

## Connecting - August 26, 2015

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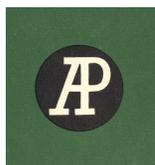
**Paul Stevens** <stevenspl@live.com>

Wed, Aug 26, 2015 at 9:39 AM

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# Connecting

August 26, 2015

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning!

"Making the case for Black with a capital B. Again." This was the headline for a Poynter.org article this week by **Meredith Clark**, an assistant professor at the Mayborn School of Journalism at the University of North Texas and a monthly columnist for Poynter.

In her story, she began:

*When I opened the door to my office after a summer doing research and writing far away*

from campus, it was there: *The 2015 Associated Press Stylebook*.

*It was like Christmas morning for a copy editor, though the book had probably been there since its release in May. As always, I flipped through it to read new entries and see if there'd been any update to a particular entry, this year on page 30.*

*There hadn't. The b in Black is still lowercase, according to the AP.*

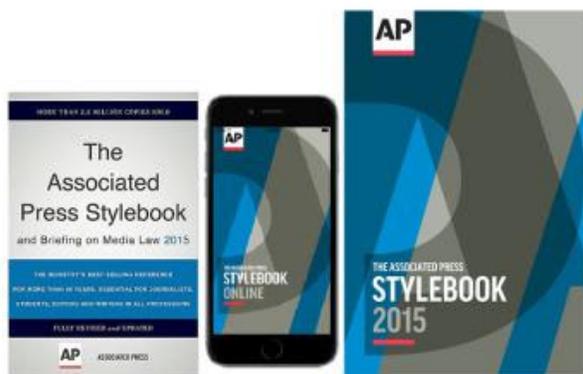
*Perhaps it's a quibble to some, but the decision to keep the descriptor in its lowercase form is a niggling reminder of the pervasive issues of Black underrepresentation in the newsroom and its effects: tone-deaf and/or anemic coverage of Black individuals and communities.*

*As media coverage of networked activism in the #BlackLivesMatter movement revives discussions of how media talk about race, the question persists: Why won't mainstream news outlets capitalize the b in Black?*

*It's a question of social and political will.*

Click [here](#) to read more.

Connecting shared her article with our colleague **David Minthorn**, the AP Stylebook co-editor, who said it was the first word to the AP Stylebook team calling attention to the essay. He said:



"Over the years, I've answered quite a few questions at Ask the Editor -- the Stylebook's online help site -- about AP's guidance on racial terms, including black spelled lowercase, just as white is lowercase as a racial description. The Stylebook underlines that a person's race has to be pertinent to the specific news situation to warrant any mention. The most recent Q&A on this topic was in June from a Stylebook user in Louisville:

Q: When I'm writing about "white employees" or "black employees" are black and white lower case? (The story is about black workers getting paid less than whites).

A: Yes, lowercase both racial descriptions.

The Stylebook's recommended term is African-American:

African-American Acceptable for an American black person of African descent.



Also acceptable is black. The terms are not necessarily interchangeable. People from Caribbean nations, for example, generally refer to themselves as Caribbean-Americans. Follow a person's preference

While the word is capitalized in formal names -- e.g., Black History Month, Congressional Black Caucus -- it is lowercase in many other references.

Also, the Stylebook's "Muslims" entry cautions: The term Black Muslim has been used in the past to describe members of predominantly African-American Islamic sects that originated in the United States. However, the term is considered derogatory.

Sentiment for capitalizing black as a generic racial term would seem to be far from unanimous.

For example, the stylebook of National Association of Black Journalists spells black lowercase:

African, African American, black: Hyphenate when using African American as an adjective. Not all black people are African Americans (if they were born outside of the United States). Let a subject's preference determine which term to use. In a story in which race is relevant and there is no stated preference for an individual or individuals, use black because it is an accurate description of race. Be as specific as possible in honoring preferences, as in Haitian American, Jamaican American or (for a non-U.S. citizen living in the United States) Jamaican living in America. Do not use race in a police description unless the report is highly detailed and gives more than just the person's skin color. In news copy, aim to use black as an adjective, not a noun. Also, when describing a group, use black people instead of just blacks. In headlines, blacks, however, is acceptable.

***Got a thought to share on this subject? Send it along to Connecting.***

## Exploring 'The suite life' of virtual reality



***In this Sept. 3, 2014 file photo, British television presenter Rachel Riley shows a virtual reality headset called Samsung Gear VR of the consumer electronic fair IFA in Berlin. (AP Photo/Markus***

The Associated Press is inviting its news consumers to enter the world of virtual reality, starting with an immersive experience exploring an array of luxury accommodations available to international travelers.

"The suite life" is available in the Oculus store for the Samsung Gear VR headset.

Viewers can visit the suite class on Singapore Airlines, the Grand Duplex suite aboard Cunard's Queen Mary 2 ocean liner and the Ty Warner Penthouse suite in the Four Seasons hotel in New York. Each space was extensively

*Schreiber)*

photographed using a 3-D camera from the Matterport technology company and

reconstructed for use in virtual reality.

"Each new publishing technology reinvents how we experience news, and VR promises the next revolution by immersing us deep in a story," said Paul Cheung, AP's director of interactive news. "With each technology, we are careful to ensure that we always meet AP's highest editorial standards."

Using a virtual reality headset, viewers are able to "walk" through and experience each of the exclusive locations. They can explore the suites and study their furnishings from a variety of locations and perspectives. The headset tracks their head movements; by looking up and down, users can inspect the virtual world from floor to ceiling.

An interactive, 3-D version of "The suite life" is also available for mobile and desktop browsers via AP's "The suite life" page. The 3-D camera, provided by Matterport, combines infrared and high dynamic range imaging to create photorealistic virtual spaces.

"For this project, we took an entrepreneurial approach, leveraging AP's access to exclusive locations," said Francesco Marconi, AP's manager of strategy.

"The suite life" is but the latest technological innovation in recent months at AP, which now uses automation to help produce many more earnings reports each quarter and is expanding its data journalism toolkit. AP will be working with students and researchers from the Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute at the University of Missouri to explore storytelling in the VR medium over the next three months.

"We believe VR is the next frontier for news media, and we are excited that AP is participating in that trend by using Matterport's 3-D showcase to bring immersive VR content to 'The suite life,'" Matterport CEO Bill Brown said.

How to experience AP's "The suite life":

View the interactive 3-D experience online.

For a virtual reality version of "The Suite Life," visit the Oculus store using the Samsung Gear VR and download "The Suite Life."

Click [here](#) for a link to this story.

In this Sept. 3, 2014 file photo, British television presenter Rachel Riley shows a virtual reality headset called Samsung Gear VR of the consumer electronic fair IFA in Berlin. (AP Photo/Markus Schreiber)

## **Life after AP - Melissa Einberg:**

# 'It's the friendships that matter most'

**Melissa Einberg** ([Email](#)) - Here is an addition for life after the AP. I started at the AP in 1988 in the photo library, worked on the NY photo desk (primarily covering sports) from 1990 until 2004. I took a short detour into AP Digital in 1997-1998. From 2004 to 2007 I worked in Boston as the Regional Photo Editor for the East. My story:

I fed the chickens today. To most of my friends and many AP colleagues, that is fairly ironic. Growing up in Brooklyn, I'd flail my arms about when an insect was near and pretty much viewed the world as Saul Steinberg did in 1976. Now I feed livestock in Western Massachusetts and can correctly identify a variety of Hosta plants. Life throws you curveballs, for sure.

After working for The AP for 19 years, my job as a regional photo editor was eliminated in 2007 when they realized that covering the Kardashians and the Mannings was pretty darn profitable. With a year's salary and more giddiness than you might expect, I returned to the financial fold where I began my career. However, instead of institutional clients on Wall Street, this time I was going to make it personal.

I went back to school, obtained a master's in finance and the CFP® designation. I've been a financial planner now for nearly eight years; helping people sort out their financial lives, prioritize their goals, invest prudently, and ensure they are adequately prepared for their own curveballs. At first, financial planning and journalism may not seem to have much in common but the skill sets are similar; explain complicated concepts in a way that is clear, tell the story in as few frames as possible, and always be available.



I am living in Northampton, MA, and working at Gage-Wiley & Co., an independent wealth management firm that's been in business since 1933. At left are my colleagues, still men with credentials and free tote bags.

With ties to both the New York and Boston area, I get out quite a bit visiting family, friends, and clients. It seems to

satisfy my wanderlust.

During big stories or an election year, I still get a pang or two, but in hindsight The AP gave me not one, but two great opportunities for which I am grateful. Nearly every week I speak to or text former AP colleagues just to catch up. Jobs come and go, it's the friendships that have endured that I appreciate most.

## Connecting mailbox

### *Fascination in how writers became writers*

**Marty McCarty** has a subject she'd like to pursue with her Connecting colleagues for her blog. She explains:

Writers were not born writers. They became writers. How and why fascinates me. Here's something I'd love to see in Connecting:

Who were these journalists when they were kids? How did they spend a summer afternoon? What was their childhood home like? Did they share a room with someone or clutter it with books and model airplanes or stuffed animals? When did they discover they were a writer? Who praised or criticized early drafts? How did their parents make a living?

If anyone is willing to be featured on a blog about their nascent experiences, please send them my way - [ahplause@gmail.com](mailto:ahplause@gmail.com)

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### *Connecting sky shot - Boothbay Harbor, Maine*



Daniel Haney took this shot earlier in the week in Boothbay Harbor, Maine, near his home where he has spent summers since retiring from the AP 11 years ago.

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## ***On the rules of writing***

**Robert Weller** - Re the Final Word in Tuesday's Connecting: I usually ignored rules, especially when they were based on Latin, unless I happen to chanting the words in the Mass.

Winston Churchill said of the rule not to end sentences with prepositions: that is something with which I will not put up with.

Nevertheless, rules could be helpful. A UPI writer once told me that if I was trying to find a way to end a story it was probably already done.

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## ***Praise for Richard Pyle's Cuba memories***

**Bob Daugherty** - Reading Richard Pyle's wonderful offering in Tuesday's Connecting, I was reminded of the times that Charlie Tasnadi made the trek to Cuba. It was hell getting those analog images transmitted back to the U.S. Once, in conversation, Charlie admitted that he plied the hotel phone operators with fragrances and other feminine gifts to get calls through to the U.S. without interruption. His courtly manners probably helped. Kudos

and many thanks to Richard Pyle for this and many other wonderful contributions.

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**Marty Thompson** - The years do not steal from Richard Pyle's story-telling gift. His recounting for Tuesday's Connecting of his 1977 trip to Havana with Sen. Frank Church and the time spent with and around Fidel Castrol are a rich example of that enduring talent. It was a pleasure to read. Twice. It was that good.

## AP review finds 1,500 federal employees (using office computers) among Ashley Madison users

### Public Radio International

Last week, a group of hackers released the stolen data of Ashley Madison users, a website used by people who are looking to start an extramarital affair. The user data included names, street addresses, email addresses and data on credit card payments going all the way back to 2007.



After wading through the data, the Associated Press found that at least 1,500 federal employees have been using the site.

"We were a little reluctant to take at face value the list of [Ashley Madison] subscribers," says Ted Bridis, the news editor for the Washington investigative team at the Associated Press. "Anyone could create an account using any name or email address, so we dove deeper into the data. We noticed that Ashley Madison had recorded the incoming computer internet address - the IP address - for every subscriber who made a credit card transaction."

The AP compared the IP addresses of Ashley Madison users with known federal IP addresses. From there, the reporters were able to identify specific federal workers who were paying for the service and connecting to the site - sometimes from their office computers. Birdis says that the credit card transactions sometimes revealed multiple months of payments to the site.

"The AP review was specifically intended to discover and identify people who may be susceptible to extortion or blackmail based on [their] sensitive national security jobs," he says. "We found a number of them: Two assistant US attorneys; an IT administrator inside the White House; a Justice Department division chief; a government hacker at the Homeland Security Department; a scientist at National Nuclear Laboratories; and a number of foreign diplomats at the State Department."

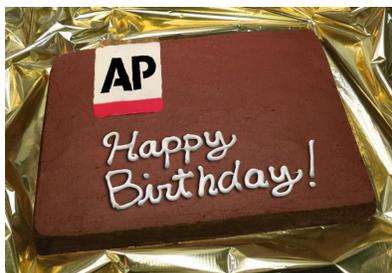
The users attempted to conceal their identities by using email addresses that were not associated with their government positions - some also went by usernames like "SexlessMarriage," "SoonToBeSingle" and "LatinLovers," among others.

"Some Justice Department employees we noticed appeared to be using prepaid credit cards to try and preserve their anonymity," Birdis says. "But since they were connecting to the service from inside the DOJ offices, we were able to walk that connection right back. I don't think the government realized that it could do the type of analysis that we have done, but we've already heard that some agencies are beginning a review process to consider whether clearances ought to be revoked or modified."

This story first aired as an interview on PRI's The Takeaway, a public radio program that invites you to be part of the American conversation.

Click [here](#) for a link to this story.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Dan Day ([Email](#))

Jane See White ([Email](#))

## Welcome to Connecting



Paula Froke ([Email](#))

## Stories of interest

### **Roger Ailes: Donald Trump should apologize to Megyn Kelly** (Politico)

Donald Trump may have finally crossed the line with Fox News.

On Tuesday, Fox News chief Roger Ailes said in a statement Donald Trump should apologize for a tirade of tweets aimed at Fox News host Megyn Kelly.



"Donald Trump's surprise and unprovoked attack on Megyn Kelly during her show last night is as unacceptable as it is disturbing. Megyn Kelly represents the very best of American journalism and all of us at Fox News Channel reject the crude and irresponsible attempts to suggest otherwise," Ailes' statement reads. "I could not be more proud of Megyn for her professionalism and class in the face of all of Mr. Trump's verbal assaults. Her questioning of Mr. Trump at the debate was tough but fair, and I fully support her as she continues to ask the probing and challenging questions that all presidential candidates may find difficult to answer," Ailes said. "Donald Trump rarely apologizes, although in this case, he should. We have never been deterred by politicians or anyone else attacking us for doing our job, much less allowed ourselves to be bullied by anyone and we're certainly not going to start now. All of our journalists will continue to report in the fair and balanced way that has made FOX News Channel the number one news network in the industry."

Click [here](#) to read more.

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**Respect & Dignity: NAHJ Condemns Donald Trump for Allowing Journalist Jorge Ramos to be Tossed Out of News Conference**

The National Association of Hispanic Journalists condemns presidential candidate Donald Trump for allowing Univision journalist Jorge Ramos to be ejected from a news conference for simply asking questions.



"Mr. Ramos was doing what journalists have done for decades - asking questions!," said Mekahlo Medina, NAHJ President. "Ramos was simply trying to hold a candidate for president accountable for statements he made about a very important topic to the American people. Mr. Trump has avoided Mr. Ramos' attempts for an interview to reasonably discuss Mr. Trump's opinions and ideas about immigration and American children born to undocumented immigrants."

Mr. Trump's recent attacks on FOX News anchor Megyn Kelly is also unacceptable and disturbing. NAHJ stands with journalists everywhere who are simply working to pursue the truth and hold people in power accountable for their statements and their actions.

NAHJ invites Mr. Trump to answer questions by Mr. Ramos & other Latino journalists at #EIJ15 national conference in Orlando on September 18th.

Click [here](#) for a link to this story.

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## **The end of *American Journalism Review* and what it means for media criticism** (Columbia Journalism Review)

**AJR IS NO MORE.** You might not have noticed, because by the time it winked out this summer there was not a lot of it left. The *American Journalism Review* had gone from publishing 11 semi-solid issues a year with a decent website, to three issues per year, to zero print issues per year with Web content about "media innovation" that was designed and generated by students.

Now it's gone, and you may well be among those whose reaction is: So what? There is an argument to be made that in an age when so much attention is paid to media issues by the media itself, a freestanding organ of media criticism is a bit of a luxury. And two of them?

Consider: We have the spawn of Jon Stewart critiquing the news on a near nightly basis all around the dial, often beautifully. We have thoughtful lone guns like Jack Shafer at *Politico* or Jay Rosen and his PressThink, along with other voices all around the internet. We have media covering media all the time. Think of the pixels generated around Brian Williams' stretched tales, around Megyn Kelly vs. Donald Trump, around the latest pointed discussion of tone and content at BuzzFeed. Who needs more?

Click [here](#) to read more.

# Today in History - August 26, 2015

**By The Associated Press**

Today is Wednesday, August 26, the 238th day of 2015. There are 127 days left in the year.

## **Today's Highlight in History:**

On August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, guaranteeing American women's right to vote, was certified in effect by Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby.

## **On this date:**

In 1789, France's National Assembly adopted its Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen.

In 1883, the island volcano Krakatoa began cataclysmic eruptions, leading to a massive explosion the following day.

In 1939, the first televised major league baseball games were shown on experimental station W2XBS: a double-header between the **Cincinnati Reds** and the Brooklyn Dodgers at Ebbets Field. (The Reds won the first game, 5-2, the Dodgers the second, 6-1.)

In 1944, French Gen. Charles de Gaulle braved the threat of German snipers as he led a victory march in Paris, which had just been liberated by the Allies from Nazi occupation.

In 1958, Alaskans went to the polls to overwhelmingly vote in favor of statehood.

In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson was nominated for a term of office in his own right at the Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

In 1968, the Democratic National Convention opened in Chicago.

In 1972, the summer Olympics games opened in Munich, West Germany.

In 1978, Cardinal Albino Luciani (al-BEE'-noh loo-CHYAH'-nee) of Venice was elected pope following the death of Paul VI. The new pontiff took the name Pope John Paul I. (However, he died just over a month later.)

In 1985, 13-year-old AIDS patient Ryan White began "attending" classes at Western Middle School in Kokomo, Indiana, via a telephone hook-up at his home after school officials had barred Ryan from participating in person.

In 1996, Democrats opened their 42nd national convention in Chicago.

In 2009, authorities in California solved the 18-year disappearance of Jaycee Lee Dugard after she appeared at a parole office with her children and the Antioch couple who'd kidnapped her when she was 11.

Ten years ago: Utility crews in South Florida scrambled to restore power to more than 1 million customers blacked out by Hurricane Katrina, which continued to churn in the Gulf of Mexico. A fire raced through a crowded, rundown Paris apartment building housing African immigrants, killing 17 people, mainly children.

Five years ago: The government of Chile released a video of the 33 miners trapped deep in a copper mine; the men appeared slim but healthy as they sang the national anthem and yelled, "Long live Chile, and long live the miners!"

One year ago: In a speech to the American Legion's national convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, President Barack Obama defended his administration's response to Veterans Affairs lapses that had delayed health care for thousands of former service members, but conceded more needed to be done to regain their trust. Burger King announced it would buy Canadian restaurant chain Tim Hortons in an \$11 billion deal to create the world's third largest fast-food chain.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Francine York is 79. Former Homeland Security Secretary **Tom Ridge** is 70. Rhythm-and-blues singer Valerie Simpson is 70. Pop singer Bob Cowsill is 66. Broadcast journalist Bill Whitaker is 64. Actor Brett Cullen is 59. NBA coach Stan Van Gundy is 56. Jazz musician Branford Marsalis is 55. Country musician Jimmy Olander (Diamond Rio) is 54. Actor Chris Burke is 50. Actress-singer Shirley Manson (Garbage) is 49. Rock musician Dan Vickrey (Counting Crowes) is 49. TV writer-actress Riley Weston is 49. Rock musician Adrian Young (No Doubt) is 46. Actress Melissa McCarthy is 45. Latin pop singer Thalía is 44. Rock singer-musician Tyler Connolly (Theory of a Deadman) is 40. Actor Mike Colter is 39. Actor **Macaulay Culkin** is 35. Actor Chris Pine is 35. Country singer Brian Kelley (Florida Georgia Line) is 30. Rhythm-and-blues singer Cassie Ventura is 29. Actor Dylan O'Brien is 24. Actress Keke Palmer is 22.

***Thought for Today: "While we read history we make history." - George William Curtis, American author-editor (1824-1892).***

## 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:

- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.



- **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.

**Paul Stevens**

**Editor**

**Connecting newsletter**

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