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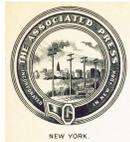
Connecting - May 23, 2017

1 message

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Connecting

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning!

The mention of a reference to **Jack Cappon's** book *The Word* in Monday's *Connecting* resulted in a fascinating account of how the book was finally made.

Connecting colleague **Tim Harper's** account, from his days as an AP national writer in New York, leads today's issue.

After joining the AP in Milwaukee in 1974, Harper worked there and in Madison until transferring to New York as a national writer in 1980, joining **Peter Arnett, Lee Mitgang, Dolores Barclay, Jane See White, Rick Pienciak** and **Scott Kraft**. He considered that the best job in journalism until 1985, when he took what was supposed to be a two-year book-writing leave that turned into nine years freelancing from Europe. He has been freelancing since, in everything from Atlantic to airline magazines, a dozen books of his own, and lots of other books ghosted, co-authored and doctored.



Tim Harper gives feedback to Nadja Thomas from CUNY's Class of 2013.

Harper has taught journalism, always part-time, mostly grad school, consistently for decades, first at Marquette, then for Boston University in London, and back in the States 10 years at Columbia, six years at NYU and since 2007 at the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism, where he is the writing coach and unofficial expert on AP Style.

He notes that AP old hands are always welcome visitors at CUNY, in the old Herald Tribune building in Times Square - **Victor Simpson** just stopped in from Rome, Tim noted - and often find themselves in front of students or at the neighborhood saloon - or both.

Paul

Jack Cappon, Jules Loh emerge from the woods with The Word

Tim Harper ([Email](#)) - Some background on Jack Cappon's 1982 classic "The Word."

I was a national writer based at 50 Rock in the early 1980s, and often reported and wrote Sunday Newsfeatures for Jack Cappon. His book on writing had been talked about for years, often in muffled tones, around the General Desk, in neighborhood saloons and upstairs in the Poets' Corner where Cappon presided over Jules Loh, Saul Pett, Sid Moody, John Barbour, Hugh Mulligan and the handful of other artists with the title "AP Special Correspondent." The book was always coming. The book was always being worked on.

But where was the book?

It turned out Jack was struggling. The writing expert had writer's block -- something that supposedly didn't exist in our world. Finally, Jules Loh suggested something drastic. He would take Jack away to some remote, isolated place with no distractions. Jules would make sure the writing happened. He'd get Jack up early in the morning. He'd cook for him. He'd nail Jack to the big old Remington for a certain number of hours a day. He'd mix Jack's drinks, but not too strong, and not too many, and only after a certain number words had been logged for the day. He would tuck Jack in at night, on the early side. Jules would be the on-site editor. They would emerge in a few days with a fully completed manuscript ready for typesetting.



Jack Cappon, 1966
(Photo courtesy AP Corporate Archives)

Jules asked if he and Jack could use the poky little bungalow in the woods of Orange County, overlooking Greenwood Lake, that Jane See White, another national writer, and I had purchased in 50-50 shares a few months earlier. Jane and I said sure. Jules and Jack packed their grips and drove the hour-plus north of the city.

The few days turned into a couple of weeks. There were squabbles -- I witnessed a few when I went up for a weekend -- over getting Jack to work more. Jack maintained that he needed frequent breaks to sit in an easy chair, glass at hand, and "think" while watching the chickadees and nuthatches at the bird feeder. Sometimes he just needed a nap. The best arguments were over AP copy, much of it fresh off the A-wire: what writing samples to include in the book, what to cite as good writing, what to cite as writing that could be improved, and how the substandard copy would be improved. The passion and the eloquence of these two brilliant news guys - along with the profane humor, especially when addressing each other - made brilliant eavesdropping for a young writer. Never had the stakes seemed so higher over the use of a semicolon or the placement of a comma or the use of an adverb.

Jack seemed utterly miserable. Jules seemed unflinchingly patient. But they did it. They emerged from the woods with *The Word*, which needed little polishing from other editors back at 50 Rock.

I buy "The Word: An Associated Press Guide to Good News Writing" by the box now for my students at the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism. I should have negotiated a home-field discount.

Connecting mailbox

'We need to remind current, former colleagues that many times, we did drink too much'

John Gaps ([Email](#)) - A headline in Monday's Connecting: "Journalists drink too much, are bad at managing emotions, and operate at a lower level than average, according to a new study "

For me, when returning home from covering chaos, the first casualties were always intimacy and sobriety. Both due largely to my old reliable friend alcohol, which was a handy coping mechanism. Most days covering chaos (war, insurrection, rioting, natural disasters) ended with drinks with colleagues. Ultimately, I dealt with the physical bumps and bruises that came with covering situations of chaos. But the big wound, for many of us as we grew older, was carrying the "drink(ing) too much," with us. For many journalists, it became a trait.

It took me a while to recognize this and seek out the help I needed to put distance between me and alcohol. There were periods of time that the habit seemed almost impossible to outrun. We need to remind our current and former colleagues that many times we did indeed "drink too much," and many of us continue to pay a high price for it long afterward.

As for the managing emotions thing... "Well go #%&k yourself." ;)

Peace.

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Another tavern encounter that led to an AP career

Paul Albright ([Email](#)) - Reading Norman Abelson's recounting of how a "Bar encounter leads to AP job" (*Connecting*, May 22) reminded me of the tavern encounter that led to my AP career.

I was between newspaper jobs in 1962 and just back from six weeks of gawking around western Europe. I decided to spend the holidays with my parents in Denver and then head for Los Angeles where I would wow editors with my five years of experience at *The Rocky Mountain News* (Denver) and *The Paterson Evening News* (New Jersey).

I was seated at the bar in the Denver Press Club one November night when someone from *The Denver Post* came in with a report that two dailies had just announced they were folding in the Los Angeles area, putting several hundred people out of work. While there was a buzz in the press club, no one had solid information. I decided to walk over to the AP's night office to read the latest wire reports.

As I recounted my plan to go to Los Angeles to seek a job, the AP night editor (I regret that I have forgotten his name 55 years later) mentioned that there was an opening in the three-person Cheyenne, Wyoming, AP bureau. The next day I canceled a ski trip with a friend and instead interviewed with Denver COB Boots Norgaard. A few days later I was off to Cheyenne with a job instead of to Los Angeles without one. Eventually, I served in five AP bureaus (including Washington, DC, and two statehouse bureaus) over an 11-year span.

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As AP correspondent in Wichita Eagle newsroom, I was treated like one of their own

Traci Carl ([Email](#)) - I watched the Eagle newsroom move from afar, via Facebook. The posts made me realize how many lifelong friends I made there, including Julie Wright, Colleen McCain and Laura Rauch, who then introduced me to Kim Johnson. (Both Laura and Kim are Facebook friends and posted pictures from the newsroom move.) It was a great place to be a young AP journalist, and the Eagle newsroom always treated me like one of their own. I'm sure the new location will also be a wonderful place for friendship and journalism. But, for me, the Wichita Eagle will always be at the same downtown location.

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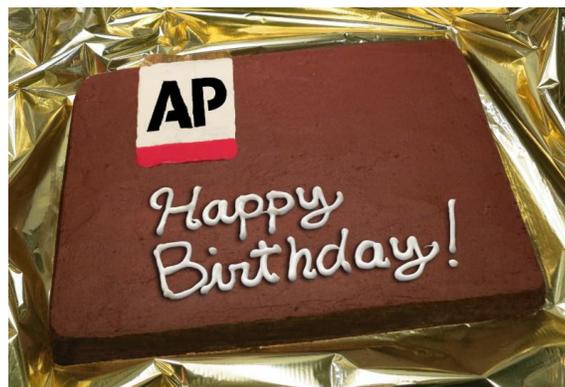
An enlightening story about AP life in India

Joe McGowan ([Email](#)) - Henry Bradsher and I (former COBs in New Delhi a long time ago) have compared some notes on our times there. One story stands out as funny, and also enlightening about life in India.

Before either of us was sent to Delhi, AP sent a Britisher named Charlie Lane to be COB. Why they did it, we are not sure since he was mostly a photo man, not especially a newsman.

He arrived in New Delhi and took over the bureau, BUT, horrors, there was no way to have his morning and afternoon tea in the bureau. So, he went out and bought an electric hot plate, a teapot, cups and saucers and tea. Triumphantly, he announced to the staff that they would have tea. He poured. Partaking were the office manager, Subramaniam, a Brahmin; Rangaswamy Satakopan, the newsman and a lower cast; the three messengers who bicycled to Post and Telegraph with cables to be sent to AP/London for forwarding to AP/New York; and office driver, Krishan Lal, an untouchable. Everyone enjoyed the tea, but that was the end of it. No one could drink from a cup used by someone in a different caste!! So Charlie had tea by himself from then on. Even when I got to New Delhi, many restaurants served meals on banana fronds, so the fronds could be thrown away and there was no caste problem over people eating from dishes.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Bob Egelko - BEgelko@sfchronicle.com

Dave Tomlin - dave.tomlin74@gmail.com

Jack Walker - jcwalker41@aim.com

Stories of interest

Monica Lewinsky: Roger Ailes's Dream Was My Nightmare (New York Times)

By **MONICA LEWINSKY**

This is not another obituary for Roger Ailes, who died last week 10 months after being ousted at Fox News. It is, I hope, instead an obituary for the culture he purveyed - a culture that affected me profoundly and personally.

Just two years after Rupert Murdoch appointed Mr. Ailes to head the new cable news network, my relationship with President Bill Clinton became public. Mr. Ailes, a former Republican political operative, took the story of the affair and the trial that followed and made certain his anchors hammered it ceaselessly, 24 hours a day.

It worked like magic: The story hooked viewers and made them Fox loyalists. For the past 15 years, Fox News has been the No. 1 news station; last year the network made about \$2.3 billion.

Read more [here](#).

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With proclamation, Denver council voices support for local journalism amid pressures

(Denver Post)



Kieran Nicholson, right, and Emilie Rusch, both Denver Post reporters and newspaper guild officers, accept a proclamation that the Denver City Council delivered in support of local journalism on Monday.

The Denver City Council on Monday voiced support for journalism at a time when local outlets have weathered repeated job cuts, partisan attacks and other pressures.

Its proclamation, approved 12-0, urges owners of local media organizations "to provide their journalists with all of the resources necessary to carrying out their essential role in civic debate and discourse."

The document also says council members recognize the need "to be transparent in our conduct of the business of the people" and to be forthright with journalists.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Paul Albright.

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Stanley Greene, Whose Camera Captured War's Brutality, Dies at 68 (New York Times)

Stanley Greene, whose visceral and brutally honest images of conflict and fearlessness in the most perilous of places made him one of the leading war photographers of his generation, died on Friday in Paris. He was 68.

The death was confirmed by the photographer-owned agency Noor Images, of which Mr. Greene, who lived in Paris, was a founding member. No cause was given, although associates said he had been treated for liver cancer for several years.

Mr. Greene was one of the few African-American photographers who worked internationally. He traveled widely, making powerful images of conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq and the republics of Chechnya and Georgia, among other places. Some of his pictures were too raw for many publications.



Read more [here](#).

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Layoffs hit The Sacramento Bee as McClatchy prunes staff across the company (Poynter)

The Sacramento Bee on Monday enacted a round of layoffs, the latest in a series of staff reductions executed by its corporate parent, The McClatchy Company.

Sacramento Bee Executive Editor Joyce Terhaar acknowledged the layoffs Monday morning in an email to staff that did not specify the number of staffers cut. She declined to comment on the layoffs in an email to Poynter.

"Folks - as you are all likely are aware, we have had layoffs today," the memo read. "Everyone affected by a layoff has been told. In addition, we are offering some buyouts. Some of you are in job categories that are receiving actual packages. In addition, we will consider other requests."

Earlier this month, McClatchy reported a net loss of \$95.6 million in the first quarter of 2017, largely due to the continued decline of print advertising and a one-time charge related to the carrying value of the company's interest in CareerBuilder. The company grew digital revenue by 11.7 percent, but it still carries \$873.7 million in debt, much of it from McClatchy's 2006 purchase of Knight Ridder for \$4.5 billion.

Read more [here](#).

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Gossip guru Jerry Berger calls it quits after 47 years of 'bergering' (St. Louis Post-Dispatch)



After 11 years of dishing dirt online - not to mention decades of doing the same for two daily St. Louis newspapers - Jerry Berger is hanging up his pen.

In a column posted Monday afternoon, Berger informed the readers of "Berger's Beat" that this would be his last missive.

"Now, I'm closing another chapter of my life and look forward to my retirement in Coral Springs, Fla.," Berger wrote.

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

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Newsletters, push notifications and podcasts: How newsrooms handled a crazy week of news (Poynter)

They were delivered to our phones, our inboxes and our earbuds, one after the other, in rat-a-tat bursts.

Monday: The Washington Post reveals President Trump disclosed intelligence to Russians. Tuesday: The New York Times reports James Comey kept explosive memos about his interactions with the president. Wednesday: Former FBI Director Robert Mueller was named special counsel in charge of the Russia-Trump investigation. Friday: The Washington Post reports the Trump-Russia investigation has reached the White House. Not to be outdone, The New York Times reveals President Trump called Comey a "nut job."

But as the tilt-a-whirl of news continued to spin, publications found new ways to keep news consumers from falling off throughout the week. Double push notifications, podcast extras and twice-daily newsletters all helped journalists hawk their news and analysis when the scoops started flying. Here's a quick recap:

Read more [here](#). Shared by Bob Daugherty.

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How NPR considers what new platforms - from smartwatches to fridges - will get its programming (Nieman)

Here is a (far from complete) list of places where you can listen to NPR programming: Your old school radio. Your car radio. Your smartphone. Your smartwatch. Your Amazon Echo. Your Google Home. Your refrigerator?

If you own a Samsung Family Hub fridge (which features a giant screen on one of its doors), you can get a bulletin briefing of your calendar for the day, as well as an hourly news update, via NPR. (That's in the United States. In Europe, the news partner is Upday; in Korea, it's Kakao.)

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - May 23, 2017



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, May 23, the 143rd day of 2017. There are 222 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 23, 1967, Egypt closed the Straits of Tiran to Israeli shipping, an action which helped precipitate war between Israel and its Arab neighbors the following month.

On this date:

In 1430, Joan of Arc was captured by the Burgundians, who sold her to the English.

In 1533, the marriage of England's King Henry VIII to Catherine of Aragon was declared null and void by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer.

In 1788, South Carolina became the eighth state to ratify the United States Constitution.

In 1814, a third version of Beethoven's only opera, "Fidelio," had its world premiere in Vienna.

In 1915, Italy declared war on Austria-Hungary during World War I.

In 1934, bank robbers Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker were shot to death in a police ambush in Bienville Parish, Louisiana.

In 1937, industrialist and philanthropist John D. Rockefeller, founder of the Standard Oil Co. and the Rockefeller Foundation, died in Ormond Beach, Florida, at age 97.

In 1939, the Navy submarine USS Squalus sank during a test dive off the New England coast. Thirty-two crew members and one civilian were rescued, but 26 others died; the sub was salvaged and re-commissioned the USS Sailfish.

In 1945, Nazi official Heinrich Himmler committed suicide by biting into a cyanide capsule while in British custody in Luneburg, Germany.

In 1977, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear the appeals of former Nixon White House aides H.R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman and former Attorney General John N. Mitchell in connection with their Watergate convictions. Moluccan extremists seized a train and a primary school in the Netherlands; the hostage drama ended June 11 as Dutch marines stormed the train, resulting in the deaths of six out of nine hijackers and two hostages, while the school siege ended peacefully.

In 1984, Surgeon General C. Everett Koop issued a report saying there was "very solid" evidence linking cigarette smoke to lung disease in non-smokers. "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom," starring Harrison Ford, was released by Paramount Pictures.

In 1992, top anti-Mafia prosecutor Giovanni Falcone was killed in a remote-controlled highway bombing outside Palermo, Sicily, along with his wife and three police escorts. (Salvatore "Totò" Riina, the Mafia's "boss of bosses," was arrested in Jan. 1993 and was later convicted with others of plotting the assassinations of Falcone and another leading anti-Mafia prosecutor, Paolo Borsellino.)

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush, speaking at the U.S. Coast Guard commencement, portrayed the Iraq war as a battle between the U.S. and al-Qaida and said Osama bin Laden was setting up a terrorist cell in Iraq to strike targets in America. Iraqi police dragged from the Euphrates River a body identified as that of Pfc. Joseph Anzack Jr., who had disappeared during a May 12 ambush claimed by

al-Qaida. Jordin Sparks was crowned the new "American Idol" on the Fox reality show.

Five years ago: Egypt held the Arab world's first competitive presidential vote (Islamist Mohammed Morsi was ultimately named the winner following a runoff). A Pakistani doctor who helped the CIA hunt down Osama bin Laden was convicted of conspiring against the state and was sentenced to 33 years in prison; U.S. officials had urged Pakistan to release Dr. Shakil Afridi. (The sentence was later overturned; Afridi faces a retrial.) Phillip Phillips, a bluesy Georgia guitar man, was crowned the new "American Idol" after defeating teenager Jessica Sanchez.

One year ago: During his visit to Asia, President Barack Obama, eager to banish lingering shadows of the Vietnam War, lifted the U.S. embargo on selling arms to America's former enemy. Prosecutors failed for the second time in their bid to hold Baltimore police accountable for the arrest and death of Freddie Gray when an officer was acquitted in the racially charged case that triggered riots a year earlier. The Supreme Court upended the conviction and death sentence of a black Georgia man because prosecutors had improperly excluded African-Americans from his all-white jury. Dr. Henry Heimlich, the 96-year-old retired chest surgeon credited with developing the namesake Heimlich maneuver, used it to save a woman choking on food at his senior living center in Cincinnati.

Today's Birthdays: Bluegrass singer Mac Wiseman is 92. Actress Barbara Barrie is 86. Actress Joan Collins is 84. Actor Charles Kimbrough is 81. International Tennis Hall of Famer John Newcombe is 73. Actress Lauren Chapin is 72. Country singer Misty Morgan is 72. Country singer Judy Rodman is 66. Chess grandmaster Anatoly Karpov is 66. Boxing Hall of Famer Marvelous Marvin Hagler is 63. Singer Luka Bloom is 62. Actor-comedian-game show host Drew Carey is 59. Actress Lea DeLaria is 59. Country singer Shelly West is 59. Actor Linden Ashby is 57. Actress-model Karen Duffy is 56. Actress Melissa McBride is 52. Rock musician Phil Selway (Radiohead) is 50. Actress Laurel Holloman is 49. Rock musician Matt Flynn (Maroon 5) is 47. Singer Lorenzo is 45. Country singer Brian McComas is 45. Actor John Pollono is 45. Singer Maxwell is 44. Singer Jewel is 43. Game show contestant Ken Jennings is 43. Actress Kelly Monaco is 41. Actor D.J. Cotrona is 37. Actor Lane Garrison is 37. Actor-comedian Tim Robinson is 36. Country singer Brett Young is 36. Actor Adam Wylie is 33. Movie writer-director Ryan Coogler is 31. Golfer Morgan Pressel is 29. Folk/pop singer/songwriter Sarah Jarosz (juh-ROHZ') is 26.

Thought for Today: "He who cannot rest, cannot work; he who cannot let go, cannot hold on; he who cannot find footing, cannot go forward." - Henry Emerson Fosdick, American clergyman (1878-1969).

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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