



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

Connecting - August 03, 2017

1 message

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

Thu, Aug 3, 2017 at 8:56 AM

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



Connecting

August 03, 2017

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



- [Top AP News](#)
- [Top AP photos](#)
- [AP World](#)

- [AP books](#)
- [Connecting Archive](#)
- [The AP Store](#)
(Purchases benefit [The AP Emergency Relief Fund](#))

Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning!

Hannah Dreier has covered Venezuela for the past four years - and as she leaves that country, and The Associated Press, she produced a lookback Wednesday that is a compelling piece of writing.

In a Tweet, New York AP Top Stories editor **Kristin Gazlay** called it a "compelling read by the incomparable, intrepid @hannadreier about her tumultuous years covering Venezuela for @AP."

Dreier is joining the staff of ProPublica as a reporter covering immigration. She was the recipient of the 2016 James Foley Medill Medal for Courage in Journalism for her coverage of the recurring turmoil in Venezuela.



Julie Bykowicz

Finally, from the You Can't Make This Up! Department:

Two of our Connecting colleagues wrote in regard to AP Washington newswoman **Julie Bykowicz'** appearance on MSNBC Tuesday night:

Craig Klugman wrote to say: "Julie Bykowicz was on MSNBC Tuesday night. Does AP have anyone in Washington who doesn't do well on television?"

And this arrived from **Sibby Christensen**: "I use closed captions with my TV, and last night Julie Bykowicz was introduced on Brian Williams's show as a reporter for "the Sobered Press."

Paul

Departing AP reporter looks back at Venezuela's slide



This 2015 file photo shows a mural with the image of Venezuela's late President Hugo Chavez shares space with a political ad that urges voters to vote for his cousin, congressional candidate Argenis Chavez, in Barinas, Venezuela. (AP Photo/Fernando Llano)

By HANNAH DREIER

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) - The first thing the muscled-up men did was take my cellphone. They had stopped me on the street as I left an interview in the hometown of the late President Hugo Chavez and wrangled me into a black SUV.

Heart pounding in the back seat with the men and two women, I watched the low cinderblock homes zoom by and tried to remember the anti-kidnapping class I'd taken in preparation for moving to Venezuela. The advice had been to try to humanize yourself.

"What should we do with her?" the driver asked. The man next to me pulled his own head up by the hair and made a slitting gesture across his throat.

What might a humanizing reaction to that be?

I had thought that being a foreign reporter protected me from the growing chaos in Venezuela. But with the country unraveling so fast, I was about to learn there was no way to remain insulated.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting mailbox

John Liotta wasn't unsung to me

John Lumpkin (Email) - Other comments notwithstanding, John Liotta wasn't unsung to me. He was very much a presence and an asset, and he had the support of senior management in both Treasury and what was called "Newspaper Membership" in the AP marketing structure for most of my career. "How quaint," some today might say, but that demarcation served us well - not unlike the division of responsibility between the business side and editorial in our newspaper members in days gone by.

In my experience, John was fine-tuned in what was urgent or not and he responded accordingly. He's my age, so we grew up together in AP, although we never worked under the same roof. With me as a youthful bureau chief decades ago and he a junior member of the Treasury, we developed an evolving rapport that corresponded with the accumulation of experience in AP rate-making and AP policies related to now anachronistic concepts of adherence to formulas for what were called "assessments" for newspapers and not negotiable pricing for service.

Oh, there were moments. The pre-digital days of paper files had their usefulness. A new publisher, ready to use AP as an expense-cutting target, would open his/her tenure with demand to know "what the hell we are spending all this money on with AP." Well, conveniently, such information was kept at Treasury, so bureau chiefs like me honestly could say, "I'll get back to you." The practice was to supply assessment breakdowns in writing by mail - giving



John Liotta (right) with AP CEO Gary Pruitt at 25-Year Club celebration

us valuable lead time to determine which supplemental services might be vulnerable and maybe even off-line warn our friends in the newsroom of the potential need for justification.

Of course, if the bureau chief in the field gave John her/his take that we should make an emergency exception, the assessment breakdown (list of services with pricing) was dictated and communicated.

Fast forward to the 2003 iteration of our business relationships with domestic newspapers - "Newspaper Markets" and the new world of key accounts, more directed management of AP relationships at corporate level (a consequence of less local autonomy on AP services) and the imperative to require contract enforcement on one hand and offer flexibility on the other as long as total dollars were preserved. This required more than a legal understanding of AP rates and John once again was both guardian and partner.

Though newspaper revenue fell as a percentage of overall AP revenue later in that decade, absolute dollars increased, protecting AP assets to cover the news. John is among those responsible for that.

Bon voyage to a fellow granddad. You outlasted me and it served you and AP well.

-0-

Former AP reporter among witnesses to 1966 Texas sniper shootings

Dave Tomlin ([Email](#)) - Pam spotted this Texas Monthly piece, a collection of memories from witnesses to the UT Tower sniper shootings. Among them is a graf from then-AP staffer **Robert Heard**, who the story notes is now a nonfiction writer living in Austin.

96 Minutes

By Pamela Colloff, Texas Monthly

On August 1, 1966, Charles Whitman climbed to the top of the University of Texas Tower and started firing-and the rest, literally, is history. Here's what happened on that fateful day, in the words of more than three dozen people who got shot, fired back, lost loved ones, saved lives by risking their own, and otherwise witnessed the nation's first mass murder in a public place.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

AP on the air - on the Nashville Network

Joe Edwards ([Email](#)) - I had the music beat in Nashville in the 1980s and was invited to do commentary on a 30-minute news/feature show on the now-deceased Nashville Network. I did a three-minute Andy Rooney-like routine for about six shows. The one I remember the most was explaining the difference between a fiddle and a violin: A fiddler wears fringe and jeans and a violinist wears a tuxedo.

-0-

Denver Press Club marks 150th anniversary

Bob Burdick ([Email](#)) - The Denver Press Club, the nation's oldest continuously operating press club, celebrated its 150th anniversary and being added to the National Register of Historic Places Wednesday night.

Peter Banda, AP-Denver, (at right) recorded the event.





L-R: Dusty Saunders, press club Hall of Fame, member for 62 years, former president of the club and former reporter for the Rocky Mountain News; Denver Mayor Michael Hancock; U.S. Rep. Diana DeGette (D-Colo.); and Kevin Flynn, Denver City Councilman, former press club president and former reporter for the Rocky Mountain News. All spoke at the celebration. (Photos by Bob Burdick)

-0-

Nokes gathers photos for new book



Greg Nokes (Email) - exploring the Burnett cutoff in northern California while getting photos for his new book, "The Troubled Life of Peter Burnett, Oregon Pioneer and First Governor of California," due out from Oregon State University Press in the spring. The cutoff was the first wagon road between Oregon and California. Burnett developed the road while headed from Oregon to the California gold fields in 1848. Greg and his son, Deston, also found wagon ruts from the original road.

-0-

Lack of appreciation

Gene Herrick (Email) - My dear significant other, Kitty Susan Hylton, is a qualified soprano choir singer, but her talent is seldom appreciated by her four cats.

The other day she was taking a bath, and singing Moon River, when suddenly one of her cats jumped on the side of the tub to see if she was in trouble.

Another cat started loud meowing when Kitty burst into another song. Today, one of her cats got under a bed in one of the off-limits bedrooms and wouldn't come out.

Suddenly, Kitty started singing Amazing Grace. The cat suddenly came flying out from under the bed, and left the room.

Some days one just doesn't seem to get any appreciation.

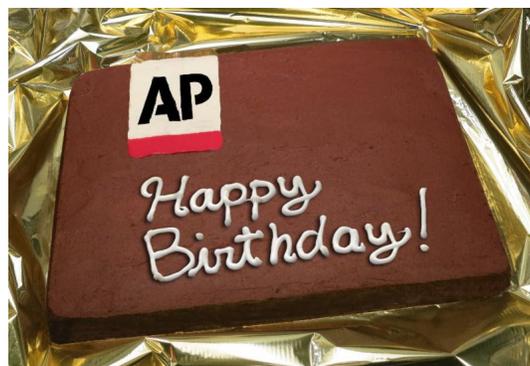
AP to name first preseason All-America football team, kick off 82nd year of Top 25 poll

The Associated Press All-America team, the longest-running annual honor roll of the nation's top college football players, will begin its 92nd year with its first preseason edition on Tuesday, Aug. 22. The preseason edition of the AP Top 25 football poll, entering its 82nd year, will be released a day earlier on Monday, Aug. 21.

The first AP All-America team was selected in 1925, a decade before the first Heisman Trophy. The same expert panel of 61 sports writers and broadcasters from AP-affiliated media around the country who decide the AP Top 25 will select the preseason All-America players for each position to first, second and third teams.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Dave Bradley Jr. - davidb@npgco.com

Brad Brooks - bjb2105@gmail.com

Ben Curtis - bcurtis@ap.org

Jim Hood - jimhood44@gmail.com

And a day late to:

Dave Berry - daveb@phillipsmedia.com

Welcome to Connecting



Charles Arbogast - carbogast@ap.org

Denis Paquin - dpaquin@ap.org

Stories of interest

Has U.S. press freedom gotten worse under Trump? A new site aims to find out (Nieman)

Donald Trump has repeatedly referred to the news media as the "enemy of the American people." In May, Montana House rep Greg Gianforte body-slammed Guardian reporter Ben Jacobs for asking a question. In July, reporters were ordered to delete photos and videos they had taken of Trumpcare protestors being arrested in a Senate hallway.

It feels as if press freedom has declined in the six months since Trump was inaugurated, but a new site, U.S. Press Freedom Tracker, will show whether things actually are more dire than they used to be. The site, launched Wednesday, "aims to be the first to provide reliable, easy-to-access information on the number of press freedom violations in the United States - from journalists facing charges to reporters stopped at the U.S. border or asked to hand over their electronics."

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Believe it or not, Trump's chaotic White House has one important lesson for journalists (Poynter)

Searching for positive leadership lessons in the Trump White House has been a challenge for me. It's not about politics. I just disapprove of publicly embarrassing (and threatening) your staff, using lewd language and self-aggrandizement.

For starters.

But then I started thinking about the president's use of social media. Maybe that, I thought, could actually point to a positive leadership habit, something I call "mixing it up."

"Mixing it up" amounts to changing the rhythm of your day, choosing to engage in an activity that counters the effects of doing too much of the same thing.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Politico humiliated The Wall Street Journal by publishing its Trump transcript (Poynter)

Gerard Baker is in charge at The Wall Street Journal. If you had any doubt, just read the transcript of the paper's recent interview with President Trump.

Belatedly, you can now dissect the handiwork of a Journal group that went to the Oval Office on July 25. The paper wrote about the session, leading with President Trump's talk of a tax code overhaul and with Baker taking a byline with two others. It included parts of the transcript but declined to place the whole shebang online.

As Politico reports, the paper had the transcript, knew it was circulating but warned staff about leaking it, which somebody now has done. "Politico embarrasses WSJ by publishing Trump transcript" is how Columbia Journalism Review puts it, saying the daily blew "a golden opportunity to re-establish the Journal's political reporting bonafides and catch up on a story where it has fallen behind its competitors."

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

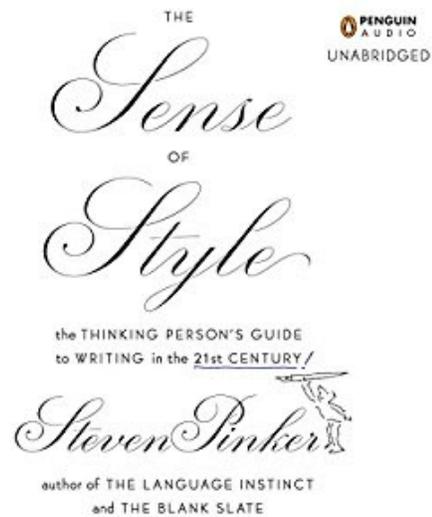
The Final Word

The Single Reason Why People Can't Write, According to a Harvard Psychologist (Inc.)

By Glenn Leibowitz

"Why is so much writing so hard to understand? Why must a typical reader struggle to follow an academic article, the fine print on a tax return, or the instructions for setting up a wireless home network?"

These are questions Harvard psychologist Steven Pinker asks in his book, *The Sense of Style: The Thinking Person's Guide to Writing in the 21st Century*. They're questions I've often encountered - and attempted to tackle - throughout my career as a business writer and editor. Whenever I see writing that is loaded with jargon, clichés, technical terms, and abbreviations, two questions come immediately to mind. First, what is the writer trying to say, exactly? And second, how can the writer convey her ideas more clearly, without having to lean on language that confuses the reader?



For Pinker, the root cause of so much bad writing is what he calls "the Curse of Knowledge", which he defines as "a difficulty in imagining what it is like for someone else not to know something that you know. The curse of knowledge is the single best explanation I know of why good people write bad prose."

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

Today in History - August 3, 2017



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Aug. 3, the 215th day of 2017. There are 150 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 3, 1492, Christopher Columbus set sail from Palos, Spain, on a voyage that took him to the present-day Americas.

On this date:

In 1807, former Vice President Aaron Burr went on trial before a federal court in Richmond, Virginia, charged with treason. (He was acquitted less than a month later.)

In 1916, Irish-born British diplomat Roger Casement, a strong advocate of independence for Ireland, was hanged for treason.

In 1921, baseball commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis refused to reinstate the former Chicago White Sox players implicated in the "Black Sox" scandal, despite their acquittals in a jury trial.

In 1936, Jesse Owens of the United States won the first of his four gold medals at the Berlin Olympics as he took the 100-meter sprint.

In 1943, U.S. Army Lt. Gen. George S. Patton slapped a private at an army hospital in Sicily, accusing him of cowardice. (Patton was later ordered by Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower to apologize for this and a second, similar episode.)

In 1949, the National Basketball Association was formed as a merger of the Basketball Association of America and the National Basketball League.

In 1958, the nuclear-powered submarine USS Nautilus became the first vessel to cross the North Pole underwater.

In 1966, comedian Lenny Bruce, whose raunchy brand of satire and dark humor landed him in trouble with the law, was found dead in his Los Angeles home; he was 40.

In 1972, the U.S. Senate ratified the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union. (The U.S. unilaterally withdrew from the treaty in 2002.)

In 1981, U.S. air traffic controllers went on strike, despite a warning from President Ronald Reagan they would be fired, which they were.

In 1987, the Iran-Contra congressional hearings ended, with none of the 29 witnesses tying President Ronald Reagan directly to the diversion of arms-sales profits to Nicaraguan rebels.

In 1994, Arkansas carried out the nation's first triple execution in 32 years. Stephen G. Breyer was sworn in as the Supreme Court's newest justice in a private ceremony at Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist's Vermont summer home.

Ten years ago: Toyota said its April-June 2007 profit had jumped 32.3 percent to a then-record high for a quarter, lifted by strong overseas sales and a weaker yen. Iraqis welcomed home their soccer team, which had won the Asian Cup.

Five years ago: The U.N. General Assembly overwhelmingly denounced Syria's crackdown on dissent in a symbolic effort meant to push the deadlocked Security Council and the world at large into action on stopping the country's civil war. Michael Phelps rallied to win the 100-meter butterfly for his third gold of the London Games and No. 17 of his career. Missy Franklin set a world record in the 200 backstroke for the 17-year-old's third gold in London. Falling at speeds of up to 220 mph, 138 skydivers shattered the vertical skydiving world record as they flew heads-down in a massive snowflake formation in northern Illinois. (This record was in turn eclipsed in 2015 by 164 skydivers plunging over central Illinois.)

One year ago: President Barack Obama cut short the sentences of 214 federal inmates, including 67 life sentences, in what the White House called the largest batch of commutations on a single day in more than a century. An Emirates Boeing 777 crash-landed in Dubai and caught fire; all 300 people on board survived, but one firefighter was killed.

Today's Birthdays: Football Hall of Fame coach Marv Levy is 92. Singer Tony Bennett is 91. Actor Martin Sheen is 77. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Lance Alworth is 77. Lifestyle guru Martha Stewart is 76. Singer Beverly Lee (The Shirelles) is 76. Rock musician B.B. Dickerson is 68. Movie director John Landis is 67. Actress JoMarie Payton is 67. Actor Jay North (TV: "Dennis the Menace") is 66. Hockey Hall-of-Famer Marcel Dionne is 66. Country musician Randy Scruggs is 64. Actor Philip Casnoff is 63. Actor John C. McGinley is 58. Rock singer-musician Lee

Rocker (The Stray Cats) is 56. Actress Lisa Ann Walter is 56. Rock singer James Hetfield (Metallica) is 54. Rock singer-musician Ed Roland (Collective Soul) is 54. Actor Isaiah Washington is 54. Country musician Dean Sams (Lonestar) is 51. Rock musician Stephen Carpenter (Deftones) is 47. Hip-hop artist Spinderella (Salt-N-Pepa) is 46. Actress Brigid Brannagh is 45. Actor Michael Ealy is 44. Country musician Jimmy De Martini (Zac Brown Band) is 41. NFL quarterback Tom Brady is 40. Actress Evangeline (ee-VAN'-gel-eeen) Lilly is 38. Actress Mamie Gummer is 34. Olympic gold medal swimmer Ryan Lochte is 33. Country singer Whitney Duncan is 33. Actor Jon Foster is 33. Actress Georgina Haig is 32. Singer Holly Arnstein (Dream) is 32. Actress Tanya Fischer is 32. Pop-rock musician Brent Kutzle (OneRepublic) is 32. Rapper D.R.A.M. is 29.

Thought for Today: "The man who insists on seeing with perfect clearness before he decides, never decides." - Henri Frederic Amiel (ahn-REE' fred-deh-REEK' ah-mee-EL'), Swiss critic (1821-1881).

Got a story or photos 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

SafeUnsubscribe™ pjshane@gmail.com

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

Sent by paulstevens46@gmail.com in collaboration with

Constant Contact 

Try it free today