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Connecting - May 16, 2017

1 message

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Tue, May 16, 2017 at 8:46 AM

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Connecting

May 16, 2017

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning!

Our call for your experiences in working at an AP bureau housed in a member location has received great response, and we feature your memories.

Today, such arrangements are rare compared with years ago when a bureau in a member building was the norm.

We lead with a report on the surprise 75th birthday party for our Connecting colleague and longtime AP Rome bureau chief **Victor Simpson** ([Email](#)) who served The Associated Press for 46 years before his retirement in 2013. Join me in wishing him many more!

Here's to a great day!

Paul

Happy 75th birthday to Victor Simpson



Victor Simpson with daughter Debbie. Photo/Maria Sanminiattelli

Maria Sanminiattelli and **Edie Lederer**, our intrepid Connecting correspondents, filed this news and photo report on the surprise 75th birthday celebration held last Friday night in New York for **Victor Simpson**, who retired in 2013 as AP's longtime Rome chief of bureau after a 46-year career:

Victor arrived at Orsay, a French restaurant on New York's upper east side, with his daughter, Debbie, and son, Michael, thinking he was meeting his wife, Daniela, there for dinner. Little did he know that this was an elaborate ruse. His family had taken over the entire second floor of the restaurant and when Victor and his children got to the top of the stairs, Daniela and more than 40 friends and family members yelled "Happy Birthday" and started clapping. Victor was shocked!

It was a wonderful evening, with Victor and several friends reminiscing about his life. Edie Lederer led a toast to his illustrious AP career. The present and former AP contingent at the party included Maria Sanminiatelli, Jocelyn Noveck, Charlie Hanley, GG Labelle and Eileen Powell, Dan Wakin and his wife Vera Haller, and Nicole Winfield's father, Dick Winfield, who was AP's media lawyer for many years, and his wife Debbie. Nicole was with Pope Francis in Fatima, Portugal.

Connecting mailbox

Proud of new JD grad



Mark Mittelstadt (Email) - Our oldest son, Matthew, received his J.D. from the James E. Rogers College of Law at the University of Arizona in Tucson on Saturday. Mom and Dad are very proud of him.

As an undergrad of the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Matt developed a strong interest in Latin American affairs and immigration issues, traveling and doing volunteer work in several countries including Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Colombia. He moved to Tucson 10 years ago and did volunteer work with relief groups on the Mexico-U.S. border.

Joining in the celebration of Matt's graduation were his uncle, Dale Ruigh, an attorney and retired district court judge from Ames, Iowa, and his wife, Cindy. Dale is Mary's brother.

Matt will be joining the Executive Office for Immigration Review, an office of the U.S. Department of Justice, in Tucson in September.

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'I'll remember Sally by her kindness'

Joe Coleman (Email) - Like many of us, I'll remember Sally (Jacobsen) by her kindness. When I got a journalism fellowship that would take me out of Tokyo in 2001, she encouraged me, even though it would require her to find a replacement. Before going off, I came to her for advice about which language to study, French or Italian. I wanted to study Italian, but I expected her to suggest French, thinking it would be more useful to the AP. "Oh, French!" she said. Then: "Oh, but Italian!" The message was clear - just study what you want and we'll figure it out later. The following year, she tried to get me to my first choice, Rome, but when that fell through, she got me pretty damn close: Paris. Probably the only time in the history of the AP that an international editor offered Paris as a consolation prize. And she paid me to forget Italian and learn French.

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Times readers should be overjoyed by Bret Stephens' columns

Eileen Lockwood (Email) - Re your story about "defecting" New York Times readers because Bret Stephens is now working there: They should be overjoyed that columns by the Wall Street Journal's best columnist are now available for them to read. I've been "oversaddened" by his leaving the WSJ. (His recent book, "America in Retreat," is a top-notch read also, collecting 4.4 of 5 stars from Amazon customers. My own rating is a full 5 points!) The Times must have tempted Bret with a platter of "goodies" to lure him away. My advice to the WSJ: GET HIM BACK! OFFER HIM WITH WHATEVER IT TAKES. HE'S WORTH IT!!! And I'm sure he will always be fully appreciated by his avid WSJ audience.

Connecting series...

Your memories of working in bureaus located in member locations

Mark Duncan (Email) - While the three locations the AP Cleveland bureau occupied during my time, none were in one of our local newspaper members. However, as a photographer in the pre-digital (film) days, I did work out of many of our Ohio member's photo departments covering news outside of Cleveland. This was preferable to lugging along a portable darkroom, especially covering breaking news with the added opportunity to see the photos from member photographers for possible pickup.

I recall being welcomed many times into the photo departments at The Blade, Akron Beacon Journal, Canton Repository, Youngstown Vindicator, the Bowling Green News and others which time has erased from memory. The one that sticks out is probably covering President George H.W. Bush's campaign train in Fremont, Ohio.

Late in his 1992 campaign for re-election, Bush and wife, Barbara, embarked on a "whistle stop" trip from Columbus on to Michigan. I was assigned to cover the campaign rally at some youth baseball fields along the route outside of Fremont.

My main responsibility was to pick up film from our White House photographer, Marcia Nighswander, who was traveling on the train as well as photograph the rally from a platform well away from the makeshift stage. By this time, we were using the new Leafax scanner/transmitters to send photos, but the color film still needed processing - something not available on the train.

After picking up Marcia's film following the rally I headed to the Fremont News-Messenger's offices and processed our film. While scanning several pictures on the Leafax I turned and nearly everyone in the newsroom was standing behind me

watching. The reporters and editors working that Saturday were fascinated with this new technology.

This was one of the pluses of the old days of film, visiting member newsrooms and photo departments and getting to know them. Like a mini member visit they got to see AP Photos in action.

-0-

Carl Leubsdorf (Email) - When I joined AP in New Orleans in 1960, the bureau was housed within the old Times-Picayune building on Lafayette Square, in a room just off the main newsroom of the T-P and the evening paper, the States Item. That enabled us to get carbons of all their local stories for us to rewrite for radio or for the news wire, if we so chose. On Election Night 1960, we also became the go-to place for George W. Healey, the editor of the TP, to follow the election returns. Healey had gotten to know the Republican candidate, Vice President Nixon, and the word was that he might be in line to be Secretary of the Navy if Nixon won. So he had quite a rooting interest in the outcome. (A Mississippian, Healey used to show up at the annual Sugar Bowl party with a Confederate flag vest.)



As things progressed, however, Nixon was losing to John F. Kennedy. And each time Healey came in to read the wire machine, he got more and more unhappy. He took some of his frustration out on the AP, ordering as AP members could so some additional tables from New York. Fortunately, he wasn't close by when AP put Kennedy over the top about noon the next day.

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George Zucker (Email) - I never got to shout that magical order myself, but I did shut down the presses of the *Nashville Banner* one day. It was October 10, 1973, and the home edition of the *Banner* had just been locked up. Editors relaxed in the city room as they heard the familiar hum of the big presses beginning to roll.

In my AP bureau next door, bells rang on the Teletype. It was a bulletin from Washington that Vice President Spiro Agnew had resigned. I ripped the bulletin off the wire and ran into the city room. In the lull between editions, I knew no one would be paying attention to the news wires.

"Hey, Agnew just resigned!" I shouted, waving the AP bulletin. The editors on the copy desk smiled, thinking I was kidding. But Managing Editor Pinckney Keel jumped up. He checked his AP printer, then grabbed a telephone and shouted the famous order. Luckily, only 5,000 copies had been run off. They were junked and page 1 was re-plated for an EXTRA edition. Keel said without my shout, the press run would have been too committed to stop.

Nashville Banner



Keel was so pleased, he had the front page matrix bronzed and framed and gave it to me. The gesture meant more to me than an editor's thanks for help on one of the decade's top stories. For there on this historic front page, bronzed for posterity, was an item in Red O'Donnell's popular column, "Round the Clock," which mentioned the names of every member of my family. O'Donnell wrote:

"George Zucker's three youngsters, Susan, 13, Peggy, 12, and Lee, 7, still call the National Life & Insurance tower the Scout Month Building. They got their first glimpse of the Nashville skyline eight months ago when George drove his wife, Judi, and the children in from the airport after they arrived from Baltimore. The lighted windows in the building that night spelled out:

SCOUT
MONTH

-0-

Greg Nokes (Email) - When I started with The AP in Salt Lake City in 1962, our offices were on the 10th floor of the Salt Lake Tribune Building overlooking State Street. These were my early AP days, and my assignment was to arrive at the office at 5 a.m. to write morning radio news reports, called "splits." I'd update copy from the night before, hand it to a teletype operator named Lloyd Bost, who would type the morning report into AP's regional Teletype network for radio stations throughout Utah and southern Idaho.



About Lloyd: Long gone now, he was 60 or so, beefy in stature, who led a solitary life, always arriving in the early morning ahead of everyone else with a thermos of black coffee in hand. The joke was he needed the extra time to focus his eyes and loosen his fingers following a night of drinking. As he sat hunched over the keyboard, punching out the yellow Teletype tape, he rarely acknowledged the rest of us.

Well, on the early morning of August 12, shortly after I arrived at the office, what had been a calm morning suddenly erupted in chaos. The building shook, windows rattled, books fell off the shelves, coffee spilled. What just happened? I sat transfixed. Lloyd gave me a quizzical look, and, seeing I didn't know what to do, finally said, "Earthquake!" Yes. Earthquake. I'd only once before felt a minor tremor, and that was when I was six or so. I still didn't move. Lloyd, a veteran of many years with AP, next said, "Call the police to verify." Yes. I called. Verified. No reports of injuries, yet. Lloyd typed out a bulletin. "Now, grab the phone book and start calling people." Yes, good idea. First call was to a nearly hysterical woman who'd been taking a bath when the water suddenly erupted around her and objects fell from the medicine cabinet. I typed this up, handed it to Lloyd. Another woman said a wall cracked. An elderly woman fell down, not hurt. A mother ran into the street with her children. Bricks fell from a driveway, damaging a car.

Within a half-hour, more experienced reporters descended on the office and took over the story. But by this time, Lloyd had underway a detailed running account of the earthquake for newscasters to read to their listeners throughout the region.

Later that week, I found in my mailbox a copy of a letter to AP's New York headquarters from my bureau chief, Jerry O'Brien, praising me for my good work and fast-thinking under duress, and after only a week or so on the job. Letters praising local staffers sent to AP headquarters were few and far between, so this was a good thing for me. But no mention of Lloyd.

"Lloyd," I said, letter in hand, "you are the one who deserves this praise, not me."

"It's OK, kid." Yes, Lloyd's exact words.

I am beholden to Lloyd, as I am to many other former Teletype operators. They were the unsung heroes of The AP.

As for that AP office, the next year I saw watched from a 10th floor window as President John F. Kennedy rode in an open convertible in a motorcade down State Street. He was, as I recall, on his way to Dallas.

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Bill Kaczor ([Email](#)) - When I first went to work for The Associated Press in 1980, I simply moved downstairs from the Gannett News Service bureau on the second floor of the Florida Press Center in Tallahassee to the AP bureau on the first floor.

The AP then was a relative newcomer to the Press Center, owned by the Florida Press Association, across the street and down the block from the new Florida Capitol, which opened in 1977. AP had recently moved there from the cave-like sub-basement of the Old Florida Capitol building (now a museum) that predated the Civil War.

The AP bureau in the old building looked like hideout for outlaws or terrorists. It was a convenient location but cramped, dark and dank.

The Florida Press Center building of that era also had an interesting history. It previously had been occupied by the Commonwealth Corp., a mortgage banking firm that rapidly outgrew the facility as home building boomed across Florida. The company had moved to a temporary facility while it was putting up a new, sprawling, multi-story building with a sparkling gold-tinted glass outer skin. Commonwealth, though, never occupied its new building. The firm went belly up during the national savings and loan collapse. The state eventually bought the gold-plated building to house what is now the Department of Environmental Protection.



The AP shared the old Commonwealth building with other media, including the Miami Herald, St. Petersburg Times, Orlando Sentinel, Palm Beach Post, Tampa Tribune, New York Times Papers and Gannett. The Florida Press Association later constructed a new building a couple blocks northeast of the Capitol, where three AP staffers are currently rattling around in a spacious third-floor suit. The bureau once also housed a technician, photographer, three TV staffers and a fourth writer, all now gone. The Florida Press Association sold that building three years ago and the AP is one of the last media organizations still there. Then-Correspondent Brent Kallestad played a key role planning the AP's move to the new building after I left in 1984 become Pensacola correspondent. I returned to the new building in 2005 to finish my AP career in Tallahassee.

Pensacola was a homecoming for me. I had worked for the Pensacola News Journal for several years before heading for Tallahassee with Gannett in 1975. My one-person "bureau" in Pensacola was simply a desk in the corner of the same news room I had left nine years earlier. As the newsroom grew, I was moved to a relatively spacious office across the hall from the paper's photo lab. It turned out to be too spacious, so after a couple years the News Journal reclaimed it and moved me to a smaller office that literally had been a phone booth of sorts at the front of the building. It had previously been occupied by the News Journal's two telephone operators who were displaced by an electronic phone system. Although tiny, it had

the advantage of allowing me to reach for just about anything I needed without having to leave my seat.

I did get some blow back from the Northwest Florida Daily News about AP's decision (not mine) to place the bureau in Pensacola instead of Fort Walton Beach, where the Daily News is based. Fort Walton Beach would have been more centrally located in a coverage area that stretched across a 150-mile swath of the Florida Panhandle. Pensacola is at the far western end, but is the biggest population center although other parts are growing faster. It turned out to be a good decision because Pensacola wound up generating much more news than the rest of the region.

After a few years, the News Journal decided it had a better use for that tiny space and moved me back to the office across from the photo lab but only after chopping it in half to expand an adjoining office.

So I wound up with barely more space than I had in the former telephone operators' office.

One advantage was that it was not linked to the News Journal's electronic phone system. Hurricane Ivan in 2004 knocked out that system as well as cell service, but my two direct land lines, one for voice and another for computer, never stopped working. No one could leave the building because the surrounding area was flooded. Opening a door would have let in more water. Some already had seeped into the building including about an inch in part of my bureau. As a result, I had a line of News Journal staffers from the publisher on down waiting outside my door to take turns using my phone. It was a fair trade as the News Journal had brought in a diesel generator that provided power for the building including my bureau. The paper also offered gasoline to me and other AP staffers who later joined the hurricane coverage.

Gas stations were closed because of the 100 percent power outage in the Pensacola area.

That little bureau vanished when the News Journal sold its building a couple years ago, moving to a much smaller facility. The structure was razed and a condo complex is being built on the site. The paper's move was the latest step in a rapid downsizing that included outsourcing printing to the Mobile Press-Register about an hour's drive from Pensacola. My successor, Melissa Nelson-Gabriel, worked from her home until she resigned to take a job with the News Journal. AP did not replace her so there is no longer a Pensacola bureau.

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Gene Herrick (Email) - What's it like working in a member newspaper? It was great!

I feel so fortunate to have been an AP'er back in the days when our bureaus were physically located in a member newspaper, or papers in some cities. I honestly feel that it taught me many lessons of dealing with other journalists in a competitive setting.

In 1943 I joined the AP as an office boy in the Columbus, Ohio bureau. Our "Day office" was located in the Columbus Dispatch, and the "Night office" was in the Ohio State Journal building. They were only separated by the intersection of Broad and Third Streets, next to the Ohio Capitol building.

In both situations we were connected to the two newsrooms by air tubes, used to exchange AP wire copy, and their "Dupes" of their news stories. However, the staff often visited those newsrooms.

"Changing" offices was an exercise in adventure. The office boy, or sometimes an editor, would pack a suitcase with relevant files and material needed to keep a continuous news flow in operation. I did this on the overnight shift (went to high school in the daytime), I would leave the night office, carry the suitcase across to the Dispatch, turn on all of the printers, get them up and running and fixing any paper jams, then quickly return to the Journal, and clean up that report, turn off the equipment, and quickly return to the Dispatch office and unify the various news reports. Mike Ratzenberger, Tony Florio, and Jerry Mowery were the usual teletype operators. Various editors also made the "Swap."

The bureaus in Cleveland and Cincinnati also did the "Swapping." Going to Indianapolis as the AP photographer in 1947, we had offices in the Indianapolis News, and the Indianapolis Star. Our Wirephoto operation, and the photographer's office and darkroom were in the Star. This office was at the edge of the Star's city room, where I ambled through talking with their staff, and visiting with the photographers.

Then on to Memphis, where we were in one building with the Memphis Press Scimitar on the top floor, and the Memphis Commercial Appeal on the third floor. Our PS office was in the city room, with traffic room enclosed behind the news operation. This operation was the most interesting experience in my 28-year career in AP offices. Sitting in the PS office, we could see a city editor wearing a felt hat with his press card in the band, one of their reporters, who was a germ-nut, and who would daily take his pens and pencils into the bathroom and wash them. He also hated cigars. Other staff often would place old cigar butts under his typewriter and then wait until the man exploded into a violet hissy-fit, and make a great show of searching for the offensive item, and then disposing of same. Also, we enjoyed the headline writers. Two examples: A women's group had been arguing about a vegetable on their luncheon menu, and the headline read: "Mrs. Smith's group wins

argument, Peas on menu." And the other was about an auto accident in which a man was injured, and apparently his heart had stopped.

"Famous doctor saves life; massages organ until it resumes it normal beating." Downstairs, at the CA, I would daily meander through the newsroom talking with the staff, including the photo staff. The city editor was a character, who keep his bottle of libation close at hand. I even visited the editor to say hello and yak for a minute. They had a columnist, Lydel Sims, who had earlier been an AP staffer, and the first AP newsman in MX that I went on a story about a manhunt in Mississippi. During my travels, I would pick up little vignettes and give them to Lydel for his column.

I also worked in bureaus in Little Rock, St. Louis, Seattle, and Milwaukee, Sioux Falls, S.D., Bismarck, N.D., and probably others, where AP had their offices in the local newspapers. All were wonderful experiences. Most often, I would be the only AP photographer they had ever seen and worked with, which often, meant an out-of-the-office libation experience, at my expense.

Using artificial intelligence to produce news insights

By Francesco Marconi

We collaborated with Cortico, a media analytics nonprofit recently launched from the Laboratory for Social Machines at the MIT Media Lab, to analyze the level of attention the president has given to certain issues on Twitter, as well as how other users have responded.

As we look at additional ways of utilizing artificial intelligence in our journalism, we identified U.S. President Donald Trump's tweets as a potential source of insight into how his public discourse has evolved over time.

We collaborated with Cortico, a media analytics nonprofit recently launched from the Laboratory for Social Machines at the MIT Media Lab, to parse a data set of Trump's posts from his first 100 days in office. We analyzed the level of attention the president gave to certain issues, as well as how Twitter users have responded.

Read more [here](#).

AP, ExpertFile collaborate to connect newsrooms with expert sources

The Associated Press and ExpertFile announced today (Monday) that they will work together to make ExpertFile's online directory of subject matter experts available to newsrooms.

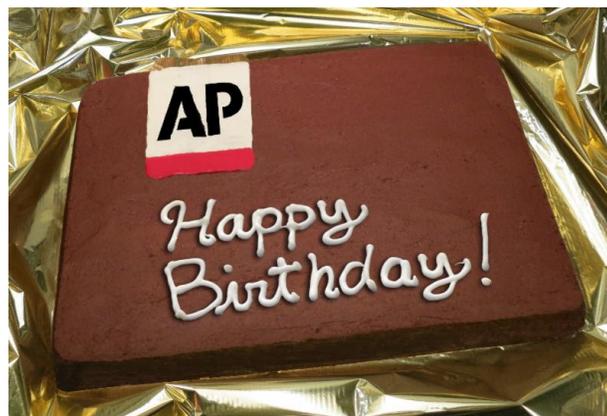
As a first initiative in this collaboration, ExpertFile's search engine and content platform for media on over 25,000 unique topics will be integrated into AP Planner, the news agency's media planning tool. The integration will allow those who use it, including print, broadcast and online journalists and others, to more easily find and connect with experts.

"AP is focused on innovations that better enable editors and reporters to deliver quality journalism," said Fernando Ferre, AP vice president of business development. "Working with ExpertFile helps us provide greater and faster access to credible sources and their content."

"There has never been a more critical need for credible sources in journalism today. At the same time, organizations must ensure their experts and content are discoverable and accessible to media," said Peter Evans, founder and CEO of ExpertFile. "This collaboration allows us to connect newsrooms around the world to fresh, qualified expert sources."

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

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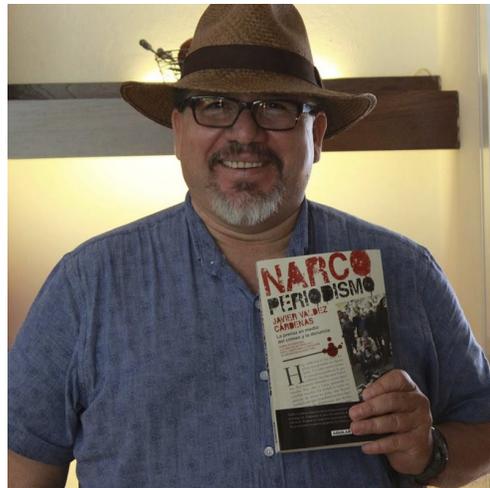
Joe May - jmay@itwebs.com

Stories of interest

Veteran journalist Javier Valdez killed in Mexico's Sinaloa

MEXICO CITY (AP) - Javier Valdez, a veteran reporter who specialized in covering drug trafficking and organized crime, was slain Monday in the northern Mexico state of Sinaloa, the latest in a wave of journalist killings in one of the world's most dangerous countries for media workers.

Valdez is at least the sixth journalist to be murdered in Mexico since early March, and the second high-profile reporter to be slain in the country this decade after Regina Martinez Perez, who was killed in 2012.



Valdez was shot dead in the early afternoon in the state capital, Culiacan, near the offices of the publication he co-founded, Riodoce. State Prosecutor Juan Jose Rios visited the scene and said authorities were investigating all possible motives, including that the killing could have been due to Valdez's work, though he gave no details.

The federal Attorney General's Office also said it was investigating.

Read more [here](#).

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Public News Service sees 26-fold spike in donations after its reporter was arrested in West Virginia (Washington Post)

As managing editor of Public News Service (PNS), Lark Corbeil doesn't spend too many weeks contemplating how to respond to a flood of interview requests from national media outlets. That's because it's not every week that one of her reporters gets arrested after posing questions to top Washington officials. "Our staff is just fried," says Corbeil, referring to the 30-odd employees at PNS, which feeds news stories to 8,000 media outlets nationally, according to the organization.

The "donate" function on the group's website, too, is getting a more vigorous workout. It registered a 26-fold boost in the two-day period after PNS reporter Dan Heyman attempted to get an answer from Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price as to whether domestic violence would be considered a preexisting condition under the Trump-backed American Health Care Act.

Read more [here](#).

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Cambridge Analytica, Trump, and the new old fear of manipulating the masses (Nieman)

Did "sinister" emotional manipulation by the data analytics company, Cambridge Analytica, decide the U.S. election? History suggests otherwise.

After the election, one company claimed the credit for engineering Trump's victory: Cambridge Analytica. The company stated that it had analyzed Facebook along with other publicly available data for around 230 million Americans and combined this with individualized psychological profiling to provide personalized advertising and

promote turnout to Trump's rallies. Alarmist accounts see the company's use of social media data, computer learning, and psychometric targeting as terrifying new inventions in electoral campaigns. These fears are amplified by the company's backers: it counts the mysterious Mercers amongst its investors.

Read more [here](#).

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The Autocrat's Language (New York Review of Books)

By **MASHA GESSEN**

I had visitors from Moscow the other day, and the conversation, naturally, turned to what all of Moscow seems to be talking about these days: a vast urban renewal project that aims to raze all the five-story apartment buildings constructed during the residential construction push of the late 1950s and early 1960s. The thing is, though, that virtually all of those buildings have long since been demolished. The Moscow project of razing five-story buildings from the 1950s and 1960s will bring down four- and seven-story modernist buildings constructed in the early twentieth century—really, anything that occupies land that may be redeveloped. These buildings are not five-story apartment blocks from the 1950s and 1960s, but they will be classified as such. This is a problem of language.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Kent Prince, who said, "Note the references to the AP interview with Trump."

Today in History - May 16, 2017



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, May 16, the 136th day of 2017. There are 229 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 16, 1868, the U.S. Senate failed by one vote to convict President Andrew Johnson as it took its first ballot on the 11 articles of impeachment against him.

On this date:

In 1770, Marie Antoinette, age 14, married the future King Louis XVI of France, who was 15.

In 1866, Congress authorized minting of the first 5-cent piece, also known as the "Shield nickel."

In 1920, Joan of Arc was canonized by Pope Benedict XV.

In 1939, the federal government began its first food stamp program in Rochester, N.Y.

In 1946, the Irving Berlin musical "Annie Get Your Gun," starring Ethel Merman as Annie Oakley, opened on Broadway.

In 1957, federal agent Eliot Ness, who organized "The Untouchables" team that took on gangster Al Capone, died in Coudersport, Pa., at age 54.

In 1966, China launched the Cultural Revolution, a radical as well as deadly reform movement aimed at purging the country of "counter-revolutionaries."

In 1975, Japanese climber Junko Tabei became the first woman to reach the summit of Mount Everest.

In 1977, a New York Airways helicopter idling atop the Pan Am Building in midtown Manhattan toppled over, killing four passengers who were waiting to board and sending debris falling to the street below, killing a fifth person.

In 1988, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *California v. Greenwood*, ruled that police can search discarded garbage without a search warrant. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop released a report declaring nicotine was addictive in ways similar to heroin and cocaine.

In 1992, the space shuttle Endeavour completed its maiden voyage with a safe landing in the California desert.

In 1997, President Bill Clinton publicly apologized for the notorious Tuskegee experiment, in which government scientists deliberately allowed black men to weaken and die of treatable syphilis.

Ten years ago: Anti-war Democrats in the Senate failed in an attempt to cut off funds for the Iraq war. Britain's army reversed course and announced that Prince Harry would not be sent to Iraq with his regiment due to "specific threats" from insurgents. (The prince did end up serving in Afghanistan for 10 weeks, until word of his deployment there got out.) British Prime Minister Tony Blair paid a farewell visit to President George W. Bush at the White House. Nicolas Sarkozy (sahr-koh-ZEE') took over from Jacques Chirac (zhahk shih-RAHK') as France's president.

Five years ago: Gen. Ratko Mladic (RAHT'-koh MLAH'-dich) went on trial at the Yugoslav war crimes tribunal in the Netherlands, accused of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. (Mladic's trial wrapped up in Dec. 2016, and the judges are considering their verdicts.) Mary Richardson Kennedy, 52, the estranged wife of Robert Kennedy Jr., died in Bedford, New York, a suicide.

One year ago: President Barack Obama called on the nation to support law enforcement officers as he bestowed the Medal of Valor on 13 who risked their lives. The International Space Station reached the orbital milestone of 100,000 laps around Earth, akin to traveling more than 2.6 billion miles in 17 1/2 years. Surgeons at Massachusetts General Hospital said a cancer patient was recovering well after the nation's first penis transplant, a groundbreaking operation that could give new hope to accident victims and wounded veterans. Grammy-winning Tejano star Emilio Navaira, 53, died in New Braunfels, Texas. Minnesota Timberwolves center Karl-Anthony Towns was named the NBA Rookie of the Year.

Today's Birthdays: U.S. Rep John Conyers, D-Mich., is 88. Former U.S. Senator and Connecticut Governor Lowell Weicker is 86. Jazz musician Billy Cobham is 73. Actor Danny Trejo is 73. Actor Bill Smitrovich is 70. Actor Pierce Brosnan is 64. Actress Debra Winger is 62. Olympic gold medal gymnast Olga Korbut is 62. Olympic gold medal marathon runner Joan Benoit Samuelson is 60. Actress Mare Winningham is 58. Rock musician Boyd Tinsley (The Dave Matthews Band) is 53. Rock musician Krist Novoselic (noh-voh-SEL'-ik) is 52. Singer Janet Jackson is 51. Country singer Scott Reeves (Blue Country) is 51. Actor Brian (BREE'-un) F. O'Byrne is 50. Rhythm-and-blues singer Ralph Tresvant (New Edition) is 49. Actor David Boreanaz is 48. Political correspondent Tucker Carlson is 48. Actress Tracey Gold is 48. International Tennis Hall of Famer Gabriela Sabatini is 47. Country singer Rick Trevino is 46. Musician Simon Katz is 46. TV personality Bill Rancic is 46. Actress Tori Spelling is 44. Actor Sean Carrigan is 43. Singer-rapper B. Slade (formerly known as Tonex) is 42. Actress Lynn Collins is 40. Actress Melanie Lynskey is 40. Actor Jim Sturgess (TV: "Feed the Beast") is 39. DJ Alex Pall (The Chainsmokers) is 32. Actress Megan Fox is 31. Actor Drew Roy is 31. Actor Jacob Zachar is 31. Actor Thomas Brodie-Sangster is 27. Actor Marc John Jefferies is 27. Olympic bronze medal figure skater Ashley Wagner is 26. Actor Miles Heizer is 23.

Thought for Today: "Those who don't believe in magic will never find it." - Roald Dahl, British author (1916-1990).

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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