



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

Connecting - April 19, 2017

1 message

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

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning!

Is The Associated Press a "thick" institution?

In sharing a story by David Brooks of The New York Times, "How to Leave a Mark on People," Connecting colleague **Michael Rubin** ([Email](#)) thinks so: "Clearly

Associated Press was a "thick" institution that left its mark on many people."

Your assignment for the day, class, is to read Brooks' interesting story - [click here](#) - digest and then offer your opinion to your colleagues.

In the story, Brooks notes in the story: "Some organizations are thick, and some are thin. Some leave a mark on you, and some you pass through with scarcely a memory. I haven't worked at Incarnation for 30 years, but it remains one of the four or five thick institutions in my life, and in so many other lives."

I look forward to hearing from you.

Thick or thin, we lead today's issue with an AP story on a new movie, "The Promise," with actor Christian Bale portraying an AP reporter.

Anyone take umbrage to these lines in the story? - "But if the AP has seldom received its silver-screen close-up, it has at least struck the jackpot in the Oscar-winner Bale. Not only is he one of the most respected actors in film, he's just a touch more glamorous than most in the AP newsroom."

Surely, the AP has some glamorous journalists to brag about, present and past, don't we?

Finally, a Happy 40th - Lordy, Lordy, Look Who's 40? - to our daughter **Molly Templeton**, ([Email](#)) who was born shortly after I was assigned as AP's Wichita correspondent. She's the mother of two and first-grade teacher to 20 other lucky kids.

Paul

In 'The Promise,' Christian Bale stars as an AP reporter



By JAKE COYLE

NEW YORK (AP) - The life of the wire service scribe has, traditionally, been to toil in anonymity. Christian Bale, however, is far from anonymous.

In "The Promise," Bale stars as an Associated Press reporter in Constantinople in the early days of World War I, and at the onset of the mass killings and deportations of Armenians carried out by Ottoman Empire. He's not the central figure in the movie; that's Oscar Isaac's Armenian medical student. But as a brash speak-truth-to-power journalist firing out powerfully worded dispatches, he's pivotal in bringing attention to the atrocities against the Armenians.

The killings of up to 1.5 million Armenians in Ottoman Turkey during and after World War I is considered by genocide scholars to have been the first genocide of the 20th century. Turkey denies a genocide occurred and argues that the death toll among Armenians was more limited in scale and resulted from civil unrest and war, not deliberate policy.

Bale's portrayal in the movie is almost certainly the most starry, most heroic and most hard-drinking big-screen depiction of the AP in its 171-year history. But if the AP has seldom received its silver-screen close-up, it has at least struck the jackpot in the Oscar-winner Bale. Not only is he one of the most respected actors in film, he's just a touch more glamorous than most in the AP newsroom.

His character is a composite but it has roots in real history - a history the makers of "The Promise" were well acquainted with.

"The Associated Press was extremely active during the period of genocide and much of what Americans knew of what was happening was due to the reporting of brave Associated Press journalists," said producer Eric Esrailian. "You hear about all this stuff about fake news and people maligning journalists. Then you go back to this era where what we knew about World War I was because of journalists."

Though the AP had a firm no-byline policy until 1921, its Constantinople correspondent in 1915 - the time of the film - was J. Damon Theron. His dispatches from that era (two years before the U.S. entered World War I) are still striking for their forcefulness. In April 1915, the AP reported on the massacre of 800 of the villagers in one Turkish region and 720 in another. June brought a report on the increased presence of German officers.

And in September 1915 came an especially strongly worded story that opened: "By virtue of a total suppression of all news on the subject, the Turkish Government has succeeded in throwing an impenetrable wall over its actions toward all Armenians." The report later noted that censors were prohibiting dispatches.

"The tendency of the Ottoman government either to deny altogether that the Armenians are being persecuted, or give its acts a too obviously artificial basis and character, would have but one result, namely, to indicate that it is both ashamed and afraid to let the truth be known," read the report, which ran in the New York Times.

For the filmmakers of "The Promise," it's a moment in journalism that holds lessons - the need for a full-throated press - for today.

"Like climate change," said Bale. "There's this distraction where there's people trying to pretend there really is some debate about it still, as if there is some valid other point of view that hasn't been completely discredited. 'Oh, no, we must consider both sides.' I'm sure for most stories, it's absolutely correct to show both sides, or more, to the story."

Bale met with scholars and studied journalists from the time, narrowing in on Lincoln Steffens, a celebrated muckraker (the Progressive Era journalists who advocated against corruption). Director Terry George also encouraged Bale to look to Christopher Hitchens to capture a reporter's "strong appetites."

"The Armenian genocide and what went on was one of the most heavily reported events of World War I in the United States," said George. "It came at a crucial moment in journalism when it switched from second-hand, staccato-style reporting to the muckrucker movement, which was a movement into commentary."

The movie, George added, "is a salute to the AP for sure."

AP researcher Jennifer Farrar contributed to this report. [Click here](#) for a link to the story. (Shared by Sylvia Wingfield)

Connecting mailbox

Judging work renewed my faith that good journalism still exists

Sandy Johnson ([Email](#)) - I recently helped judge two national journalism awards administered by the National Press Foundation, my current gig. The 100 entries for the two awards for energy/environmental reporting and for mental health reporting revived my faith that good journalism still exists. For your reading pleasure, here are the winners and honorable mentions. Rosalind Adams of BuzzFeed News won the Carolyn C. Mattingly Award for Mental Health Reporting for a painstakingly-reported investigation of private psychiatric hospitals titled "[Intake](#)." The judges said: "Adams' dogged reporting showed that a major for-profit company, which runs 200 psychiatric hospitals, was keeping patients locked up for their insurance money. Her investigation is compelling, chilling and even scary. It is accountability journalism at its best, and government officials are now demanding answers from the company." Honorable mentions went to The Boston Globe's Spotlight team for "[The Desperate and the Dead](#)" and the Sun Sentinel of Fort Lauderdale for "[Dying for Help](#)."

The Center for Public Integrity won the Thomas L. Stokes Award for Best Energy Writing for its investigation into the nation's worst fossil fuel polluters. The winning entry was a project titled "[America's Super Polluters](#)." NPF judges said "CPI combined two databases to create a list of the worst of the worst polluters, producing a data-driven investigation exposing government laxity, coal industry indifference and the human toll on workers and communities. Methodically filing 50 state FOIA requests, the center also unmasked state-level regulatory cutbacks at a time many areas seek to rein in pollution." Honorable mention to E&E News

for "[Dead Seas](#)." NPF judges said it is "a compelling classic explainer that shows how missteps and misjudgments turned the salt lakes of the West into toxic dust bowls."

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West Coast Entertainment team salutes retiring Steve Loeper



This is the West Coast Entertainment team paying tribute to retiring West Coast Entertainment Editor Steve Loeper on Monday. Steve retires Friday after 44 years with the AP.

Included in this photo, at far right, is Anthony McCartney, who will take over for Steve, at least temporarily.

Front row, from left: Michael Cidoni Lennox, Sandy Cohen, Allison Kaufman.

Back row, from left: Lindsey Bahr, Chris Pizzello, Marcela Isaza, Beth Harris, Steve Loeper, Lynn Elber, Ryan Pearson and Anthony McCartney.

AP Photo by Chris Pizzello. (Shared by Sue Manning)

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Nick Ut - working by candlelight while Cecilia's DR came up eight cents short...



Cecilia White ([Email](#)) - Following up on Neal Ulevich's suggestion in the 3/22 "Connecting" for photos of AP staffers working in power outages, here is a photo of photographer Nick Ut drying a picture by candlelight following a power failure in the Los Angeles bureau (courtesy of Summer 1986 AP Log.)

I vividly recall that blackout, as I was busy doing the bureau's weekly financial disbursement report when everything went black. Squinting through the darkness to finish it, I found that the damned thing was 8 cents short. After two failed attempts to find the error, I finally said to hell with it -- and taped eight pennies to the DR! I never did hear back from New York about those eight pennies.

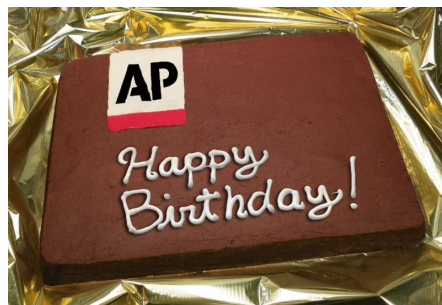
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And, I have my own ZIP code



Neal Ulevich ([Email](#)) - Attached picture of Neal Ulevich at Neal, Kansas, a dot on the map east of Wichita. Just passing through on a road trip Tuesday, but stopped for snapshots and a pleasant conversation with the Postmistress. I have my own ZIP code: 66863. Photo by Susan Lauscher.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To**John Dorfman - jdorfman@dorfmanvalue.com**

Stories of interest

A Boston Globe memo puts the spotlight on an emerging consensus on how to transform metro papers (Nieman)

The Boston Globe on Monday published a memo from editor Brian McGrory outlining the latest steps the paper is taking to restructure its newsroom as it adjusts to the evolving journalistic landscape.

The Globe plan focuses on publishing stories earlier in the day, restructuring beats, creating new audience engagement and express desks, and thinking of print as its own distinct platform, not the dominant driver of all workflows.

"None of the changes detailed here will come as any surprise, though in total, they represent significant change," McGrory wrote:

The basic goals are familiar as well: to be more nimble, more innovative, and more inclined to take worthwhile risk; to get our best journalism in front of readers when and where they want to read it, throughout the day and across all our platforms; to be relentlessly interesting, jettisoning any sense of obligation in our report; to once and for all break the stubborn rhythms of a print operation, allowing us to unabashedly pursue digital subscriptions even while honoring the many loyal readers who subscribe to the physical paper.

Read more [here](#).

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Final Edition: Last press run in Memphis

(Commercial Appeal)

Seven ink-stained working men came to 495 Union Avenue on Sunday evening to print one more edition of The Commercial Appeal.

Monday's Volume 176, No. 107 will be the last edition of the Memphis daily newspaper printed in Memphis.

Beginning with Tuesday's April 18 edition, The Commercial Appeal will be published 80 miles up the road in Jackson, Tenn.

Not since the Civil War, when the "Moving Appeal" was printed in Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia, has this newspaper been published somewhere else.

"I guess it's historic," said David Rose, who rose from a printer's apprentice in 1983 to become pressroom manager in 2011.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Scott Charton.

Today in History - April 19, 2017



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, April 19, the 109th day of 2017. There are 256 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On April 19, 1967, Kathrine (cq) Switzer became the first woman to run the Boston Marathon (at that time, a men-only event) under an official number by registering without mentioning her gender; by her own estimate, she finished in 4 hours and 20 minutes. (Bobbi Gibb, running unofficially for the second time, finished in 3:27:17.) Former West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer died at age 91.

On this date:

In 1775, the American Revolutionary War began with the battles of Lexington and Concord.

In 1897, the first Boston Marathon was held; winner John J. McDermott ran the course in two hours, 55 minutes and 10 seconds.

In 1935, the Universal Pictures horror film "Bride of Frankenstein," starring Boris Karloff with Elsa Lanchester in the title role, had its world premiere in San Francisco.

In 1943, during World War II, tens of thousands of Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto began a valiant but ultimately futile battle against Nazi forces.

In 1951, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, relieved of his Far East command by President Harry S. Truman, bade farewell in an address to Congress in which he quoted a line from a ballad: "Old soldiers never die; they just fade away."

In 1966, Bobbi Gibb, 23, became the first woman to run the Boston Marathon at a time when only men were allowed to participate. (Gibb jumped into the middle of the pack after the sound of the starting pistol and finished in 3:21:40.)

In 1977, the Supreme Court, in *Ingraham v. Wright*, ruled 5-4 that even severe spanking of schoolchildren by faculty members did not violate the Eighth Amendment ban against cruel and unusual punishment.

In 1989, 47 sailors were killed when a gun turret exploded aboard the USS Iowa in the Caribbean. (The Navy initially suspected that a dead crew member had deliberately sparked the blast, but later said there was no proof of that.)

In 1993, the 51-day siege at the Branch Davidian compound near Waco, Texas, ended as fire destroyed the structure after federal agents began smashing their way in; dozens of people, including sect leader David Koresh, were killed.

In 1995, a truck bomb destroyed the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, killing 168 people. (Bomber Timothy McVeigh was later convicted of federal murder charges and executed.)

In 1997, two pizza deliverymen, Giorgio Gallara and Jeremy Giordano, were shot to death outside an abandoned house in Franklin, New Jersey; two teenagers, Thomas Koskovich and Jayson Vreeland, were later convicted of what prosecutors called a thrill killing and were sentenced to life in prison.

In 2005, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger of Germany was elected pope in the first conclave of the new millennium; he took the name Benedict XVI.

Ten years ago: Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid offered a bleak assessment of Iraq, saying the war was "lost," triggering an angry backlash by Republicans. A jury in Selmer, Tennessee, convicted Mary Winkler of voluntary manslaughter in the shooting death of her preacher-husband, Matthew. (Mary Winkler spent seven months in custody, with two months served in a mental facility.)

Five years ago: Republicans rammed an election-year, \$46 billion tax cut for most of America's employers through the House, ignoring a veto threat from President Barack Obama. (The measure went down to defeat in the Senate.) India announced the successful test launch of a new nuclear-capable missile. Levon Helm, drummer and singer for The Band, died in New York City at age 71. Greg Ham, a member of the Australian band Men at Work, was found dead in his Melbourne home; he was 58.

One year ago: Front-runners Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton swept to resounding victories in New York's primary. Cuban revolutionary leader Fidel Castro delivered a valedictory speech to the Communist Party that he put in power a half-century ago, telling party members he was nearing the end of his life and exhorting them to help his ideas survive. It was announced that Michael Strahan was moving from the daily talk show he co-hosted with Kelly Ripa to work full-time on ABC's "Good Morning America."

Today's Birthdays: Actress Elinor Donahue is 80. Rock musician Alan Price (The Animals) is 75. Actor Tim Curry is 71. Pop singer Mark "Flo" Volman (The Turtles; Flo and Eddie) is 70. Actor Tony Plana is 65. Former tennis player Sue Barker is 61. Motorsports Hall of Famer Al Unser Jr. is 55. Actor Tom Wood is 54. Recording executive Suge Knight is 52. Singer-songwriter Dar Williams is 50. Actress Ashley Judd is 49. Singer Bekka Bramlett is 49. Latin pop singer Luis Miguel is 47. Actress Jennifer Esposito is 45. Actress Jennifer Taylor is 45. Jazz singer Madeleine Peyroux (PAY'-roo) is 43. Actor James Franco is 39. Actress Kate Hudson is 38. Actor Hayden Christensen is 36. Actress Catalina Sandino Moreno is 36. Actress-comedian Ali Wong (TV: "American Housewife") is 35. Actress Kelen Coleman is 33. Actor Zack Conroy is 32. Roots rock musician Steve Johnson (Alabama Shakes) is 32. Actor Courtland Mead is 30. Tennis player Maria Sharapova is 30.

Thought for Today: "There is a Law that man should love his neighbor as himself. In a few hundred years it should be as natural to mankind as breathing or the upright gait; but if he does not learn it he must perish." - Alfred Adler, Austrian psychoanalyst (1870-1937).

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:

- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.
- **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.

- **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

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