

Connecting - November 14, 2015

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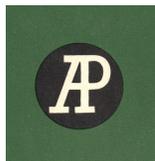
Paul Stevens <stevenspl@live.com>

Sat, Nov 14, 2015 at 9:16 AM

Reply-To: stevenspl@live.com

To: pjshane@gmail.com

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Connecting

November 14, 2015

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A man is evacuated from the Bataclan theater. AP Photo/Thibault Camus

Colleagues,

Good Saturday morning.

Like most of you, I spent last evening glued to the television as the horrific developments unfolded in Paris.

Connecting leads off today's edition with the latest Associated Press story on the terrorist attacks that have claimed 127 lives, and a video by an AP photographer describing the scene inside the national stadium where a soccer game was being played when the attacks began.

Our prayers go out to the victims of the attack, and to the journalists covering them.

On another note, **Joe McGowan** shares that Wednesday, Nov. 11, was the 89th birthday for former AP chief of bureau **Howard Graves**. Howard retired in 1993 after a 42-year AP career that included chief of bureau assignments in Albuquerque, Portland and Honolulu. He also served as national president of the Society of Professional Journalists. If you would like to drop Howard a belated birthday card or put him on your holiday mailing list, his address is:

Howard Graves
High Gate at Prescott Lakes
1600 Petroglyph Pointe Dr.

Prescott, AZ 86301

Funeral services were held in Topeka on Friday for AP retiree **Elon Torrence** and his wife Polly, who died two days apart, at the ages of 98 and 95. Their love story was described by their pastor as one that even Hollywood could not script. They were married 70 years. Those who sent flowers and condolences included The Associated Press, former U.S. Senator Bob Dole and his wife Elizabeth, former U.S. Senator Nancy Landon Kassebaum, and former Kansas Governor Bill Graves. Connecting colleagues on hand were Lew Ferguson, John Hanna, Kia Breaux, Dan Biles, John Milburn and Paul Stevens.

Paul

The latest from Paris:

France vows to punish IS for Paris attacks that kill 127

By ANGELA CHARLTON and SYLVIE CORBET

The Associated Press

PARIS (AP) - French President Francois Hollande vowed to attack the Islamic State group without mercy as the jihadist group admitted responsibility Saturday for orchestrating the deadliest attacks inflicted on France since World War II.

Hollande said at least 127 people died Friday night in shootings at Paris cafes, suicide bombings near France's national stadium and a hostage-taking slaughter inside a concert hall.

Hollande, who declared three days of national mourning and raised the nation's security to its highest level, called the carnage "an act of war that was prepared, organized, planned from abroad with internal help."

The Islamic State group's claim of responsibility appeared in Arabic and French in an online statement circulated by IS supporters. It was not immediately possible to confirm the authenticity of the admission, which bore the group's logo and resembled previous verified statements from the group.

[Click here](#) to read more.

AP Photographer Describes Scene Inside Stadium

AP photographer Jerome Pugmire describes the scene inside a Paris stadium following a bombing near France's national stadium during a soccer match.

[Click here](#) to view the video.

Connecting mailbox

Covering the Edmund Fitzgerald

Mike Graczyk - In response to John Willis' note about the Edmund Fitzgerald, we handled the story out of Detroit. I'd been involved earlier that year in the Jimmy Hoffa coverage as a reporter but the Fitzgerald was the first big story I handled as Michigan news editor. (I'd succeeded Jon Wolman, who went to Washington a few weeks earlier.)



We got word that night of a ship missing in one of the notorious November storms on the Great Lakes (which spawned a sidebar story of its own the following day) and sent Harry Atkins, who would become the Detroit-based sports writer, and one of the Detroit photographers, I believe it was John Hilary, about 400 miles north into the blizzard. I think they got stopped at the Mackinac Bridge that connects Upper

and Lower Michigan because the winds were so strong a truck had been blown on its side. Once they got across, I can remember taking Harry's phone calls with first word of recovery of the few signs of debris that could be linked to the ship.

Gordon Lightfoot's lyric about the bell ringing 29 times in the "rustic old hall in Deetroy-it (as he sings it)" is a reference to the nearly 200-year-old Mariners' Church on the waterfront in downtown Detroit.

"In a rustic old hall in Detroit they prayed, in the Maritime Sailors' Cathedral, The church bell chimed 'til it rang 29 times for each man on the Edmund Fitzgerald."

Rich Oppel was bureau chief at the time in Detroit and I learned a lot from him in those hectic days about covering a story of that magnitude.

My wife is from Upper Michigan and we go back periodically to see relatives. No trip is complete without at least dipping our toes into Lake Superior that's so cold, according to Lightfoot, "The lake, it is said, never gives up her dead." As far as I know, the bodies of the Fitzgerald crew, indeed, never have been recovered.

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More from Connecting veterans

Carl Leubsdorf - Mike Harris' account of his days as a reservist training at Fort Leonard Wood reminded me of my own, a few years earlier. It was before things really heated up in Vietnam, but I too was not eager for a 2- or 3-year hiatus from my AP career so, when I got my pre-induction physical notice, I scurried around and found a spot in a Public Information reserve unit in New Orleans, which proved to be as far from actually being in the military as was possible.

But first, I went to Fort Leonard Wood, the garden spot of the Ozarks. During basic training, my sergeant got court-martialed for, among other things, borrowing money from us recruits to finance his nightly excursions on the "Strip" right off the base. Having no sergeant, and being under the direction of one of our own, an up-and-coming banker from Sheboygan, Wis., made basic training pretty easy. As one of two Jewish members of my platoon, I found I was something of a curiosity to the farm boys and factory workers from the Middle West, but unlike the other one, I stayed around on Friday night to help clean the barracks, which made for far better relations than he had.

Then, after finishing basic training, in my first week of correcting the grammar

teacher during clerk-typist school, the CO discovered my civilian profession, and I found myself in the Regiment's small PR section, assigned primarily to write profiles of other reservists with interesting careers for the post newspaper always including the CO's name, help put out a monthly regimental paper and cover softball games, often driven there by someone several grades above my E-2 standing. Each Thursday, while most of my colleagues had to march in the hot July sun for the weekly graduation of those finishing their specialty training, I accompanied a photographer to take pictures of the event.

As our six-month tour neared its end, I recall taking a week to "clear post," getting various documents in order, spent primarily watching the World Series. Meanwhile, the East Germans made the inconvenient decision to erect the infamous Berlin Wall, necessitating the extension of duty for some of my peers from National Guard units. I was able to return to my PI unit without incident. Even on weekend duty, the only weapon I ever saw was a typewriter. Unfortunately, the commander, a local advertising man, decided to retire and they closed down the unit, resulting in my transfer to a Port unit that contained many local politicians and took the military part seriously. But after acquiring a wife and four step-children, I discovered I was no longer likely to be drafted, so I obtained an honorary discharge. Officially and legally, I had done my part, but I doubt I contributed much to the national defense.

AND

Hal Bock - Like old friend Mike Harris, I searched for an Army reserve unit and found two -- an MP outfit and a general hospital. "You're a college graduate," a friendly sergeant advised me. "You'll be better off in the general hospital unit."

So, in March, 1961 off I marched to six months active duty. Medic training was in Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio. Texas colleagues can testify to the sudden monsoon storms that occasionally fire up in that town. A bunch of troops with a weekend pass traveled into town and visited the Alamo. After an hour or so, we split up and two of us, virile young soldiers, wound up dining in a restaurant located next to a strip tease club. When the storm hit, we ducked into the strip club, strictly for shelter. The joint was located below ground level and when we arrived there was one other customer, an airman from Lackland AFB.

We sat down, ordered some refreshment and waited for the show. There was no show, The manager came out and apologized. The back room was flooded. Could we help? Why sure, we said, especially after learning that the back room was where the entertainers dressed.

We created a bucket brigade to clean out the waters and after an hour or so and with the help of some more soldiers who had joined us, the place was in order. Let the show begin!

But wait. Before curtain time, the manager was so grateful for our help that we were awarded six-month passes to the club. PFC Hal Bock had 10 days left before returning home and graciously awarded the pass to a buddy, who I am sure made good use of it.

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Pet peeves with words

Adolphe Bernotas - Inked the pact. Here's a theory: In 1546 a headline writer needed a shorter verb than "sign," or "write," looked in the dictionary and found that the 457th entry was **ink**; cub reporters began to ape the headlines and **ink** established itself in their brains for the rest of their lives. That's how we get "inked the pact," or "inked a deal," rather than the normal human "signed the contract." This is also how a **legislator** became a **solon**.

Ankle bracelet, which makes as much sense as "foot hat." (Hint: **bra** in **bracelet** is from the French word **bras** for arm.) It is an anklet, not an ankle bracelet.

Ongoing when "continuing" is the proper word. (If "continuing" follows from "continue" does "ongoing" follow from "ongo?"). The venerable copy editor of the New York Times, Ted Bernstein, is said to have had a rule for writers: "Those who write 'ongoing' will be outgoing the door."

Went missing, instead of disappeared, as in "the boy went missing." Is that akin to "the boy went fishing, went swimming?" What is the grammatical/syntactical basis for "went missing?"

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Preparing for the Paris climate conference

By TOM KENT (Published on Nov. 12, two days before the Paris attacks.)

The international climate summit in Paris opens Nov. 30, and AP will be providing extensive coverage.

In writing about climate, our goal is to reflect the overall views of the overwhelming majority of climate scientists, while making sure that detailed climate predictions are attributed clearly to those who put them forward.

Our general phrasing about climate change is that the world is warming, mainly due to rising levels of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. Most of the increase in temperature comes from man-made sources. These sources include the burning of coal, oil and natural gas, deforestation and livestock raising. This is based on the vast majority of peer-reviewed studies, science organizations and climate scientists.



At the same time, we will be identifying the source for specific climate change data, and for any detailed predictions of how climate change will affect the earth.

In September the Stylebook team issued [guidance](#) on referring to those who don't accept climate science or who dispute the world is warming from man-made forces. Our guidance is to use the terms "climate change doubters" or "those who reject mainstream climate science," avoiding the use of "skeptics" or "deniers."



By JOHN DANISZEWSKI

It began with a seemingly simple question after an Oklahoma City police officer was charged in 2014 with sexually assaulting or exploiting 12 women and a teenage girl: How often are officers accused of such misdeeds?

The question had no easy answer because no federal accounting of police misconduct exists. Undaunted, the AP launched what would become a year-long investigation, led by Dallas-based reporter Nomaan Merchant and later joined by reporters Matt Sedensky, Martha Irvine and Scott Smith.

In a series of reports that no media or scholar has attempted, they revealed that in a six-year period about 1,000 officers had lost their licenses nationwide for sexual misconduct and sex crimes. Their all-formats exclusives, which delved deeply into reasons underlying the problem and the devastating impact on victims, win the Beat of the Week.

Trying to figure a way to measure the problem, Merchant discovered

that some states had law enforcement standards commissions that can strip officers of their licenses for misconduct -- a process known as decertification.

Merchant negotiated with state officials, collecting and analyzing decertification records from 2009 through 2014. In all, 41 of the 44 states that decertify officers responded, providing the foundation of AP's report. Sedensky and Irvine, both national writers, and Smith, a San Francisco reporter, investigated some of the most egregious cases, adding a human face to the problem. Sedensky also talked to police officials nationwide, learning that law enforcement had years ago identified a problem with sexual misconduct on the force.

Only a few states keep detailed data sets, which made the research effort "more difficult than I ever could have imagined," Merchant said. Available information came in varied formats. Some states would only direct Merchant to online minutes of meetings over a six-year period, from which he extracted relevant information. In 9,000 cases he examined, approximately 1,000 were sex-related.

Collecting thousands of pages of court records, which were needed to tell individual stories fully, took time, as did finding and winning the trust of victims of police sexual abuse. Persistence paid off.

"While pending civil suits complicated matters in some instances, these are people who've lost faith in the system for many reasons," says Irvine. "There also was fear of repercussions if they spoke - and like many victims of sex abuse and violence, reliving the incidents was not something many people wanted to do."

In the end, Sedensky and Merchant found victims in the Oklahoma case who would speak. Smith and Irvine interviewed the mother of a mentally ill victim in a West Sacramento case and found a victim in a New Mexico case who was willing to be audiotaped reading the letter she read to her attacker in court.

Guiding the effort were editors Pauline Arrillaga and Maud Beelman. Beelman, Dallas-based news editor, developed a methodology for classifying decertification cases, based on a Justice Department definition of sexual assault, and reviewed the details of each with Merchant. Arrillaga, U.S. enterprise editor, did preliminary reporting on some cases to help determine which ones should be further developed _ and she and Beelman shared the final fact-checking and editing process.

Play was stellar:

- Across three days, at least 60 U.S. newspapers ran the series on their front pages.

- On AP mobile, the project broke recent records. It was No. 1 on mobile for two of the three days it ran and in the No. 2 spot the other.

- Merchant, Sedensky and Irvine gave a combined eight radio, television and online interviews in the days following publication.

- A 50-state decertification summary, showing each state's practices and problems with sex-related officer misconduct, helped build engagement.

While questions about police conduct are regularly heard in the wake of shooting cases, Irvine said the series "helped broaden the conversation to include the topic of sexual misconduct - and to get people thinking about how to improve police forces across the country as well as training and supervision."

Merchant noted that "the media publish a lot of stories about the one-off case of a cop being accused of sexual assault, but this project resonated because it quantified the problem" _ with numbers that shocked many readers.

AP journalists across all formats contributed:

Text/Photos:

Betrayed By the Badge <http://bit.ly/1I1LSol>

Betrayed By the Badge-Broken Policies <http://bit.ly/1iwTBtb>

Betrayed By the Badge-Stopping Bad Cops <http://bit.ly/1RMbLmG>

Interactive:

<http://interactives.ap.org/2015/betrayed-by-the-badge/?SITEID=apmobile>

Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Qhm7jKaH0o>

For perseverance and care in reporting an important topic on a scale that had never been attempted before, Merchant, Sedensky, Irvine and Smith share this week's \$500 prize.

Shared by Valerie Komor.

Welcome to Connecting



John Milburn ([Email](#))

Mack McClure ([Email](#))

Stories of interest

At the Bloody Dawn of the Vietnam War (New York Times)



By **NEIL SHEEHAN**

A FEW weeks ago, an archivist at The New York Times discovered a small trove of photographs I'd taken 50 years ago while covering the first major clash of the

Vietnam War between the American and North Vietnamese Armies. Though I had written about the battle for The Times, and later in my book "A Bright Shining Lie," I'd completely forgotten about the photographs. Seeing them brought back a cascade of memories of one of my most extraordinary days as a young war correspondent.

It was Nov. 15, 1965, in the valley of the Ia Drang in the wild mountains of the Central Highlands of South Vietnam. That spring, the Saigon government had begun collapsing under the combined blows of the Vietcong guerrillas and the regular North Vietnamese Army units infiltrating down the Ho Chi Minh Trail through Laos. To save his Vietnamese protégés, President Lyndon B. Johnson had launched what became the big American War in Vietnam. The combined military might of the United States - the infantry of the Army and the Marines, the warplanes of the Air Force and the Navy's carrier fleets - was arriving as fast as it could be assembled.

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

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Spotlight's Set Designer on How He Perfectly Replicated the *Boston Globe* Building (Slate)

Tom McCarthy's *Spotlight* is a **love letter** to file-digging, source-chasing investigative journalism, but it's also specifically infatuated with the *Boston Globe*. Most of the movie, which chronicles a 2001 investigation into sex abuses by the Catholic Church, takes place in the *Globe*'s offices, in what **Slate** critic Dana Stevens **describes** as a "fluorescent-lit hovel stacked high with yellowing newspapers and used coffee cups." But, as anyone who's set foot in the *Globe* offices is aware, the hovel on screen is almost identical to the actual hovel that was the *Globe* building in the early 2000s-down to the spiral staircase leading from the newsroom to the library, and the Catholic Church directories housed in its dim basement. "Every page you see in those books was laid out and typed in," said set designer William Cheng. "If the camera lingered long enough, you could read it."

Cheng is a master of detail-he also worked on Guillermo del Toro's *Crimson Peak*, which features one of the most intricate **haunted houses** in movie history. Cheng spoke with *Slate* about how he, his co-set designer John MacNeil, and their team perfectly re-created the *Boston Globe* building hundreds of miles from Boston proper.

[Click here](#) to read more.

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Beat the Press (New York Times)

Before it slips away, let's try to pull some larger meaning from perhaps the most absurd moment of 2015: that professor at one of the nation's top journalism colleges who threatened to use force against a student journalist for doing the things taught in that school.

The viral video, of Melissa Click, an assistant professor at the [University of Missouri](#), shows her screaming "get this reporter out of here" - the "here" being a public space, at a public event, a protest circle during Mizzou's days of rage. "I need some muscle over here," she cries, in faculty-thug mode.

One lesson - in dignity, in the raw rights of a free press, in how hard it is to do the work that an informed democracy needs done on a daily basis - was embodied by a student photographer, Tim Tai, harassed just moments earlier and captured in the video. He kept his poise while being mocked by the professor for asserting a First Amendment duty to his job.

[Click here](#) to read more.

Today in History - November 14, 2015

By The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, Nov. 14, the 318th day of 2015. There are 47 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 14, 1965, the U.S. Army's first major military operation of the Vietnam War began with the start of the five-day Battle of Ia Drang. (The fighting between American troops and North Vietnamese forces ended on Nov. 18 with both sides claiming victory.)

On this date:

In 1851, Herman Melville's novel "Moby-Dick; Or, The Whale" was first published in the United States.

In 1889, inspired by the Jules Verne novel "Around the World in Eighty Days," New York World reporter Nellie Bly (Elizabeth Cochrane) set out to make the trip in less time than the fictional Phileas Fogg. (She completed the journey in 72 days.)

In 1910, Eugene B. Ely became the first aviator to take off from a ship as his Curtiss pusher rolled off a sloping platform on the deck of the scout cruiser USS Birmingham off Hampton Roads, Virginia.

In 1915, African-American educator Booker T. Washington, 59, died in Tuskegee, Alabama.

In 1925, the first group exhibition of surrealist paintings opened at the Galerie Pierre in Paris.

In 1940, during World War II, German planes destroyed most of the English town of Coventry.

In 1944, Tommy Dorsey and his orchestra recorded "Opus No. 1" for RCA Victor.

In 1954, the president of Egypt, Muhammad Naguib, was deposed by the Revolutionary Command Council, leaving Gamal Abdel Nasser fully in charge as acting head of state.

In 1969, Apollo 12 blasted off for the moon.

In 1970, a chartered Southern Airways DC-9 crashed while trying to land in West Virginia, killing all 75 people on board, including the Marshall University football team and its coaching staff.

In 1986, the Securities and Exchange Commission imposed a \$100 million penalty against inside-trader Ivan F. Boesky and barred him from working again in the securities industry.

In 1990, it was revealed that pop duo Milli Vanilli (Rob Pilatus and Fabrice Morvan) had done none of the singing on their Grammy-winning debut album "Girl You Know It's True."

Ten years ago: Two separate suicide attackers rammed car bombs into vehicles belonging to NATO-led peacekeepers in Kabul, Afghanistan, killing a German soldier and an Afghan child. President George W. Bush hurled new arguments against Iraq war critics as he headed to Asia, accusing some Democrats of "sending mixed signals to our troops and the enemy." Alex Rodriguez of the New York Yankees won his second American League Most Valuable Player award in three seasons.

Five years ago: A 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum meeting in Yokohama, Japan, concluded with a unanimous pledge by members to avoid raising more trade barriers and to roll back those they may have erected in the midst of crisis. Somali pirates released British couple Paul and Rachel Chandler, who were held for 388 days after they were abducted from their 38-foot-yacht.

One year ago: Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel announced the Pentagon would spend an additional \$10 billion to correct deep problems of neglect and mismanagement within the nation's nuclear forces. During his visit to Asia, President Barack Obama mounted a warm show of support for Myanmar's opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi (soo chee), appearing with the democracy activist on the back porch of her lakeside home. Jane Byrne, the first and, to date, only female mayor of Chicago, died at age 81.

Today's Birthdays: Former U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali is 93. Actress Kathleen Hughes is 87. Former MLB All-Star Jimmy Piersall is 86. Former NASA astronaut

Fred Haise is 82. Jazz musician Ellis Marsalis is 81. Composer Wendy Carlos is 76. Writer P.J. O'Rourke is 68. Zydeco singer-musician Buckwheat Zydeco is 68. Britain's Prince Charles is 67. Rock singer-musician James Young (Styx) is 66. Singer Stephen Bishop is 64. Blues musician Anson Funderburgh is 61. Pianist Yanni is 61. Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is 61. Presidential adviser Valerie Jarrett is 59. Actress Laura San Giacomo (JEE'-ah-koh-moh) is 54. Actor D.B. Sweeney is 54. Rapper Reverend Run (Run-DMC) is 51. Actor Patrick Warburton is 51. Rock musician Nic Dalton is 51. Country singer Rockie Lynne is 51. Pop singer Jeanette Jurado (Expose) is 50. Retired MLB All-Star pitcher Curt Schilling is 49. Rock musician Brian Yale is 47. Rock singer Butch Walker is 46. Actor Josh Duhamel (du-MEHL') is 43. Rock musician Travis Barker is 40. Contemporary Christian musician Robby Shaffer is 40. Actor Brian Dietzen is 38. Rapper Shyheim is 38. Rock musician Tobin Esperance (Papa Roach) is 36. Actress Olga Kurylenko is 36. Actress/comedian Vanessa Bayer (TV: "Saturday Night Live") is 34. Actor Cory Michael Smith (TV: "Gotham") is 29. Actor Graham Patrick Martin is 24.

Thought for Today: "The world cares very little what you or I know, but it does care a great deal about what you or I do." - Booker T. Washington (1856-1915).

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!

Paul Stevens
Editor
Connecting newsletter
stevenspl@live.com

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