

Connecting - August 11, 2015

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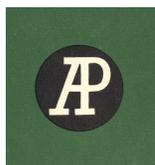
Paul Stevens <stevenspl@live.com>

Tue, Aug 11, 2015 at 9:07 AM

Reply-To: stevenspl@live.com

To: pjshane@gmail.com

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Connecting

August 11, 2015

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning!

Connecting colleague **Chuck McFadden** ([Email](#)) has an idea for a topic for contributions:

AP spouses, and the challenges they encounter and the support they provide - many doing so in the midst of their own careers - as a member of an AP team in which their partner is subject to the beckon of breaking news 24/7.

He writes, "I know my wife Barbara, for instance, was a de facto assignment editor when

an airplane crashed into an ice cream parlor in Sacramento in 1972, killing 22 people - 12 children and 10 adults - and injuring 28. The explosion charred paint on cars parked 60 feet away. I was the only one in the bureau that Sunday. I called Barb, told her to round up everyone and send them to the scene. We absolutely clobbered UPI on that one. Barb got a bouquet from Wes Gallagher for service, he said, 'above and beyond.' I'll wager there are many, many stories like that."



Got a story to share? Please send it along my way.

One-year anniversary of Ferguson erupts in violence

AP's Jim Salter interviewed on Fox News



Shared by Scott Charton

After a reporter was assaulted in Ferguson, 'here we are again with a lot of uncertainty'

By KRISTEN HARE
Poynter

When St. Louis Post-Dispatch photojournalist David Carson ran into reporter Paul Hampel Sunday night in Ferguson, Missouri, the two agreed that something felt off on West Florissant Avenue as the anniversary of Michael Brown's death drew to a close.

"We both agreed that it was the best time to put on our vests at that point," Carson said.

They put their bullet-proof vests on, but they weren't working together and went their separate ways. A few hours later, Carson heard that Hampel had been beaten up. Carson found Hampel and went with him through the police line. Then the shooting started. When it stopped, Carson helped Hampel call his wife.



Photo by David Carson/St. Louis Post-Dispatch

"Paul has zero memory of us interacting at all last night," Carson said.

On Monday, Kim Bell wrote about Hampel's assault for the Post-Dispatch.

Hampel said he was taking photos and videos of break-ins along West Florissant Avenue shortly before he was attacked. Suddenly, he said, he was rushed from behind.

"I got swarmed, beaten down really bad," he said.

The attackers punched him in the face, hit him in the head at least three times and kicked him in the back of the head when he was on the ground, Hampel said.

Hampel was still in the hospital on Monday, said Gilbert Bailon, the Post-Dispatch's editor. Carson spoke with Hampel and said he's going to be fine. On Monday afternoon, the Post-

Dispatch reported that a state of emergency had been called in Ferguson.

The feeling overall, Bailon said, is "here we are again with a lot of uncertainty."

There was violence in Ferguson last year, Bailon said, but "it wasn't as much rapid gunfire. Last night was really chaotic because no one really knew what was going on."

Safety advice from the newsroom includes trying to work in pairs, at least within eyesight of a partner and regularly staying in touch both with other people in the field and with people in the office.

Twitter helps editors have an idea of where journalists are and where the police and other media are. This year, Post-Dispatch journalists also have backpacks ready with water and battery chargers to keep their phones alive.

"I guess there is a feeling that we need to be prepared for whatever happens tonight," Bailon said.

Hampel had safety gear on, but "it didn't stop him from being blindsided from behind," Bailon said. "Even with that, it's still extremely dangerous."

And it feels pretty familiar to the newsroom.

Nearly one year ago, Carson was attacked while covering rioting in Ferguson.

On Monday, he said the biggest challenge was covering the story and staying safe in an environment that's unpredictable.

"The challenge in Ferguson has consistently been balancing your desire as a journalist to tell the story while also preserving your personal safety," Carson said. "It's a fine line at times. But it's unusual having to weigh those decisions regularly so close to home."

Washington Post reporter charged with trespassing, interfering with a police officer

A Washington Post reporter who was arrested at a restaurant last year while reporting on protests in Ferguson, Mo., has been charged in St. Louis County with trespassing and interfering with a police officer and ordered to appear in court.

Wesley Lowery, a reporter on The Post's national desk, was detained in a McDonald's while he was in Missouri covering demonstrations sparked by a white police officer fatally shooting an unarmed black 18-year-old.

A court summons dated Aug. 6 - just under a year after Lowery's arrest - was sent to Lowery, 25, ordering him to appear in a St. Louis County municipal court on Aug. 24. The summons notes that he could be arrested if he does not appear.

Click [here](#) to read more.

Connecting mailbox

Chuck Green - Here is the AP Log from April 19, 1982. This was very shortly after The AP stopped using wood-burning teletypes. Communications folks had said it couldn't be done but a few geeky staffers showed them how before anyone knew what a geek was. I built a nice wooden case for the TRS-80 and carried it around in the trunk of my car. The whole deal weighed about 40 pounds.

Click [here](#) for a link to the Log, displayed below.

Contact With Bureau While on Road, at Home

How can a chief of bureau watch the wire closely while driving 35,000 miles or more a year, spending three nights out of five in a motel room, and often going a week without a chance to sit at his desk and read the state report?

How can a chief of bureau avoid the embarrassment of walking into a member newsroom unprepared for the complaint or praise on something the staff has done?

This bothered Albany chief of bureau Chuck Green, especially in the age of terminals and computers.

"I couldn't resist buying a Radio Shack TRS-80 home computer with last year's income tax refund," he says. "You are, I believe, never too old to have a happy childhood."

A telephone modem and a rudimentary program enabled him to dial into the CompuServe data base, where the AP and 11 member papers are involved in an electronic newspaper experiment. That gave him a look at the national DataStream file. Green wondered why he couldn't use the electronic carbon port to talk to the Albany Mouse?

He needed some special commands, but it worked.

"John Reid, the Hartford chief of bureau, was way ahead of me," Green says. "He had written a program that turned his TRS-80 into a terminal with full writing and editing capabilities and easy commands."

Green adds, "I use a copy of his program now and often take my computer on the road with me."

He says that for the cost of a telephone call from his motel room to the Albany bureau, he can look at the report. He merely places the telephone into a cradle in his home computer, then reads stories on his CRT screen.

"This way," he says, "I can talk intelligently with staffers and members about our production and guide our efforts easily."

"Or," he says, "I can leave my bed on a cold morning and read the full report over a second cup of coffee before playing a quick game of Adventure."

Reid and Chris Cologne, the bureau secretary, are storing newspaper and radio station administrative files in his computer. "We're using it to keep track of the satellite receiver dish and electronic carbon status at each member," he says.

The computer also is used as a remote terminal. Reid says, "One recent morning when the bureau opened late because a staffer had car trouble, I filed the zone forecasts—a top-priority item at that hour—from home."

He wrote a program for tabulating and transmitting election returns. It was used during a special congressional election in January.



GREEN PLACES PHONE IN MODEM TO USE HIS HOME COMPUTER TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH ALBANY BUREAU COMPUTER.

"All we did was key in each town's tally," he says. "The computer then totaled the votes and figured the percentages. It then and sent either the district-wide returns or a town-by-town list, depending on what we requested, directly into the Hartford AP computer and on to member circuits—complete with tab and typesetting coding. The final figures cleared the wire an hour and 11 minutes after the polls closed."

Reid has had a home computer for about six months. He says, "I bought it after Lee Perryman, the broadcast executive for Florida, told me how he used his computer to keep track of stations and produce promo letters."

Perryman, whose computer has a printer attachment, says he writes letters and makes printouts of contract rate comparisons. "It's a very good territorial management tool," he says.

He also keeps up-to-date lists of rates and member files. His program has a futures file that reminds him a month prior to things he needs to know.

With a direct connect modem, Perryman can call the electronic carbon telephone number at the Miami bureau and leave messages or stories.

Perryman had his home computer when he joined AP last June. He says he has provided programs for three other broadcast executives: Gene Manning in Harrisburg, serving Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and the District of Columbia; Winston Burrell in Atlanta, serving Georgia and Alabama, and John Schweitzer in Minneapolis, serving Minnesota and North Dakota.



Gene Herrick: *This is the only picture I have that I took of the British troops who were killed and injured in that American fighter plane hit in 1950. It shows British troops carrying a litter into the river.*

Gene Herrick - The human mind is a strange mechanism, which flitters around from memory to memory, some good and some bad.

I have a haunting memory that just pops up, sometimes triggered by a current event, a movie, or just out of the blue.

The flashback is about an event in the Korean War, some 65 years ago, and involving the British troops battling the North Koreans northeast of Taegu, right near the Naktong River, in September 1950.

As an Associated Press photographer correspondent covering the war, I decided it was a rather "Quiet" day on the various warfronts surrounding Taegu, South Korea, and that I would work my way up to an area where the British troops were and shoot some "Joe Blow" pictures of them either in action, or just being on the front. The pictures would be welcome in England, and showing their soldiers at the front.

I crossed the river, and proceeded a short way to a British command outpost, where I met a soldier, who filled me in on the day's action at that point. He was a veteran soldier and was very nice to me. Shortly, the radio blared that the British troops had just been hit by "Friendly fire," from American jet fighters.

Apparently, right after they called for the air-strike, the British troops crossed over the huge colored banners on the ground, which are placed there so the fighter planes can ascertain their position. As it turned out, the British had asked for an air-strike against the North Korean troops they were fighting, and then advanced without moving the banners. The fast-flying jet fighters probably thought the British troops were enemy because they were in the attack zone.

Pandemonium broke out. Many of the headquarters personnel, including my new friend, waded chest-deep across a stream, to come face-to-face with some British soldiers carrying and helping their wounded. One of the soldiers, who was wounded, and extremely mad that the Americans had bombed and strafed them, swore at me because he assumed I was American, and then lunged at me with a hand-held bayonet. The sparkling blade was within a foot of being lodged in my head or chest. My friend, whose name I never got, reached up and grabbed the man's hand, preventing my almost certain death.

I removed myself from that hotspot, and waded back across the stream, and back to the little outpost.

My friend and I were talking, when the man who tried to stab me came up and apologized for trying to kill me. I understood the horrific powers of battle, and the terrible emotional battled within one's mind at a time like that.

There were many wounded. The troops were short-handed, so I helped carry one corner of a litter carrying a very wounded and bleeding British soldier. There were double floating metal ramps across the Naktong River, so that troops and vehicles could cross. In carrying the litter, there were two people on one ramp, and two on the other, with the wounded soldier straddling in the middle. While making the crossing, the North Koreans, who had a gun emplacement above us on a hill, opened fire with 66's. We could hear the shells whistling around us. When they hit next to us, the water sprayed us as we carried the litter. Sometimes, we'd drop to the metal deck when the shells hit, then rise and run some more.

We then hit an open sandy beach leading up to a wooded area some 100 yards away, near a road. Enemy shells kept falling like rain. Duck to the ground, pick up the litter and run, repeated over and over. After one shell came in, and we were running again with the

litter, I looked up to see a British soldier lying motionless on the sand. It was my friend, who had saved my life. He lay there quietly. The top of his head was gone.

We hurried past his body - there was nothing we could do. Pain shot through my brain. Why? Why? There lay my new friend, a man who did not know me just an hour ago, but whose bravery stepped into danger and kept that bayonet from taking my life. I felt helpless, and useless. My God, I didn't know his name. He lived a continent away. Was he married? Did he have children? Why, God, was my life spared?

Because of the circumstances at the time, I never got the information I needed. The war moved so fast; life moved so fast; and time moved so fast.

I have forever since wished that I could have contacted his family to express my great gratitude, and to share his story of bravery.

That experience and that desire are an almost everyday haunt in my memory.

They say that war is hell. You know what? It really is.

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More AP alums at the Nationals



Three AP alums gathered Sunday for a Nationals game with the Rockies. They are, from left, Bob and Mary Dubill and Pat Milton.

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Packing Heat

George Zucker - On July 12, 1958, in my pre-AP days, the new Mrs. Zucker and I made our hurried goodbyes to our New Jersey friends and family and sped off in a rented Pontiac for the Midwest. I was fired two weeks earlier as a radio reporter/deejay in Savannah, Ga., but Judi was undaunted, despite losing a freebie honeymoon in Miami Beach and my new job trading life in the historic splendor of Savannah for the more prosaic precincts of Indianapolis.

Judi's parents waved through gritted teeth as their 20-year-old daughter drove off in a car with Utah plates, with a man from Indiana carrying a wallet stuffed with a shiny police badge and press cards bearing the name of "Bill Crandall," plus a Georgia driver's license issued to George Zucker. (Judi's only ID was a New Jersey drivers license in her maiden name of Anderson.) We also learned too late that I had left the papers for the rented car at my aunt's house, complicating our confusing IDs .

A concern more serious was my loaded .38-cal., snub-nosed revolver in the glove compartment, backed by a license to carry from the Marion County (Ind.) sheriff's department where I was a "special deputy." The badge made it legal to use my newsmobile's two-way radio hookup with the sheriff's dispatcher. Under FCC rules, the frequency could not be used for commercial purposes. I was pretty sure it did not authorize me to carry a gun in New Jersey or the other states we would cross, so I watched my speed.

And so began my new job at WIBC radio, the 50,000-watt blowtorch widely known as the "Voice of the Indianapolis 500." My WIBC partner on the county police beat was Bob Hoover, 71, a grizzled old-school newspaperman who wore his holstered gun proudly and insisted that I get one. Decades earlier, Hoover had been blindfolded and led into a cornfield to interview John Dillinger, the famous bank robber. The story was front page all over the Midwest. Hoover was a fan of Walter Winchell, the legendary columnist and radio reporter who also was known to pack heat.

With our two-way police radio, we sometimes were the first to arrive at a crime scene and the sheriff's dispatcher would ask our help. I remember going on a dangerous manhunt with a microphone in one hand and a gun in the other, hairs bristling on the back of my neck. I know what it's like to sneak up on a house where a dangerous fugitive may have a gun pointed at your head.

I hated carrying a gun and Judi didn't like having it in our apartment. We lived in a high-crime area of Indianapolis and were awakened often at night by would-be burglars jiggling our locked doors. I felt that one day that gun would be trouble. The sheriff's department gave me police powers to comply with the FCC regulations, but did not require me to carry a gun. When Judi became pregnant with Susy, our first child, we decided the gun would have to go.

I sold it to another reporter who promised to register it. It was the only time in our 57 years of marriage that we ever owned a firearm.

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Coverage of Fiorina silly

Robert Weller - The coverage of Carly Fiorina was silly. Anyone who follows the tech industry knows she badly hurt HP before being driven out. She is no success story. She couldn't get elected to the Senate in California. Reminds me of a Pat Brown commercial against Nixon after Dick ran for governor following the 1960 presidential election. "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water." My problem with the Fiorina coverage is that it should say "some" commentators. Most people aren't even thinking of her.

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Hersey's classic on Hiroshima

Politico - provided the link to John Hersey's famous, 30,000-word New Yorker story (and later book) on six survivors of the Hiroshima atomic bomb. The magazine devoted the entire August 31, 1946, issue to Hersey's report.

Click [here](#) to read.



For August 4:

Mindful that his state's governor has deep ties to the Clintons and the Democratic National Committee, Richmond Statehouse reporter Alan Suderman keeps a close eye on contributions to Terry McAuliffe's political action committee, the main source of cash for Virginia Democrats.

Last week, when quarterly finance reports were made public, he combed through looking for unusual donations and expenditures. One donation stood out: \$25,000 from a Houston-based company called Glinn USA Investments. And it raised some immediate questions, like: Why does a company that doesn't even have a website give the governor's PAC \$25,000?

Further digging raised even more questions. There was a very sparse document trail but what was available showed the company had several ties to Angola's state-owned oil firm, Sonangol.

Suderman, knowing federal law prohibits foreign businesses and individuals from donating to state campaign accounts, went to McAuliffe's aides armed with questions about the company that appeared to exist on paper only and had ties to a foreign government's oil company.

Initially, the aides defended the donation and insisted there was nothing wrong. Suderman continued working the story. Just as he was about write, McAuliffe reversed course and told him the PAC was returning the money because Glinn USA wouldn't sign a release confirming that the donation was legal.

With an assist from Houston-based reporter Juan Lozano, AP was able to get an eyes-on look at where Glinn USA's offices were supposed to be and get an in-person confirmation that the company had no physical address.

Virginia politics are closely watched, especially with McAuliffe now the state's chief executive and given the state's proximity to the nation's capital. When Suderman's story hit the wire, The Washington Post moved it until one of its reporters was able to match. The Richmond Times-Dispatch ran the story above the fold on Page 1, a rare occurrence for an AP statehouse story, and also editorialized on it, crediting Suderman with the scoop.

The story also got solid play online among other state outlets and Suderman was credited on a popular radio program recapping news of the week by the dean of the Virginia press corps for the scoop.

Statehouse coverage is at the core of AP's mission. And the kind of watchdog reporting that Suderman did here, holding his state's most powerful person accountable for the source of his campaign contributions, is deserving of this week's \$300 Best of the States prize.

Shared by Valerie Komor.

Welcome to Connecting



Bill Wilson ([Email](#))

Stories of interest

The passing of Bill Carey: Faced with the hardest choice, a great reporter stays in form (Syracuse.com)

(Ron Lombard, news director of Time Warner Cable News, said Wednesday morning's 9:30 a.m. funeral for Bill Carey at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception will be carried live on Channel 10 by his station, and will also be live streamed.)



Bill Carey, in California earlier this month with two of his grandchildren: Keelin, 2, and Kallie, at that time two weeks old.

Bill Carey followed a code. For more than 40 years, he was a television and radio journalist in Central New York, a guy who quietly became a regional legend - but who never believed he ought to be part of the stories that he told.

That didn't change in 2013, when Carey learned he had lung cancer. He dedicated himself to finding a way to move past the disease. He gave up smoking, a habit he started as a teenager, when some hardboiled guys in Auburn told him cigarettes could help create a great radio voice.

When his treatments caused most of his thick hair to fall away, Carey - a senior television reporter for Time Warner Cable News - chose not to appear that way, on-camera. You'd hear his voice, but you couldn't see him. Carey feared viewers would be preoccupied with the illness of the reporter out in front, rather than focusing on what he saw as most important:

Click [here](#) to read more. Shared by Marc Humbert, who noted: "Bill Carey was a legendary newsman who made his name in Syracuse, N.Y. A great political reporter. He was a mentor to many young journalists and a very good man. This is a wonderful tribute written by another much-admired Syracuse journalist, Sean Kirst."

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The Pentagon's Dangerous Views on the Wartime Press (New York Times)

The Defense Department earlier this summer released a comprehensive manual outlining its interpretation of the law of war. The 1,176-page document, the first of its kind, includes guidelines on the treatment of journalists covering armed conflicts that would

make their work more dangerous, cumbersome and subject to censorship. Those should be repealed immediately.

Journalists, the manual says, are generally regarded as civilians, but may in some instances be deemed "unprivileged belligerents," a legal term that applies to fighters that are afforded fewer protections than the declared combatants in a war. In some instances, the document says, "the relaying of information (such as providing information of immediate use in combat operations) could constitute taking a direct part in hostilities."



Click [here](#) to read more. Shared by Sibby Christensen.

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How to Approach the Generation Gap in the Workplace (New York Times)



A generation gap is widening in the workplace. As baby boomers (ages 51 to 69 or so) express reluctance about retiring, so-called millennials (roughly ages 18 to 34) have become the single largest demographic in the American labor force. Because of this, more older workers have found themselves being hired and managed by people much younger than they are.

The Workologist hears fairly frequently from people who have experienced fallout from this reversal of expectations - including cases that might run afoul of age discrimination laws. But often the problems are more subtle and ambiguous, which makes them harder to address. So on the second anniversary of this column, I asked readers to help me get a handle on the issue. I was inspired by a query from a 52-year-old job candidate who wondered, after a baffling interview that did not lead to a job, about the thinking of hiring managers who were significantly younger than her. I sought to offer practical suggestions for applicants looking for work in a job market that often prizes youthful qualities over experience, or to help workers reporting to a manager a couple of decades their junior. So I reversed this column's traditional formula and asked readers for their thoughts and tips.

You had plenty to say, offering hundreds of thoughtful, useful and insightful replies. The overwhelming majority of respondents who revealed their ages were 50 or older. While their advice encompassed a range of attitudes and experiences, several common themes and suggestions emerged. My thanks to everyone who responded.

Click [here](#) to read more.

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Victory for First Amendment in Mass. Political Speech Case; NEFAC Filed Amicus Defending Press Rights

The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled last week that a statute criminalizing false campaign speech is unconstitutional, saying that the law "chills the very exchange of ideas that gives meaning to our electoral system."

The New England First Amendment Coalition filed an amicus brief in the case last April expressing "grave concerns" over the statute's effect on free speech and press freedoms.

Attorneys Andy Sellars and Chris Bavitz at the Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University drafted the brief on behalf of NEFAC. Boston Globe Media Partners, the Massachusetts Newspaper Publishers Association, Hearst Television, the New England Newspaper & Press Association and the New England Society of Newspaper Editors all joined the brief in support.

The statute in question - M.G.L. c. 56 § 42 - criminalized the publication of "any false statement in relation to any candidate for nomination or election to public office, which is designed or tends to aid or to injure or defeat such candidate."

The statute "potentially ascribes liability to publishers of third-party information, even when the public well understands that they are not the originators of that speech," NEFAC argued in its amicus brief. "Newspapers routinely carry letters to the editor, advertisements, and other forms of third-party media. Under one reading of Section 42, a newspaper could be responsible for any and all falsehoods in those pieces."

The SJC held that "§ 42, on its face, is inconsistent with the fundamental right of free speech guaranteed by art. 16 of the Massachusetts Declaration of Rights. Accordingly, the statute is invalid . . ."

The case, *Commonwealth v. Lucas*, concerned a political action committee that urged citizens last year to vote against state Rep. Brian Mannal during his reelection campaign. Jobs First Independent Expenditure Political Action Committee distributed fliers that accused Mannal of "putting criminals and his own interest above our families" and wanting to "use our tax dollars to pay defense lawyers like himself to help convicted sex offenders."

Supported by editorials and letters to the editor in local newspapers, Mannal decried the fliers as misleading and inaccurate. He then proceeded to win reelection. Despite the political victory, however, the representative attempted to hold the PAC's treasurer, Melissa Lucas, criminally responsible for the speech. To do so, he relied on the rarely-used Section 42, a law that predates all modern First Amendment jurisprudence.

Massachusetts' defense of the statute hinged on the claim that political speech may result in defamation or fraud, which are both outside the protection of the First Amendment. The court, however, held that the statute was not narrowly tailored as is required to pass constitutional muster.

"The Commonwealth's interest in preventing and punishing election fraud remains relevant to the inquiry into the statute's constitutionality. . . . But any legitimate interest in preventing electoral fraud must be done by narrowly drawn laws designed to serve those interests without unnecessarily interfering with First Amendment freedoms," according to the SJC opinion. "Thus, the fact that § 42 may reach fraudulent speech is not dispositive, because it also reaches speech that is not fraudulent."

The court also held that the state did not prove that statute was necessary to accomplish its claimed state interest of free and fair elections.

"This is a victory not only for free speech, but for the freedom of the press," said Justin Silverman, NEFAC's executive director. "Had this criminal statute been upheld, there could have been disastrous consequences for publishers and reporters throughout the Commonwealth. This decision reaffirms the idea that the best response to false speech is the truth, and that the government should not be the arbiter between the two. Many thanks to the Cyberlaw Clinic and our fellow amici for helping to defend this fundamental First Amendment principle."

Shared by Adolphe Bernotas

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Digital takeover: 71% mags lose subscribers, online news overtakes TV

(Washington Examiner)

Online websites have now cemented their position as the nation's No. 1 source of news, overtaking television and practically burying print publications six feet under as younger Americans embrace digital platforms.

The latest evidence comes from the circulation report on the nation's top 125 magazines that found a six-month drop of 11.4 percent this year following a 14.2 percent drop in the last six months of 2014.

The biannual Alliance for Audited Media found that "total paid circulation" for 86 of 125 top magazines, or 71 percent, saw circulation drop, according to a new report in Media Life Magazine.

Click [here](#) to read more. Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

The Final Word



Today in History - August 11, 2015

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, August 11, the 223rd day of 2015. There are 142 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 11, 1965, rioting and looting that claimed 34 lives broke out in the predominantly black Watts section of Los Angeles.

On this date:

In 1786, Capt. Francis Light arrived in Penang to claim the Malaysian island for Britain.

In 1860, the nation's first successful silver mill began operation near Virginia City, Nevada.

In 1909, the steamship SS Arapahoe became the first ship in North America to issue an S.O.S. distress signal, off North Carolina's Cape Hatteras.

In 1934, the first federal prisoners arrived at Alcatraz Island (a former military prison) in San Francisco Bay.

In 1942, during World War II, Pierre Laval, prime minister of Vichy France, publicly declared that "the hour of liberation for France is the hour when Germany wins the war."

In 1954, a formal peace took hold in Indochina, ending more than seven years of fighting between the French and Communist Viet Minh.

In 1956, abstract painter Jackson Pollock, 44, died in an automobile accident on Long Island, New York.

In 1964, **the Beatles** movie "A Hard Day's Night" had its U.S. premiere in New York.

In 1975, the United States vetoed the proposed admission of North and South Vietnam to the **United Nations**, following the Security Council's refusal to consider South Korea's application.

In 1984, during a voice test for a paid political radio address, President Ronald Reagan joked that he had "signed legislation that will outlaw Russia forever. We begin bombing in five minutes." At the Los Angeles Olympics, American runner Mary Decker fell after colliding with South African-born British competitor Zola Budd in the 3,000-meter final; Budd finished seventh.

In 1993, President Bill Clinton named Army Gen. John Shalikashvili (shah-lee-kash-VEE'-lee) to be the new chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, succeeding the retiring Gen. Colin Powell.

In 1997, President Bill Clinton made the first use of the historic line-item veto, rejecting three items in spending and tax bills. (However, the U.S. Supreme Court later struck down the veto as unconstitutional.)

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush expressed sympathy for war protesters like Cindy Sheehan, the mother camped outside his Texas ranch demanding more answers for her soldier-son Casey's death in Iraq, but said he believed it would be a mistake to bring U.S. troops home immediately. A one-day strike by British Airways baggage handlers and other ground staff forced the cancellation of hundreds of flights to and from Heathrow

Airport.

Five years ago: In Baton Rouge, Louisiana, police and FBI agents captured Michael Francis Mara, suspected of being the so-called "Granddad Bandit" who'd held up two dozen banks in 13 states for about two years. (Mara later pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 25 years in prison.) Dan Rostenkowski, a former Illinois congressman who'd wielded enormous power on Capitol Hill for more than 30 years, died at his Wisconsin summer home at age 82.

One year ago: **Robin Williams**, 63, a brilliant shape-shifter who could channel his frenetic energy into delightful comic characters like "Mrs. Doubtfire" or harness it into richly nuanced work like his Oscar-winning turn in "Good Will Hunting," died in Tiburon, California, a suicide.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Arlene Dahl is 90. Songwriter-producer Kenny Gamble is 72. Rock musician Jim Kale (Guess Who) is 72. Magazine columnist Marilyn Vos Savant is 69. Country singer John Conlee is 69. Singer Eric Carmen is 66. Computer scientist and Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak is 65. Wrestler-actor Hulk Hogan is 62. Singer Joe Jackson is 61. Playwright David Henry Hwang is 58. Actor Miguel A. Nunez Jr. is 51. Actress Viola Davis is 50. Actor Duane Martin is 50. Actor-host Joe Rogan is 48. Rhythm-and-blues musician Chris Dave is 47. Actress Anna Gunn is 47. Actress Ashley Jensen is 47. Actress Sophie Okonedo is 47. Rock guitarist Charlie Sexton is 47. Hip-hop artist Ali Shaheed Muhammad is 45. Actor Nigel Harman is 42. Actor Will Friedle is 39. Actor Rob Kerkovich (TV: "NCIS: New Orleans") is 36. Actress Merritt Wever is 35. Actor Chris Hemsworth is 32. Rock musician Heath Fogg (Alabama Shakes) is 31. Singer J-Boog is 30. Rapper Asher Roth is 30. Actress Alyson Stoner is 22.

Thought for Today: "You will have bad times, but they will always wake you up to the stuff you weren't paying attention to." - Robin Williams (1951-2014).

Got a story to share?



Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

Here are some suggestions:

- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.
- **"My boo boos - A silly mistake that you make"** - a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing 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.
- **Life after AP** for those of you who have moved on to another job or profession.
- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

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