

Connecting - May 1, 2015

1 message

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Fri, May 1, 2015 at 9:30 AM

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Connecting

May 1, 2015

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning! Here's to the beginning of the new month of May.

Thursday's Connecting featured personal stories from our colleagues on the 40th anniversary of the fall of Saigon - and they resonated loudly with many of you.

"Kudos to you and all who participated in today's Connecting," wrote **Steve Anderson**.

"The fall of Saigon issue of Connecting should be required reading for any student who can read," wrote **Bob Daugherty**.

Our thanks to colleagues Richard Pyle, Carl Robinson, Le Lieu Browne and Linda Deutsch, as well as veterans Jim Carlson, Jerry Harkavy, Dick Lipsey and Mike Tharp for sharing their stories.

But we are not through! More of you wrote to share your thoughts on the anniversary, and so before we leave Saigon behind, we lead off with their memories.

Paul

More memories on the 40th anniversary of the fall of Saigon

The Old Hacks pose for a photo



The Old Hacks - a group of journalists who share the common tie of having covered the Vietnam War - are meeting this week in Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City) and one of them, **Michael Ebert**, provides this photo of some of his colleagues.

They are, from left: David Terrey, freelance photographer mostly with AP; Don North, ABC & later NBC; Bill Reilly, ex-UPI; Cuong, a local UPI photographer who is still here; George Lewis, ex-NBC; Edie Lederer and Nick Ut, both of AP, and Peter Arnett of AP.

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A feeling of defeat when Saigon fell

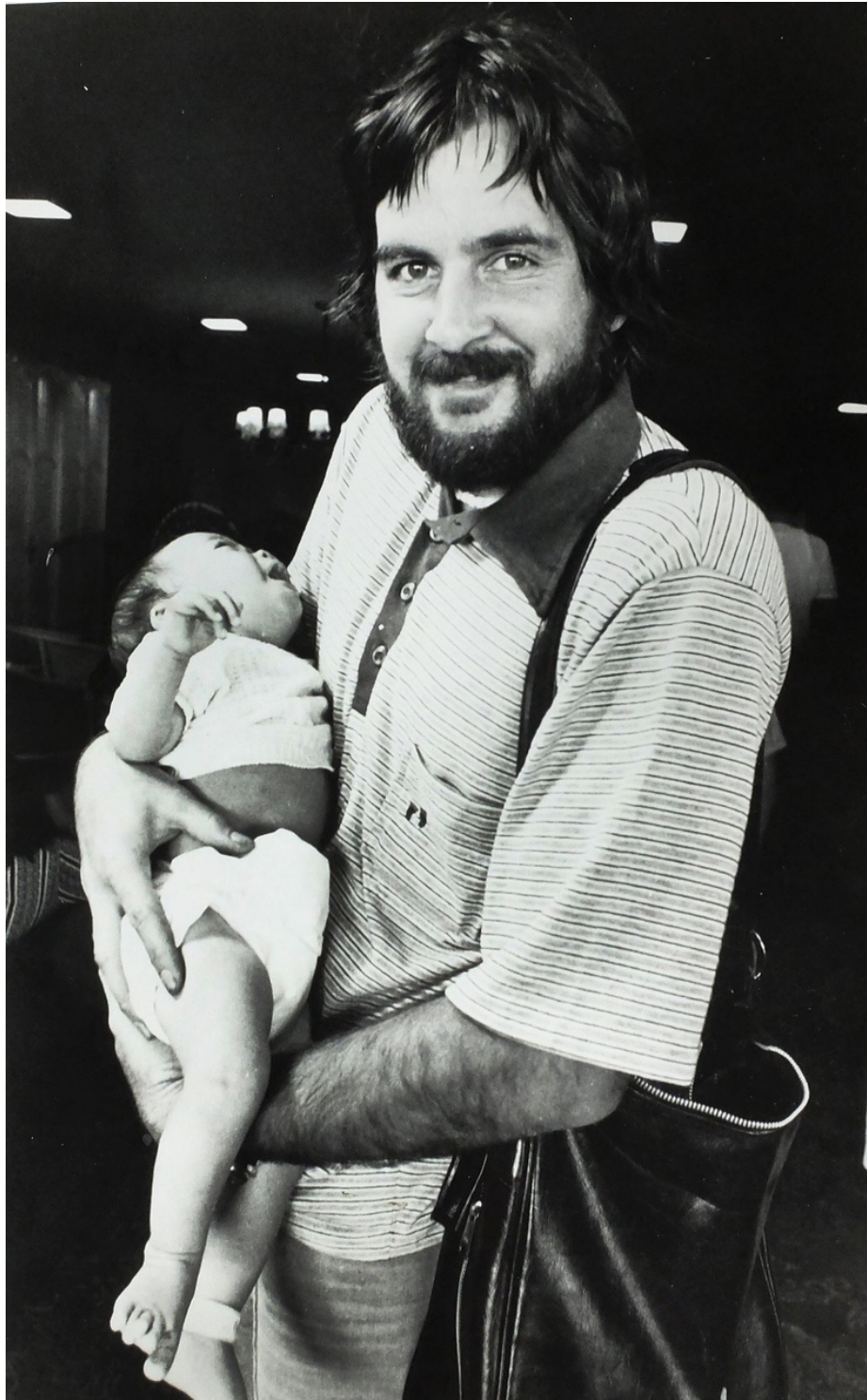
Robert Meyers ([Email](#)) - I was 19 and in Pittsburgh studying graphic arts and photography on this day, I remember the feeling of defeat, that our leaders had let us down getting to this place. Knowing that more bombing, more soldiers would have been the wrong direction, too many lost.

I spoke to Mr. Tuan, the man who cleans the Greenpeace office. I knew he had been a South Vietnamese Army soldier and had suffered after the war. I asked him what

happened to him that day. He doesn't speak English fluently, but he told me he was in Da Nang on the day and the North Vietnamese arrived and took him prisoner, for the next 7 years he was held without clothes or toilet. In 1982 he was able to go back to his family, but all their homes and property had been taken away. He was able to come to the United States in 1990, has put two sons through college. He has many friends in the DC MD VA area that he knew before 1975 but many friends and family died in the war and aftermath.

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Holding precious cargo



Ron Edmonds ([Email](#)) - Forty-years ago I was sent to Wake Island on assignment while I worked at the Honolulu Star-Bulletin. Saigon was falling and all kinds of aircraft were transporting refugees from Vietnam. Wake Island had become a temporary residence and processing center for tens of thousands of Vietnamese citizens fleeing their country as Saigon fell at the end of that tragic war. The six-hour flight from there to Hawaii in a beat up military aircraft with scared, screaming, pooping, orphan babies and a crew of 8, was not a flight to forget. Everyone had to lend a hand, including me.

'Saigon Has Fallen-Call New York'

In March 1975, Peter Arnett was riding a bus down Fifth Avenue in Manhattan, devouring The New York Times's accounts of the gathering disaster in Vietnam. As a reporter for the Associated Press, Arnett had covered the war there for more than a decade, including the immediate aftermath of the American withdrawal from the country in 1973. He had watched the initial Marine landings in the spring of 1965, five months after President Lyndon Johnson had insisted in a speech that "we are not about to send American boys 9 or 10,000 miles away from home to do what Asian boys ought to be doing for themselves." By the end of the year there were some 180,000 U.S. troops in Vietnam, and more were on the way.

Arnett had sensed at the time, he told me recently-"and this is not Monday-morning quarterbacking"-that America was in for a difficult fight. And on the bus 10 years later, he sensed the end was coming. He had written thousands of stories-"literally"-about efforts by four American governments, and a series of South Vietnamese administrations, to keep South Vietnam independent and anti-communist. Thousands of young Americans and millions of Vietnamese had been killed. "And it was all coming to an end that would wipe away basically all that effort," he said.

Click [here](#) to read more.

And here is this story also featuring Peter Arnett:

APRIL 30, 1975: SAIGON HAS FALLEN

BY PETER ARNETT



The artillery explosions sound a fearsome 4 a.m. wakeup call, but I'm already awake. Impatient for victory, the attackers waiting at the gates of a vanquished Saigon have been warning they would act, and now with each thump of the Soviet-made 130mm guns, their shells landing a mile or so away, sound waves rustle the curtains of my open seventh floor hotel window. As I reach for my water glass, it trembles, and me with it. The final full day of the Vietnam War is beginning.

Street lights shine below as I look out toward Tan Son Nhut airport, once described as the busiest in the world when America was waging war here. Now it is burning from one end to the other, the flames brilliantly lighting up the sky. There will be two more hours of the darkness, but this seems like a new dawn rising, an appropriate description, I think later, of the intentions of those wreaking havoc on the airport. The commanders of North Vietnam's military juggernaut, pressing for victory after a 50-day rout of their South Vietnamese opponents, are pushing open the gates of the capital. They will force a new dawn on South Vietnam, America's once favored ally, as it loses its 20-year struggle to remain an independent, pro-western state. As I write these still vivid memories of the end of the war, and the role that my reporter colleagues and I played in covering it, I find it hard to believe that four decades have passed since April 1975.

Click [here](#) to read more. (Shared by Francesca Pitaro)

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Jungle Beat

George Zucker ([Email](#)) - Congrats on another outstanding look at what makes us all so proud of our AP connections. I couldn't resist jumping in to add two more special names to the mix -- George McArthur and Frank Cormier. Plus the attached inside look at

President Nixon's historic Midway Summit saw the beginning of the end of the Vietnam War:

By George Zucker

My hitch in Hawaii as AP's news chief for the mid-Pacific wasn't all wine and frangipani. In eight weeks over the summer of 1969, my small bureau in Honolulu tackled the world's top stories - the return of man's first moonwalkers, the first U.S. troop withdrawal from Vietnam and a naval disaster in the South China Sea that killed 74 American sailors.

In June 1969, President Richard M. Nixon was going to Midway Island to begin the end of the war in Vietnam. The timing of the Midway Summit meant our tiny news bureau would plan simultaneously for the year's two top news events, thanks to the Apollo 11 moonwalk slated the following month. George McArthur, AP's chief Saigon correspondent, and I would fly to Midway aboard the press charter on Sunday, June 8. I was working with the local phone company, the military and the White House on problems arranging news circuits from Midway.

But our two bureaus were abruptly pulled off the Midway story to work on the decade's worst sea disaster. A SEATO naval exercise 300 miles off the coast of South Vietnam ended in tragedy when two warships collided on the moonlit sea, killing 74 U.S. sailors in the severed bow of an American destroyer, the USS Frank E. Evans, which was cut in two by an Australian carrier, the HMAS Melbourne. All details, including dramatic accounts by survivors, would come from the Navy at Pearl Harbor, so we took over the story in Honolulu.



In Saigon, McArthur chartered an old DC-3 and headed for the South China Sea for aerial photos. The dilapidated plane, making a low pass over the stricken ships, was warned by Navy gunfire, forcing our photographer to shoot through puffs of flak.

By mid-week, the Midway Summit communications problem was resolved by leasing a two-way cable channel that would pipe our copy 7,000 miles directly to New York. Before dawn that Sunday, McArthur and I and the White House press corps climbed aboard the Boeing 707 press charter at Hickam Air Force base for the 1,300-mile flight to Midway. A festive full moon was setting as we took off with the rising sun. Three hours later, we were circling Midway Island, wondering why we weren't landing.

"First they have to scare off the gooney birds," the pilot said.

It was June 8, 1969 - almost 27 years to the day of the Battle of Midway. More history at Midway was in the making. Midway Island actually is two islands. These twin sand spits in the middle of the Pacific were home in 1969 to more than one-third of the world's gooney birds, a black-footed albatross big as a turkey enjoying protected status.

Our press charter braved the first landing, making way for the presidential jets converging on the tiny atoll. Scores of gooneys lazing in the morning sun had to be chased off the landing strip with cannon fire. Twenty minutes later, the big planes bearing the two presidents landed on the cleared runway. McArthur and I were now joined by Frank Cormier, AP's White House correspondent who flew in with President Nixon aboard Air Force One.

Reporters set up shop in the enlisted men's club. Nixon and South Vietnam's Nguyen Van Thieu met in the Midway Officers Club, seated across from each other below an oil painting of two mating gooney birds.

When it was time for the joint communiqué, we piled into a caravan of small military buses for a bumpy ride through the jungle. Nixon and Thieu, flanked by smiling entourages, were waiting for us on the palm-shaded lawn of the Midway Officers Club. Taking turns at the microphone, the two presidents announced the United States would remove 25,000 troops from South Vietnam by August 1, 1969 - the first step toward ending U.S. involvement in the long Asian war. We dashed back to the buses, only to sit on the world's top story as we chugged through the jungle, stopping for gooney birds blocking the road. Across the aisle from Frank Cormier and me, in a booming baritone the whole bus could hear, Merriman Smith, UPI's flamboyant White House reporter, dictated his bulletin into a walkie-talkie to a colleague back at the press center. Dan Rather of CBS, seated in front of us, turned around and said: "Hey, Frank! Smitty's beating the shit out of you guys!" We could do nothing but sit and listen in mute embarrassment to Merriman Smith's dramatic report.

Finally back at the press center, Cormier and McArthur went quickly to work at their typewriters, each writing every other paragraph in tandem as I grabbed copy from both and punched it onto the Teletype to New York. Then we sat back glumly to hear how bad we were beaten by UPI's walkie-talkie ploy. Instead, an ebullient message ticked back from New York: CONGRATS. AP 9 MINS AHEAD. We learned later the competing story was slow getting out of Midway and onto UPI's world circuits.

McArthur acknowledged our surprise jungle beat in a message to New York: "We had to outrun a herd of gooney birds to reach the Teletype."

Connecting mailbox

Saying goodbye to parents on the same day

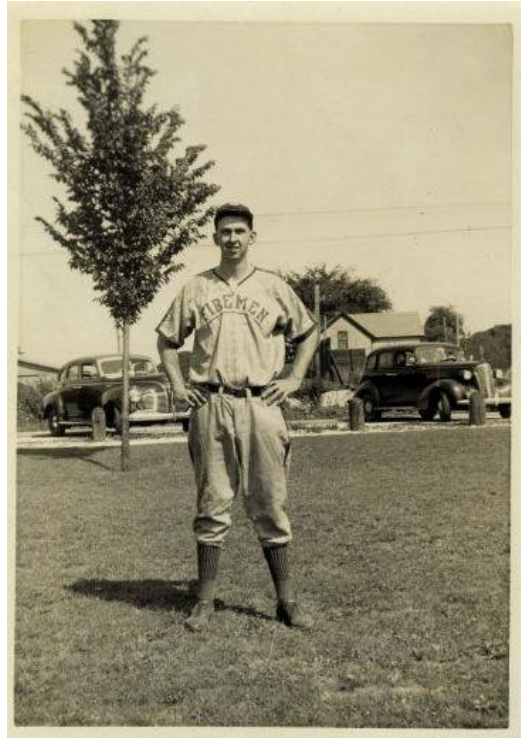
Two of our Connecting colleagues lost parents on the same day - this past Wednesday morning - one in a big city, the other in a small town.

John Dowling ([Email](#)) lost his father Jack Dowling at the age of 95. **Linda and Paul Stevens** ([Email](#)) lost Linda's mother Carolyn Saul at the age of 91.

John writes of his dad:

The first thing anyone noticed about my dad was his height - six feet, eight inches tall. "How's the weather up there?" he heard over and over and over. At 6-3 or so I never thought I was particularly tall, because Dad was my frame of reference.

Dad had learned there were dos and don'ts to being tall, and as I also grew tall he quietly, subtly instructed me in them. The essential lesson was: As a tall man you will always stand out in a crowd and be remembered, so, much better to be remembered as a nice guy than as a big jerk or, even worse, a big bully. It was a lesson he learned well; I honestly cannot remember anyone ever describing my father as anything other than a nice guy, and by the end of my life I would be happy to have come anywhere within hailing distance of his example.



He worked for Continental Can Co. for a little over 30 years, spending most of his career as a manager of engineering research programs. Then he took a buyout shortly before his 60th birthday and drew a pension for more than 35 years. Take that, actuaries!

He and my mom had a golden retirement. For 20-plus years they spent winters in Naples, Florida, and summers in Door County, Wisconsin, where Dad bought a lifetime pass for unlimited golf at a local country club. Rest assured he got his money's worth.

Dad enjoyed remarkable health and vigor into his tenth decade. At his 90th birthday party he offered his advice on longevity:

Don't smoke, ever.

Exercise regularly.

Take most things in moderation.

Choose your ancestors carefully.

Click [here](#) for his obituary. And John shared this on Facebook on the photo above:

Dad was a semipro baseball player -- a powerful left-handed pitcher -- in the 1940s, and in other circumstances he probably could have played professionally. His career highlight was in 1944 when his team played an exhibition at Wrigley Field against the Kansas City Monarchs, four-time champions of the Negro League, and their star pitcher, Satchel Paige. Dad struck out eight Monarchs, held them to five hits over five and two-thirds innings, and

got an RBI single off of Paige despite presenting an enormous strike zone to one of the greatest pitchers in the history of the game. But his team lost 4-3. A side attraction at the game was a track exhibition by Jesse Owens.

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Paul writes of his mother in law:

Last September, on a sunny Sunday afternoon, my wife's mother Carolyn Saul was with us in Kansas City when we decided on a whim - hey, the Royals are in town, they're contending for the pennant, the game is sold out and we have no tickets but what the heck, let's try to take Carolyn to her very first major league game at 90 years of age.



So Carolyn and I hopped in the car and drove to Kauffman Stadium, where the game against rival Detroit had just started when we arrived in the overflowing parking lot. That's when the angels took over:

We entered the general admission parking area and I was prepared to wheel mom in her walker a half mile to the stadium when an attendant directed us to a reserved parking area next door to the stadium. Another attendant came to our car and put us in his

golf cart and drove us to the front gate. Along the way, we bought a couple nosebleed seats from scalpers to get us in the gate. But when we entered the stadium, we were directed to the disabled access viewing area where there just happened to be one slot open, for Carolyn.

Midway into the game, two young men donned in Royals gear offered to buy us both a beer and we struck a conversation on how this was mom's first baseball game, at age 90. Ten minutes later, they were back with a George Brett shirt they had bought for her and a foam Royals finger and presented them both to her with a hug. The Royals went on to win the game, 5-2, and we were left with memories for a lifetime.

At her funeral services Sunday, that foam finger will be front and center on the memory table.

Click [here](#) for her obituary.

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Judy Gibbs-Robinson inducted into Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame



Lindel Hutson ([Email](#)) shares: Former AP staffer Judy Gibbs-Robinson was inducted into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame on Thursday. With her are former Topeka Correspondent Lew Ferguson (left) and former Oklahoma Chief of Bureau Lindel Hutson. Judy worked for AP in Utah and West Virginia and was a staffer on the New York General Desk. She was broadcast editor in Oklahoma City before becoming news editor for North Carolina. She currently is assistant director of Student Media and editorial adviser to The Oklahoma Daily at the University of Oklahoma.

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Mike Harris and Master's

Joe Edwards ([Email](#)) - I enjoyed Mike Harris' piece on the Master's.

As someone who must watch from home, I only yearn for an objective, neutral commentary from the broadcasters instead of the patronizing, fawning observations that we must endure every April.

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The 1967 Newark riot

Bob Haring ([Email](#)) - I wrote the first bulletin on the 1967 Newark riot and helped direct coverage of that event and similar riot elsewhere in Jersey. I also moved Bob Dubill from Trenton correspondent to Jersey news editor and persuaded NY personnel to make him bureau chief when I moved into NYC as business news editor (and I hired Chet Currier for business and then made him permanent Wall Street writer, a post he filled for many years). Uchitelle succeeded me as business editor... I do remember the riots. I wrote the first bulletin on the Newark riot and did much of the writing when those spread to

Camden, New Brunswick, Paterson-Passaic and elsewhere. I lived in the bureau for a week until weekend rains cooled things.

Profile of new Connecting member - Joni Beall; She's the AP's 'Birthday Maven'

Joni Beall ([Email](#)) - Did you ever wonder how the AP knows which actor is celebrating a birthday or who is shaving a few years off their age? That's my job -- I'm AP's Birthday Maven.

I've been the AP's Entertainment Birthday Editor since 1996. The post was the brainchild of Lou Boccardi and former BNC chief Brad Kalbfeld told me he thought I would be perfect for the job because I "schmooze" so well.



I created a celeb birthday database that's used for the Today's Birthdays, entertainment stories and obituaries. I research online sources such as birth, marriage, divorce and voting records and have developed hundreds of sources - agents, managers and publicists. I called the home of one actress and spoke to her maid, who said "I can tell you what she says or I can tell you how many candles I'm really putting on the cake." One blues artist mentioned his birthday at a blues festival I was attending and I ended up writing it on my arm because I had a pen, but no paper.

My research caused the Country Music Hall of Fame to change the plaques of Loretta Lynn and Charley Pride. It turns out the Coal Miner's daughter was a little older than she admitted. The job is a treasure hunt and there are always some challenges. Actor Eddie Albert's mom wasn't married when he was born, so when she got married she changed his birth certificate. Who knew you could do that?

I joined the AP's Richmond bureau in 1986 after ten years at WINC radio in Winchester, Va. I transferred to the BNC two years later. I retired from the AP in 2012, but continue to do the birthdays on a part-time basis from the comfort of my spare bedroom. It's the best commute ever.

Norm Clarke honored by Denver Press Club



By NORM CLARKE
LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

Damon Runyon would have loved the characters at a party held in his honor the other night in Denver.

The occasion was the Denver Press Club's 21st annual Damon Runyon Award Banquet.

Runyon, a DPC member, rose from a Colorado sportswriter to a star reporter with United Press and, later, a legendary New York newspaperman. His short stories became the inspiration for the Broadway hit musical, "Guys and Dolls."

The dinner was held at the same downtown Marriott that hosted UNLV fans during the 1990 Final Four. The rafters are still vibrating decades later.

The good folks of Denver invited me back to accept the Runyon award on Friday. Denver Mayor Michael Hancock threw in a "Norm Clarke Day" proclamation.

Gov. John Hickenlooper, a friend long before he left his brewpub for politics, rehashed my past at the podium.

This was my fourth Runyon dinner, the first since 1996 when I met Herb Caen, San Francisco's legendary three-dot columnist. He was dying from cancer, but still showed up.

In my introductory video, the Runyon crowd was invited to join me for a night of relentless swashbuckling. Many took me up on it - did they ever - when the after-party moved across town to the Press Club.

Click [here](#) to read more by the former AP journalist.

Stories of interest

An Amateur Photographer's Striking Pictures of the Baltimore Protests
(Petapixel) (Shared by Bob Daugherty)



Just a week ago, Devin Allen was just another photo enthusiast sharing his work on the Web, regularly posting artsy photos for his relatively small and faithful Instagram

following. After protests and riots erupted in Baltimore this week, Allen suddenly became a much sought-after photographer who's sharing raw and gritty images from ground level for the world to see.

Allen's Instagram account, @bydvnlln, has quickly attracted over 30,000 followers and its images have been published by major media outlets around the world. TIME chose one of Allen's photos for the cover of this week's issue:

AND

Time cover photo taken by 26-year-old Baltimore resident creates buzz

Time magazine has used a dramatic, black-and-white photo from the Baltimore riots taken by a 26-year-old amateur photographer on its cover this week.

The photo shows a black man running away from a phalanx of police wearing riot gear. The headline: "America 1968," with the 1968 crossed out and replaced with 2015.

"What has changed, what hasn't," the headline asks.

Time explains that the photo was taken by Devin Allen of West Baltimore, an aspiring photographer who said he is inspired by the works of Kansas-born Gordon Parks and artists such as Andy Warhol.

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Stewart Lays Into Judith Miller: You Pushed Us Into 'Devastating' Iraq Mistake

Jon Stewart really pressed ex-New York Times reporter Judith Miller on her infamous and major role in the lead-up to the Iraq War. "I believe," he said, "you helped the administration take us to, like, the most devastating mistake in foreign policy that we've made in, like, 100 years."

"But you seem lovely," he added.

From there, Stewart just really grilled Miller on specific points about her reporting, what she was being fed, and the placement of certain facts and stories. He said the Bush administration has a pretty clear goal to go to Iraq and used whatever pretext they could, and then Miller wrote about it without much skepticism.

When Miller asked if she was just not supposed to report on the administration's point of view, Stewart said she should have done it "in the context that this administration was very clearly pushing a narrative."

He ended the interview by lamenting how discussions like these 'always make me incredibly sad' because they point to "institutional failure at the highest levels."

What's it like to cover a game with no fans? (Poynter)



I was throwing batting practice to 11-year-olds in a 40-degree Chicago chill Wednesday night when another dad mentioned that the White Sox would be back in town next week. "Yeah, they're going to keep the fences up but not let any fans in!"

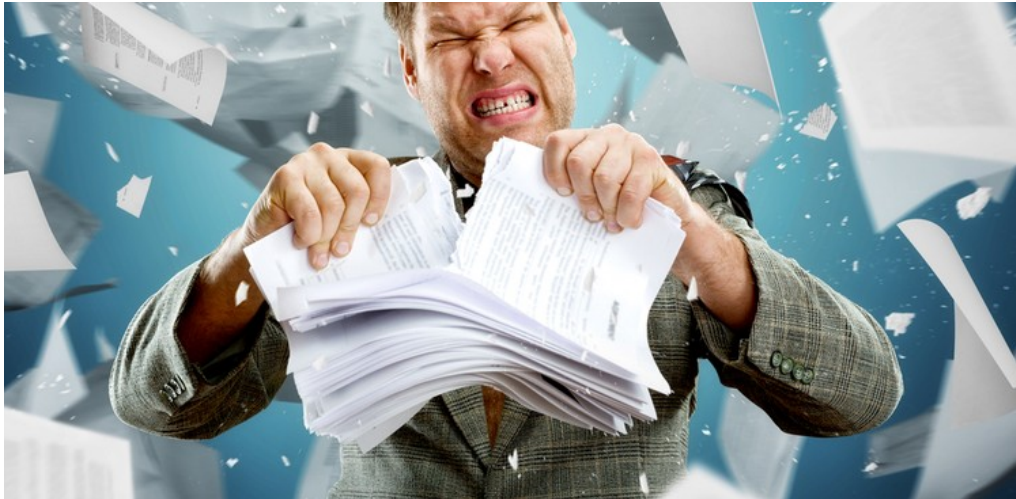
Nobody had to ask about the reference to that afternoon's historic no-fans White Sox-Orioles game in Baltimore. And nobody now knows better than those who covered it.

"It was weird, strange, eerie, all of that," says Daryl Van Schouwen, the Sox beat reporter for the Chicago Sun-Times, who couldn't help thinking about the famous oddity of fans on rooftops across from Chicago's Wrigley Field watching Cubs games.

"The circumstances surrounding this game, with fans peering in from behind a gate and cheering from a hotel deck a la the Wrigley rooftops, a helicopter passing over as a reminder of what was going on," he said, citing various images he glimpsed.

The Final Word

15 Words You Need to Eliminate From Your Vocabulary to Sound Smarter



Newsprint is on life support, emojis are multiplying faster than hungry Gremlins, and 300 million people worldwide strive to make their point in 140 or fewer characters.

People don't have the time or the attention span to read any more words than necessary. You want your readers to hear you out, understand your message, and perhaps be entertained, right? Here's a list of words to eliminate to help you write more succinctly.

1. That

It's superfluous most of the time. Open any document you've got drafted on your desktop, and find a sentence with that in it. Read it out loud. Now read it again without that. If the sentence works without it, delete it. Also? Don't use that when you refer to people. "I have several friends that live in the neighborhood." No. No, you don't. You have friends who. Not friends that.

Click [here](#) to read more.

Today in History - May 1, 2015

By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, May 1, the 121st day of 2015. There are 244 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 1, 1915, during World War I, a German submarine torpedoed and severely damaged the SS Gulflight, an American tanker near Britain's Scilly Isles, even though the United States was still neutral in the conflict; the incident occurred the same day that the

RMS Lusitania set sail from New York, headed for Liverpool, England (it was torpedoed and sunk by Germany off the coast of Ireland six days later).

On this date:

In 1707, the Kingdom of Great Britain was created as a treaty merging England and Scotland took effect.

In 1786, Mozart's opera "The Marriage of Figaro" premiered in Vienna.

In 1898, Commodore George Dewey gave the command, "You may fire when you are ready, Gridley," as an American naval force destroyed a Spanish squadron in Manila Bay during the Spanish-American War.

In 1911, the song "I Want a Girl (Just Like the Girl That Married Dear Old Dad)," by Harry Von Tilzer and Will Dillon, was first published.

In 1931, New York's 102-story Empire State Building was dedicated. Singer Kate Smith made her debut on CBS Radio on her 24th birthday.

In 1945, a day after Adolf Hitler took his own life, Admiral Karl Doenitz effectively became sole leader of the Third Reich with the suicide of Hitler's propaganda minister, Josef Goebbels.

In 1960, the Soviet Union shot down an American U-2 reconnaissance plane over Sverdlovsk and captured its pilot, Francis Gary Powers.

In 1963, James W. Whittaker became the first American to conquer Mount Everest as he and Sherpa guide Nawang Gombu reached the summit.

In 1965, Vice President Hubert Humphrey, in a speech in Williamsburg, Virginia, said: "There are not enough jails, not enough policemen, not enough courts to enforce a law not supported by the people." Bandleader Spike Jones, 53, known for his raucous renditions of popular songs, died in Beverly Hills, California.

In 1975, Hank Aaron of the Milwaukee Brewers broke baseball's all-time RBI record previously held by Babe Ruth during a game against the Detroit Tigers (Milwaukee won, 17-3).

In 1982, the World's Fair in Knoxville, Tennessee, was opened by President Ronald Reagan.

In 1990, in a case that drew much notoriety, Gregory Smart was shot to death in his Derry, New Hampshire, home by Billy Flynn, the teenage lover of Smart's wife, Pamela. (Flynn was paroled this year; Pamela Smart is serving a life sentence for being an accomplice to first-degree murder.)

Ten years ago: A car bombing at a Kurdish official's funeral in Tal Afar, Iraq, killed some two dozen people and wounded more than 50. Chinese computer maker Lenovo

completed its purchase of IBM's personal computer division.

Five years ago: Pakistan-born U.S. citizen Faisal Shahzad (FY'-sul shah-ZAHD') failed in an attempt to set off a homemade bomb in an SUV parked in New York's Times Square. (Shahzad is serving a life prison sentence.) President Barack Obama named Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen point man for the federal government's response to the BP oil spill. Jockey Calvin Borel steered Super Saver through the mud to win his third Kentucky Derby in four years, beating Lookin At Lucky by 2 1/2 lengths. Floyd Mayweather Jr. won a unanimous decision over Sugar Shane Mosley in Las Vegas. Actress Helen Wagner, who'd played Nancy Hughes on the CBS soap opera "As the World Turns" for 54 years, died in Mount Kisco, New York, at age 91.

One year ago: Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel called a 50-percent jump in reports by members of the military of sexual assaults the previous year a "clear threat" to both male and female service members' lives and well-being, and said he'd ordered Pentagon officials to increase efforts to get male victims to report abuse.

Today's Birthdays: Country singer Sonny James is 86. Singer Judy Collins is 76. Actor Stephen Macht is 73. Singer Rita Coolidge is 70. Pop singer Nick Fortuna (The Buckingham) is 69. Actor-director Douglas Barr is 66. Actor Dann Florek is 64. Singer-songwriter Ray Parker Jr. is 61. Actor Byron Stewart is 59. Hall of Fame jockey Steve Cauthen is 55. Actress Maia Morgenstern is 53. Actor Scott Coffey is 51. Country singer Wayne Hancock is 50. Actor Charlie Schlatter is 49. Country singer Tim McGraw is 48. Rock musician Johnny Colt is 47. Rock musician D'Arcy is 47. Movie director Wes Anderson (Film: "The Grand Budapest Hotel") is 46. Actress Julie Benz is 43. Actor Bailey Chase is 43. Country singer Cory Morrow is 43. Gospel/rhythm-and-blues singer Tina Campbell (Mary Mary) is 41. Actor Darius McCrary is 39. Actor Jamie Dornan (Film: "Fifty Shades of Grey") is 33. Actress Kerry Bishe is 31.

Thought for Today: "Any man who has the brains to think and the nerve to act for the benefit of the people of the country is considered a radical by those who are content with stagnation and willing to endure disaster." - William Randolph Hearst, American newspaper publisher (1863-1951).

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