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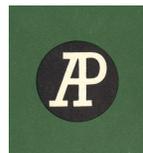
# Connecting - May 03, 2017

1 message

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Wed, May 3, 2017 at 9:12 AM

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# Connecting

May 03, 2017

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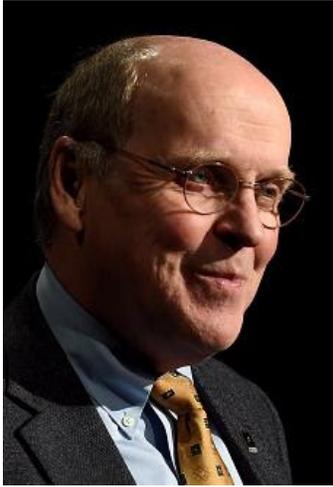
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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning!

When was your first byline? Is there anything more magical or memorable?

Connecting would like to hear the story behind the first time you saw your byline over a story you wrote - and in the case of our photo colleagues, the first byline you received for a photo you took. And include any unusual circumstances surrounding it.



I asked our newest Connecting member, **Bill Hancock**, if he would recall his first byline. Not as an "initiation fee" for Connecting membership but as a favor to jump-start this feature.

He's out of the news business now - working as the first executive director of the College Football Playoff and a familiar figure to sports journalists around the country.

But he grew up in an Oklahoma newspaper family, earned a journalism degree at the University of Oklahoma and after his newspaper-publisher father died, spent four years as editor of his family's daily newspaper, the Hobart Democrat-Chief. He shares his experience.

And to further prime the pump, as the fellow son of a newspaperman, I add my own story of my first byline, written while a junior in high school - a somewhat unusual experience as you will read. It's the first and only time my name is in the same story as Sandy Koufax and Bob Feller!

I look forward to hearing your own story. There's got to be some fascinating ones out there.

Paul

## Happy World Press Freedom Day

Today is World Press Freedom Day.

"Journalists go to the most dangerous places to give voice to the voiceless, U.N. Secretary General **António Guterres** said in a video statement made a few days ago. [Click here.](#)

"Media workers suffer character assassination, sexual assault, detention, injuries and even death. We need leaders to defend a free media. This is crucial to counter prevailing misinformation. And we need everyone to stand for our right to truth. On World Press Freedom Day, I call for an end to all crackdowns against journalists - because a free press advances peace and justice for all. When we protect journalists, their words and pictures can change our world."

## Connecting series: My first byline

**Bill Hancock** ([Email](#)) - I got my first byline as a seven-year-old second-grader, after covering a high school baseball game on a blustery March afternoon in 1958. My town's team, the Hobart Bearcats, defeated the neighboring Lone Wolf Coyotes something like 7-5. Or, as I wrote, "seven to five."

It was an incomprehensible thrill.

Bing, our hearing-impaired linotype operator, surely giggled when he set "By BILL HANCOCK." (Yes, Bing had a last name, but I never knew it. He was just plain "Bing.")

Never mind that I got the byline only because my father, Ransom Hancock, owned and published our daily newspaper, the Hobart (Okla.) Democrat-Chief. Being the publisher's son had plenty of drawbacks-such as the telephone calls each evening from customers who hadn't received their papers - and so I figure one unearned byline was a small price to pay.

I began writing a daily sports column as a junior in high school and made every mistake in the book. Dad let me make those errors. He didn't have to point them out - the readers did that for him. From all that, I learned that every life is valuable and every voice deserves to be heard. I use those lessons still today, 59 years after that first exhilarating byline.

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**Paul Stevens** ([Email](#)) - I got my start in journalism as a high school student, writing sports for my hometown newspaper, The Messenger in Fort Dodge, Iowa, where my dad worked as editor for more than a half century.

Bob Brown was sports editor in those days - he held the position for 40 years and is legendary in Iowa sports writing circles. In the 150-year history of the newspaper that my dad and I wrote in 2006, Brown contributed a chapter on his sports experiences. I tell my first-byline story through his words:

*Hiring part-timers wasn't easy. Good grammar and spelling skills were necessary, plus the majority of high school kids wanted their freedom on Friday nights and they had automobiles to feed. But when I found one who wanted to learn journalism from experience (I always felt this far better than any classroom) I felt I had a good one.*

*When Paul Stevens joined our part-time sports crew, he provided me with what still consider one of the greatest sports stories I ever heard and which I often used in talking to school groups. Paul was a pitcher on the St. Edmond High baseball team and they were to play against Livermore High School. He was to be the starting pitcher and I told him before he left, "As long as you are going, take a score book and fill it out at the end of the game, then write a story of it for sports." Later that night I got a call from Paul. "Are you sure you want me to write a story on the game?" he asked. "Sure," I said. "Anything wrong with that?" He replied, "I don't think I know how to write it. I had a no-hitter."*

*"Write it just like you were writing about me throwing a no-hitter," I said. "I'll leave it up to you and will check it in the morning."*

*It was done, of course, flawlessly so I put a byline on it. I have often considered Bob Feller or Sandy Koufax was never afforded that honor of throwing a no-hitter and savored having his byline over the story the next morning.*

## **NPR, the AP and local newspapers are beginning to experiment with Amazon Echo**

**By Rick Edmonds, Poynter**

When I visited a dozen news organizations on our Innovation Tour last November, there was a surprising consensus among the biggest players on the next big thing they had in focus:

Voice-activated news for devices like Amazon Echo and Google Home.

As was true for Virtual Reality/360-degree video a year earlier, the medium is so new that publishers are just beginning to figure out where to start. But they believe that the eventual opportunity could be huge.

Checking back six months later, I find that the art and science of voice-activated news is still in its infancy. No consensus business model has emerged. That probably explains a dearth of coverage to date of voice as a media story.

But lots is going on beneath the surface:

Read more [here](#).

## 2 from AP among newest class of Nieman fellows

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) - The Nieman Foundation for Journalism has announced its 24-member class of 2018 , which includes media members who plan on studying sexual violence, minority populations and the effects of technology on the industry.

The Nieman fellows, 12 from the U.S. and 12 from overseas, include writers, editors, broadcast producers, a photographer and a newspaper director of audience engagement. Associated Press journalists Maryclaire Dale and Lisa Lerer are among the group.

They begin an academic year of study at Harvard University this fall. Fellows also attend Nieman seminars, workshops and work on their research with Harvard scholars and other leading thinkers.

Established in 1938, the Nieman Foundation administers the oldest midcareer fellowship program for journalists in the world. The program has educated more than 1,500 journalists from 96 countries.

[Click here](#) for a list of fellows. Shared by Bill Kole.

## ***Recommended reading from the wire:***

# **What on earth might a Trump-Kim Jong Un meeting look like?'**



**By TED ANTHONY**

BANGKOK (AP) - In one corner: the unpredictable dictator, the third-generation family ruler whose nation has a seven-decade reputation of being erratic, quick to take umbrage and insistent that it is powerful enough to upend the planet. In the other corner: a sandpaper-tongued American president like no other, barely past his first 100 days as leader of the free world, liable to say just about anything - including a handful of conciliatory words at the most unexpected of moments.

On Monday, those conciliatory words from the mouth of Donald Trump included some extraordinary ones about North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, long an object of American scorn and suspicion.

There were these words from Trump: "Obviously, he's a pretty smart cookie."

And, even more so, there were these: "If it would be appropriate for me to meet with him," Trump told Bloomberg News, "I would absolutely, I would be honored to do it."

Wow, says an astonished world: What if?

Read more [here](#).

## Stories of interest

### ***Paying for news: Why people subscribe and what it says about the future of journalism*** (API)

The future of journalism will increasingly depend on consumers paying for the news directly, as content distributors like Facebook and Google take up the lion's share of digital advertising dollars.

The Media Insight Project, a collaboration of the American Press Institute and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, has undertaken what we believe is one of the largest efforts ever to understand who subscribes to news, what motivates them, and how creators of journalism can engage more deeply with consumers so more people will subscribe.

This, the first report in that series, is based on in-depth formative interviews with news consumers in three cities and a nationally representative survey, informed by those interviews, of 2,199 American adults conducted between February 16 and March 20, 2017.

The study finds that slightly more than half of all U.S. adults subscribe to news in some form-and roughly half of those to a newspaper.

And contrary to the idea that young people will not pay for news because information on the internet is free, nearly 4 in 10 adults under age 35 are paying for news.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Ralph Gage.

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## ***To Understand 'Brexit,' Look to Britain's Tabloids*** (New York Times)

LONDON - Tony Gallagher, editor of The Sun, one of Britain's most raucous and influential tabloids, looks down on the government, literally. From the height of his 12th-floor newsroom, all glass and views, the Palace of Westminster seems like a toy castle, something to be played with or ignored at will.

Mr. Gallagher also looks down on the editor of the more measured Times of London, whose office is one floor below and who makes a point of keeping his blinds drawn. The hierarchy is not lost on either man.

In Britain after the so-called Brexit vote, the power of the tabloids is evident. Their circulations may be falling and their reputations tarnished by a series of phone-hacking scandals. But as the country prepares to cut ties with the European Union after a noisy and sometimes nasty campaign, top politicians court the tabloids and fear their wrath. Broadcasters follow where they lead, if not in tone then in topic.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Claude Erbsen.

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## ***Facebook has found a head of news products to help fight its false news problem*** (Recode)

Facebook made an important hire in its effort to curb false news.

The company has promoted Alex Hardiman, formerly of the New York Times, to its new head of news products role. The job means Hardiman will work with publishers to create news features, and also try to stop the proliferation of false news on the service.

Recode reported last month that the company was looking to hire for the role but was running into trouble finding someone with both editorial and technical

experience.

Hardiman fits the bill, apparently. She joined Facebook last summer from the Times, where she was leading mobile and news products like the publication's mobile news app, according to her Facebook post.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady.

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## ***The Army just released these haunting images taken moments before a combat photographer's death*** (Business Insider)

The Army has released an image taken by a combat photographer moments before she was killed in an explosion during a 2013 live-fire training exercise in eastern Afghanistan.

Spc. Hilda I. Clayton, a visual information specialist assigned to the 55th Signal Company (Combat Camera), was killed while photographing a live-fire training exercise on July 2 in Laghman Province. Four Afghan National Army soldiers were also killed when a mortar tube accidentally exploded.

One of the Afghan soldiers killed was a photojournalist whom Clayton had been training.

The primary mission of Combat Camera soldiers is to accompany soldiers on deployments to document the history of combat operations.



"Clayton's death symbolizes how female soldiers are increasingly exposed to hazardous situations in training and in combat on par with their male counterparts," the Army said in a statement.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

# Today in History - May 3, 2017



## By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, May 3, the 123rd day of 2017. There are 242 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On May 3, 1952, the Kentucky Derby was televised nationally for the first time on CBS; the winner was Hill Gail, ridden by Eddie Arcaro.

### On this date:

In 1515, Pope Leo X promulgated the bull "Inter sollicitudines" allowing the Catholic Church to review and censor books.

In 1791, the Commonwealth of Poland-Lithuania adopted a constitution.

In 1802, Washington, D.C., was incorporated as a city.

In 1916, Irish nationalists Padraic Pearse, Thomas Clarke and Thomas MacDonagh were executed by a British firing squad; they were among 16 people put to death for

their roles in the Easter Rising.

In 1937, Margaret Mitchell won the Pulitzer Prize for her novel, "Gone with the Wind."

In 1945, during World War II, Allied forces recaptured Rangoon (Yangon) from the Japanese.

In 1947, Japan's postwar constitution took effect.

In 1960, the Harvey Schmidt-Tom Jones musical "The Fantasticks" began a nearly 42-year run at New York's Sullivan Street Playhouse.

In 1979, Conservative Party leader Margaret Thatcher was chosen to become Britain's first female prime minister as the Tories ousted the incumbent Labor government in parliamentary elections.

In 1986, in NASA's first post-Challenger launch, an unmanned Delta rocket lost power in its main engine shortly after liftoff, forcing safety officers to destroy it by remote control.

In 1987, The Miami Herald said its reporters had observed a young woman spending "Friday night and most of Saturday" at a Washington townhouse belonging to Democratic presidential candidate Gary Hart. (The woman was later identified as Donna Rice; the resulting controversy torpedoed Hart's presidential bid.)

In 1999, some 70 tornadoes roared across Oklahoma and Kansas, killing 46 people and injuring hundreds.

Ten years ago: British girl Madeleine McCann vanished during a family vacation in Portugal nine days before her fourth birthday; her disappearance remains unsolved. Britain's Queen Elizabeth II arrived in Virginia for the commemoration of Jamestown's 400th anniversary. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told Syrian Foreign Minister Walid Moallem (wah-LEED' moh-AH'-lehm) of U.S. concerns about his country's porous border with Iraq in the two nations' first Cabinet-level talks in years. The Florida Legislature gave its final approval to moving the state's 2008 primary from early March to Jan. 29. Ten Republican presidential candidates held their first debate of the 2008 race at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, California. Astronaut Wally Schirra died in La Jolla, California, at age 84.

Five years ago: U.S. officials published online a selection of letters from Osama bin Laden's last hideaway; the documents portrayed a network that was weak, inept and under siege - and its leader seemingly near wit's end about the passing of his global jihad's supposed glory days.

One year ago: In a stunning triumph for a political outsider, Donald Trump all but clinched the Republican presidential nomination with a resounding victory in Indiana that knocked rival Ted Cruz out of the race. A funeral was held for six of the eight family members killed in rural southern Ohio as authorities continued chasing leads in the slayings.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Alex Cord is 84. Singer Frankie Valli is 83. Sports announcer Greg Gumbel is 71. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., is 68. Pop singer Mary Hopkin is 67. Singer Christopher Cross is 66. Country musician Cactus Moser (Highway 101) is 60. Rock musician David Ball (Soft Cell) is 58. Former Sen. David Vitter, R-La., is 56. Country singer Shane Minor is 49. Actress Amy Ryan is 49. Actor Bobby Cannavale (ka-nuh-VAL'-ee) is 47. Music and film producer-actor Damon Dash is 46. Country musician John Driskell Hopkins (Zac Brown Band) is 46. Country-rock musician John Neff (formerly of Drive-By Truckers) is 46. Country singer Brad Martin is 44. TV personality Willie Geist (TV: "Today") is 42. Actress Christina Hendricks is 42. Actor Dule (doo-LAY') Hill is 42. Country singer Eric Church is 40. Actress Tanya Wright is 39. Dancer Cheryl Burke is 33. Soul singer Michael Kiwanuka is 30. Actress Jill Berard is 27. Actress Zoe De Grand Maison is 22. Rapper Desiigner (cq) is 20.

***Thought for Today: "Nobody is bored when he is trying to make something that is beautiful, or to discover something that is true." - William Inge, American author and playwright (born this date in 1913, died 1973).***

## 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.

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