, he was promoted to chief of bureau in Dakar, Senegal, where he has been responsible for overseeing news in more than 20 countries in west and central Africa.

Pitman began his reporting career in Burundi in the late 1990s and spent several years in central and eastern Africa as a print and radio correspondent for international media organizations.

The Athens, Georgia, native has reported on major stories and upheaval across the African continent. In Congo, he trekked two days into the forest earlier this year to report on the changing lives of some of the world's last hunter-gatherers, the Mbuti Pygmies.

Pitman, who graduated in 1993 from the University of Georgia, has also covered Lebanon and Iraq, where he embedded on the front lines during some of the bloodiest days of the war.

(Shared by Bob Daugherty)

## Connecting mailbox

### *Only fitting that Conrad Fink honored*

**Sibby Christensen** - Only fitting that the Georgia Newspaper Hall of Fame finally has caught up with Conrad Fink (see Thursday's Connecting).

Conrad was my uber-boss when I arrived to edit AP World in 1970. He was terrifying. The great beetling eyebrows and the stern gaze. The ramrod posture. The unnerving low growl on the other end of the line, announcing, "This is Conrad," with emphasis on the final consonant.

But of course he ended up as one of my strongest advocates. While a stickler for details - he read every word on my page proofs - he never interfered with my editorial judgments and often cleared the way for their fruition.

When I was thinking how to handle a story about Wes Gallagher's approaching retirement, I confided to Conrad my discomfort with the flowery encomiums of usual retirement profiles and wondered if we could get one of our best writers to do something "real." Conrad leaned hard on a reluctant Saul Pett, and Saul came up with a memorable piece for the magazine that was picked up and republished in several newspapers and in Editor & Publisher.



A hard taskmaster, Conrad also was generous with praise, which continued even after he left AP.



After he died, I snatched the skydiving image above from one of the obit notices. You don't have to look hard to recognize those beetling brows, flying free behind the goggles.

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***A chat with the legendary Eddie Adams***



From the 1996 GOP convention in San Diego, a team of AP photographers chatting with Pulitzer Prize-winning former AP photographer Eddie Adams around the light table. From left, Rob Kozloff, Eddie Adams, Bob Daugherty, Gary Gardiner and Richard Horwitz. The workroom was in the parking garage.

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### ***Yes, it as a K300***

**Gene Herrick** - In reply to Paul Webster in Thursday's Connecting: Yes sir, it was a K300. funny story: In 1968, Chicago darkroom chief, Norm Knabush, got one of our two-way radios, placed one receiver inside the K300. He then called one of our maintenance men and told him the K-300 wasn't working. When the man showed up, a voice inside (the radio receiver) shouted, "Fix me, you dumb \*&^%." The maintenance man drew back. Norm's voice again told the maintenance man again, "Come on, open the door." The maintenance man stared in amazement, picked up his tool bag, and left, never to return.

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### ***Today in History sparks two memories***

**Eileen Lockwood** - Interesting that this is the day when DuPont began selling nylon stockings. I'm doing research on Seaford, DE, for my current magazine article. One of the "components" of the city's coat of arms is a banner: "Nylon Capital of the World." That's because Seaford is where DuPont opened its first nylon factory, I think in 1939. Who'd-a thunk it?

Also in the list of dates:

Astronaut Gordon Cooper's takeoff. His name brought a smile because I remembered that one of my sons, then about 8 or 9, pronounced Gordon's last name "Tooper."

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Susana Hayward ([Email](#))

Joe May ([Email](#))

Joe McGowan ([Email](#))

## Stories of interest

**The media's reaction to Seymour Hersh's bin Laden scoop has been disgraceful** (Columbia Journalism Review)

SEYMOUR HERSH HAS DONE THE PUBLIC a great service by breathing life into questions surrounding the official narrative of the raid that killed Osama bin Laden. Yet instead of trying to build off the details of his story, or to disprove his assertions with additional reporting, journalists have largely attempted to tear down the messenger.

Barrels of ink have been spilled ripping apart Hersh's character, while barely any follow-up

reporting has been done to corroborate or refute his claims-even though there's no doubt that the Obama administration has repeatedly misinformed and misled the public about the incident. Even less attention has been paid to the little follow-up reporting that we did get, which revealed that the CIA likely lied about its role in finding bin Laden, which it used to justify torture to the public.

Hersh has attempted to force the media to ask questions about its role in covering a world-shaping event-but it's clear the media has trouble asking such questions if the answers are not the ones they want to hear.

Click [here](#) to read more.

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### **New York Times Ramps Up Search for David Carr's Replacement** (Variety)

The New York Times is zeroing in on a possible replacement for David Carr, the influential media-industry columnist who died suddenly in February, according to people familiar with the situation.

The final choice is a critical one for the Gray Lady, which has seen a number of experienced media reporters leave in recent months owing to buyouts offered in the wake of tough financial conditions afflicting the newspaper business. Carr rose to national prominence by writing a weekly column tracking the tectonic shifts taking place in the media landscape, doing so with a clever turn of phrase and a gimlet-eyed view.

Jonathan Mahler, a current media desk staffer at the Times; David Folkenflik, media correspondent for National Public Radio; and Sarah Ellison, a contributing editor at Vanity Fair, are on the paper's list of candidates, these people said.

Mahler referred an inquiry to Eileen Murphy, a spokeswoman for the New York Times Company. Folkenflik and Ellison declined to comment on whether they had been approached. Murphy did not respond to a query seeking comment.

Click [here](#) to read more.

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### **Reporter who broke Deflategate: 'My wife doesn't even know' who my source is** (Poynter)

Way before Jon Stewart and the New York Post were cracking jokes about Tom Brady's deflated balls, a regional columnist named Bob Kravitz was breaking news about the air pressure fiasco now known as Deflategate.

Kravitz, a columnist for Indianapolis TV station WTHR, has broken some big stories in his career. But none of them compare to the national scoop he unearthed in January when he



tweeted that the league was investigating the New England Patriots for deflating its footballs in a playoff game against the Indianapolis Colts. Here's a conversation with Kravitz about dealing with flak from Patriots fans - and the media - in the wake of the story. The questions and answers have been lightly edited for clarity.

Now that the Wells report has faulted the Patriots for Deflategate, do you feel vindicated?

Nah, not so much vindicated. It's better being right than it is being wrong. But basically all I reported was the existence of an investigation. I had my opinions based on [ESPN journalist] Chris Mortensen's subsequent tweet that several of the balls had been deflated rather dramatically. But I never stated that the balls were deflated because I have no way of knowing. I'm up there in the press box. What I said was that there is an investigation into the possible deflation of footballs.

It's better being right than being wrong. I haven't been dancing around the house naked.

Click [here](#) to read more.

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### **Meet the man who wants to help journalists with numbers** (Columbia Journalism Review)

Like many champions of a fledgling idea, Trevor Butterworth has a big vision. He talks about revolutions—a revolution in big data, a revolution in exposing bad science, a revolution in journalism.

"This is the counterpoint to all the dismal news about the news media," Butterworth says. "This is really exciting. This is journalism ascending to a higher level of understanding of the way the world works, and we want to help as many journalists as possible get there."

What Butterworth is talking about is the increasingly quantitative nature of the stories journalists find themselves telling, and the potential of numbers to hold powerful interests accountable. But the tool he's using to address it is, for now at least, actually quite small: six statisticians, all volunteers, who make up an advisory board designed to help journalists struggling to sort through reams of data or understand the statistical evidence presented by a research paper.

Click [here](#) to read more.

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### **Gun show ad appears above Florida Times-Union story about school bus shooting** (Romenesko)



This Friday Florida Times-Union front page, with a gun show sticker ad, is circulating on social media this morning. I asked the newspaper about it and got this statement from vice president of audience Kurt Caywood:

*All of us at The Florida Times-Union know that gun violence is one of the most emotionally charged and pressing issues facing our community. The tragedy that occurred on a Duval County school bus Thursday was as societally significant as it was frightening. As such, a team of reporters, editors and photographers approached this story with great sensitivity and professionalism, and we stand proudly by their report on page 1A of Friday's newspaper.*

*The appearance of a gun-related front-page sticky note on the same day was an incredibly regrettable coincidence. It was born of the purposeful separation between our news and advertising departments, an approach we take because we value nothing more than the objectivity of our journalism. That said, this clearly was an oversight. We're aggressively reviewing our procedures and will implement steps to prevent such a situation in the future.*

Click [here](#) to read more.

## The Final Word



## Today in History - May 16, 2015

By The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, May 16, the 136th day of 2015. There are 229 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On May 16, 1975, Japanese climber Junko Tabei became the first woman to reach the summit of Mount Everest.

### On this date:

In 1763, the English lexicographer, author and wit Samuel Johnson first met his future biographer, James Boswell.

In 1770, Marie Antoinette, age 14, married the future King Louis XVI of France, who was 15.

In 1868, the U.S. Senate failed by one vote to convict President Andrew Johnson as it took its first ballot on the eleven articles of impeachment against him.

In 1920, Joan of Arc was canonized by Pope Benedict XV.

In 1929, the first Academy Awards were presented. "Wings" won "best production," while Emil Jannings (YAHN'-ings) and Janet Gaynor were named best actor and best actress.

In 1939, the federal government began its first food stamp program in Rochester, New York.

In 1943, the nearly month-long Warsaw Ghetto Uprising came to an end as German forces crushed the Jewish resistance and blew up the Great Synagogue.

In 1948, CBS News correspondent George Polk, who'd been covering the Greek civil war between communist and nationalist forces, was found slain in Salonika Harbor.

In 1955, American author and critic James Agee died in New York at age 45.

In 1965, the musical "The Roar of the Greasepaint - the Smell of the Crowd" opened on Broadway.

In 1988, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *California v. Greenwood*, ruled that police can search discarded garbage without a search warrant. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop released a report declaring nicotine was addictive in ways similar to heroin and cocaine.

In 1990, death claimed entertainer Sammy Davis Jr. in Los Angeles at age 64 and "Muppets" creator Jim Henson in New York at age 53.

Ten years ago: Newsweek magazine retracted its Quran abuse story that sparked deadly protests in Afghanistan. Army Spc. Sabrina Harman was convicted at Fort Hood, Texas, of six of the seven charges she'd faced for her role in the mistreatment of Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib. (Harman was sentenced to six months in prison after testimony about her acts of kindness toward Iraqis before she became an Abu Ghraib guard; she served about three months.) The Supreme Court ruled, 5-4, that states can't bar out-of-state wine shipments. Mexican President Vicente Fox said he regretted any hurt feelings for saying Mexicans in the United States were doing the work that even blacks wouldn't.

Five years ago: BP crews finally succeeded in keeping some of the oil rushing from a blown well out of the Gulf of Mexico by hooking up a mile-long tube to funnel the crude into a tanker ship. Space shuttle Atlantis arrived at the International Space Station. Rafael Nadal won a record 18th Masters title by beating Roger Federer 6-4, 7-6 (5) in the Madrid final. Lebanese-born Miss Michigan Rima Fakih won the 2010 Miss USA title. Former Honduran strongman Oswaldo Lopez Arellano died at age 88. Jazz pianist and composer Hank Jones died in New York at 91.

One year ago: Federal safety regulators slapped General Motors with a record \$35 million

fine for taking more than a decade to disclose an ignition-switch defect in millions of cars linked at that point to at least 13 deaths (the figure later rose to 90). U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel pledged to Israeli leaders that the U.S. would "do what we must" to prevent the Jewish state's greatest fear of a nuclear-armed Iran from being realized. Cornell William Brooks was chosen to be the next national president and CEO of the NAACP.

Today's Birthdays: U.S. Rep John Conyers, D-Mich., is 86. Former U.S. Senator and Connecticut Governor Lowell Weicker is 84. Jazz musician Billy Cobham is 71. Actor Danny Trejo is 71. Actor Bill Smitrovich is 68. Actor Pierce Brosnan is 62. Actress Debra Winger is 60. Olympic gold medal gymnast Olga Korbut is 60. Actress Mare Winningham is 56. Rock musician Boyd Tinsley (The Dave Matthews Band) is 51. Rock musician Krist Novoselic (noh-voh-SEL'-ik) is 50. Singer Janet Jackson is 49. Country singer Scott Reeves (Blue County) is 49. Actor Brian (BREE'-un) F. O'Byrne is 48. Rhythm-and-blues singer Ralph Tresvant (New Edition) is 47. Actor David Boreanaz is 46. Political correspondent Tucker Carlson is 46. Actress Tracey Gold is 46. Tennis player Gabriela Sabatini is 45. Country singer Rick Trevino is 44. Musician Simon Katz is 44. Entrepreneur Bill Rancic is 44. Actress Tori Spelling is 42. Singer-rapper B. Slade (formerly known as Tonex) is 40. Actress Lynn Collins is 38. Actress Melanie Lynskey is 38. Actress Megan Fox is 29. Actor Drew Roy is 29. Actor Jacob Zachar is 29. Actor Marc John Jefferies is 25. Olympic bronze medal figure skater Ashley Wagner is 24. Actor Miles Heizer is 21.

***Thought for Today: "The enemy of the conventional wisdom is not ideas but the march of events." - John Kenneth Galbraith, American economist, diplomat and author (1908-2006).***

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