



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

Connecting - February 27, 2018

1 message

Paul Stevens <paulstevens46@gmail.com>

Tue, Feb 27, 2018 at 8:47 AM

Reply-To: paulstevens46@gmail.com

To: pjshane@gmail.com

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Connecting

February 27, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning!

Our topics for discussion of late have included your pets, your Olympics memories and your favorite songs tied to the news media (two of which continue in today's issue).

So why not your dreams of working for the AP during your career - good as well as bad?

That's the suggestion of **Jim Hood** for his Connecting colleagues, and he starts the ball rolling with some of his own.

Have a great day!

Paul

Once upon a midnight dreary ...



Jim Hood (Email) - Recently, a fellow AP relic told me of a recurring dream he suffers through almost nightly. Odd, I thought, I have the same one a few times a week. This caused me to wonder whether there are others out there who constantly regrind their AP careers while slumbering. Perhaps fellow sufferers will contribute their most frequent episodes?

I won't divulge the dream my former colleague shared, so as not to give away its contents and thus taint the pool of study participants. But I will, in the interests of science, reveal another, even more personal, dream I endure every now and then. In it, I am somehow back at the AP despite many decades of other endeavors that have left me a bit long in the tooth

and also, happily, not in need of gainful employment. I explain this over and over to my tormentors but it has no effect.

In this rather nightmarish sequence, Jay Bowles is yelling at me for taking an entire afternoon to drive across Kansas, a small-town broadcaster is waving strips of wire copy at me and complaining bitterly about the noise his printer makes, the Guild is filing a grievance because I took the clock down to clean it, and Larry Blasko is visibly annoyed with me for reasons I can't quite discern.

The General Desk has changed "discrete" to "discreet" in a story I labored over for days, thus making it incorrect, and is insisting they are right. Keith Fuller is miffed that I followed his instructions and bought a condo in Dallas, a city to which he has decided I will not move after all. Tom Pendergast says it will be my fault if any of a dozen disasters befall the AP. I misspelled the name of one Tom Thibodaux, of late residing in the Thibodeaux Parish Prison, according to Sheriff Pierre "Pete" Thibodeau.

A North Dakota editor is miffed. He called in a self-described "big story about a man who almost drowned" while the Denver bureau was awash in Saturday afternoon high school wrestling results and I (allegedly) told him to call back when the guy succeeded. Dorman Codell is disappointed that I murdered the English language by saying that a man "shotgunned his wife to death" before leading police on a high-speed chase.

The General Desk wants to know how it could possibly take an entire day for a photographer to get from Denver to Montana in a snowstorm, fulminating: "It's only two states away. You know, like Maryland and Delaware."

Roy Steinfort is peeved that I would waste his time telling him about any of this during our elegant luncheon at the Pastrami Palace. "They're all idiots. Just ignore them. Hood, damn it, you have to learn to be more diplomatic. You just have a mean face. That's your problem."

As with all dreams, this one is an amalgamation of events real and imagined. A shocking number of these are real. The others might as well be.

Connecting mailbox

Happy to see Sally Jacobsen's name live on with scholarship

Andrew Selsky (Email) - I am very glad to see Sally Jacobsen's name and spirit live on in the Overseas Press Club Foundation's Sally Jacobsen Scholarship. Congratulations to Hiba Dlewati, the winner of the first such scholarship.

As Africa Editor, I worked with Sally in placing OPC Foundation interns in Africa. Earlier, when Sally was the AP's international editor, she was my boss, and I could not have asked for a better one.

I first met Sally in the mid-1980s when she was covering business news out of Mexico City, and it was clear she was a class act. As international editor, Sally helped AP personnel overseas excel and overcome challenges. She really cared about her people. If all scholarship recipients could magically inherit that trait in even a small way as they move up in their careers, the world would be a better place, as well as being better informed through their reporting.

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Billy Graham - an absolute glow around him

Joe Edwards (Email) - Sometime in the late 1970s, I walked out of the AP bureau into the hallway and headed to the right but something to the left caught my eye. It was Billy Graham, in town for a crusade, standing outside John Seigenthaler's office waiting to meet with The Tennessean's editorial board. I was stunned to see a celebrity in the hall: He was tall, stately, tanned and in a dark blue suit. And, there was an absolute glow around him.

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A different kind of AP credit



Margy McCay ([Email](#)) - I've never seen this kind of credit in the New York Times. It's in this morning's Sports section and covered three Sunday Olympic events.

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Songs and Media: 'Radio Free Europe'

Larry Kilman ([Email](#)) - Not sure if it qualifies since the lyrics are nonsensical, but R.E.M.'s 'Radio Free Europe' was the ultimate party song when I worked there in the 1990s.

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Songs and Media: 'Please bleed, bleed, bleed'

Dave Tomlin (Email) - A local folk group in Corpus Christi TX had a lot of fun with this send-up of KRIS-TV's johnny-on-the-spot accident coverage in the early 1960s:

There's blood on the highway, there's blood on the ground.
You're lying there a-bleeding and there's nobody around.
You hear a car pull up and you think that you've been found.
You think the ambulance has finally come from the hospital in town.

But it's the Channel 6 reporter with his camera in his hand,
And he says 'Lie there just one minute, son. Please lie there if you can.
'I'll take just four or five pictures. I think that's all I'll need.
'So would you do me one kind favor, son, please bleed, bleed, bleed.'

The group got so many requests to perform their parody around town that the station managers felt they had to be good sports and let them sing it on the air. They followed it with a pious editorial about how the true purpose of their ambulance chasing was to promote safe driving. People thought that was even funnier than the song.

Time is like love; it's always there, but seldom understood

Gene Herrick (Email) - One cannot be a journalist and not understand the essence of time. Love is sort of like it. Both are there, but seldom understood.

For some time, I have muddled the progress of the Koreas, North and South. Having been there as an Associated Press photographer/correspondent at the beginning of their war in 1950, I am amazed, and confused, by the physical, emotional, and political progress of both.

In the 1950's, the Koreas seemed ancient, and very primitive in comparison with many other parts of the world. Then, the roads were dirt, and very narrow. The dust in summer was choking, and blinding. The rains were troublesome. The winters were horrible. There may have been a couple of paved roads in Pusan,



South Korean WACs trained and ready to join their men in the battle against Chinese invaders, display military precision as they parade through Pusan, main United Nations' fort city in Korea, on September 12, 1950. AP Photos/Gene Herrick

Taegu, Seoul, and Pyongyang, but that is all. The buildings in the cities were very small and antiquated. The housing was primitive, and mostly thatched roofed mud huts, with one, or two, rooms separated by rice-paper screens. Toilet facilities included pots inside, and sometimes little outhouses. The waste material was usually collected by men with "Honey buckets," on little wagons, and pulled by a mule. This "Stuff" was used as fertilizer for the rice paddies. Ah, what a nice aroma for a battlefield. Transportation for the locals was mainly by foot, but there were a couple of railroads.



This brings me to my point. I have spent a few hours this past couple of weeks watching television covering the Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea. Oh yes, the snow-covered mountains could be anywhere, as would be the skating rinks,

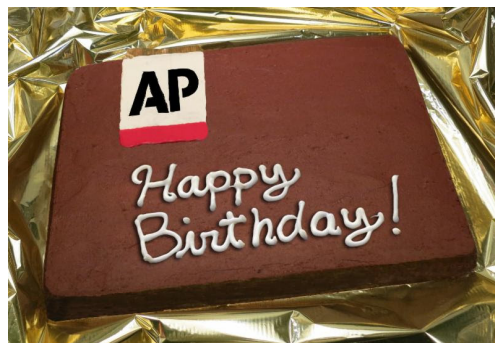
but my reference mark is the view of Seoul, showing the big paved streets, and huge and towering, modern buildings, and the powerful lighting setting the city in a glow. Wow! Times have changed. For me, remembering the past Koreas, and now seeing the modern South Korea, was a trip in time, a huge trip in time.

As to North Korea, all we ever see are the big wide paved streets and huge government buildings in Pyongyang. Once in a while we will see a picture of the North Korea countryside, but it still looks like the old times. I well remember the primitiveness of Hyesan, a little town on the North Korean/Manchurian border, divided by the Yalu River. I took pictures of members of the U.S. Army 17th regiment, of the 7th Division standing in the frozen river, and waving their victorious guns over their heads. Yes, it was very primitive. The comparison today between the North and the South was overwhelming. One of the television reviews showed scenes from the horrible war in the 1950's, and then the modern scene now in South Korea.



Apparently, life goes on, and time goes on, but mankind's progress of civilization seems to march to a different drum-beat.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Eric Carvin - ecarvin@ap.org

Doug Crews - rdcrews@socket.net

Sam Heiman - samindobbs@gmail.com

Dave Tschantz - dtschantz@ap.org

Stories of interest

Opinion: When Walter Cronkite Pronounced the War a 'Stalemate' (New York Times)



CBS Photo

By **MARK BOWDEN**

One of the enduring myths of the Vietnam War is that it was lost by hostile American press coverage.

Exhibit A in this narrative is Walter Cronkite, the CBS News anchor, billed as the nation's most trustworthy voice, who on Feb. 27, 1968, told his audience of millions that the war could not be won. Commentary like this was remarkable back then because of both custom and the Fairness Doctrine, a federal policy requiring broadcasters to remain neutral about the great questions of the day.

The doctrine was rescinded in 1987, so now we have whole networks devoted to round-the-clock propaganda. But when Cronkite aired his bleak but decidedly middle-of-the-road assessment of the war 50 years ago, immediately after the Tet offensive, it was a significant departure. It struck like revelation. From the pinnacle of TV's prime-time reach, he had descended to pronounce:

"To say that we are closer to victory today is to believe, in the face of the evidence, the optimists who have been wrong in the past. To suggest we are on the edge of defeat is to yield to unreasonable pessimism. To say that we are mired in stalemate seems the only realistic, yet unsatisfactory, conclusion."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Sibby Christensen.

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Free news gets scarcer as paywalls tighten (AFP)

By ROB LEVER

Washington (AFP) - For those looking for free news online, the search is becoming harder.

Tougher restrictions on online content have boosted digital paid subscriptions at many news organizations, amid a growing trend keeping content behind a "paywall."

Free news has by no means disappeared, but recent moves by media groups and Facebook and Google supporting paid subscriptions is forcing free-riders to scramble.

For some analysts, the trend reflects a normalization of a situation that has existed since the early internet days that enabled consumers to get accustomed to the

notion of free online content.

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

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CNN Boss Jeff Zucker Calls on Regulators to Probe Google, Facebook (Variety)

By STEWART CLARKE

Jeff Zucker has called upon advertisers and tech firms to help find new way to monetize news content on mobile platforms, and on authorities to pay closer attention to the power wielded by Google and Facebook, as news providers try and adapt to the changing digital landscape.

"In a Google and Facebook world, monetization of digital and mobile continues to be more difficult than we would have expected or liked," Zucker said, Monday, in a keynote address and discussion at Mobile World Congress in Barcelona. "I think we need help from the advertising world and from the technology world to find new ways to monetize digital content, otherwise good journalism will go away."

The CNN boss added that with regulators scrutinizing media mega-mergers, closer attention should be paid to the power of Google and Facebook.

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

Today in History - February 27, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Feb. 27, the 58th day of 2018. There are 307 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On Feb. 27, 1968, at the conclusion of a CBS News special report on the Vietnam War, Walter Cronkite delivered a commentary in which he said that the conflict appeared "mired in stalemate." Former teen singing idol Frankie Lymon, known for such songs as "Why Do Fools Fall in Love" and "Goody Goody," was found dead of a drug overdose in New York at age 25.

On this date:

In 1700, English explorer William Dampier became the first known European visitor to the island of New Britain in the Southwest Pacific.

In 1801, the District of Columbia was placed under the jurisdiction of Congress.

In 1911, inventor Charles F. Kettering demonstrated his electric automobile starter in Detroit by starting a Cadillac's motor with just the press of a switch, instead of hand-cranking.

In 1922, the Supreme Court, in *Leser v. Garnett*, unanimously upheld the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which guaranteed the right of women to vote.

In 1933, Germany's parliament building, the Reichstag (RYKS'-tahg), was gutted by fire; Chancellor Adolf Hitler, blaming the Communists, used the fire to justify suspending civil liberties.

In 1943, during World War II, Norwegian commandos launched a successful raid to sabotage a German-operated heavy water plant in Norway. An explosion inside a coal mine near Bearcreek, Montana, killed 74 miners and one rescue worker. The U.S. government, responding to a copper shortage, began circulating one-cent coins made of steel plated with zinc (the steel pennies proved unpopular, since they were easily mistaken for dimes).

In 1951, the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution, limiting a president to two terms of office, was ratified.

In 1960, the U.S. Olympic hockey team defeated the Soviets, 3-2, at the Winter Games in Squaw Valley, California. (The U.S. team went on to win the gold medal.)

In 1973, members of the American Indian Movement occupied the hamlet of Wounded Knee in South Dakota, the site of the 1890 massacre of Sioux men, women and children. (The occupation lasted until the following May.)

In 1986, the U.S. Senate approved telecasts of its debates on a trial basis.

In 1991, Operation Desert Storm came to a conclusion as President George H.W. Bush declared that "Kuwait is liberated, Iraq's army is defeated," and announced that the allies would suspend combat operations at midnight, Eastern time.

In 1993, actress Lillian Gish died in New York at age 99.

Ten years ago: William F. Buckley Jr., 82, the author and conservative commentator, was found dead at his home in Stamford, Connecticut. Civil rights leader John Lewis, a Democratic congressman from Atlanta, dropped his support for Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton in favor of Barack Obama.

Five years ago: The Senate confirmed Jacob Lew to be Treasury secretary by a vote of 71-26. President Barack Obama unveiled a statue of civil rights icon Rosa Parks at the U.S. Capitol. Van Cliburn, the internationally celebrated pianist whose triumph at a 1958 Moscow competition launched a spectacular career that made

him the rare classical musician to enjoy rock star status, died in Fort Worth, Texas, at age 78.

One year ago: President Donald Trump proposed a huge \$54 billion surge in U.S. military spending for new aircraft, ships and fighters in his first federal budget while slashing big chunks from domestic programs and foreign aid to make the government "do more with less." The Senate confirmed billionaire investor Wilbur Ross as commerce secretary by a vote of 72-27.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Joanne Woodward is 88. Consumer advocate Ralph Nader is 84. Opera singer Mirella Freni is 83. Actress Barbara Babcock is 81. Actor Howard Hesseman is 78. Actress Debra Monk is 69. Rock singer-musician Neal Schon (Journey) is 64. Rock musician Adrian Smith (Iron Maiden) is 61. Actor Timothy Spall is 61. Rock musician Paul Humphreys (Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark) is 58. Country singer Johnny Van Zant (Van Zant) is 58. Rock musician Leon Mobley (Ben Harper and the Innocent Criminals) is 57. Basketball Hall of Famer James Worthy is 57. Actor Adam Baldwin is 56. Actor Grant Show is 56. Rock musician Mike Cross (Sponge) is 53. Actor Noah Emmerich is 53. Actor Donal Logue (DOH'-nuhl LOHG) is 52. Rhythm-and-blues singer Chilli (TLC) is 47. Rock musician Jeremy Dean (Nine Days) is 46. Rhythm-and-blues singer Roderick Clark is 45. Country-rock musician Shonna Tucker is 40. Chelsea Clinton is 38. Actor Brandon Beemer is 38. Rock musician Cyrus Bolooki (New Found Glory) is 38. Rock musician Jake Clemons (Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band) is 38. Rhythm-and-blues singer Bobby Valentino is 38. Singer Josh Groban is 37. Banjoist Noam (cq) Pikelnny is 37. Rock musician Jared Champion (Cage the Elephant) is 35. Actress Kate Mara is 35. Actress Lindsey Morgan is 28.

Thought for Today: "There is no inevitability in history except as men make it." - Felix Frankfurter, U.S. Supreme Court Justice (1882-1965).

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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