



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

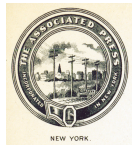
Connecting - November 13, 2019

1 message

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

Wed, Nov 13, 2019 at 8:50 AM

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



Connecting

November 13, 2019

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

[Top AP News](#)[Top AP photos](#)[AP books](#)[Connecting Archive](#)[The AP Emergency Relief Fund](#)

Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this the 13th day of November 2019,

One of the longest-serving journalists in the AP's history, **Ben Olan**, died Monday at the age of 96.

Olan served for 51 years at AP headquarters offices at 50 Rockefeller Plaza, covering hockey for more than a decade and then writing about baseball, college and pro basketball, and boxing. If you worked with Ben and have a favorite memory, please share with your colleagues.

Brian Brooks was armed with two journalism degrees from the University of Missouri when he was appointed a U.S. Army information officer in Vietnam in 1972.

He tells of his own experiences - and press relations with the military in subsequent wars - in an interesting cover article for the Gateway Journalism Review that we share in today's Connecting. Brooks returned to Missouri after his service and worked at the journalism school for the next 38 years before retiring in 2012.

Asked by Connecting about his experiences with the AP in Vietnam, he said:

"I did a LOT of work with George Esper, then the Saigon bureau chief. We talked about how difficult it was to get a handle on where Vietnamese and American troops were operating, so I convinced Gen. (James F.) Hamlet to do a private briefing for him. The general did it right and revealed to George everything we knew about enemy troop locations and the locations of our firebases. George was most impressed with the general, and I think that visit by George to Bien Hoa built a lot of goodwill. George called me almost daily to get info on what the First Cav was doing. There was a limit on what I could tell him because any info on casualties and the like had to go thru the Five O'Clock Follies. I also worked some with Peter Arnett when he needed to get out to the troops."



Brian Brooks

Got experiences to share as a journalist working with the military? Send them along.

Finally, many of us were student journalists at one point in our lives. I hope you take time to read the stories in today's issue on the wave of media criticism for student editors at the newspaper covering Northwestern University over their coverage of protests in response to an event featuring former Attorney General Jeff Sessions. I would welcome your thoughts.

Have a great day!

Paul

Longtime AP sports writer, editor Ben Olan dies at 96



AP sports writer Ben Olan, left, poses with Pro Football coach George Allen, who wrote "Pro Football's 100 Greatest Players" in collaboration with Olan, during a press conference at the Nirvana restaurant on Tuesday, Sept. 28, 1982 in New York. (AP Photo/Marty Lederhandler, courtesy AP Images)

NEW YORK (AP) - Ben Olan, a sports writer and editor at The Associated Press for more than 50 years who was honored by the NHL Hall of Fame, has died. He was 96.

Known for being nattily dressed during his days when AP headquarters was located at 50 Rockefeller Plaza, Olan passed away early Monday morning at a nursing home in Queens, said his grandson, Trevor Hickey.

Olan started at the AP in 1952, ran the hockey coverage for over a decade and later wrote about baseball, college and pro basketball, and boxing. He then became a special projects editor and retired in 2003.



Ben Olan, 1965

In 1987, the NHL Hall of Fame presented him with the Elmer Ferguson Award, which honors members of the newspaper profession. He also was a member of the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame.

Olan edited The Associated Press Sports Almanac in the late 1970s and several books, including Big-Time Baseball, Baseball's Unforgettable Games, and Pro Football's 100 Greatest Players with famed coach George Allen.

Olan was an editor at Hockey Illustrated Magazine, Pro Football Today, Boxing Today and many other publications.

Click [here](#) for link to this story. Shared by Francesca Pitaro.

Remembering Vietnam and the 'Five O'Clock Follies'



By **BRIAN BROOKS** ([Email](#))

For Gateway Journalism Review

It was early 1972, and I had just been named information officer of the 3rd Brigade (Separate) of the First Cavalry Division in Bien Hoa, Vietnam. My predecessor had finished his tour and had returned to the U.S., so I found myself in charge of the information office as a first lieutenant, a job that in a full division should have been held by a lieutenant colonel, and in a separate brigade by a major. I got the job because at this late date in the war no officer wanted anything to do with the press. Someone noticed I had two journalism degrees from the University of Missouri, so I was thrown into the fire with no training on how to be a military information officer.

The war had become extremely unpopular at home, and protests dominated the stateside news. As for the war itself, there was something of a lull. It could still be dangerous in the jungles and countryside, but guerrilla actions were the norm. There were no big battles or large operations like those that occurred during the Tet Offensive of 1968, including the infamous Battle of Hue; at Hamburger Hill in 1969; or during the Cambodia invasion of 1970.

The downsized remnants of the First Cavalry Division, based within an easy drive of Saigon, and the 173rd Brigade up north were the only American ground combat units left in Vietnam as President Nixon pursued a policy of gradual withdrawal. Reporters for the three television networks and major news outlets like The New York Times and the Associated Press were looking for stories anywhere they could find them. And finding them was difficult because the Army officers in Vietnam were committed to providing minimal access despite Army and Department of Defense regulations that were designed to provide ready access to troops and the news.

Ernie Pyle

In the two World Wars and Korea, things had been different. In those wars there were "front lines," and reporters were allowed to go there to work. Reporters like Ernie Pyle became famous doing just that. There were censors in those wars, and it was almost impossible to get a story home without going through those censors. But for the most part, censors merely tried to quash anything that might give the enemy an advantage, like troop locations or dates for launching an offensive. They gave reporters like Pyle free rein to write about the soldier's life in the trenches.

Vietnam was the first real guerrilla war American forces had fought. The Army was struggling to find the best way to deal with men who faded into the civilian population by day and became enemy soldiers at night. And because there were no front lines, reporters were trying to figure out the best way to cover this different war in a far-distant part of the world. Getting to the fighting was tough.

To be fair to the military, some reporters were allowed to "embed" with units on patrol for a week or two at a time, but only after repeated requests. Commanders were reluctant to allow this because protecting an untrained civilian in the jungle could be problematic at best. Reporters, after all, were not trained in how to remain stealthy on night patrol through the jungle. Stepping on and breaking a fallen limb could give away a unit's position and result in multiple deaths.

Read more [here](#).

Cleft sticks, anyone?

Marcus Eliason ([Email](#)) - The discussion of essentials for journalistic assignments naturally reminded me of this, from "Scoop," my all-time favorite comedy of exotic assignments. Here we find our hero, William Boot, shopping for equipment:

'I want some cleft sticks, please,' said William firmly. The General's manner changed abruptly. His leg had been pulled before, often... 'What the devil for? He asked tartly. 'Oh just for my despatches you know.'...Miss Barton was easier to deal with. 'We can have some cloven for you,' she said brightly. 'If you will make a selection I will send them down to our cleaver.' William, hesitating between polo sticks and hockey sticks, chose six of each...By the time she had finished with him William had acquired a well- perhaps over-furnished tent, three months' rations, a collapsible canoe, a jointed flagstaff and Union Jack. A hand-pump and sterilising plant, an astrolabe, six suits of tropical linen and a sou'wester, a camp operating table and a set of surgical instruments, a portable humidior, guaranteed to preserve cigars in condition in the Red Sea and a Christmas hamper complete with Santa Claus costume and a tripod mistletoe stand, and a cane for whacking snakes...At the last moment he added a coil of rope and a sheet of tin; then he left under the baleful stare of General Cruttwell.

P.S. I have long dreamed of owning a pair of cleft sticks, but have never found any for sale. If anyone has any leads, please let me know.

(Worked for AP for 20 years)

The Man Trump Trusts for News on Ukraine



By Jeremy W. Peters and Kenneth P. Vogel

The New York Times

WASHINGTON - In weeks of closed-door testimony, American officials who worked in Ukraine kept circling back to the work of one journalist, John Solomon, whose articles they said appeared to have considerable currency with President Trump's inner circle.

They had never known Mr. Solomon to be an authority on Ukrainian politics before, and certainly not someone with particular insights into the American ambassador to Ukraine who was a frequent target of his. So when Rudolph W. Giuliani, Donald Trump Jr. and the president himself started talking about his stories, those officials began closely following what he wrote.

Asked how she first learned of Mr. Giuliani's interest in Ukraine, Fiona Hill, Mr. Trump's former adviser on Russia and Europe, replied, in part, "John Solomon."

Mr. Solomon has been a surprisingly central figure in the impeachment proceedings so far. But the glare has not been so kind.

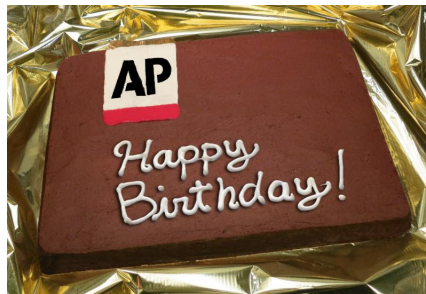
One witness testified to Congress that an article of his was full of "non-truths and non sequiturs." Another witness said that he could not recall a single thing that was correct in one of Mr. Solomon's stories, then added sarcastically, "His grammar might have been right."

So who exactly is John Solomon? A Washington-based reporter and Fox News personality who had until recently been working at the politics outlet The Hill, Mr. Solomon, 52, is not well known outside conservative media. But, according to interviews and testimony, his writing and commentary helped trigger the chain of events that are now the subject of the impeachment inquiry into Mr. Trump.

Though he worked for years at The Associated Press and briefly at The Washington Post, he moved on from mainstream outlets and now sits at the center of a network of conservative journalists, radio hosts, cable news pundits and activists whose work reaches millions of Americans every day, and shapes the way a large swath of the country sees this pivotal moment.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad, Myron Belkind.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Joe Galloway - jlgalloway2@yahoo.com

Stories of interest

When Watergate Was Appointment TV (New York Times)

By James Poniewozik

The media coverage of Watergate gave us much of today's concussive, ballistic jargon of scandal. There were "bombshells." There were "smoking guns." Ever

since, we have measured controversies as if on a decibel meter, judging them by their "fireworks" and "explosive" drama.

But the most striking thing for a viewer in 2019, watching the gavel-to-gavel public-TV coverage of the first Senate hearings that began on May 17, 1973, is the quiet.

There are no flashy opening graphics, just a stately timpani over the text of a Senate resolution. There are no yammering newsroom panels, no countdown clocks, no hashtags. There's just testimony in a hushed hearing room and two soft-spoken anchors at humdrum desks, trying to figure out what the president knew, when he knew it and whether democracy still worked.

You can stream all of public TV's 1973 coverage - 51 days of it, up to six hours a night - at the American Archive for Public Broadcasting. (Helpfully, the site links to key highlights, like John Dean's description of "a cancer growing on the presidency.")

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

-0-

Northwestern paper's apology sparks journalism debate

By KATHLEEN FOODY

CHICAGO (AP) - Student editors at the newspaper covering Northwestern University have faced two waves of criticism over their coverage of protests in response to an event featuring former Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

First, student activists criticized them for publishing photos of protesters on the suburban Chicago campus. Within days, editors at The Daily Northwestern decided to apologize, but their editorial prompted a second round of criticism from journalists around the country who said they shouldn't feel any guilt about using basic reporting strategies.

In the editorial, posted online Sunday and printed Monday, editors said they shouldn't have tweeted photos of student protesters being blocked by campus police

as they tried to get inside the Sessions event last week.

The photos were later deleted. Editors said they didn't want students to be at risk of punishment by the school or online harassment.

The eight editors who signed the editorial also acknowledged removing a protester's name from a story about the event at the person's request, and said they were sorry for using a student directory to text people who protested at the event and ask them for interviews.

Read more [here](#).

AND...

Give the Northwestern journalists a break - this is how college media works (Poynter)

By Barbara Allen

Before I came to Poynter, I spent almost a decade in student media, so what's happening this week at Northwestern doesn't feel new. But it does offer an important reminder.

One day in 2012, I arrived at work to see a headline on the front page of the college newspaper I advised. It contained a sexually loaded (and arguably sexist) joke about a new strip club.

Instantly, I knew what the rest of my day and week held: a defense of my students' right to publish and some hard private conversations about what we learned as a result of publication.

In my nine years as a college media professional - first as the adviser to an independent newsroom, then as a program director - the hardest part of my job was helping people outside my organization see the value of student errors.

I see this playing out right now at Northwestern University, one of the nation's top journalism schools. Reporters for The Daily Northwestern, the independent student newspaper, covered a protest in public, tweeted images and attempted to reach protesters for comment.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Thousands of Twitter 'bots' targeted Kentucky with fake news on election night (Louisville Courier-Journal)

By Joe Sonka

Louisville Courier Journal

LOUISVILLE - As the final votes trickled in during last week's Kentucky gubernatorial election, a network of automated Twitter accounts suddenly sprang into action.

They spread misinformation about the election being rigged, according to the CEO of a company that tracks political misinformation on social media.

Gideon Blocq, the founder and CEO of VineSight, told The Courier Journal his company witnessed thousands of accounts with "bot-like" automated behavior spreading misinformation about the race, including a screenshot of a tweet by one account claiming to have destroyed ballots with votes for incumbent Republican Gov. Matt Bevin.

"Immediately at the end of the counting of the votes, these stories started popping up in parallel, all about the election being rigged," Blocq said.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Peg Coughlin.

-0-

Bloomberg, the news company, begins to ponder how to cover Bloomberg, the would-be candidate (Washington Post)

By Paul Farhi

It's an unusual, and awkward, situation for a news organization. The boss - the guy who signs the paychecks - is running for president. Can you cover him objectively, without raising questions about bias or favoritism?

Bloomberg L.P.'s news division began pondering that question late last week when its founder and principal owner, Michael Bloomberg, surprised the political establishment by filing to run in the Alabama Democratic primary. The move touched off speculation that the multibillionaire former mayor of New York was getting ready to mount a late run for president.

If so, that development would put Bloomberg's extensive news operations in the difficult position of having a very special relationship with one of the candidates. Mainstream news organizations typically are uncomfortable with such connections, given that they raise questions among readers and viewers about conflicts of interest in their coverage, real and perceived.

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

-0-

It's hard to say goodbye to the Newseum (Washington Post)

By Bernard Melekian

Bernard Melekian is the assistant county executive officer over public safety in Santa Barbara, Calif.

While I was in the District recently, I visited an old friend who is dying.

I first met my friend in 2009, when I moved to the District to become director of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services at the Justice Department. My friend used to live in Virginia, but she moved to Washington in 2008. My friend is committed to the concept of free expression and the First Amendment. My friend has been collecting the memorabilia related to that experiment since 1997. Now she is dying, and I fear her loss.

My friend is the Newseum.

The Newseum really is a phenomenal place. It is an interactive museum dedicated to bringing the reality of the First Amendment and the power of a free press to life. There is an exhibit that explains the First Amendment and all of its component parts that makes you marvel at how brilliant the Founding Fathers actually were. When you walk through the section containing editions of newspapers that stretch back to the founding of the colonies, you will be reminded that the communication of truth and the information designed to ensure an educated and informed public is one of the cornerstones of American democracy.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Tipping Point Lab: How you can help build more local journalism for Sacramento (Sacramento Bee)

BY RENÉE C. BYER | DANIEL KIM

In July, we launched Tipping Point, a weekly series that shares the story of our region's evolution.

Early reporting detailed how homeless camps are contributing to the contamination of the American River. More than 150,000 of you read the story.

We also shared how new homes are enabling buyers live off the grid, a timely report given consistent utility blackouts and as Sacramento continues to look for creative housing solutions.

Our data reporter performed a city-wide analysis, telling you how old the tree canopy is in your neighborhood and what you can do about it. The Tree Foundation served as a partner, and you raised more than \$5,000 to plant new trees in a new south Sacramento park after reading the story.

Here's what you've told us about Tipping Point reporting to date:

Read more [here](#). Shared by Greg Sells.

Today in History - November 13, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Nov. 13, the 317th day of 2019. There are 48 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 13, 1956, the Supreme Court struck down laws calling for racial segregation on public buses.

On this date:

In 1312, England's King Edward III was born at Windsor Castle.

In 1789, Benjamin Franklin wrote in a letter to a friend, Jean-Baptiste Leroy: "In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes."

In 1911, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that an unauthorized motion picture adaptation of the novel "Ben-Hur" by General Lew Wallace infringed on the book's copyright.

In 1940, the Walt Disney film "Fantasia," featuring animated segments set to classical music, had its world premiere in New York.

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a measure lowering the minimum draft age from 21 to 18.

In 1969, speaking in Des Moines, Iowa, Vice President Spiro T. Agnew accused network television news departments of bias and distortion, and urged viewers to lodge complaints.

In 1974, Karen Silkwood, a 28-year-old technician and union activist at the Kerr-McGee Cimarron plutonium plant near Crescent, Oklahoma, died in a car crash while on her way to meet a reporter.

In 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

In 1985, some 23,000 residents of Armero, Colombia, died when a volcanic mudslide buried the city.

In 2000, lawyers for George W. Bush failed to win a court order barring manual recounts of ballots in Florida. Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris announced she would end the recounting at 5 p.m. Eastern time the next day - prompting an immediate appeal by lawyers for Al Gore.

In 2001, President George W. Bush approved the use of a special military tribunal that could put accused terrorists on trial faster and in greater secrecy than an ordinary criminal court. President Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin met at the White House, where they pledged to slash Cold War-era nuclear arsenals by two-thirds.

In 2015, Islamic State militants carried out a set of coordinated attacks in Paris on the national stadium, restaurants and streets, and a crowded concert hall, killing 130 people in the worst attack on French soil since World War II.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama, in Tokyo at the start of a weeklong trip to Asia, said his decision about how many troops to send to Afghanistan would come soon and that he was bent on "getting this right." U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder announced a decision to bring professed 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and four others detained at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to trial in lower Manhattan (this plan was later dropped). Scientists said analysis of data from two NASA spacecraft that were intentionally crashed into the moon showed ample water near the lunar south pole.

Five years ago: The European Space Agency published the first images taken from the surface of a comet; the photos sent back to Earth showed a rocky surface, with one of the lander's three feet in the corner of the frame. Clayton Kershaw became the first pitcher to win the National League MVP award since Bob Gibson in 1968; Los Angeles Angels' outfielder Mike Trout was a unanimous pick for the AL MVP.

One year ago: CNN went to court, demanding the reinstatement of the White House press credentials of correspondent Jim Acosta. (A federal judge later ordered the administration to immediately return Acosta's press credentials; the White House then dropped its effort to bar Acosta but warned he could have his credentials pulled again.) Amazon announced that it had chosen a neighborhood in the New York City borough of Queens and Arlington, Virginia, as the two locations for its new East Coast headquarters. (Amazon later abandoned its New York plans amid pushback from politicians and activists.)

Today's Birthdays: Journalist-author Peter Arnett is 85. Actor Jimmy Hawkins is 78. Blues singer John Hammond is 77. Country singer-songwriter Ray Wylie Hubbard is 73. Actor Joe Mantegna is 72. Actress Sheila Frazier is 71. Musician Andrew Ranken (The Pogues) is 66. Actress Tracy Scoggins is 66. Actor Chris Noth (nonth) is 65. Actress-comedian Whoopi Goldberg is 64. Actor Rex Linn is 63. Actress Caroline Goodall is 60. Actor Neil Flynn is 59. Former NFL quarterback and College Football Hall of Famer Vinny Testaverde (tehs-teh-VUR'-dee) is 56. Rock musician Walter Kibby (Fishbone) is 55. Comedian and talk show host Jimmy Kimmel is 52. Actor Steve Zahn is 52. Actor Gerard Butler is 50. Writer-activist Ayaan Hirsi Ali is 50. Actor Jordan Bridges is 46. Actress Aisha Hinds is 44. Rock musician Nikolai Fraiture is 41. Former NBA All-Star Metta World Peace (formerly Ron Artest) is 40. Actress Monique Coleman is 39. Actor Rahul Kohli is 34. Actor Devon Bostick is 28.

Thought for Today: "I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of library." [-] Jorge Luis Borges, Argentine author (1899-1986).

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

11/15/2019

Gmail - Connecting - November 13, 2019

SafeUnsubscribe™ pjshane@gmail.com

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

Sent by paulstevens46@gmail.com in collaboration with



Try email marketing for free today!