

Connecting - October 21, 2015

1 message

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning!

Here are stories of interest. I look forward to your contributions.

Paul

At APME/ASNE:

Newspapers seek Silicon Valley magic

By REM RIEDER
USA Today

PALO ALTO, Calif. - Talk about venturing into the belly of the beast.

The two leading organizations of the embattled newspaper business held their annual convention over the weekend in Silicon Valley, the stronghold of the digital revolution that has totally blown up its business model.



Maybe the idea was that some of the valley's entrepreneurial brilliance and innovative spirit would rub off, that suddenly the elusive formula for surviving and thriving in a radically new era would be revealed.

There's no doubt that the keynote speaker who kicked off the meeting of the American Society of News Editors and the Associated Press Media Editors on Friday night was an inspired choice. David Kelley, founder and director of Stanford University's School of Design and one of the nation's most lauded designers, did his best to help the editors unleash their inner Steve Jobs.

The biggest blocks to creativity, Kelley told them, are fear of failure and fear of being judged. "Editors are just as creative as anyone else," he said. "It's just a question of unblocking that creativity."

[Click here](#) to read more.

APME, ASNE elect new officers

The Associated Press Media Editors organization elected eight members to its board of directors and installed new leadership during its joint conference with the American Society of News Editors at Stanford University.

Elected to at-large positions Sunday were Michael Anastasi, senior vice president and executive editor of the Los Angeles News Group; Traci Bauer, vice president/news and executive editor of Lohud.com and The Journal News in New York's Lower Hudson Valley; Jane Davenport, managing editor of the Toronto Star; and Michael Days, editor of the Philadelphia Daily News. Also elected to at-large positions were Kurt Franck, executive editor and vice president of The Blade in Toledo, Ohio, and Carlos Sanchez, executive editor of The Monitor in McAllen, Texas.

Ronnie Agnew, executive director of Mississippi Public Broadcasting, was elected as a

broadcast representative, and Tom Arviso Jr., chief executive officer of the Navajo Times Publishing Co. and publisher of the Navajo Times, was selected for small-market media. Anne Brennan, product manager/editor of the Cape Cod (Massachusetts) Times website CapeCodOnline.com, was elected to represent online media.

The new APME officers are president Laura Sellers-Earl (right), managing editor, The Daily Astorian in Astoria, Oregon; vice president Bill Church, executive editor, Herald-Tribune Media Group in Sarasota, Florida; secretary Jim Simon, managing editor, The Seattle Times; and journalism studies chair Angie Muhs, executive editor of The State Journal-Register in Springfield, Illinois. The treasurer is Dennis Anderson, editor of the Peoria (Illinois) Journal Star.



The APME also selected its Innovator of the Year, giving the award to the Boston Herald for Boston Herald Radio. Other finalists were the Los Angeles News Group and The Oklahoman. The Herald received \$1,000 from GateHouse Media.



At the conference, the ASNE board of directors chose six new members and a new executive committee. Pam Fine of the University of Kansas (left) became the 2015 president. The executive committee is vice president Mizell Stewart III of Journal Media Group in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; secretary Alfredo Carbajal of Al Día (The Dallas Morning News) in Dallas; and treasurer Nancy Barnes of the Houston Chronicle.

The board added five members for three-year terms: Manny Garcia, editor, Naples Daily News in Naples, Florida; Brian McGrory, editor, The Boston Globe; Karen Peterson, editor, The News Tribune in Tacoma, Washington; Robyn Tomlin, managing editor, The Dallas Morning News; and Anne Vasquez, managing editor, Sun Sentinel in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Rene Sanchez, editor of the Minneapolis Star Tribune, was chosen for a one-year term.

The conference, which ended on Sunday, was the second joint conference held by APME and ASNE, the nation's leading organizations for news leaders. The organizations will hold their 2016 conference in Philadelphia.

APME members are newsroom leaders at newspapers and broadcast outlets, journalism educators and student leaders in the United States and Canada. APME works with The Associated Press to encourage journalism excellence and support training and development of journalists in multimedia newsrooms.

Connecting mailbox

Linda Deutsch - 'I have so many people to thank'

Sandy Johnson - Linda Deutsch is on another valedictory tour, to receive the lifetime achievement award from the International Women's Media Foundation. While she's on the East Coast, I coaxed her into the National Press Foundation studios to talk about her career and what's next. "Now I'm concentrating on the book. I feel that I have to provide documentation of this incredible career I've had. I have so many people to thank. Nobody does this work in this business alone. As they say, it takes a village. I have so many colleagues who have helped me."

Typical Linda!

Here is the video: <http://nationalpress.org/blogs/newsbag/npf-master-class-linda-deutsch-ace-legal-reporter/>

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LBJ and his gallbladder scar

Joseph Benham - A footnote to the item in Today in History on LBJ's displaying his gallbladder scar.

Not long after that event, I was at an embassy dinner in Santiago, Chile, for a Washington visitor.

When a guest asked, "Weren't people in Washington appalled when the President of the United States showed off the scar from his gallbladder operation?," the man from DC shrugged and said, "Well, Ma'am, some people were, but most of us were just thankful that he hadn't been operated on for a hernia."

After the laughter subsided, another guest said, "or a hysterectomy."

LBJ was well-known for insisting that secretaries come into his bathroom to take dictation while he was on the toilet, and he became the talk of the diplomatic community after receiving an ambassador while on the john.



Tom Wicker of the NY Times recalled a visit to the LBJ ranch during which Johnson stopped his Lincoln convertible and asked for a few pages from the reporter's notebook while squatting behind some brush.

At least he got behind a bush.

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The 'Manila Wafer'

Jeff Robbins - You asked for funny captions.

My favorite photo caption came during a Pope's visit to The Philippines. This would have been around the early 80's when I was Southeast Asia photo editor for AP. I was up in the top of the cathedral trying for a different angle on the Pope and was shooting down from on top of him. He lifted the wafer in prayer and I made a photo of him holding it up towards me with his face looking up as well.

Then Tokyo photo editor Neal Ulevich wrote the cutline for the photo titled "Manila Wafer." Don't remember if New York edited it or not but it brought a laugh from all covering the Holy Father.

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The meaning of elderly

George Bria - Re elderly: Despite the hullabaloo about the joys of living longer, I, aged 99, believe the biblical saying still tells the story:

Psalm 90:10 King James Version (KJV) 10 - The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

And...

Al Cross - The "elderly" question arose this month when my students and I covered a meeting where five women, all over 80, played a role and had adopted the name Midway Elders. In editing the students' stories I referred to the women as elderly but now wish I had quoted the spokeswoman as saying they are all over 80. That's elderly to me, but specificity would have been the better choice.

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

An update on members of our most exclusive clubs. If you qualify and are not listed, or if you are listed and have had another birthday to 'fess up to, send a note to Ye Olde Connecting Editor.

Mercer Bailey- 88
Joe Benham - 81
Ben Brown - 82
Sibby Christensen- 80
Otto Doelling - 81
Phil Dopoulos - 83
Mike Feinsilber - 81
Lew Ferguson - 81
George Hanna - 85
Bob Haring - 82
Gene Herrick - 89
Ferd Kaufman - 88
Jim Lagier - 80
Joe McGowan - 84
Walter Mears- 80
Reid Miller - 80
Charlie Monzella- 84
Richard Pyle - 81
Gordon Sakamoto - 80
Arlon Southall - 83
Paul Webster- 83
George Zucker - 82

90s:

Jack Bausman - 91
Carl Bell - 91
George Bria- 99
Albert Habhab - 90
Elaine Light- 92
Joe McKnight - 90
Sam Montello - 92
Elon Torrence- 98
Harold Waters - 92

100s

Max Desfor - 101

Stories of interest

2016's new media frontier: Enter the robots (Politico)

The `fund_name` posted gains | reported a loss of `cm_ret` % in August, compared to last month's return of `pm_ret` %. The fund's year-to-date return increased | decreased to `ytd_ret` %.

The top sectors were `top_sector_1` (`top_sector_1_ret` %), `top_sector_2` (`top_sector_2_ret` %) and `top_sector_3` (`top_sector_3_ret` %), which contributed to this overall return. Financials reported a positive | negative return

By JOE POMPEO
Politico

By early next year, some of the articles you read about the latest 2016 presidential poll may be written by robots.

Automated Insights, the company behind a platform that the Associated Press uses to generate stories about financial earnings results, has its eye on 2016.

As part of the roll-out of a new version of Automated Insights' robot-like Wordsmith software, C.E.O. Robbie Allen says he expects news outlets to use Wordsmith for election-related coverage in the coming months.

"With an election year coming up, there's been quite a bit of interest," Allen told POLITICO.

He gave an example of generating candidate bios based on data sets that would include information like what schools a candidate attended, a candidate's voting records and how much money he or she has raised. Automated Insights gave POLITICO a Wordsmith demonstration that generated news articles about hypothetical state senate races.

[Click here](#) to read more. Shared by Arlon Southall.

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Who'd Be a Journalist? (New York Times)

EUGENE, Ore. - JONATHAN BACH's dream job is in a profession that's widely reviled,

poorly compensated and often dangerous. A lot of people tell him it's doomed to become obsolete. None of that seems to matter to him.

He still wants to be a journalist.

This summer Mr. Bach got his first taste of daily newspaper reporting, at the East Oregonian, a publication based in Pendleton. He covered rodeos, Native American tribes and the opening of a new bar called the Strip'n Chute. He wrote a lot, wrote fast - and earned minimum wage.

"It's the best job in the world," he said, with all the earnestness you'd expect from a 21-year-old college senior.

To enter journalism these days you have to be a true believer. If you can find an entry-level job - and newspaper staffs declined by 10 percent last year - you will more than likely take a vow of poverty worthy of a monk. Even in television, a news reporter can make as little as \$18,000 a year.

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

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Invitation to a Dialogue: Our Meager News Diet

To the Editor:

At a time when Americans could benefit from deeper political news coverage in the United States, the media are sliding toward thinner coverage and ever-shorter "news nuggets" of information. Journalists like me used to bemoan TV's 20-second sound bites; today, we're lucky to have even skimpier news morsels in social media to complain about.

Despite the proliferation of so-called "news" channels on TV, audiences for them are declining and people are turning more frequently to skeletal updates they consume quickly on the small screens of their phones and tablets. During many hours of the day, even the news channels are devoting prime-time hours to opinion shows and infotainment about travel, food and sports.

[Click here](#) to read more.

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What It's Like to Launch an Independent News Outlet in Cuba

Elaine Díaz, the first Cuban journalist to receive a Nieman Fellowship at Harvard University, returned home earlier this year and resigned from the University of Havana, where she taught for seven years. Last weekend, she launched a news startup, Periodismo de Barrio, or Community Journalism. I asked her about her plans, the new era in relations

between the United States and Cuba and her impressions of the United States.

You recently quit your job to launch an independent news site in a country with no press freedom laws, no independent printing presses and extremely limited Internet access. What were you thinking?

I believe in journalism as a force that can improve societies. I also believe that there are problems in local areas in Cuba that need to be addressed. A process as complex as the economic and social reforms that are taking place in my country at this moment, in the midst of broadening ties with the United States, needs as many voices as you can get to illuminate the Cuba that is emerging.



[Click here](#) to read more.

Today in History - October 21, 2015

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, October 21, the 294th day of 2015. There are 71 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On October 21, 1892, schoolchildren across the U.S. observed Columbus Day (according to the Gregorian calendar) by reciting, for the first time, the original version of "The Pledge of Allegiance," written by Francis Bellamy for The Youth's Companion. The pledge, which has been revised several times, originally went, "I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the republic for which it stands, one nation indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

On this date:

In 1797, the U.S. Navy frigate Constitution, also known as "Old Ironsides," was christened in Boston's harbor.

In 1805, a British fleet commanded by Adm. Horatio Nelson defeated a French-Spanish fleet in the Battle of Trafalgar; Nelson, however, was killed.

In 1879, Thomas Edison perfected a workable electric light at his laboratory in Menlo Park,

New Jersey.

In 1917, members of the 1st Division of the U.S. Army training in Luneville (luhn-nay-VEEL'), France, became the first Americans to see action on the front lines of World War I.

In 1944, during World War II, U.S. troops captured the German city of Aachen (AH'-kuhn).

In 1945, women in France were allowed to vote in parliamentary elections for the first time.

In 1959, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, opened to the public in New York.

In 1960, Democrat John F. Kennedy and Republican Richard M. Nixon clashed in their fourth and final presidential debate in New York.

In 1967, the Israeli destroyer INS Eilat was sunk by Egyptian missile boats near Port Said (sah-EED'); 47 Israeli crew members were lost.

In 1971, President Richard Nixon nominated Lewis F. Powell and William H. Rehnquist to the U.S. Supreme Court. (Both nominees were confirmed.)

In 1985, former San Francisco Supervisor Dan White - who'd served five years in prison for killing Mayor George Moscone (mahs-KOH'-nee) and Supervisor Harvey Milk, a gay-rights advocate - was found dead in a garage, a suicide.

In 1995, Maxene Andrews of the Andrews Sisters died in Hyannis, Massachusetts, at age 79.

Ten years ago: Hurricane Wilma tore into Mexico's Yucatan peninsula as a Category 4 storm, after killing 13 people in Haiti and Jamaica. The Kansas Supreme Court unanimously struck down a state law that punished underage sex more severely if it involved homosexual acts, saying "moral disapproval" of such conduct was not enough to justify the different treatment.

Five years ago: Eight current and former officials pleaded not guilty to looting millions of dollars from California's modest blue-collar city of Bell. (Seven defendants ended up being convicted, and received sentences ranging from home confinement to 12 years in prison.) French police used tear gas and water cannon against rampaging youth in Lyon while the French government showed its muscle in parliament, short-circuiting tense Senate debate on a bill raising the retirement age from 60 to 62. James F. Neal, the attorney who prosecuted Jimmy Hoffa and key Watergate figures, and defended Elvis Presley's doctor

and the Exxon Corp. after the Alaska oil spill, died in Nashville at age 81.

One year ago: In [South Africa](#), Oscar Pistorius was sentenced to five years in prison for killing girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp; legal analysts said under the law, the man known as the "Blade Runner" because of his carbon-fiber running blades, would have to serve 10 months, or one-sixth of his sentence, in prison before he was eligible for house arrest. North Korea abruptly freed Jeffrey Fowle, an American, nearly six months after he was arrested for leaving a Bible in a nightclub. Former Washington Post executive editor Ben Bradlee, 93, died in Washington. The San Francisco Giants defeated the [Kansas City Royals](#) 7-1 in the first game of the World Series.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Joyce Randolph is 91. Author Ursula K. Le Guin is 86. Rock singer Manfred Mann is 75. Musician Steve Cropper (Booker T. & the MG's) is 74. Singer Elvin Bishop is 73. TV's Judge Judy Sheindlin is 73. Actor Everett McGill is 70. Musician Lee Loughnane (LAHK'-nayn) (Chicago) is 69. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is 66. Actress LaTanya Richardson Jackson is 66. Musician Charlotte Caffey (The Go-Go's) is 62. Movie director Catherine Hardwicke is 60. Actress-author [Carrie Fisher](#) is 59. Singer Julian Cope is 58. Rock musician Steve Lukather (Toto) is 58. Actor Ken Watanabe (wah-tah-NAH'-bee) is 56. Actress Melora Walters is 55. Rock musician Che (chay) Colovita Lemon is 45. Rock singer-musician Nick Oliveri (Mondo Generator) is 44. Christian rock musician Charlie Lowell (Jars of Clay) is 42. Actor Jeremy Miller is 39. Actor Will Estes is 37. Actor Michael McMillian is 37. Reality TV star Kim Kardashian (kahr-DASH'-ee-uhn) is 35. Actor Matt Dallas is 33. Actress Charlotte Sullivan is 32. Actor Aaron Tveit (tuh-VAYT') is 32.

Thought for Today: "Silence is sometimes the severest criticism." - Charles Buxton, English writer (1823-1871).

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.

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