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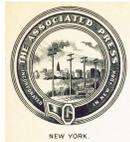
Connecting - May 08, 2017

1 message

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Reply-To: paulstevens46@gmail.com
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Mon, May 8, 2017 at 9:11 AM

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Connecting

May 08, 2017

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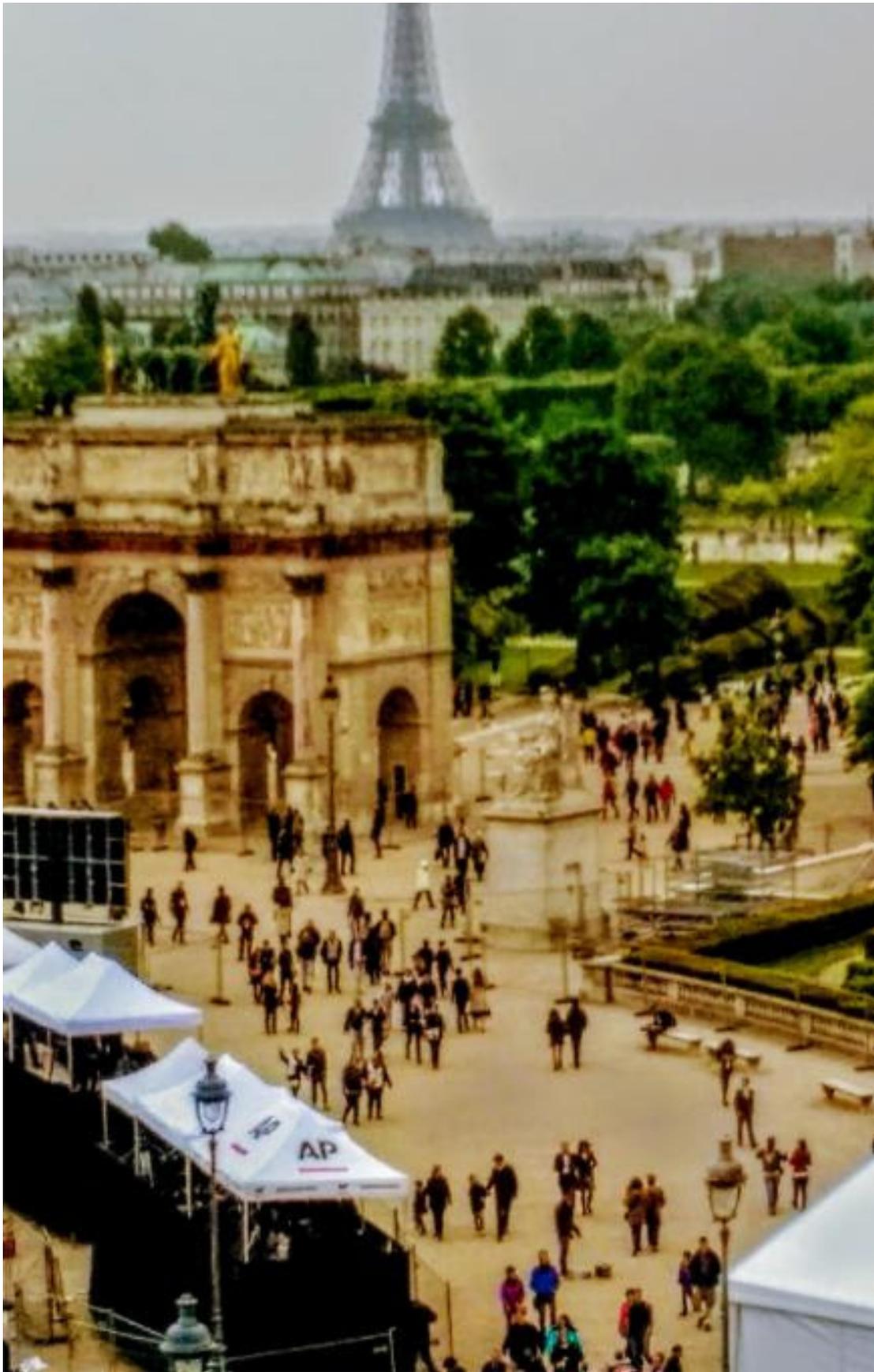


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Covering the French elections





Colleagues,

Good Monday morning! Here's to a great week ahead for us all.

Kevin Walsh (Email) - and his wife Lisa have been traveling the world - and he reports to his Connecting colleagues that when he was looking out his window Sunday at the Musee du Louvre in Paris, "I was delighted to see the AP logo on one of the media tents. Today was the final round of voting in the French presidential election." I thought the photo he shared above was classic.

Normally, the AP reports the news of what's happening at any moment around the world. So Ye Olde Connecting Editor was surprised when he spotted this item Saturday on the wire, headlined:

NOT REAL NEWS: A look at what didn't happen this week

We lead today's issue with the story - what we believe could become a regular wire fixture - as long as the supply of unreal news persists. An advisory note at the end of the story says: "This is part of an ongoing Associated Press effort to fact-check claims in suspected false news stories."

Greg Nokes celebrated his 80th birthday on Saturday - and he shares his thoughts with a wonderful piece on turning the Big 8-0.

And speaking of birthdays, a very happy one today to my longtime friend **Lynda Zimmer Straw**. We met in 1968 when her husband **Bob Zimmer** and I were both assigned to Little Rock AFB. Both Lynda and Bob worked for the AP, and Bob died in 1992 while serving as AP farm writer and Champaign correspondent. Miss him much.

Have a great week!

Paul

NOT REAL NEWS: A look at what didn't happen this week

A roundup of some of the most wildly popular, but completely untrue, headlines of the week. None of these stories are legit, even though they were shared widely on social media. AP checked these out; here are the real facts:

NOT REAL: Conservative Icon Ted Nugent Killed In Hunting Accident

THE FACTS: The rocker has been the subject of a death hoax published by numerous sites following his April 19 visit to the White House with Kid Rock and Sarah Palin. The hoax appears to have originated on April 28 from TheLastLineOfDefense.org, a site that includes a disclaimer that all articles are "satirical." Nugent said in a Facebook Live video the same day that his family was "quite distraught" over the hoax, which he termed "a dirty lie."

NOT REAL: Trump consoles Jehovah's Witnesses on Russia ban as he worships with them

THE FACTS: Russia's Supreme Court in late April banned the religion's members from operating anywhere in the country, calling the group an extremist organization. The U.S. State Department did condemn Russia's actions, but President Donald Trump and Vice President Michael Pence did not respond by praying with the group in the U.S. and consoling the members, as several sites claimed. Several of the stories included a picture of the president and vice president attending a national prayer service the day after their January inauguration, falsely identifying it as a prayer service at the Kingdom Hall of the Jehovah's Witnesses.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting mailbox

Fake news, 50 years ago

Adolphe Bernotas ([Email](#)) - I encountered a variation of fake news 50 years ago soon after I showed up at the AP bureau in Concord, N.H.

William Loeb, ultraconservative publisher of the Manchester (N.H.) Union Leader and New Hampshire Sunday News, the only papers in the state with UPI and AP, was known for the epithets with which he tarred politicians/public officials. There was "Kissinger the Kike,"

"Wifeswapper (Nelson) Rockefeller," "Dopey Dwight" Eisenhower, among others. More often than not these appeared in front-page, above-the-fold editorials.

Loeb also used the front page to excoriate news organizations other than his. If he didn't like the way the wire services covered a story, there would be the AP and or UPI story headlined something like "Here's how the Assassinated Press (or United Press Incredible) Covered the Governor's Speech." Adjacent to that column, there would be "Here's is What the Governor Really Said in his Nasty Message" and he would lace into the reporters by name. Before Twitter.

Although we sometimes anticipated these side by side expositions, they could come out of nowhere. I used to open the bureau at 5 a.m., grab the papers and dread scanning the Union Leader for the latest Loebism.

If there was a Loeb outburst, it meant that the General Desk in New York and the desk in Boston would want a story. I suspected that Gendesk editors found Loeb's version of the news amusing. But it was the Concord "staff" of two who had to chase these while covering the legislature, competing with UPI on traffic fatalities and punching splits to keep the radio wire humming.

Loeb was a political buddy and kindred conservative spirit of Gov. Meldrim Thomson, who wanted the New Hampshire National Guard to be armed with nuclear weapons, but that's another story.

In his newspapers, Loeb could be nasty, but in person he was charming and urbane. My first non-news conversation with Loeb, about my background as a WWII refugee, came when I and the UPI bureau manager showed up at the local TV station to receive the papers' annual "Citizen Hero" awards. The UPI guy and I had been fishing when we saw a car slide into the pond and pulled the driver to safety.

Memories...

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My take: Turning 80

Greg Nokes ([Email](#)) - I could say that today (Saturday) is the 80th anniversary of the crash of the Hindenburg, the German zeppelin, at Lakehurst, N.J., with 36 dead.

But that would be dodging the obvious. It's also my 80th birthday. I can't say I'm at all surprised, or disappointed that this day has come.



Greg with birthday gift

I first became intensely aware of the passage of time when I was about age thirteen while delivering papers one early morning in northeast Portland. I had finished elementary school and was about to begin my freshman year at Washington High School.

I'd just tossed a paper onto a porch from my bicycle when I felt something of a vision. It stopped me. I sat on my bike with the sudden awareness of how transitory this all was. Elementary school had just sped by, and I realized high school would go quickly as well, and, indeed, everything thereafter. And so it has.

I knew it was an important vision of awareness, of growing up, sort of, and I wanted to savor that moment, to remember everything about it. I took in the dark shadows of the houses and trees in the

early dawn, the dew-heavy grass of the carefully manicured lawn near where I had stopped, the bushes around the porch where I'd just tossed a newspaper, the heavy mist in the air, the chill of a fading summer.

Not so many years ago, I returned to that spot. Most everything looked different. The houses were still there, but different colors, different shrubs. Still, I could still see what I saw just a short time ago.

So, no, I have not been surprised, or dismayed, by the swift passage of time. I haven't used all these 80 years wisely, but I have used them. I believe it was the late Washington hostess Pamela Harriman, who wanted an epitaph on her gravestone that read, "She drank deeply at the well," and so, I can say that for myself, "I have drunk deeply at the well."

This doesn't mean there won't be many more years. I remain in excellent overall health, and life with my wife, Candy, and our children and grandchildren, is good, better than good. But the remaining years will pass, and swiftly so.

Thanks to everyone for your birthday greetings. I wish the best for all of you.

(Greg Nokes worked for 25 years with AP in Salt Lake City, New York, San Juan as chief of Caribbean Services, Buenos Aires, year out as a Nieman Fellow in 1971-72, then 15 years in the Washington bureau, including chief State Department Correspondent during the Reagan administration. He left AP in 1989 for The Oregonian in Portland, his hometown.)

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'Gracious thorn among four beauteous roses' ?



Linda Deutsch was in Kansas City late last week to speak to a national lawyers' media law convention, and we used the opportunity to gather a group of former and present AP folks for lunch on the Plaza.

I posted this photo on Facebook - showing, from left, Edie Lederer (AP's United Nations chief correspondent), Kia Breaux (Midwest AP regional director), Linda (one of the finest court reporters ever when working in the LA bureau) and Shirley Christian (former AP foreign correspondent and later a Pulitzer Prize winner (1981) with The Miami Herald).

Connecting colleague **Mike Tharp** Liked the photo, but didn't stop there, with this comment: "A gracious thorn among four beautiful roses." Huh, me, a thorn?

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More of your stories of that first byline

Alan Flippen (Email) - During my year at Columbia Journalism School, I had applied to the Trenton Times for a job after graduation. Sometime in late March or early April of 1986, they called me down for a tryout and sent me out to write about a gas war between two local stations. For background, I called an industry expert and learned that, coincidentally, new statistics were out that day showing that gas prices in New Jersey had reached a record low. So entirely by luck, I had a real story. It made it to Page 1, with my byline, although none of the writing was mine; instead of the feature lead I had written about the two competing stations, they decided to make it a hard-news story about the statewide average.

They offered me a job the next day, on condition I drop out of Columbia and start immediately. I chose to finish my degree, and by June the Trenton Times wasn't hiring anymore, but the AP was. The rest, as they say ...

AND...

Carl Leubsdorf (Email) - My first bylines came at the summer camp I went to in Maine. My enthusiasm for baseball being far greater than my skill, I had become the official scorekeeper for games against other camps and, as such, I had to get up in the Mess Hall and report on Camp Zakelo's latest triumph (or loss). I was then asked to write up accounts of the games for the weekly newspaper, the Zak-o-log. (The camp owner, a onetime Harvard baseball hero, was Zak Zarakov.) I soon realized this was a lot of fun and, by the time I had outgrown camp, I had become the editor-in-chief, a good preparation for later becoming head of AP's Senate staff and Washington Bureau chief of The Dallas Morning News.

My first AP byline came on my first day in the New Orleans bureau when I was assigned to cover a visiting group of German parliamentarians for AP's World Service. I was a bit nervous, especially since this assignment was unlikely to produce a memorable lead. But I felt better when an older woman from the New Orleans Times-Picayune came over and, after introducing herself, asked MY help on something or other. This was probably going to work out, I decided.

My first memorable byline came a few months later when, after the 1960 election, I got the idea to write about the fact that John F. Kennedy, helped by running mate Lyndon Johnson, had somewhat revived Democratic fortunes in the South after the two poor showings against Dwight Eisenhower. I did the arithmetic, wrote the story, wrote a budget line (I was on Night Desk duty) and sold it to the General Desk. Not only was it my first enterprise budget story, but it made the front page of The Evening Star, then Washington's No. 1 paper. Chris Matthews, who has written several books about JFK, discovered it while doing research several years ago and still mentions it whenever we see one another. I thought it was pretty neat, but I don't think I ever had another front-page byline in Washington (though plenty elsewhere).

AP WAS THERE: The airship Hindenburg bursts into flames



EDITOR'S NOTE: On May 6, 1937, the German airship Hindenburg burst into flames at Lakehurst Naval Air Station in New Jersey. Thirty-five people aboard and one person on the ground died. Ahead of Saturday's 80th anniversary, the AP is republishing a version of its original coverage.

LAKEHURST, N.J. - Its silvery bulk shattered by a terrific explosion, the German air liner Hindenburg plunged in flames at the United States Naval air station tonight, with indications that 34 of the 100 aboard and one spectator perished.

As minor explosions continued to tear its twisted aluminum skeleton and ribboned fabric for hours afterward, an official announcement listed as having survived 24 of 39 passengers aboard and 42 out of the 61 members of the crew, thus leaving a total of 34 unaccounted for. Twenty-four bodies were counted in two places, thirteen at the naval sick bay and eleven in the great hangar itself.

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



At middle-of-the-night removal of Confederate statue in New Orleans, AP offers exclusive



Workers dismantle the Liberty Place monument in New Orleans, April 24, 2017. The monument, commemorating whites who tried to topple a biracial post-Civil War government, was removed overnight in an attempt to avoid disruption from supporters who want the monuments to stay. AP PHOTO / GERALD HERBERT

AP's race and ethnicity beat writer Jesse J. Holland was on vacation in Mississippi when a source called with a tip: New Orleans' mayor was ordering the removal of the first of four Confederate-related statues in the middle of the night to avoid a racially-charged scene in the city.

Holland's quick work to negotiate an exclusive on the monument's removal, including an interview with the mayor, and photographer Gerald Herbert's dramatic pre-dawn photos and video, earn the Beat of the Week.

The Liberty Place monument, a 35-foot granite obelisk, was erected to commemorate a deadly white supremacist uprising in 1874 that tried to topple a biracial Reconstruction government installed in New Orleans after the Civil War. Holland's source, whom he knew from covering former President Barack Obama's "My Brother's Keeper" program, told him that Mayor Mitch Landrieu was going to have it removed in the middle of the night, the latest example in a movement to take down symbols of the Confederacy and the Jim Crow South.

Holland negotiated an exclusive in which the mayor would speak to the AP about the monument's removal.

Holland, sitting in the Memphis airport after his flight back to Washington, D.C., had been canceled, contacted Landrieu and negotiated an exclusive in which the mayor would speak to the AP about his reasoning and timing for the monument's removal. Holland then arranged for Herbert's access, coordinating with Race and Ethnicity Editor Sonya Ross, in Washington, D.C., New Orleans correspondent Rebecca Santana and Deep South Editor Jim Van Anglen.

An AP NewsBreak moved in advance of the removal of the statue at 2 a.m. Newspapers in the city relied on Holland's story. Herbert was able to capture the predawn removal - a crucial piece of the story as the images vividly showed the workers wearing bullet proof vests. He also contributed a description of the scene:

"The removal of the obelisk was carried out early in the morning because of death threats and fears of disruption from supporters of the monuments. The workers wore military-style helmets and had scarves over their faces. Police were on hand, with officers watching from atop a hotel parking garage.

"The statue was put up to honor the killing of police officers by white supremacists," Landrieu said. 'Of the four that we will move, this statue is perhaps the most blatant affront to the values that make America and New Orleans strong today.'"

RAW VIDEO: New Orleans begins removing Confederate monuments.
<https://t.co/8XinBHTYIA>

- The Associated Press (@AP) April 24, 2017

The story, images and video were widely used by major newspapers and networks. Newswhip showed that the story was used on more than 600 sites, and that there was more than 300,000 engagements on Facebook and 10,000 on Twitter.

For mobilizing quickly to ensure exclusive access to a moment that encapsulated America's continuing efforts to grapple with race and its own history, Holland and Herbert win this week's \$500 prize.



Witnessing death: AP reporters describe problem executions

The last of four executions carried out by Arkansas in April highlighted concerns about the drug midazolam. The sedative has been adopted by many states in recent years as part of their lethal injection protocol in place of barbiturates and anesthetics no longer available because manufacturers don't want them used in executions.

As the AP's execution witness, Little Rock-based News Editor Kelly Kissel reported that inmate Kenneth Williams lurched and convulsed 20 times before he died, leading to allegations that he had suffered while being put to death.

An immediate question that arose for Kissel and colleagues was this: How did the midazolam execution Kissel witnessed compare to others, some in other states, where problems were alleged?

It was a question the AP was uniquely positioned to answer. For its depth of coverage, the multi-state AP team wins this week's Best of the States award.

The AP witnesses far more executions than any other news organization. And the AP had witnessed five other executions dating back to the beginning of 2014 in which questions arose about the effectiveness of midazolam in sedating inmates. Those executions led to court challenges arguing that use of the drug constitutes cruel and unusual punishment.

Early in the morning following the latest execution, AP decided on a compelling way to tell the story: Get all six of the reporter-witnesses to search their memories, their past coverage and their notes and tell focused stories about what they saw during the executions.

The team spanned the U.S.: Kissel, his Little Rock-based colleague Andrew DeMillo, Andrew Welsh-Huggins of Ohio, Sean Murphy of Oklahoma, Astrid Galvan of Arizona and Kim Chandler of Alabama.

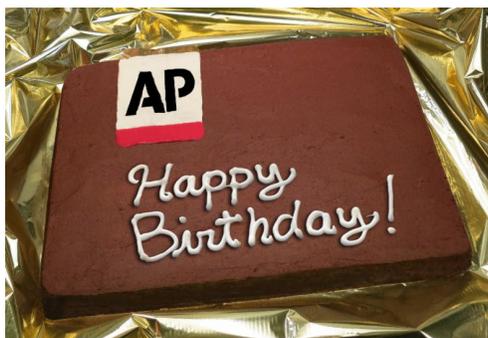
Each of the six reporters wrote up text capsules and then shot iPhone video of themselves discussing the executions they witnessed.

Following a uniform format laid out by Central Region Multimedia Editor Shawn Chen, the reporters wrote up text capsules and then shot iPhone video of themselves discussing the executions. While Chen processed the video, Chicago-based reporter Tammy Webber pulled together the text. Photo editor Bob Graves pulled photos of each of the inmates.

Chen then created a stack in APNews.com, presenting text summaries along with the reporters speaking about the executions on video. Chen then took the extra step of creating a composite photo of the six inmates that was used for social media promotion of the piece.

For providing a unique story that harnessed the AP's unmatched geographic reach and reporting strength, this week's \$300 Best of the States award goes to Welsh-Huggins, Murphy, Galvan, Chandler, DeMillo, Kissel, Webber and Chen.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Lynda Zimmer Straw - raymond.straw@frontier.com

Welcome to Connecting



Sonya Zalubowski - szalubowski@gmail.com

Stories of interest

Gannett is cutting 1,000 newspaper jobs (ABC)

Gannett GCI is eliminating 1,000 jobs, including 600 layoffs, across its newspaper operations, a company spokeswoman said Thursday.

USA TODAY, the largest-circulation newspaper in the country, wasn't affected by the latest round of cutbacks, but had 45 job cuts of its own last November.

The latest cuts will affect Gannett's other newspapers, which include 84 dailies such as The Arizona Republic and the Detroit Free Press as well as nearly 900 non-daily publications.

The cost-cutting drive at the country's largest newspaper publisher is the latest effort by the industry to cope with declining revenue due to an economic slump and a continuing migration of advertising dollars online.

In addition to the 600 layoffs, Gannett will also eliminate 400 jobs through attrition and leaving vacant posts unfilled, said company spokeswoman Tara Connell. The cutbacks represent about 3% of the workforce at Gannett's local newspaper division.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Rachel Ambrose.

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Self-taught Miami photojournalist and blogger Bill Cooke dies at 70 (Miami Herald)



Bill Cooke, shooting Donna Rice. Courtesy /Miami New Times

Bill Cooke, a tough-as-nails photojournalist and blogger, died Saturday afternoon in the Miami VA hospice after years of battling pulmonary fibrosis. He was 70.

A Vietnam veteran and notorious curmudgeon who taught himself to shoot a camera, Cooke built his career in Miami as a freelance photographer with a nose for news. He scored big in 1992 when he followed a crew sign pointing down a neighborhood alley and snapped Madonna naked in a backyard shooting stills for her book "Sex." While working as a car valet, he got a gig at the Associated Press by walking into the Miami office with photos of Al Pacino shooting scenes for "Scarface."

"He'd managed to sneak in and get some really outstanding pictures," said Phil Sandlin, a former AP photo editor who worked with Cooke for about a decade. "Bill was a hustler. And he was actually as good a newsman as he was a photographer."

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

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Medical studies are almost always bogus (New York Post)

How many times have you encountered a study - on, say, weight loss - that trumpeted one fad, only to see another study discrediting it a week later?

That's because many medical studies are junk. It's an open secret in the research community, and it even has a name: "the reproducibility crisis."

For any study to have legitimacy, it must be replicated, yet only half of medical studies celebrated in newspapers hold water under serious follow-up scrutiny - and about two-thirds of the "sexiest" cutting-edge reports, including the discovery of new genes linked to obesity or mental illness, are later "disconfirmed."

Read more [here](#).

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How One New Journalism Nonprofit Is Raising Tens of Millions in Capital (Nonprofit Quarterly)

During the year since it's opened, the Lenfest Institute for Journalism has been making headlines regularly and drawing new attention to a field that has been having a hard time finding its footing. In February, NPQ covered Lenfest's joint announcement with the Knight Foundation of a new initiative to support local newsrooms. Earlier this week, the nonprofit announced that it had secured new financial commitments of \$26.5 million from a "broad base of national and regional funders" and will soon be kicking off a matching gift campaign. At a time when local journalism is struggling in light of falling advertising and new challenges from online entities, Lenfest's success at bringing new interest to the possibilities of local news is a valuable case study for the journalism field and nonprofits more broadly.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady.

Today in History - May 8, 2017



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, May 8, the 128th day of 2017. There are 237 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 8, 1945, President Harry S. Truman announced on radio that Nazi Germany's forces had surrendered, and that "the flags of freedom fly all over Europe."

On this date:

In 1541, Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto reached the Mississippi River.

In 1794, Antoine Lavoisier (lah-vwahz-YAY'), the father of modern chemistry, was executed on the guillotine during France's Reign of Terror.

In 1846, the first major battle of the Mexican-American War was fought at Palo Alto, Texas; U.S. forces led by Gen. Zachary Taylor were able to beat back Mexican forces.

In 1884, the 33rd president of the United States, Harry S. Truman, was born in Lamar, Missouri.

In 1915, Regret became the first filly to win the Kentucky Derby.

In 1921, Sweden's Parliament voted to abolish the death penalty.

In 1958, Vice President Richard Nixon was shoved, stoned, booed and spat upon by anti-American protesters in Lima, Peru.

In 1962, the musical comedy "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" opened on Broadway.

In 1973, militant American Indians who'd held the South Dakota hamlet of Wounded Knee for ten weeks surrendered.

In 1984, the Soviet Union announced it would boycott the upcoming Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

In 1987, Gary Hart, dogged by questions about his personal life, including his relationship with Miami model Donna Rice, withdrew from the race for the Democratic presidential

nomination.

In 1996, South Africa took another step from apartheid to democracy by adopting a constitution that guaranteed equal rights for blacks and whites.

Ten years ago: The Pentagon announced that it had notified more than 35,000 Army soldiers to be prepared to deploy to Iraq beginning in the fall. Bitter enemies from Northern Ireland's bloody past joined forces atop a new Northern Ireland government.

Five years ago: Six-term veteran Indiana Sen. Richard Lugar lost a bitter Republican primary challenge, his nearly four-decade career in the Senate ended by tea party-backed state Treasurer Richard Mourdock, who was defeated the following November by Democrat Joe Donnelly. North Carolina voters decided overwhelmingly to strengthen their state's gay marriage ban. Children's book author Maurice Sendak, 83, died in Danbury, Connecticut. Former U.S. Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach, 90, died in Skillman, New Jersey. Josh Hamilton became the 16th player to hit four home runs in a game, carrying the Texas Rangers to a 10-3 victory over the Baltimore Orioles.

One year ago: London's newly elected Muslim mayor, Sadiq Khan, paid respect to the millions of Jews slain in the Holocaust as his first public engagement in office - and received a hero's welcome from London's Jewish community at the end. William Schallert, a veteran TV performer and Hollywood union leader who played Patty Duke's father - and uncle - on television and led a long, contentious strike for actors, died in Pacific Palisades, California at age 93.

Today's Birthdays: Naturalist Sir David Attenborough is 91. Singer Toni Tennille is 77. Actor James Mitchum is 76. Country singer Jack Blanchard is 75. Jazz musician Keith Jarrett is 72. Actor Mark Blankfield is 69. Singer Philip Bailey (Earth, Wind and Fire) is 66. Rock musician Chris Frantz (Talking Heads) is 66. Rockabilly singer Billy Burnette is 64. Rock musician Alex Van Halen is 64. Actor David Keith is 63. Actor Stephen Furst is 63. New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio is 56. Actress Melissa Gilbert is 53. Rock musician Dave Rowntree (Blur) is 53. Country musician Del Gray is 49. Rock singer Darren Hayes is 45. Singer Enrique Iglesias is 42. Blues singer-musician Joe Bonamassa is 40. Actor Matt Davis is 39. Singer Ana Maria Lombo (Eden's Crush) is 39. Actor Elyes Gabel is 34. Actor Domhnall Gleeson is 34. Neo-soul drummer Patrick Meese (Nathaniel Rateliff & the Night Sweats) is 34. Actress Julia Whelan (WAY'-lan) is 33. Actress Nora Anezeder is 28.

Thought for Today: "Always listen to experts. They'll tell you what can't be done, and why. Then do it." - Robert A. Heinlein, American science-fiction writer (born 1907, died this date in 1988).

Got a story 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.

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5/21/2017

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