



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

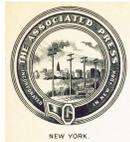
## Connecting - May 22, 2017

1 message

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

Mon, May 22, 2017 at 9:13 AM

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# Connecting

May 19, 2017

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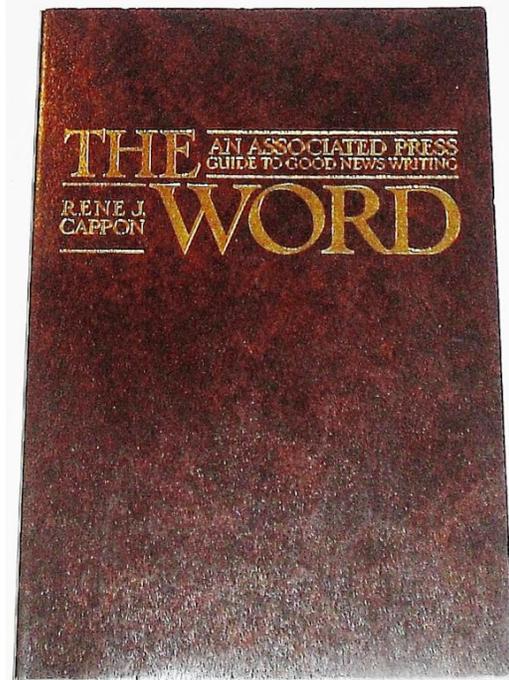
Colleagues,

There's a reason why **Sibby Christensen** ([Email](#)) is one of Connecting's best contributors.

She keeps an eagle eye out at all times for things AP - and then shares them with the rest of us. The latest example, Sunday, when she sent along "a little thing I noticed" in Sunday's New York Times book review section - a passing mention and recommendation of Jack Cappon's book, *The Word*.

Here's the excerpt from John Williams she spotted, in [A Guide to Writing Guides](#) -

*Gregory Cowles, an editor at the Book Review and our Inside the List columnist, cited three "indispensable" guides a college adviser recommended to him: William Zinsser's "On Writing Well," Arthur Plotnik's "The Elements of Editing" and another bible of style, Rene J. Cappon's "The Word." Jennifer Szalai, also an editor at the Book Review, recommended an essay: "George Orwell's 'Politics and the English Language' makes for necessary (if distressingly familiar) reading at a time when, yet again, 'political chaos is connected with the decay of language.' For Orwell, writing clear, pointed sentences was its own act of resistance."*



**Jack Cappon**, a former AP general news editor, wrote "The Word: An Associated Press Guide to Good News Writing" in 1982. It quickly became a staple for writers throughout the news industry.

"What matters more to me," Mr. Cappon wrote in his 1982 introduction, "is the hope that this work might stir some writers, new and old, to think more about the process of writing, to remember that the first duty of language is to communicate, and that words can be the best of friends or the worst of enemies."

Cappon died in 2007 but his memory lives on, as does his book - 35 years later. Got a memory of Jack Cappon and his book, and the writing seminars he conducted in the latter part of his career? Send them along to Connecting.

Here's to a great week ahead! And, thanks, Sibby!

Paul

# Connecting mailbox

## ***Enjoyed story on Valerie Komor and her love of history***

**Peggy Walsh** ([Email](#)) - As an "old timer," as in not that old but ... I really enjoyed the piece on Valerie Komor and her love of the history of AP. (See Friday's Connecting)

George Krinsky's explanation of the AP was wonderful. It was written the year before I joined AP during the transition from typewriters to CRTs. Thanks to his daughter for sharing it.

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***Doris Selig - one of the best bosses you could wish for***



New York, around 1993: from left, Rob Friedman, Doris Selig, unknown, Vince Heether and John Kiernan. Jerry Gluck notes that what's out of the ordinary here is that Doris is not wearing her baseball cap (which was always worn reversed) The hat, and the tan short-coat she's wearing, were her workaday uniform.

**Jerry Gluck** ([Email](#)) - I started as a technician at the Broadway Shop in 1989, and IIRC, and met Doris sometime in 1990, as I didn't cover the tech shop at 50 Rock until I had at least a year's experience. Here's one recollection I have -

At the time, Doris normally worked the 4pm to midnight shift. Some nights, if she'd missed her train, and if the shop technician wasn't busy, they would drive her to her weekday apartment up in the Ardsley/Dobbs Ferry area, north of Manhattan. I had the honor of doing this more than a couple of times, and it was usually a pleasant/educational trip (I also recall there was not much traffic going north on Route 9 at that time, back then...).

I eventually worked with/for Doris as an Operations Manager in the Glasshouse, and she was one of the best bosses you could wish for.

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## ***Ailes recognized TV audiences more interested in drama than news***

**Chuck McFadden** ([Email](#)) - Roger Ailes realized something early on: television audiences weren't as much interested in news as they were drama. He invented a cable news network that reflected that and cast the news in simple terms. There were the bad guys (elite liberals) and the good guys (white conservatives). No need for nuance here. He regarded reporters for The New York Times, Washington Post, The Associated Press and the Los Angeles Times, among others, as wide-eyed naifs who tried to talk about complexity and relate the meaning of events to readers and viewers. They didn't get it. Roger did, and he struck gold. He also upended much of the news business and furthered the political/cultural divisions we now see.

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## ***It was obvious early on that Victor Simpson would do great things***

**Bob Haring** ([Email](#)) - Victor Simpson was the brightest spot in Newark when I took over that bureau. I quickly gave him more responsibility over operations and

pushed for his promotion to New York. He was a wonder and it was obvious to me from the first day that he would do great things.

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## ***From Belgium: Oldest surviving printing presses in world***





**Kevin Walsh** ([Email](#)) - I thought your Connecting readers might be interested in this photo of what are believed to be the two oldest surviving printing presses in the world, dating back more than 400 years.

It was taken at The Plantin-Moretus Museum in Antwerp, Belgium which focuses on the work of the 16th century printers Christophe Plantin and Jan Moretus.

## Bar encounter leads to AP job

**Norman Abelson** ([Email](#)) - An accidental bar-room encounter. That was the event that led me down the road to a writing life. An outlier in my teen years, I secretly wrote gloppy poetry and essays about the inevitability of Fate dealing me a losing hand. I showed this trove to no one; I believed it of no value; I gave no thought to life as a writer.

Nevertheless, fate did seem to take a hand when, one night in 1950, my Dad sat down next to an Associated Press editor at a Boston bistro. Over Scotch and sodas, Dad told his new acquaintance, Tom Horgan, about his college drop-out son who had neither aim nor purpose, but did seem to have some writing ability.

Horgan set up a meeting for me with Boston Traffic Bureau Chief "Nick" Nicholson. Next thing I knew, I had quit my job pushing around 300-pound frozen blocks in an artificial ice-manufacturing plant at up to a hundred bucks a week, and became a newly minted AP copy boy at a salary of nineteen dollars. While, at the time, that hardly seemed like progress, it led me down a new and exciting path.

After a year and a half, having risen to chief copy boy, I was offered a temporary writing job by Boston Bureau Chief L. P. Yale as the junior member of the AP team covering the 1952 session of the Maine Legislature, under the tutelage of Augusta Correspondent Bob Crocker and Portland night editor Bill Langzettel.

That led to a permanent job at the AP's Concord, N.H., office, where I happily spent the next ten years, in partnership first with Bob Tagen, and then Joe Kamin and Gordon Glover. Gordon and I continue a close friendship stretching over 57 years. The Concord years, having to cover everything from politics to the state supreme court to murder trials, in a two-person office, were an apt training ground for a young reporter. Especially exciting was covering the quadrennial first-in-the-nation New Hampshire presidential primary.

Thanks to my Associated Press background, I went on to be a U. S. Senate press secretary, Washington speech writer, opinion columnist, public radio commentator, author and writing teacher.

For nearly every one of the past 20,000 or so days, I have alternately struggled over, battled with and made love to words and sentences, paragraphs and volumes. It has been one hell of a grand journey. And, at age 86, the ride ain't over yet!



## **Where's Comey? Sleuthing skills locate him, leading to exclusive AP photos**



**Former FBI Director James Comey walks at his home in McLean, Va., May 10, 2017, after returning from Los Angeles, and one day after he was fired by President Donald Trump. AP PHOTO / SAIT SERKAN GURBUZ**

When major news breaks - such as President Donald Trump's firing of FBI Director James Comey - journalism 101 dictates: Find the principals. We knew where the president was. Locating Comey, on the other hand, was more difficult.

The determined, diligent sleuthing efforts of news researcher Monika Mathur tracked Comey, allowing The Associated Press to get exclusive and widely used photos of him. Those efforts earn the Beat of the Week.

As soon as the firing was reported, the search for Comey was on. He was scheduled to be in Los Angeles at an FBI recruitment event, and this was soon confirmed by TV aerial footage of his motorcade moving through heavy traffic making its way back to LAX. Back in Washington, AP's best chance of getting the fired director was to catch him at his home for his early morning return.

Using our usual source for locating home addresses, AP dispatched a photographer to two possible locations in the Washington suburb of McLean, Virginia. Both turned out to be wrong. However, we were in the ballpark as the photographer heard the motorcade in the distance pass him by in the wee hours of the morning.

In the Washington bureau, it became quickly apparent that the location of the former FBI director's residence was scrubbed from the public record.

Using several databases, Mathur cross-referenced information on homes owned by corporations. She hit on a home that didn't seem to have an easily discoverable owner.

Enter Monika Mathur, who started digging. Using several different databases, the Washington-based researcher cross-referenced information between homes owned by corporations and the corporations' ownerships. In McLean, which is the community right next to the CIA, there are a lot of them. She hit on a home owned by a corporation that didn't seem to have any owners easily discoverable.

The ah-ha moment came when a search of Google Street View came up with a giant blur where the home should be.

Visual teams were immediately dispatched, and freelance photographer Sait Serkan Gurbuz arrived just in time to make exclusive images of Comey walking behind his security gate. Describing what the photos captured, TMZ said: "If former FBI director James Comey is upset about joining the ranks of the unemployed ... he's hiding it behind a sly grin. Comey looked pretty carefree Wednesday as he walked around his driveway in Virginia."

As soon as the pictures moved, the phones blew up in the Washington bureau with other news organizations calling to see if AP would reveal the address. The bureau didn't - and was still getting inquiries five days later.

For her skills and determination that led to an exclusive on a highly competitive story, Mathur wins this week's \$500 prize.



## **Eligible Wisconsin voters turned away by strict voter ID law**



**Gladys Harris poses in Milwaukee, April 24, 2017, with some of the forms of identification she brought with her to the polls in the 2016 presidential election. She was unable to vote because she had lost her driver's license a few days earlier and thought one of the many other cards she had with her would work. She was given a provisional ballot that was not counted. AP PHOTO / CARRIE ANTLFINGER**

Republicans in Wisconsin had pledged that no eligible voter would be disenfranchised when they passed a strict voter ID law in 2011. After it was used for the first time last year in a presidential election, a group of AP reporters sought to put that promise to the test.

Weeks of research and source work led them to a retired Milwaukee resident who had voted for years in her neighborhood and brought to the polls her Social Security card, Medicare card and county-issued bus pass with photo ID. It led them to the Navy veteran whose Illinois driver's license was good enough to board a plane, open a checking account and purchase cold medicine. And to the 85-year-old man who had voted in the same small town for years with his wife, who had recently given up driving - and her license. And to the recent college graduate who went to the polls on Election Day and brought with her three forms of identification - her student ID, copies of her lease and utility bill, and her ID from her home state of Ohio.

In the end, all were turned away or had to cast provisional ballots that were never counted.

For exposing the practical effects of the ID law on Wisconsin citizens, the team of Cassidy (state government team), Moreno (Milwaukee correspondent) and Antlfinger (Milwaukee video journalist) wins this week's Best of the States award.

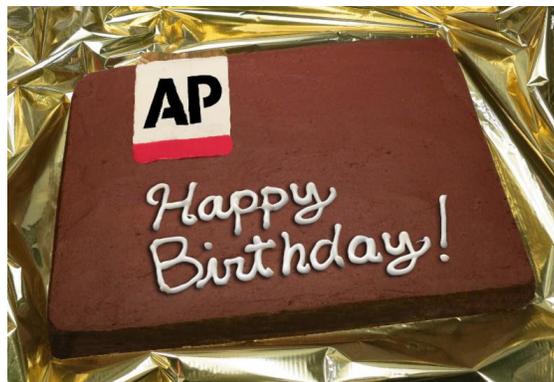
Overall turnout in Wisconsin was far lower than during the last presidential election in 2012, including 41,000 fewer ballots cast in the Democratic stronghold of Milwaukee. No one can say with certainty whether the newly enacted voter ID law was the reason for the low turnout or whether it played a role in tipping the election to Donald Trump, who won Wisconsin by just 22,000 votes. Yet the would-be Wisconsin voters felt they should have been allowed to vote or had their ballot counted: Said Sean Reynolds, the Navy veteran: "Coming home and being denied the right to vote because I didn't have a specific driver's license is very frustrating."

Republicans defend the law, including a state lawmaker who told AP it's common sense that voters should have to show certain ID.

Republicans continue to defend the law, including a state lawmaker who went on camera with Antlfinger and said it's common sense that voters should have to show a certain type of ID. Wisconsin is among more than a dozen states that have passed strict ID laws since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned a key provision of the Voting Rights Act. Democrats and voting rights activists have said those laws target minorities, the poor and the elderly, suppressing their turnout. People like Gladys Harris, the Milwaukee retiree. She told AP she believes the law was tailored to keep people like her from voting: "It was unfair, and I think it was cruel," she said. The story won front-page play in several Wisconsin newspapers, ran online in the state's largest paper and received more than 3,500 screen views.

For questioning the promises of Wisconsin's Republican lawmakers and finding real people to illustrate the effects of the state's voter ID law, Cassidy, Moreno and Antlfinger win this week's \$300 Best of the States prize.

## Welcome to Connecting



**Jerry Gluck - [jgluck@ap.org](mailto:jgluck@ap.org)**

**Joe Galu - [joegalu@hotmail.com](mailto:joegalu@hotmail.com)**

## Stories of interest

### ***Journalists drink too much, are bad at managing emotions, and operate at a lower level than average, according to a new study***

(Business Insider)

Journalists' brains show a lower-than-average level of executive functioning, according to a new study, which means they have a below-average ability to regulate their emotions, suppress biases, solve complex problems, switch between tasks, and show creative and flexible thinking.

The study, led by Tara Swart, a neuroscientist and leadership coach, analysed 40 journalists from newspapers, magazines, broadcast, and online platforms over seven months. The participants took part in tests related to their lifestyle, health, and behaviour.

It was launched in association with the London Press Club, and the objective was to determine how journalists can thrive under stress. It is not yet peer reviewed, and the sample size is small, so the results should not be taken necessarily as fact.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Bob Daugherty, Adolphe Bernotas, Doug Pizac

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### ***Washington Post, Breaking News, Is Also Breaking New Ground*** (New York Times)

By **JAMES B. STEWART**

Since The Washington Post's Watergate-era glory days, my need to read that paper has waxed and waned. I already pay for and scour The New York Times (of course), The Wall Street Journal and The New Yorker, which is a lot to manage before I even get to the books on my night stand and Kindle. So I haven't been looking for more to read, let alone another monthly expense.

But for some time, a Washington Post logo with the caption "Breaking News" has been popping onto my laptop's screen. I'm not sure how The Post insinuated itself into my prime digital real estate, since I don't recall inviting it there. And I'd probably find it annoying and intrusive if the breaking news weren't so interesting.

Monday's sensational headline - "Trump revealed highly classified information to Russian diplomats in their Oval Office meeting last week" - was beyond interesting. Of course I clicked.

That's when I learned I'd bumped up against The Post's pay barrier, along with the flattering observation that "You obviously love great journalism." And for just 99 cents for the first four weeks and a few more clicks, I could keep reading. Who could resist?

Read more [here](#).

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**Edward Crawford's Photo Helped the Post-Dispatch Win a Pulitzer. Now His Family Wants a Cut** (Riverfront Times)



Photo by Robert Cohen/St. Louis Post-Dispatch

The day after Edward Crawford's death, his attorney Jerryl Christmas scrolled through the coverage on the St. Louis Post-Dispatch website. Unsurprisingly, the lead image on the paper's May 5 story was the Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph that showed Crawford winding up to throw a tear gas grenade during the Ferguson protests.

Beneath the photo, next to the caption, was a green button with the words, "Buy now."

"I bought it that day," Christmas says. "Just to prove that even in death they're still profiting off him."

Read more [here](#).

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***Trump attacked the free press, and he got exactly what he deserved*** (Washington Post)

By **DANA MILBANK**

The president has the greatest self-pity. The best!

"No politician in history, and I say this with great surety, has been treated worse or more unfairly," Donald Trump said this week as he heard the special prosecutor's footsteps.

Thus did our assured head of state, equal parts narcissistic and uninformed, rank his treatment worse than that of Benito Mussolini (executed corpse beaten and hung upside down in public square), Oliver Cromwell (body disinterred, drawn and quartered, hanged and head hung on spike), Leon Trotsky (exiled and killed with icepick to the skull), William Wallace (dragged naked by horses, eviscerated, emasculated, hanged and quartered) and the headless Louis XVI, Mary Queen of Scots and Charles I.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Max Thomson.

## Today in History - May 22, 2017



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Monday, May 22, the 142nd day of 2017. There are 223 days left in the year.

### **Today's Highlight in History:**

On May 22, 1992, after a reign lasting nearly 30 years, Johnny Carson hosted NBC's "Tonight Show" for the final time (Jay Leno took over as host three days

later).

**On this date:**

In 1860, the United States and Japan exchanged ratifications of the Treaty of Amity and Commerce during a ceremony in Washington.

In 1913, the American Cancer Society was founded in New York under its original name, the American Society for the Control of Cancer.

In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt appeared before Congress to explain his decision to veto a bill that would have allowed World War I veterans to cash in bonus certificates before their 1945 due date.

In 1939, the foreign ministers of Germany and Italy, Joachim von Ribbentrop and Galeazzo Ciano, signed a "Pact of Steel" committing the two countries to a military alliance.

In 1947, the Truman Doctrine was enacted as Congress appropriated military and economic aid for Greece and Turkey.

In 1960, an earthquake of magnitude 9.5, the strongest ever measured, struck southern Chile, claiming some 1,655 lives.

In 1967, a fire at the L'Innovation department store in Brussels killed 322 people. Poet and playwright Langston Hughes died in New York at age 65.

In 1968, the nuclear-powered submarine USS Scorpion, with 99 men aboard, sank in the Atlantic Ocean. (The remains of the sub were later found on the ocean floor 400 miles southwest of the Azores.)

In 1969, the lunar module of Apollo 10, with Thomas P. Stafford and Eugene Cernan aboard, flew to within nine miles of the moon's surface in a dress rehearsal for the first lunar landing.

In 1972, President Richard Nixon began a visit to the Soviet Union, during which he and Kremlin leaders signed the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. The island nation of Ceylon became the republic of Sri Lanka.

In 1981 "Yorkshire Ripper" Peter Sutcliffe was convicted in London of murdering 13 women and was sentenced to life in prison.

In 2011, a tornado devastated Joplin, Missouri, with winds up to 250 mph, claiming at least 159 lives and destroying about 8,000 homes and businesses.

Ten years ago: British prosecutors accused former KGB agent Andrei Lugovoi (AHN'-dray LOO'-goh-voy) of murder in the radioactive poisoning of Alexander Litvinenko (leet-vee-NYEN'-koh). (Russia, however, has refused to extradite Lugovoi.) Olympic gold medalist speedskater Apolo Anton Ohno and his professional dance partner, Julianne Hough (huhf), won ABC's "Dancing With the Stars."

Five years ago: The Falcon 9, built by billionaire businessman Elon Musk, sped toward the International Space Station with a load of groceries and other supplies, marking the first time a commercial spacecraft had been sent to the orbiting outpost. In Flint, Michigan, a drifter accused of faking car trouble, then stabbing strangers who came to his aid, was convicted of murdering handyman Arnold Minor after jurors rejected an insanity defense. (Elias Abuelazam (EE'-lee-us ah-BOOL'-ah-zahm) is serving a life sentence.) Wesley A. Brown, the first African-American to graduate from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, died in Silver Spring, Maryland, at age 85. Green Bay Packers receiver Donald Driver and his professional partner, Peta Murgatroyd, won "Dancing with the Stars" on ABC.

One year ago: President Barack Obama arrived in Vietnam, making him the third sitting president to visit the country since the end of the war. Madonna paid homage to Prince by wearing his signature color and bringing another icon - Stevie Wonder - onstage to sing the classic "Purple Rain" at the Billboard Music Awards. Veteran British director Ken Loach won his second Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival for "I, Daniel Blake" - a stark portrayal of a disabled man's struggle with the crushing benefits system in northern England.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Charles Aznavour is 93. Actor Michael Constantine is 90. Conductor Peter Nero is 83. Actor-director Richard Benjamin is 79. Actor Frank Converse is 79. Former CNN anchor Bernard Shaw is 77. Actress Barbara Parkins is 75. Retired MLB All-Star pitcher Tommy John is 74. Songwriter Bernie Taupin is 67. Actor-producer Al Corley is 62. Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, is 60. Singer Morrissey is 58. Actress Ann Cusack is 56. Country musician Dana Williams (Diamond Rio) is 56. Rock musician Jesse Valenzuela is 55. Actor Mark Christopher Lawrence is 53. Former White House Press Secretary Jay Carney is 52. Rhythm-and-blues singer Johnny Gill (New Edition) is 51. Rock musician Dan Roberts (Crash Test Dummies) is 50. Actress Brooke Smith is 50. Actor Michael Kelly is 48. Model Naomi Campbell is 47. Actress Anna Belknap is 45. Actress Alison Eastwood is 45. Singer Donell Jones is 44. Actor Sean Gunn is 43. Actress A.J. Langer is 43. Actress Ginnifer Goodwin is 39. Rhythm-and-blues Vivian Green is 38. Actress

Maggie Q is 38. Olympic gold-medal speed skater Apolo Anton Ohno is 35. Actress Camren (cq) Bicondova is 18.

***Thought for Today: "It is often said that men are ruled by their imaginations; but it would be truer to say they are governed by the weakness of their imaginations." - Walter Bagehot, English editor and economist (1826-1877).***

## 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](mailto:paulstevens46@gmail.com)

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