



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

Connecting - September 25, 2019

1 message

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

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Connecting

September 25, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this the 25th day of September 2019,

"When you're a reporter, you're never off. You might not be at work, but you're always working."

In an essay that leads today's Connecting, our colleague **Jesse J. Holland** makes this point as he wraps up a 25-year career with The Associated Press and moves out of daily journalism to begin a new chapter in life: in October, he will become a Distinguished Visiting Scholar In Residence at the John W. Kluge Center at The Library of Congress.

Holland, who most recently was AP race and ethnicity reporter in the Washington bureau, plans to write and research some of the unknown African American history of the United States and to continue his book writing, starting with the unknown story of Freedman's Village in Arlington National Cemetery.

Take time to read his thoughts and then share with your colleagues how your transition from working in reporting, photography, communications, etc., changed your life, no matter whether you retired or changed career direction or whatever the reason.

Family events often are trumped by the all-consuming work as a journalist, as Jesse notes. Some of you got into politics as a candidate or at the least made public your support of a candidate or cause that you couldn't do before.

"To be a reporter, you have to be prepared for the sacrifice. Man, it's worth it," Jesse writes, but sometimes there is a new adventure calling.

I hope you will share your own stories.

CORRECTION: An uncaptioned file photo in Tuesday's Connecting story on the death of Bobby Baker that showed a man next to Teletype machines is not a photo of Bobby Baker. It is of technician Bob Knox.

Have a great day!

Paul

To be a reporter, you have to be prepared for the sacrifice. Man, it's

worth it. But sometime, you're ready for a new adventure.



Jesse, Carol, Rita (12) and Jesse III (11). Taken on September 8, 2019

Jesse Holland ([Email](#)) - News reporting is not for the weak of mind and spirit.

It requires sacrifice. If you're going to be a reporter, you must mute your personal opinion about politics, sports, culture, entertainment and everything else everyone else cares about and try your best to ensure your personal opinion doesn't make it into your copy. (This only applies to news reporters, by the way. Commentators, columnists, editors, and in some cases, anchors and on-air personalities don't have to do this. Just the people who provide the material those people work from.)

I have tons of opinions about everything that I've ever wrote about. But my family are the only people who know what I really think, because they are the only ones who've ever heard my unvarnished unedited opinions. Since becoming a reporter and especially since starting to cover politics, I've not registered for a political party and have never talked publicly about who I vote for, who I support and why. I've never contributed to a political cause and have had blazing fights with my wife over

her public political stances and donations and her desire to put up political signs in our yard, worrying that someone may think her opinions were mine.

You're not working this job alone. You've never seen their bylines or their faces on television, but your family is just as affected by journalism as you are. People want to talk to them about what you're doing or what you're writing about, or what you looked like on television yesterday.

There are parent-teacher meetings that are missed because a newspaper in, say, Colorado, has a question about a quote in your story, and you've got to take this call because the story is already out on the wire. There are times where you have to give your editors your cell phone, your wife's cell phone and your parents' home phone because you may be out of cell phone range on the farm in Mississippi and there's a possibility a big story may break.

When you're a reporter, you're never off. You might not be at work, but you're always working. Other people watch and read the news to find out what's going on; That's just more of work for us. You're competing with really smart people at The New York Times, the Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, Reuters, Bloomberg, NBC, ABC, PBS, NPR, CBS, Fox, MSNBC, CNN, local newspapers, websites, bloggers, nonprofit journalism outfits, private journalism outfits and everyone else under the sun. So you're always concerned that someone has something that you didn't find. So instead of relaxing and taking care of home life, you're always paranoid that the phone will ring and it'll be an editor, saying another reporter has a piece of information that we absolutely need, and you've got to get on it. You build your life around the possibility of that call and the knowledge that you're going to drop everything -- EVERYTHING -- and go back to work. Or you obsessively check your email, texts, Skype or Slack - these days all four! - knowing that any second, there'll be a missive saying "we've got to get on this." And you'll go back to work. And your family knows this - that a lot of the time they'll be second behind something you've got to write or something that you've wrote.

I love this job, but I'm looking forward to making my son's soccer game tonight for the first time this season. I'll mute my phone and won't look at any emails for a while. Saturday morning, I'll read the sports section of the Post first and look at the funny pages. Maybe I'll take up assistant coaching, since I know my schedule now. That book club for boys I've been talking about for years, it's on now. I won't boot up the AP app on my phone, I'll delete the Google search on my AP byline and Slack, and I'll be the one to take my children to church, to orchestra practice and soccer practice and lacrosse practice and maybe I'll even pull out my laptop and write something just for me.

Reporting isn't a job. It's a calling.

No one is in reporting for the money. We're in it because we believe in the First Amendment. We're in it because we believe that sunshine is the best disinfectant. We're in it for the thrill of not knowing what the next day will bring. We're in it to talk to interesting people, go interesting places and do interesting things. We're in it for the bad jokes, the bad puns and that perfect headline or perfect lede that makes your heart sing. We're in it to see our colleagues do good work, and to hope that one day, your peers will say that they loved that story you wrote.

To be a reporter, you have to be prepared for the sacrifice. Man, it's worth it.

But sometime, you're ready for a new adventure. You're ready to put your family first. You're ready to put your desires and ambitions first. You're ready.

I'm ready.

Let's go!

Connecting mailbox

Services set for Thursday for Bobby Baker

Services for Bobby Baker, who retired after 43 years with the AP including work as Virginia chief of communications, have been set. Bobby died Monday at his home at the age of 79.

Visitation for the family and friends will be from 5p-7p on Thursday, Sept. 26, followed by a Christian Wake Service at 7p at Saint John Neumann Catholic Church, [2480 Batterson Rd., Powhatan, Va. 23139](#).

Mass of Christian Burial for family and friends at 10a on Friday, Sept. 27, at the Powhatan Community Cemetery, followed by a reception at Saint John Neumann Catholic Church.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Bobby E. Baker College Scholarship, Blessed Sacrament Huguenot Catholic School, PO Box 1311, Midlothian, Va. 23113

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His bike saved the day during 1989 quake

Bill Schiffmann ([Email](#)) - I greatly enjoyed Glenn Adams' note on using motorcycles to cover the news (in Tuesday's Connecting). It's actually a great idea if you don't have to haul a lot of equipment.

And it reminded me of one of the most dramatic moments of my AP career - the night of Game 3 of the 1989 World Series between the Oakland A's and San Francisco Giants, being played at Candlestick Park.

After making sure everything was covered, I snuck out a bit early so I could watch the opening pitch. I had no sooner slid to the floor, beer in hand, when our Richmond apartment began jiggling like it was in the grasp of a huge paint mixer. The picture went out in the middle of Al Michaels' recap of the two previous contests.

It was obviously a major jolt. Most of the power was out in San Francisco, a section of the Bay Bridge had collapsed and the BART commuter train system was closed, cutting me off from the office.

Being a lifelong motorcyclist, I grabbed a jacket and my helmet and went out to get my trusty 1988 Kawasaki 750 Ninja. Weaving between lanes of freeway traffic, I headed to the Golden Gate Bridge, which had survived the shaking and was open. Riding into the city, the sight was absolutely stunning. It was pitch dark, fires were burning everywhere and people were running towards the bay, where presumably nothing could fall on them.

The bike saved the day but not the game, which was postponed. I finally got off two wheels a few years ago, after 50 years of riding, and I miss it every day.

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Connecting 'sun shot' - Norm Clarke



Norm Clarke ([Email](#)) - I may be pushing 78 years on this planet, but here's proof I'm still up at the crack of dawn, working on my autobiography and other projects. That ray, a reflection off the Wynn Las Vegas, enters our bedroom every morning through an opening in the curtains. I tried to include one of the pups to the photo but he wouldn't cooperate so you're stuck with Mr. Sunshine. (Cincinnati-AP, 1973-1979; San Diego-AP, 1979-late 1983 and Los Angeles-AP, 1984)

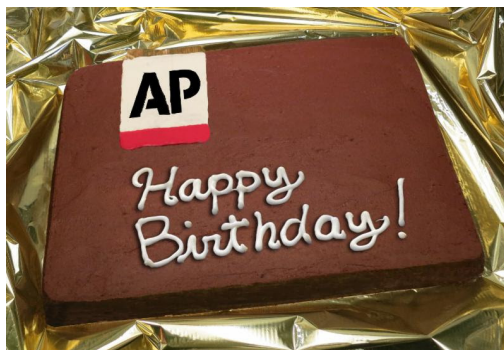
New-member profile - Cammy Seidel Bourcier

Cammy Seidel Bourcier ([Email](#)) was on the AP Broadcast desk from 1979-1982. She left the AP to join WABC-TV News as a writer/producer. Three years later, she moved to DWJ Television, a video production firm that specialized in broadcast public relations. During her 30-year tenure at the company, she traveled around the world for projects that ranged from new drug approvals to tourism, food and holocaust history.



Cammy continues her involvement in broadcast PR as a satellite media tour producer. She has also launched a new career as a Hebrew teacher and tutor and was the recipient of the 2016 Grinspoon Award for Excellence in Jewish Education in northern New Jersey. You never know what life brings...

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Mark Mittelstadt - markmitt71@yahoo.com

Wayne Slater - wslater1066@yahoo.com

Stories of interest

Egypt planned to arrest a New York Times reporter. The Trump administration reportedly wanted to let it happen. (Washington Post)

By Teo Armus

In late 2017, the New York Times received an urgent warning from a U.S. official. Egyptian authorities were looking to arrest Declan Walsh, the newspaper's reporter in Cairo, according to its publisher. It's not unusual for a large media organization to get tipped off about threats to its journalists overseas, particularly those reporting on authoritarian governments.

But what was striking is what the official said next: The Trump administration had tried to keep the warning about Walsh from ever reaching the Times. Officials "intended to sit on the information and let the arrest be carried out," Times publisher A.G. Sulzberger wrote in an opinion column on Monday.

This incident, described publicly by Sulzberger for the first time in a talk at Brown University earlier on Monday, adds a chilling new episode to the administration's trend of attacking the press and diminishing the rights of journalists as they come under threat around the globe, the publisher wrote.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Michael Rubin.

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The Story Behind the Times Correspondent Who Faced Arrest in Cairo (New York Times)



Declan Walsh in Cairo. Credit: Sima Diab for The New York Times

By DECLAN WALSH

In a powerful Op-Ed about press freedom published Monday, the publisher of The New York Times, A. G. Sulzberger, mentioned my hasty departure from Egypt on a muggy August evening a couple of years ago.

It started with a phone call from The Times's international editor, Michael Slackman, to discuss an alarming confidential warning the paper had received from an American official in Washington.

The New York Times Magazine had earlier published my article about the death of Giulio Regeni, an Italian student whose body had been found in Cairo with torture marks. The article cited American officials who linked the killing to Egypt's security services.

Now, the source said, the Egyptians were furious and were considering actions, including arresting me. The official told my editor that his superiors were unlikely or unwilling to intervene, and he risked his career just to get out this warning.

Michael urged me to leave Egypt immediately.

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

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Des Moines Register hit after report digs up old, offensive tweets of local man who raised \$1M for charity (Fox News)

By Joseph A. Wulfsohn

Iowa's largest newspaper is in the middle of a firestorm after publishing a report that dug up old, offensive tweets from a local man who raised over \$1 million he then donated to charity.

A piece published by the Des Moines Register profiled a 24-year-old Iowan native, Carson King, who became a TV sensation last weekend after he held up a sign at a football game asking people to donate money to him. He requested that they donate the funds through Venmo so he could buy his "supply" of Busch Light.

King went on to raise more than \$1 million and donated the money to the University of Iowa's Stead Children's Hospital. Busch Light and Venmo pledged to match King's fundraising efforts.

The newspaper report, however, included a "routine background check" of King's social media history. Register reporter Aaron Calvin came across two racist jokes that dated back to 2012 when King was a 16-year-old high school student, "one comparing black mothers to gorillas and another making light of black people killed in the Holocaust."

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

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Snopes: How do you survive 25 years debunking fake news? (BBC News)

By Dhruvi Shah

How do you survive 25 years in the fact-checking business?

Snopes began as a forum for sharing and investigating urban legends and cool folklore.

But in a world where "fake news" dominates, where disinformation is a part of the political sphere and misinformation touches every single corner of the internet, what is it about this online encyclopaedia which has made it become the go-to bible for many fact-checkers?

And how is it evolving to deal with the current landscape?

The Snopes website and social feeds have become a reservoir of bizarre facts, political nuggets, investigative journalism into hard-hitting subjects - as well as the most weird stories you can imagine.

From questions around President Donald Trump's tweeted policy suggestions to queries around Disney's Goofy and whether he is actually a cow, there seems to be very little that the fact-checkers haven't had to cast a sceptical eye over.

Read more [here](#). Shared by George Arfield.

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Reuters press agency appoints first newsroom diversity editor (PressGazette)

Reuters has appointed a newsroom diversity editor, a newly created role overseeing its 2,500 journalists worldwide.

Joyce Adeluwoye-Adams will "lead Reuters efforts to build a more diverse newsroom", according to a spokesperson for the news agency.

She will also work closely with global managing editor Simon Robinson on recruitment, training, mentoring and career development, Reuters said.

Adeluwoye-Adams was awarded an MBE for services to diversity in the media industry last year.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - September 25, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 25, the 268th day of 2019. There are 97 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 25, 1789, the first United States Congress adopted 12 amendments to the Constitution and sent them to the states for ratification. (Ten of the amendments became the Bill of Rights.)

On this date:

In 1775, American Revolutionary War hero Ethan Allen was captured by the British as he led an attack on Montreal. (Allen was released by the British in 1778.)

In 1911, ground was broken for Boston's Fenway Park.

In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson collapsed after a speech in Pueblo, Colo., during a national speaking tour in support of the Treaty of Versailles (vehr-SY').

In 1956, the first trans-Atlantic telephone cable officially went into service with a three-way ceremonial call between New York, Ottawa and London.

In 1957, nine black students who'd been forced to withdraw from Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, because of unruly white crowds were escorted to class by members of the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division.

In 1962, Sonny Liston knocked out Floyd Patterson in round one to win the world heavyweight title at Comiskey Park in Chicago.

In 1965, the first installment of "In Cold Blood," Truman Capote's account of the 1959 murders of the Clutter family in Holcomb, Kansas, appeared in The New Yorker. (The work was published in book form the following year.)

In 1978, 144 people were killed when a Pacific Southwest Airlines Boeing 727 and a private plane collided over San Diego.

In 1981, Sandra Day O'Connor was sworn in as the first female justice on the Supreme Court.

In 1992, NASA's Mars Observer blasted off on a \$980 million mission to the red planet (the probe disappeared just before entering Martian orbit in August 1993).

In 1994, Russian President Boris Yeltsin began a five-day swing through the United States as he arrived in New York, hoping to encourage American investment in his country's struggling economy.

In 1997, President Bill Clinton pulled open the door of Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, as he welcomed nine blacks who had faced hate-filled mobs 40 years earlier.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and French President Nicolas Sarkozy, in Pittsburgh for a G-20 summit, accused Iran of constructing a secret underground uranium enrichment facility and hiding its existence from international inspectors for years. Former Democratic Party chairman Paul G. Kirk Jr. stepped in as the temporary replacement in the Senate for his longtime friend, the late Edward Kennedy.

Five years ago: Attorney General Eric Holder announced his resignation. President Barack Obama, in a sober assessment of international efforts to stem a deadly Ebola outbreak, warned a high-level United Nations gathering that there was a "significant gap" between what had been offered so far and what was actually needed to stem the health crises in West Africa. Derek Jeter capped his Yankee Stadium farewell with a game-winning single in the bottom of the ninth inning to give New York a 6-5 victory over the Baltimore Orioles.

One year ago: Bill Cosby was sentenced to three to 10 years in state prison for drugging and molesting a woman at his suburban Philadelphia home. President Donald Trump denounced the "ideology of globalism" and praised his own administration's achievements in a speech to the U.N. General Assembly that drew headshakes and even laughter from fellow world leaders.

Today's Birthdays: Broadcast journalist Barbara Walters is 90. Folk singer Ian Tyson is 86. Polka bandleader Jimmy Sturr is 78. Former Defense Secretary Robert Gates is 76. Actor Josh Taylor is 76. Actor Robert Walden is 76. Actor-producer Michael Douglas is 75. Model Cheryl Tiegs is 72. Actress Mimi Kennedy is 71. Movie director Pedro Almodovar is 70. Actor-director Anson Williams is 70. Actor Mark Hamill is 68. Basketball Hall of Famer Bob McAdoo is 68. Actor Colin Friels is 67. Actor Michael Madsen is 61. Actress Heather Locklear is 58. Actress Aida Turturro is 57. Actor Tate Donovan is 56. TV personality Keely Shaye Smith is 56. Actress Maria Doyle Kennedy is 55. Basketball Hall of Famer Scottie Pippen is 54. Actor Jason Flemyng is 53. Actor Will Smith is 51. Actor Hal Sparks is 50. Actress Catherine Zeta-Jones is 50. Rock musician Mike Luce (Drowning Pool) is 48. Actress Bridgette Wilson-Sampras is 46. Actress Clea DuVall is 42. Actor Robbie Jones is 42. Actor Joel David Moore is 42. Actor Chris Owen is 39. Rapper T. I. is 39. Actor Van Hansis is 38. Actor Lee Norris is 38. Actor/rapper Donald Glover (AKA Childish Gambino) is 36. Actor Zach Woods is 35. Actor Jordan Gavaris is 30. Olympic silver medal figure skater Mao Asada is 29. Actress Emmy Clarke is 28.

Thought for Today: "It is as fatal as it is cowardly to blink @ facts because they are not to our taste." - John Tyndall, English physicist (1820-1893).

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

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