



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

Connecting - January 16, 2018

1 message

Paul Stevens <paulstevens46@gmail.com>

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Reply-To: paulstevens46@gmail.com

To: pjshane@gmail.com

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Connecting

January 16, 2018

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Colleagues,

The recent listing of deaths of AP people in 2017 sparked a memory of one of them by Connecting colleague **Tom Cohen**, whose recollection of **Ahmet "Andy" Balan** leads today's issue.

SITS? What does it stand for, asked **Peggy Walsh** in Monday's edition. **Bob Daugherty** replied correctly, "Sunday In The South."

Noted Peggy: "Amen. Bob got it right. I started it as a southern roundup of interesting shorts because there was so little weekend copy. I'm not sure when it started but I left Atlanta in 1985. It was not the favorite assignment for the bureaus in the hub! In fact I reconnected with Will Lester on Facebook a few years ago and the first thing he mentioned was SITS. I'm amazed it survived for so long and even ended up with photos. Bob's note was the first I heard of that and the other regional roundups. I'm pretty sure one of the most dreaded notes on Fridays was mine asking for the stories so I could paste them together."

Have a great day!

Paul

Working with the man called The Turk highlight of four years on the World Desk



Ahmet "Andy" Balan and Tom Cohen in Andy's home in Istanbul in 2009.

Tom Cohen ([Email](#)) - Seeing Ahmet "Andy" Balan's name on the list of those we lost in 2017 brought great sadness, as well as a chuckle or two remembering times past. On the World Desk in New York back in the 1980s, working with the man we called The Turk was a highlight of my four-year stint.

Andy was the desk's traffic cop, divvying up the incoming stories from around the world for editing and filing. In some ways, he was like a machine -- ever present, always tearing off the latest items from his desk printer and arranging them in rows next to his computer (higher priority stories at the top) or typing away at his keyboard. I don't think I ever saw him lose his cool, even on the most stressful days of non-stop breaking news.

In most ways, though, Andy was superbly human -- smart, always joking, keeping things sane under sometimes insane pressure. He was a master needler, and any human frailty exposed in the work environment became fair game. Once I expressed frustration over desk staffers constantly calling out "What's your number?" to transfer a phone call. Why didn't they just learn the handful of extensions we used, I wondered, out loud and somewhat irritably. That was a mistake. Forever after, Andy would find a way in any conversation or correspondence to ask me, "What's your number?"

At the end of his shift, with a few minor stories of the day still awaiting an edit, he would slyly look my way and sweep his arm across so the paper slips disappeared in the opening between our desks, saying "those fell through the cracks."

On one particularly grim day in 1988, I was supervising the desk when I got a phone call informing me that my father had suffered a heart attack in St. Louis. I went to another phone to learn more, and as I hung up, Andy came over. He had been watching for an opening, and took that moment to grasp my arms and look me in the eye to focus me and tell me to take a deep breath. I'll never forget his caring gesture.

He lived on the lower East Side with his wife, Aysun, and their children, and on most days, he went to a little church on 5th Avenue near the AP office to meditate following his shift.

After our New York days, I was fortunate enough to visit Andy twice in Istanbul, where he and his family had moved. Both times, the Balans insisted on hosting me (and my wife on the second visit) to dinner at their house on the Asian side of the city, and we had wonderful evenings full of stories and laughter.

We stayed in touch, far too infrequently, and one of the last times we corresponded was in September 2016, when Andy send me a LinkedIn message that said: "Congratulations on your anniversary! WHAT'S YOUR NUMBER????"

I only wish I still had his number.

Connecting mailbox

Hawaii false alert sparks recollections of EBS test warning in 1971

John Willis ([Email](#)) - If memory serves and some of our colleagues may remember this, but I think there was a similar mishap to what happened in Hawaii with regards to a nuke warning back in 1971.

It seems to me that the national EBS test warning was sent to broadcast stations across the nation in early 1971. I think it might have been a Saturday in January or

February. Every station had an envelope (usually located very close to the teletype) and inside were the monthly authenticator words. On this particular test warning, whoever sent it out used the actual authenticator word for that month, but no one did anything at all.

Does anyone remember that incident more clearly?

My cousin, Craig Armstrong, was working for a TV station in Columbus that Saturday in 1971, and here is his response to my query. He just happens to have offspring who live in Hawaii, and when I asked him how they took it, it jogged my memory of 1971...

"I was in the announce booth at WBNS-TV when that '71 event went down. My job was to go to the wire machine every Saturday at noon to secure a copy of the EBS notification test... I then took it to the log book and entered the exact time of reception. It was fairly standard stuff. But that day, it was NOT a test, so I went to the control room and we got out the notification audio tape and prepared to play it. But first, I and the main board operator agreed we needed to speak to station management. We also called over at WLWC to see what they had... the same thing... We all agreed to wait to see if there would be any follow-up communications over the wire machines. We also contacted the Civil Defense offices who had no knowledge... needless to say, it was the lead story for the 11pm newscast."

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Memories of Washington rioting after King's assassination, Resurrection City on the Mall

Malcolm Barr ([Email](#)) - MLK Day yesterday took me back to AP-WX in 1968, not only to memories of the assassination but recollections of the subsequent riots in Washington D.C. and the establishment of Resurrection City on the Mall. During the riots, the city was under curfew from 8 p.m. until I don't recall when. I was working the night desk under Sid Roberts. It was during curfew that a 'dictationist' ended her shift with no way to get home. The streets were patrolled by the Army or National Guard or both. Reporters were permitted out after curfew so I volunteered to drive the black lady home, at the same time calling at the Pentagon at 9 p.m. where the Vietnam casualty lists were made available daily. On my circuitous route back to the Connecticut Avenue, NW, office, while stopped at a red light (why I stopped at a red light in the middle of a curfew, I'll never know!) my tinpot, elderly Renault was surrounded by a group of angry youths who began rocking my car. I accelerated through the intersection in the vicinity of 14th Street and made it back to 1300 Connecticut shaken but safe.

As I write this, another recollection of the period was in April or May when I was assigned to Resurrection City, a shanty town on the Mall occupied by about 3,000 black and white activists, the culmination, I believe, of the Poor People's March planned by King before his death. This was in the afternoon, but it had been raining hard for quite a while and the mud was quite deep and some people were not particularly friendly. I interviewed both black and white inhabitants of the camp but slipped and fell in the mud while leaving.

It took me several days to negotiate with management (Marv Arrowsmith or CoB Bill Beale, maybe?) the cost of replacing my ruined pants!

Footnote: I believe my memory serves me that during the riots and all the weeks that Resurrection City was in place, among about 90 employees at AP's Washington bureau, only one - the memorable Austin Scott - was black.

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Yesterday is in the past - What about the future?

Gene Herrick ([Email](#)) - Yesterday was a day of remembering for some folks; yesterday was a day of projecting hope for many others. We all observed Rev. Martin Luther King's holiday honoring his birth in 1929 in Atlanta.

Some marched in honor of Dr. King, while others enjoyed other activities that one does on holidays.

King was an orator of great esteem, whose voice shook the rafters of mankind, trying desperately to bring its people together in an accepting and loving way, as hoped for by God, Mahatma Gandhi, Mother Teresa, and Nelson Mandela, all of whom he honored. King was a black man whose race, in this country, came out of the dirty trenches of slavery in the South.

Rev. King came to be the voice of peaceful and non-violent resistance, and the personification of taking to the streets, the pulpits, and huge gatherings of people to bring attention to the continuing down-grading of the black race, and other minority groups. King started his venture in Civil Right as a preacher in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1956, at the time Rosa Parks, a black lady refused to move to the black section of a city bus... Both were arrested. When His voice stirred the spirits of many, and later led to his being award the Nobel Peace Prize.

However, that outstanding voice and leadership was silenced by a red-neck assassin's bullet in 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee.

Now, one would ask if the life of Rev. King mattered. Did his message change the minds and attitudes of mankind? Do we not find ourselves being battered by racial slurs coming from the highest office of our country? Do we not wonder about the "tweeting" messages and threats coming from that honored office? Do we not wonder and become concerned when a great nation like Britain, a longtime friend, cheers when they find out our president is not going there for a ceremony? Do we not worry about the threats to and from North Korea, a nation which has fallen out of love with its relative to the South? Do we not worry about whose atomic button is largest?

Do we not wonder about the almost daily reports of human racial slaughter in our nation. Do we not wonder about reliability and obvious lies being told and reported by our congresspersons? Do we not wonder about mankind's inhumanity to itself?

One would doubt if Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s view from the mountain top is beautiful and pleasing, and it is doubtful he is resting in peace.

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Spotted in New Dehli - Ghandi statement

In the very first month of Indian Opinion, I realized that the sole aim of journalism should be service. The newspaper press is a great power, but just as an unchained torrent of water submerges whole country sides and devastates crops, even so an uncontrolled pen serves but to destroy. If the control is from without, it proves more poisonous than want of control. It can be profitable only when exercised from within. If this line of reasoning is correct, how many of the journals in the world would stand the test? But who would stop those that are useless? The useful and the useless must, like good and evil generally, go on together, and man must make his choice.

M.K.Gandhi

Kevin Walsh ([Email](#)) - Spotted at the memorial site in New Delhi, India where Mahatma Gandhi spent his last days and was assassinated on January 30, 1948. Among his many other accomplishments, Gandhi was a journalist, writer and editor.

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AP story on death of famed MLB umpire accompanied by long-ago Horton photo



Brian Horton ([Email](#)) - The AP carried an obit Monday on major league umpire Doug Harvey, including a photo I made of Harvey in action many, many years ago. Real kick to see my credit line, including on the NY Times website. [Click here](#) for a link to the story.

Harvey was one of the greatest umpires of all time, one of only ten to be named to the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown.

Harvey was one of my favorite umpires. He would often sit and talk with the photographers behind home plate when we would be waiting to go out for the start of a game at Cincinnati's Riverfront Stadium.

He was involved in one of the funniest umpire stories I was ever part of. The Reds had never had a rainout over several seasons at Riverfront Stadium. They would wait forever to keep from calling a game.

One night, in the late 1970s, it was a getaway game for both teams and it was pouring. Dick Wagner, the Reds GM, was pacing in the tunnel behind home plate trying to keep the umps from calling the game.

Harvey was the crew chief so he was dealing with Wagner. The other umps were just kibitzing and adding their two cents worth.

Wagner kept calling the Weather Service at the airport for updates and he'd tell Harvey its not raining 50 miles away, then not raining 40 miles away, etc. Meanwhile it was raining at the ballpark so hard you couldn't see the outfield wall.

This went on for quite a while and finally he hung up the phone and turned toward Harvey with a big grin, "It's not raining at the airport!"

Harvey looked up and said, without hesitation, "Dick, get the teams loaded up, we're going to play the bleeping game at the airport."

Everybody but Wagner burst out laughing. Wagner just stormed off!

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AP Needs YOU: Calling all AP Editorial Retirees!

Former chiefs, ACOBs, news editors, photo editors and broadcast editors will remember how important the annual editorial/broadcast contests have always been to AP members. As staffs have shrunk in member newsrooms, it has become harder to find judges willing to dedicate some time and their sharp talents to reviewing entries and declaring winners, writing compelling comments and meeting the judging deadline.

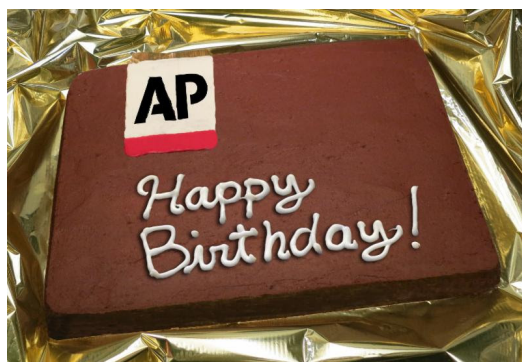
So we turn to the amazing readership of Connecting to ask for your help. Many of our state boards have agreed to open judging to former AP editorial staff. It's not hard duty. It involves reading, watching some good TV and listening to great radio

journalism and making your selections online. In exchange, we would give every judge who takes an assignment (and completes it by deadline) free access to the online AP Stylebook for a year! It's easy to use, updated frequently and best of all -- searchable!

We'll take care not to overload you with entries. We appreciate your time and your expertise!

Interested? Please contact Patti Baker, marketing coordinator, at pbaker@ap.org with your name, email address, phone number and city and state.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Bob Daugherty - robertd127@gmail.com

Brian Friedman - bfriedman@sbcglobal.net

Arlene Sposato - raspot1011@aol.com

Welcome to Connecting



Marion Ellis - ellisellisinc@nc.rr.com

Stories of interest

Era ends with huge sendoff for The Star's Mike McGraw



John Wylie ([Email](#)) - A throng that would have burst the walls of *The Kansas City Star's* cavernous, now vacant newsroom honored Mike McGraw Sunday because he heard the voices of common people and used brilliant investigative reporting to right wrongs and bring them justice.

Among the hundreds who jammed The Star Pavilion were many who learned from his generosity in sharing his expertise with new generations of journalists-and

was first in line to honor them as they succeeded.

"Even in his final weeks in the hospital he was reporting," said Mark Ziemann, former Star president and publisher and now McClatchy VP/operations.

Mick, as his friends called him, discovered the hospital was using items from a company that had been exposed for poor practices.

"I can tell you personally he was urging the nurses to lobby the administrators to change suppliers," Ziemann added.

At The Star's annual reunion banquet in October, he was full of ideas for projects on his own and at KCPT public television, after "retiring" from a Star career that stretched from 1973-when AP's office and bureau were just upstairs from the Star newsroom--until 2014, when he quickly mastered his new medium.

Despite his hard-nosed investigative reporting and literal joy in reviewing huge stacks of documents, often obtained after months of relentless digging, prying, cajoling and sterner methods, he never lost the ability to write compelling stories that drew in readers and viewers alike like honey draws flies.

"He was skeptical but never cynical," Ziemann said.

"Mick loved the little guys, the victims, the voiceless..."

"Mick's passing is a terrible tragedy because we lost a great one when the need for his type of investigative reporting has never been greater. But remember that Mick, the consummate reporter, never turned in a story that had a hole in it.

"So even though his passing leaves a void, he spent his life teaching us how to fill it with wonderful memories, with love, with friendship.

"For a whole generation of journalists that he mentored, Mick lives on in them."

Those present cheered with gusto. Those who couldn't attend-Mick's battle with cancer lasted just months before his death at 69 on Jan. 6-sent plaudits by email and phone to those who could.

Former Star staffer Diana Dawson spoke for dozens when she wrote, "So many more of us would have loved to have been there."

Onetime Star managing editor Mike Waller asked me to relay his thoughts from South Carolina, which summarized Mick in just eight words: "A great reporter and an even better person."

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Plunkett: As the bulk of The Denver Post leaves the city, we're so over working for free

By CHUCK PLUNKETT

This month, The Denver Post newsroom is moving out of its curvaceous white building across from Civic Center at the top of the 16th Street Mall. The lion's share of our journalists are leaving the city to headquarter nearby at our printing plant in Adams County.

I won't sugarcoat it: No one at The Post that I know of wants to leave downtown. Besides the convenience the location offers, we've loved the symbolism: Colorado's largest news organization visibly standing watch over the seats of local and state government, commerce and culture.

But the watchdogs can no longer afford the rent. Instead, Denver city workers, protected by their small army of media relations professionals, will enjoy the views.

So yes, it's a sad time for us, another insult after years of downsizing.

But it's not all bad news.

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

Today in History - January 16, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 16, the 16th day of 2018. There are 349 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 16, 1978, NASA named 35 candidates to fly on the space shuttle, including Sally K. Ride, who became America's first woman in space, and Guion S. Bluford Jr., who became America's first black astronaut in space.

On this date:

In 27 B.C., Caesar Augustus was declared the first Emperor of the Roman Empire by the Senate.

In 1547, Ivan IV of Russia (popularly known as "Ivan the Terrible") was crowned Czar.

In 1865, Union Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman decreed that 400,000 acres of land in the South would be divided into 40-acre lots and given to former slaves. (The order, later revoked by President Andrew Johnson, is believed to have inspired the expression, "Forty acres and a mule.")

In 1920, Prohibition began in the United States as the 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution took effect, one year to the day after its ratification. (It was later repealed by the 21st Amendment.)

In 1935, fugitive gangster Fred Barker and his mother, Kate "Ma" Barker, were killed in a shootout with the FBI at Lake Weir, Florida.

In 1942, actress Carole Lombard, 33, her mother, Elizabeth, and 20 other people were killed when their plane crashed near Las Vegas, Nevada, while en route to California from a war-bond promotion tour.

In 1957, three B-52's took off from Castle Air Force Base in California on the first non-stop, round-the-world flight by jet planes, which lasted 45 hours and 19 minutes. Classical music conductor Arturo Toscanini died in New York at age 89.

In 1967, Alan S. Boyd was sworn in as the first U.S. secretary of transportation.

In 1988, Jimmy "The Greek" Snyder was fired as a CBS Sports commentator, one day after telling a reporter for WRC-TV in Washington, D.C. that, during the era of slavery, blacks had been bred to produce stronger offspring.

In 1991, the White House announced the start of Operation Desert Storm to drive Iraqi forces out of Kuwait. (Allied forces prevailed on Feb. 28, 1991.)

In 1998, NASA announced that John Glenn, the first American to orbit the Earth, would fly aboard the space shuttle later in the year.

In 2003, the space shuttle Columbia blasted off for what turned out to be its last flight; on board was Israel's first astronaut, Ilan Ramon (ee-LAHN' rah-MOHN'). (The mission ended in tragedy on Feb. 1, when the shuttle broke up during its return descent, killing all seven crew members.)

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush closed out his Mideast trip with a brief visit to Egypt, where he was welcomed by President Hosni Mubarak (HOHS'-nee moo-BAH'-rahk). Archbishop Earl Paulk, the 80-year-old leader of a megachurch, pleaded guilty in Atlanta to lying under oath about his sexual affairs and was sentenced to 10 years' probation. (Paulk died in March 2009.)

Five years ago: President Barack Obama unveiled the most sweeping proposals for curbing gun violence in two decades, pressing a reluctant Congress to pass universal background checks and bans on military-style assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines like the ones used in the Newtown, Connecticut, school shooting. (Both proposals went down to defeat.) The federal government

temporarily grounded Boeing's newest and most technologically advanced jetliner, declaring that U.S. carriers could not fly the 787 Dreamliner again until the risk of battery fires was addressed. (The grounding order was lifted three months later.) Pauline Friedman Phillips, better known as advice columnist Dear Abby, died in Minneapolis at age 94.

One year ago: Turkish authorities captured an Uzbek national suspected of killing 39 people during an attack on an Istanbul nightclub during New Year's celebrations. A shooting attack at an electronic music festival in Mexico's Caribbean coastal resort of Playa del Carmen left five people dead, including three foreigners. President Barack Obama, his days in office dwindling, celebrated the World Series champion Chicago Cubs at the White House. Former NASA astronaut Eugene Cernan, to date the last man to walk on the moon, died in Houston at age 82.

Today's Birthdays: Author William Kennedy is 90. Author-editor Norman Podhoretz is 88. Opera singer Marilyn Horne is 84. Hall of Fame auto racer A.J. Foyt is 83. Singer Barbara Lynn is 76. Country singer Ronnie Milsap is 75. Singer Katherine Anderson Schaffner (The Marvelettes) is 74. Country singer Jim Stafford is 74. Talk show host Dr. Laura Schlessinger is 71. Movie director John Carpenter is 70. Actress-dancer-choreographer Debbie Allen is 68. Rhythm-and-blues singer Maxine Jones (En Vogue) is 59. Singer Sade (shah-DAY') is 59. Pop/rock singer-songwriter Jill Sobule is 59. Rock musician Paul Webb (Talk Talk) is 56. Actor David Chokachi (CHOH'-kuh-chee) is 50. Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta is 49. Actor-writer-director Josh Evans is 47. Actor-comedian Jonathan Mangum is 47. Actor Richard T. Jones is 46. Actress Josie Davis is 45. Model Kate Moss is 44. Actor-playwright Lin-Manuel Miranda is 38. Country musician James Young (The Eli Young Band) is 38. Rock musician Nick Valensi (The Strokes) is 37. Actress Renee Felice Smith is 33. NFL quarterback Joe Flacco is 33. Actress Yvonne Zima is 29.

Thought for Today: "Goodwill is the only asset that competition cannot undersell or destroy." - Marshall Field, department store founder (1834-1906).

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](#)

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