



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

Connecting - October 14, 2016

1 message

Paul Stevens <paulstevens46@gmail.com>
Reply-To: paulstevens46@gmail.com
To: pjshane@gmail.com

Fri, Oct 14, 2016 at 9:14 AM

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



Connecting

October 14, 2016

Click [here](#) for sound of the Teletype



[Top AP news](#)
[Top AP photos](#)
[AP World](#)

[AP books](#)
[Connecting Archive](#)
[AP Essentials](#) (*Purchases benefit The AP Emergency Relief Fund*)

Colleagues,

Good Friday morning!

We lead today's issue with a first-person story on Thailand King Bhumibol Adulyadej by Connecting colleague **Denis Gray** ([Email](#)) that moved nationally and

internationally on the AP wires Thursday night. The king died Thursday at the age of 88.

Denis has been covering Thailand and adjoining countries for the AP for more than 40 years.

And we also highlight the presentation of the Pulitzer Prizes on Thursday night as an AP team accepted the Pulitzer for Public Service. It was the AP's 52nd Pulitzer

Paul

The King and I:

Glimpses behind the exalted persona of Thailand's king



AP's Denis Gray (left) interviewing the king

By DENIS D. GRAY

BANGKOK - The body language was as stiff as the gilded robes and bemedaled uniforms he wore. The face rarely betrayed even a flicker of emotion. He was the king, wrote one biographer, who never smiled.

And indeed when appearing before the public or during the thousands of state and religious ceremonies over which he presided, King Bhumibol Adulyadej assumed the role of "dhammaraja," the impassive, righteous Buddhist monarch, an heir to 800 unbroken years of royal rule, the dominant figure in Thailand's modern history.

But my own most vivid recollections of the world's longest reigning monarch, who died Thursday at the age of 88, are rather different.

The last time I met the king, in 2008, he was dressed in a Western suit, relaxing on a sofa - and smiling. Behind closed doors of Bangkok's Chitralada Palace, Bhumibol was seemingly enjoying the repartee with a small group of foreign journalists.

Far from the often stilted, vague language of his public speeches, he punctuated his remarks with colorful anecdotes and jokes in excellent English, talking for more than two hours about jazz, his family and beloved pet dogs, growing old and the downsides of golf courses and dams. Over the years, some of the king's advisers noted that he seemed more at ease with foreigners because there did not exist the barriers of protocol as with most Thai subjects.

That evening was one of several times I glimpsed some of the contrasting sides of a complex personality, one that may never be fully plumbed given the almost godlike aura with which he was invested and a strict law forbidding criticism of the monarch and royal family.

There was the king's rigid adherence to tradition and his modern informality, the severe demeanor and ready humor, his simple lifestyle and his reported status as the world's richest royal with a net worth of \$30 billion. And he fused a Thai Buddhist self with a Western persona, perhaps natural since Bhumibol was born in Massachusetts and spent his formative years in Switzerland with his much-loved mother, a commoner who may have imparted some of her down-to-earth ways.



"My mother praised me when I did something good and then the next moment she would say, 'Don't float.' She put me in a balloon and then pricked it," he told me in a 1982 interview, one of the very few he gave.

At the 2008 gathering and earlier, a palpable sadness also suffused his critical comments about the course Thailand had taken as it shed traditional moral values in favor of a me-first, greed-is-good society, criticism he had only obliquely expressed in public.

It was a very different time, and he was in some respects a different man, when I first came in contact with the king in the late 1970s, accompanying him on trips to the northern mountains, the rice paddies of the northeast and the Muslim communities of the deep south.

Then, some 80 percent of the population still lived in the countryside and Thailand had yet to become an economic dynamo linked to global trends and a magnet for foreign tourists by the millions. The 1970s were perhaps the last decade of the old Thailand, with its charming customs and picturesque villages along with widespread poverty.

This was also the heyday of Bhumibol's reign as he set about initiating and personally monitoring projects in health, education, poverty alleviation, water management and eradication of opium.

"They say that a kingdom is like a pyramid: the king on top and the people below. But in this country it's upside down," the king said in the interview, his face breaking into a broad smile as he pointed to his shoulder. "That's why I sometimes have a pain around here."

In his 40s, the king was at his prime, jogging 3 kilometers a day followed by push-ups, and I shed a few pounds trailing him up steep hillsides along with paunchy bureaucrats and panting courtiers.

During one of several grueling, consecutive days, the king, queen and eldest daughter arrived in the morning by helicopter at an agriculture experimental station in the northern province of Chiang Mai, the king having gone to bed at 2 a.m. the night before to prepare for the day's work. Dressed in a gray sports jacket and camouflaged combat boots, he carried a 1:50,000-scale map, 35mm camera and walkie-talkie.

The day proved another whirlwind of treks on foot and by jeep with tribal people cataloguing their woes, officials briefing and the king asking for results through both stern demands and gentle cajoling. At 8:30 p.m. the royals returned to Bhuping palace, high above Chiang Mai city, where the queen hurriedly changed from her jogging shoes and pants to meet some 100 guests.

The atmosphere was mellow and enchanting, the French menu superb. But from the royal table came snatches of conversation: dams and weirs ... soil content ... fertilizer. "I think the queen may have told you: We don't have a private life," the king later said.

While much of the regal formality was dropped on upcountry trips, in Bangkok's palaces and reception halls, officials, courtiers and favor-seekers would prostrate themselves, crawling forward on their hands and knees before speaking to him using an archaic royal vocabulary.

A month after the station visit, the king was back in the hills, this time meeting with five Lahu who had come to seek his help in reclaiming land another tribe had taken from them. One was picking his teeth with a sprig of straw, another chewed noisily on betel nut. Rivulets of sweat mingled with the reddish upland dust on the king's face as he spread a map on the ground and dropped to his knees to study the problem, the Lahu casually ranged around him.

The king clearly savored such encounters, bantering with rural dwellers and trying to solve their problems, even marital ones. He once told me the story of a hilltribesman whose wife ran away after he had purchased her with two pigs. The king decided the husband deserved compensation which would allow her freedom. "The only trouble was I gave the money," he joked. "So the woman belonged to me."

The king's time in the countryside probably did much to shape his idealized vision of Thailand, one more rooted in a self-sufficient agricultural society than urban aspirations and values that were taking hold.

In the late 1980s, during another meeting with a few foreign journalists, the king said rapid growth had outpaced social and spiritual development, leading to both moral and environmental depredations. The poor and the powerless in the way of the barreling economic engine, he said, stood to lose their traditional livelihoods, their land and their laudable qualities.

"Thailand was built on compassion," he said in an undertone of melancholy. He spoke of now-vanished huts in the forests - "when there were still forests" - where travelers could have free lodging and food left behind by others.

In my 1982 interview, for National Geographic magazine, Bhumibol indicated that in modern times royal success would depend a great deal on the person who sits on the throne rather than the throne itself. And that his success as a monarch came from his own merit rather than mere inheritance.

To drive home the point the king said, "The father of one of our ladies-in-waiting, Prince Sri Visar, was very good at reading palms. He used to take mine in his hand, look at it, and say: 'Your Majesty, the lines show that you are a self-made man.'"

The king said the throne had sunk to vulnerable depths following the abolition of absolute monarchy in 1932.

"When I was young we had nothing," the king recalled, his normally composed voice taking on a quiver of emotion. "The carpets and upholstery in the palace were full of holes. The floors creaked. Everything was so old. Yes, we had a piano, an upright given to us by the Fine Arts Department. But it was out of tune."

"There was none of this," he said, motioning toward finely brocaded upholstery, plush silks and a mantelpiece crowded with photographs of world leaders the king had known. A few feet away from where we sat stood a magnificent, immaculately polished grand piano. Aides assured us that it was in perfect tune.

(Denis Gray has been covering Thailand and neighboring countries for the AP for more than 40 years.)

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

A grand night for journalism



From left, AP Executive Editor Kathleen Carroll and reporters Robin McDowell, Margie Mason, Esther Htusan and Martha Mendoza at the Pulitzer Prize awards centennial dinner in New York, Oct. 13, 2016. (AP Photo/Craig Ruttle)

By LAUREN EASTON

Journalists, playwrights, composers and literary talents gathered at Columbia University on Thursday night to celebrate 100 years of the Pulitzer Prize.

At the centennial awards dinner, AP Executive Editor Kathleen Carroll and the reporters who exposed slavery in the fishing industry in Southeast Asia, Margie Mason, Robin McDowell, Martha Mendoza and Esther Htusan, accepted the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service.

AP's international investigation freed more than 2,000 slaves and traced the seafood they caught to supermarkets and pet food providers across the U.S.

The Pulitzer for Public Service was awarded to AP for reporting that "brought perpetrators to justice and inspired reforms."

The award was announced in April. This is AP's 52nd Pulitzer Prize.

[Click here](#) for a link to this story and a link to the complete list of winners and their work. Shared by Paul Colford

Connecting mailbox

In praise of Jim Reindl's farewell to Ghana

Arnold Zeitlin (Email) - Jim Reindl's account of his time with the Peace Corps in Ghana (see Wednesday's Connecting) touched me. I was a member of the Peace Corps Ghana 1, the very first volunteer unit to go into service around the world in 1961. We held our 55th anniversary reunion last August. I also represented the group in 2011 at ceremonies in Accra marking the 50th anniversary of the Peace Corps. I served in Ghana in 1961-63, after I did a stint from 1955-58 on the AP's New York General Desk and Sports before I returned in 1964 to the General Desk and then to West Africa correspondent, an assignment that brought me back to Ghana numerous times. I published to the Peace Corps with love in 1965, supposedly the first book by a volunteer. I gave (AP general manager) Wes Gallagher a copy when he appointed me to West Africa; he later grunted that it was "densely written".

AND...

Ben Brown (Email) - I especially liked Jim Reindl's writings from Ghana. Back in early 1982 I put our 22-year-old daughter Gretchen--just graduated from UCLA --on a plane at LAX headed for a small village in Mali and two years with the Peace Corps. I can still see her walking down the runway that night. She went, survived and came back to go to graduate school and have a long successful career in healthcare in Washington and California. The Peace Corps was a big milepost in her life.

-0-

Guild study finds little diversity in highest paying AP jobs in unit

By EILEEN CONNELLY

News Media Guild

Only four of The Associated Press' 50 highest-paid employees in the editorial unit are people of color, according to an analysis by the News Media Guild.

A News Media Guild study found there are no black senior journalists, and only three who are people of color.

The Guild studied the pay of nearly 900 workers in the editorial unit with all employee names redacted. It included everyone eligible for Guild membership. The analysis did not include hourly workers and did not include overtime, economic differentials or any other additional pay beyond the weekly base rate.

The Guild's study reflected a dearth of diversity at the highest-paying jobs within the bargaining unit. Forty-six of the 50 highest-paid bargaining unit jobs belong to white employees, and there are no black senior journalists, a high-profile position that pays at least twice as much as typical newspaper jobs.

"More than 90 percent of the top 50 earners in the bargaining unit are white. AP needs to make it a priority to hire more women and people of color for these high-paying, high-profile jobs," said Jill Bleed, a Little Rock-based breaking news staffer and Guild vice president who conducted the analysis.

[Click here](#) to read more. Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

(AP senior vice president Jessica Bruce declined comment when contacted by Connecting.)

-0-

Memories of a friend - former AP Chicago science writer Charles Gene McDaniel

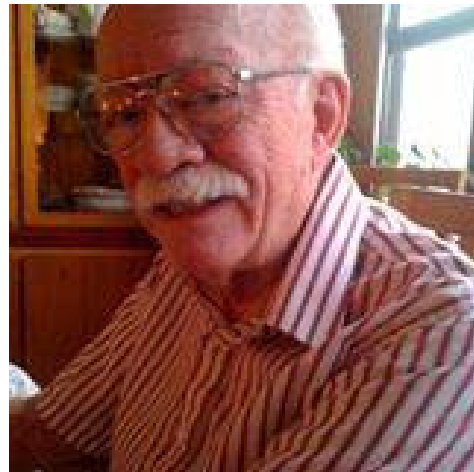
Howard Wolinsky - Some of you in this Facebook group may remember Charles-Gene McDaniel. He was a long-time medical writer at Associated Press and chairman of journalism at Roosevelt University.

I first met Gene at the American Public Health Association meeting in Chicago in around 1974. APHA had named me the best young science writer in the U.S. and paid my way to come to Chicago to collect a check, a plaque and (eek) a typewriter.

Gene introduced himself to me and said: "So, kid, do you want to take my job?" I laughed and said no. I pointed to the late Art Snider, science writer for the Chicago Daily News and later the Chicago Sun-Times. I said: "No, I want his,"

Gene and I connected again when I took over Snider's job.

We were fast friends.



He was an outspoken, articulate political critic. He wrote for the Progressive.

I enjoyed his take on politics. I would've loved to know his views on the current election cycle.

He loved to ridicule Northwestern's Medill School, where I am a lecturer. He ran the journalism program at Roosevelt, aimed at working kids with little money, and contrasted that with Medill's "privileged" students. Gene, who came from Arkansas, was a grad of Medill.

He was proud to be a union man all the way, from his first job with a small daily to his AP job.

He had me speak to his class a couple of times. One time, as a joke, I assume, he had a question about me on the final--asking if I was a sports writer or a medical

writer. (I mentioned covering a few medical stories on pro athletes in Chicago.)

Gene was hit hard by the AIDS epidemic. He thought that both he and his partner were monogamous. He was shocked to learn Keith had AIDS, Gene remained loyal and cared for Keith until the end.

I haven't seen Gene in three years.

Back then, he said:

A sidewalk met my face on April 21. The sidewalk won.

I was at the University of Chicago Hospital from April 21 - April 29. Then I was transferred to the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, an affiliate of Northwestern University.

I was diagnosed with a cerebral aneurysm. I don't know whether that preceded the collision or was a result thereof.

I've been receiving therapy to learn to walk. I may be paroled in the next few days. Details to follow if desired.

The worst injury was to my ego.

When he returned, I invited him to lunch near his Hyde Park apartment. It was a struggle for him there.

I met him out front of his building. He was frail and fell. Again. I helped him up I offered to take him to the doctor or hospital.

Gene always was feisty. He insisted on lunch. It was a struggle.

I moved in with family and lost track of him again. He didn't respond to emails or messages from Facebook.

I was thinking about him this morning. So it was shocking to learn from one of his former students that Gene died yesterday.

He will be missed.

(Shared by John Dowling) Gene served in the AP's Chicago bureau from 1958 to 1979.

Welcome to Connecting



Bart Babinski - bartosz@me.com

K.N. Dileepan - kdileepan@kumc.edu

Stories of interest

What I learned about writing from listening to Bob Dylan
(Poynter)

By ROY PETER CLARK

This Saturday night at a St. Pete bar and grill called Harvey's, I'm playing a three-set gig with my long-time musical friend Dave Scheiber. I have not played in a while, and I have some new gear - a Hammond portable organ, so I went to his house for a brief rehearsal.

Before long we were swapping the vocals in an upbeat version of "Like a Rolling Stone." For years, we have called this act "Dueling Dylans."

Bob Dylan just won the Nobel Prize for Literature. He is great and deserves the honor, but he is not inimitable. In fact, anyone can imitate him. Go ahead, give it a try. Right now. Out loud. Wherever you are, read (or sing) this:

"Hey, Mr. Tambourine Man, play a song for me,

"In the jingle jangle morning I'll come followin' you."



[Click here](#) to read more.

-0-

BBC Struggles to Get With the Program (Wall Street Journal)

LONDON-In the past century, the British Broadcasting Corp. has comforted a nation during World War II's blitzes, covered the globe via its far-flung news operations and entertained with exports like "Monty Python" and "The Office."

The past 19 months, however, haven't been the finest hour for what is arguably the world's best-known state broadcaster. The government is throttling back subsidies, while viewers are migrating to the internet. It is still recovering from a child sex-abuse scandal involving one of its best-known former stars. More recently, turmoil has enveloped some of its biggest hits.

Last month, rival broadcaster Channel 4 outbid the 94-year-old BBC for rights to the hugely popular reality TV show, "The Great British Bake Off," which has aired on the "Beeb" since 2010. The loss turned into a national spectacle, with newspapers splashing photos of its pastries and hosts on their front pages for days.

[Click here](#) to read more. Shared by Bob Daugherty.

-0-

Newspapers remain vital even as newspaperman ends career

By **BILL VOGRIN**



The irony hit me instantly when I read the news that journalists were celebrating the 76th anniversary of "National Newspaper Week" starting Oct. 2.

You might think I'd be celebrating with the rest of my colleagues. After all, I've been a professional newspaper writer and editor, even an owner, for 35 of those years.

Add another four years for my work in college writing for student newspapers, serving internships and stringing for newspapers around Kansas.

My tenure in the business approaches 45 years when I include all my time delivering my hometown Kansas City Kansan during grade school and high school.

[Click here](#) to read more. (The day after his graduation from the University of Kansas in 1981, Vogrin joined The Associated Press in Kansas City, Mo. He was promoted to Statehouse reporter in Topeka, Kan., in 1982, then correspondent in Peoria, Ill., in 1987. Vogrin left The AP in 1994 to join the Colorado Springs Gazette. In 1996, the paper nominated him for a Pulitzer Prize for his coverage of a start-up airline. In 2002, he became the featured metro columnist and wrote his "Side Streets" column three times a week for 13 years. In June 2015, Vogrin bought two weekly papers, The Tri-Lakes Tribune and The Pikes Peak Courier, and he left The Gazette. Bill sold the papers to Clarity Media/The Gazette on Aug. 30, 2016.)

-0-

IRE names Doug Haddix as new executive director

Investigative Reporters & Editors, a worldwide organization representing more than 5,500 journalists, has named Doug Haddix as its new executive director.

Haddix, director of the Kiplinger Program in Public Affairs Journalism, previously worked as a training director for IRE and as an investigative editor at The Columbus Dispatch in Ohio.

"The entire IRE Board of Directors is excited to name Doug Haddix as Executive Director. His management skills and extensive experience in journalism, training, education and fundraising are the perfect fit to lead IRE into the future," IRE Board President Matt Goldberg said.



Haddix will oversee all of IRE's programs, including the National Institute for Computer-Assisted Reporting (NICAR) and DocumentCloud. IRE has an annual budget of about \$2.2 million, which includes professional training programs, online training tools, a resource center and data library.

[Click here](#) to read more.

Today in History - October 14, 2016



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Oct. 14, the 288th day of 2016. There are 78 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 14, 1066, Normans under William the Conqueror defeated the English at the Battle of Hastings.

On this date:

In 1890, Dwight D. Eisenhower, 34th president of the United States, was born in Denison, Texas.

In 1912, former President Theodore Roosevelt, campaigning for the White House as the Progressive ("Bull Moose") candidate, went ahead with a speech in Milwaukee after being shot in the chest by New York saloonkeeper John Schrank, declaring, "It takes more than one bullet to kill a bull moose."

In 1926, "Winnie-the-Pooh" by A.A. Milne was first published by Methuen & Co. of London.

In 1939, a German U-boat torpedoed and sank the HMS Royal Oak, a British battleship anchored at Scapa Flow in Scotland's Orkney Islands; 833 of the more than 1,200 men aboard were killed.

In 1944, German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel committed suicide rather than face trial and certain execution for allegedly conspiring against Adolf Hitler.

In 1947, Air Force test pilot Charles E. ("Chuck") Yeager (YAY'-gur) broke the sound barrier as he flew the experimental Bell XS-1 (later X-1) rocket plane over Muroc Dry Lake in California.

In 1960, Democratic presidential candidate John F. Kennedy suggested the idea of a Peace Corps while addressing an audience of students at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

In 1964, civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. was named winner of the Nobel Peace Prize. Soviet leader Nikita S. Khrushchev was toppled from power; he was succeeded by Leonid Brezhnev as First Secretary and by Alexei Kosygin as Premier.

In 1977, singer Bing Crosby died outside Madrid, Spain, at age 74.

In 1986, Holocaust survivor and human rights advocate Elie Wiesel (EL'-ee vee-ZEHL') was named winner of the Nobel Peace Prize. The International Olympic Committee decided to separate the years of the Summer and Winter Olympic Games beginning in 1994.

In 1987, a 58-hour drama began in Midland, Texas, as 18-month-old Jessica McClure slid 22 feet down an abandoned well at a private day care center; she was rescued on Oct. 16.

In 1996, Madonna and her boyfriend, Carlos Leon, became parents as the pop star gave birth to a girl, Lourdes Maria Ciccone Leon. The Dow Jones industrial average closed above 6,000 for the first time, ending the day at 6,010.00.

Ten years ago: The U.N. Security Council voted unanimously to impose punishing sanctions on North Korea for carrying out a nuclear test. The Detroit Tigers swept the American League championship with a 6-3 victory over the Oakland Athletics. A sideline-clearing brawl interrupted the third quarter of Miami's 35-0 victory over Florida International. Gerry (GEH'-ree) Studds, the first openly gay member of Congress, died in Boston at age 69; singer Freddy Fender died in Corpus Christi, Texas, at age 69.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama cast himself as a savior of the U.S. auto industry as he stood in a once-shuttered Michigan assembly plant with South Korean President Lee Myung-bak to boast of a new trade deal and the auto bailout he'd pushed through Congress. The St. Louis Cardinals beat the Milwaukee Brewers 7-1 to take a 3-2 lead in the NL championship series. In Tokyo, Japan's Kohei Uchimura (koo-hay oo-chee-mur-uh) gave the home fans what they wanted, becoming the first man to win three titles at the world gymnastics championships.

One year ago: Hundreds of soldiers fanned out in cities across Israel and authorities erected concrete barriers outside some Arab neighborhoods of east Jerusalem in a stepped-up effort to counter a monthlong wave of Palestinian violence. The state of Texas executed Licho Escamilla (LEE'-cho es-kuh-MEE'-uh) for the fatal 2001 shooting of Christopher Kevin James, a Dallas police officer who was trying to break up a brawl involving Escamilla.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Roger Moore is 89. Classical pianist Gary Graffman is 88. Movie director Carroll Ballard is 79. Former White House counsel John W. Dean III is 78. Country singer Melba Montgomery is 79. Fashion designer Ralph Lauren is 77. Singer Sir Cliff Richard is 76. Singer-musician Justin Hayward (The Moody Blues) is 70. Actor Harry Anderson is 64. Actor Greg Evigan is 63. TV personality Arleen Sorkin is 61. World Golf Hall of Famer Beth Daniel is 60. Singer-musician Thomas Dolby is 58. Actress Lori Petty is 53. MLB manager Joe Girardi is 52. Actor Steve Coogan is 51. Singer Karyn White is 51. Actor Edward Kerr is 50. Actor Jon Seda is 46. Country musician Doug Virden is 46. Country singer Natalie Maines (The Dixie Chicks) is 42. Actress-singer Shaznay Lewis (All Saints) is 41. Singer Usher is 38. TV personality Stacy Keibler is 37. Actor Ben Wishaw is 36. Actor Jordan Brower is 35. Director Benh Zeitlin is 34. Actress Skyler Shaye is 30. Actor-comedian Jay Pharoah is 29.

Thought for Today: "Ninety-nine percent of failures come from people who have the habit of making excuses." - George Washington Carver, American botanist (1864-1943).

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.
- **"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
paulstevens46@gmail.com

Connecting newsletter, 14719 W 79th Ter, Lenexa, KS 66215

SafeUnsubscribe™ pjshane@gmail.com

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by paulstevens46@gmail.com in collaboration with



Try it free today