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Connecting - May 26, 2017

1 message

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Fri, May 26, 2017 at 9:07 AM

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Connecting

May 26, 2017

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning!

We lead with first responses to a question posed in Thursday's Connecting:

Share any instances where you encountered as a reporter hostility from government officials, in the United States and abroad, when you were simply trying to do your job. Your experiences are most welcomed, so share them today.

And, for a special Memorial Day issue on Saturday morning, please send me today any remembrances you might share of colleagues no longer with us. We already have one remembrance in hand, and would welcome more.

Paul

Encountering hostility as a reporter trying to do your job



“We need to talk about life-style choices that are endangering your health, like being a political reporter.”

By Kim Warp/New Yorker (Shared by Len Iwanski)

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Sonya Zalubowski (Email) - In 1984, I was stationed in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, where I reported on Balkan countries for ABC Radio as well as the Chicago Sun-Times Field news service. Unfortunately, that summer the Chicago paper announced it was ending its storied news service, a pioneer in foreign reporting.

Of course, the Yugoslav government was aware that outlet was no longer connected to my work.

Yugoslavia was still operating with all the politics of recently deceased strongman Tito, including his version of communism and a rotating weak presidency, lots of repression and a network of underground resisters who were often in touch with me. The activists in those days left me letters at my apartment to alert me to upcoming actions.

I was on a bus when I opened one of the letters to read it. The next moment a hand and long arm was reaching from the person sitting behind my seat who grabbed at my shoulder. The middle-aged man with a gray face said loudly "dissident." He demanded I hand over the letter. I stood up and went toward the exit door, still holding the letter. I got off at the next stop but the man followed me.

He spun me around against a wall and again tried to grab the letter. I told him as a credentialed reporter in his country I had the right to freedom in my reporting as guaranteed by the Geneva convention Yugoslavia had signed onto. He finally pointed into my chest, tapped there and said, "u Hapsu." That means to jail with you.

Then he left. I went home, shaken, and called the U.S. Embassy which reminded me this was a sovereign country with rights to act as they wished but also said if I had one call allowed, to make it to them. My journalist friends said to make the incident public to protect myself. I went to the weekly press briefing the government held and asked in light of the incident if Yugoslavia honored its commitment to the Geneva convention. The government spokesperson declined any knowledge of such an incident.

The next day one of the main newspapers reported on its front page that I must have been dreaming, that the United States under cowboy Reagan thought life was some kind of Hollywood movie. It didn't help when one French reporter told me how his colleague had been roughed up by similar undercover agents who didn't like his work.

Apparently putting light on the situation helped. I made it through my last days there without further problems. I have to say I was mightily relieved to finally exit the country, which subsequently unraveled in bloody civil war.

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Joe McKnight ([Email](#)) - I had my share of such encounters, mostly in phone calls to small town police and rural county sheriff's deputies. Only one response stands out; the rural county deputy in Alabama, in the early 1960s, who told me: "I've got the report in front of me and I ain't gonna tell you what it says."

David Egner's suggestion (in Thursday's issue) does call to mind an incident early in my AP career. While working in the Atlanta AP bureau in the early 1950s, I was sent to the Statehouse to cover a meeting of a dairy committee in the Georgia Agriculture Department. The open discussion was routine and boring and I made copious notes so that I would have something to use for a story. After some time, the chairman said the committee would "go en-camera." I had never encountered the term and had no idea what it meant. So, while a number of spectators left, I sat still.

The committee then began discussing possible changes in the fat content of milk. Some committeemen owned sizable dairy operations and the discussion became heated at times. When the meeting ended, I returned to the bureau and wrote about what the committee would recommend to the Legislature on the fat content of milk.

A few days later Bureau Chief Lew Hawkins got a letter of complaint from the committee chairman about the AP report on a private meeting. None of the facts were disputed.

Lew asked me about it and I told him about staffing the meeting. He then asked if I knew it was an en-camera session and I told him I was ignorant of the term.

He laughed, explained that it meant a closed meeting, and said he would respond to the complaint.

I never heard any more about it.

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Hal Bock (Email) - I was a rookie baseball writer in 1966 when Ralph Houk took over an old, washed up Yankees team. We got a request from a member in Springfield, Mass. (probably a Red Sox fan) to ask Houk how come he couldn't get the team going.

I knew I was in big trouble. Houk was a WWII veteran, a tough guy in the best of circumstances, and I knew this would not be the best of circumstances. After a game, the writers gathered in Houk's office for the post-game analysis. I waited until everybody was done and had gone into the Mantle-Ford clubhouse. Then I posed my question as gently as possible, explaining this was for a member paper in New England.

Houk exploded, as I expected he would, and chased me into the clubhouse, shouting bad words at me and turning the heads of his players. I thought at that moment that I should have followed my mother's advice and gone to law school. Thank God, my son did.

I survived and the next night, Houk came up to me at the batting cage and apologized. Too little, too late from my perspective. I just continued to go about my business, but at least I didn't get slugged like the poor guy in Montana.

Related...

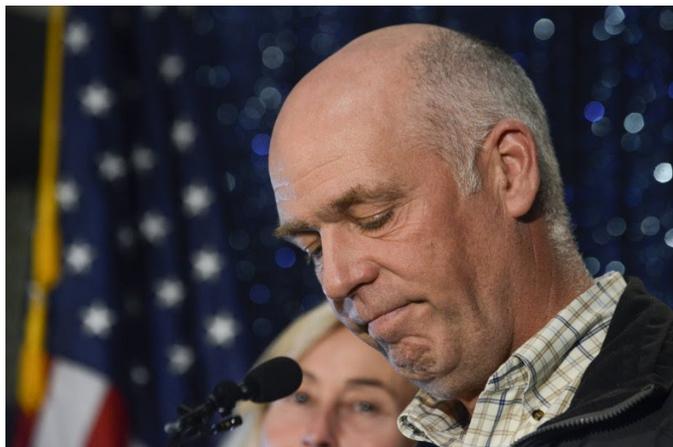
GOP Montana win may be blip in Democrats' anti-Trump hopes

BOZEMAN, Mont. (AP) - A Montana Republican businessman won the state's U.S. House seat after being charged with assaulting a reporter on the eve of the election, a victory that may temper Democrats' hopes for a massive anti-Trump wave next year.

Greg Gianforte apologized late Thursday for attacking a reporter who had asked about the GOP health care bill.

"Last night, I made a mistake. I took an action I can't take back and I am not proud of what happened," he said.

Yet Gianforte's single-digit win paled to President Donald Trump's 20-point romp in Montana in November, a sign that Republicans will have to work hard to defend some of their most secure seats to maintain control of Congress.



Photo/Rachel Leathe/Bozeman Daily Chronicle

The race ultimately turned on the weaknesses of both Gianforte and his opponent, folk singer and Democrat Rob Quist, making it tough to use as a barometer for the nation's political mood.

Read more [here](#).

It's Indy 500 weekend - and here's a few of your memories



Brian Horton (Email) - Growing up in Indiana, there was one sure thing on Memorial Day. Long before we'd fire up the grill for the family cookout, my dad and I would be listening to Sid Collins calling the action on the radio broadcast of the Indianapolis 500, the greatest spectacle in racing.

We'd follow the month of practice and qualifications in the newspaper each day but the real payoff was the race day broadcast. It was appointment listening, for sure.

My dad was a journalist, working for the Indianapolis Star covering nine counties in Eastern Indiana. But, while I was in junior high, they closed the bureau and transferred my dad in to the main office in Indianapolis.

When I turned 16, I got a job at the Star as a copyboy while I was in high school and, when May rolled around, I found myself making daily trips to the track to pick up film from photographers covering the practice sessions. In those days, the Speedway opened on May 1 and ran all month.



Rick Mears after winning in 1979, his first Indy victory. AP Photo/Brian Horton

I was in heaven. I'd get there as quickly as I could after school each day, wandering around and watching the action, peering through the fence into the pits and garage area. In those days, you had to be 18 to go into those areas.

On race day that year, I was assigned as a runner to the late John Starkey, Jr., of the Star, whose position was in a wire basket hanging from the upper deck of the grandstand in the first turn, looking straight up the track. The key moment from that spot was the start of the race, then I had to run that film to a central pickup spot where a motorcycle messenger took it downtown to the Star. They did shuttles like that throughout the race.

I thought it was loud and exciting on the practice and qualification days, but the noise and excitement when the 33-car field came down the front stretch together at the start and passed under our feet in the basket was amazing. I still get chills thinking about it.

I followed that May routine through my high school years. Then, when I went off to Indiana University, I spent nearly the whole month each May as a stringer

photographer for the AP, even earning the coveted crash car assignment my last couple of years. That involved sitting in a van at the end of the pits on practice and qualification days, waiting for the yellow light to flash and for the siren to sound. We'd follow the ambulance and fire truck out on to the track and race to the scene of the crash. Just a few feet from the wrecked cars, we'd make pictures of them helping the drivers.

On race day, I was assigned to a section of the pits, covering the activities around seven or eight cars. I thought I was pretty hot stuff.

My first AP staff road trip, after joining the Chicago photo desk, was the 1972 race. Now, I was there and actually being paid for it. The assignment even came with a hotel room. No more sacking out in a sleeping bag on the darkroom floor. Pretty cool.

Through my years at the AP, I missed a few of the races, but not many. I only came in for the race weekend, of course, but I always looked forward to seeing longtime friends at the track. We all kind of grew old together!

Over the years, my assignments included the pits during the race and Victory Lane with the winner. That was a real crush and we came up with the idea of putting the roll of film in a kid's football and tossing it from the elevated camera platform to a receiver (my brother-in-law, Bob Dillon) at the edge of the crowd near the chute that led to our darkroom. We picked up a couple of minutes on UPI and it became part of the game plan.

After my transfer to New York as an editor, I returned to the track and handled the picture editing for several years. I had certainly made the whole circuit - from a 16-year-old kid running film to heading up the race day operation.

One of my best memories was one year, the day before the race, Chevrolet arranged for people to go for a lap in the pace car with former winner Bobby Unser driving. Now-retired Cleveland AP photographer Mark Duncan and I got to take a lap and when we came back in there wasn't anyone waiting so Unser took us back out on the track for another lap.

We ended up doing a couple of dozen laps, or more, with Unser talking to us and pointing out spots on the track while driving flat-out in the specially modified Camaro. We were hitting close to 130 mph on the straightaways, running inches from the wall, with Unser steering with one hand and describing driving techniques with the other, sometimes turning in the seat to talk to the people in the back.

It was exciting, for sure. Our laps ended when we came out of the second turn and there was a tractor in the middle of the track. Unser flicked the wheel with one hand, missed the tractor, never stopped talking, and took us on around before pulling in to the pits. I'm not sure about Mark, but I know it took me a moment or two to catch my breath.

Yes, lots of good memories from the Brickyard. And many friendships.

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Mike Harris ([Email](#)) - I wrote earlier this week about the end of my nearly five-decade run at the Indianapolis 500, dating to 1970. That first year, I was issued a small, silver metal badge that was my credential. There were also bronze badges, but those had limited access, while the silver was the all-around credential. Combined with a ticket and the right numbered cardboard backing used on race day, it was your entry to the places you needed to be - the garage area, pit road, the press box, the infield media center and the winner's circle.



As you can see from the accompanying photo, I have collected one of the silver badges from every year. They no longer are used for credentials. Most media people have season hard cards or get a paper credential. But, like so many things at Indy, the badges remain a beloved tradition and have become collectible.

I'm appropriating some information from a blog by a photographer named Bobby Chestnut to give you some history of the badges. Some of this I knew and some I didn't.

From 1932 through 1946, cardboard or pasteboard credentials were issued. But, after a while they tended to get worn out so, the metal pit badge was born in 1938.

Makers of pit badges have included St. Louis Button Co., G.J. Mayer Co., Bastian Brothers, Herf Jones and the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Corporation. Beginning in 1947, "Bronze" and "Silver" badges appear. Early bronze badges were indeed

bronze, but silver badges were only a silver colored pot metal. Sometime in the late 50's or 60's, bronze badges were no longer truly bronze but a bronze colored pot metal.

They are collectible, but the badges from around 1960 to the present have much less value.

Over the years, the designs for the badges tended to represent that year's pace car or a major sponsor. And, if you look closely, you can see that the badges came in a variety of shapes and sizes.

Until last fall, when my creative son, helped me put together this shadow box, my badges rested safely in an old cigar box that I kept on a shelf under my desk. I would usually haul them out only when I added a new one, spreading them on the desk or a table and basking in the memories.

It will feel strange not to add another one this year. But, at least now I can look up at the wall next to my desk and see them any time I want.



AP Exclusive: Placing a value - \$24 billion - on 'golden visas'



Video of U.S. President Donald Trump is displayed as workers wait for potential investors during an event promoting EB-5 investment in a Kushner Companies development, at a hotel in Shanghai, China, May 7, 2017. AP PHOTO

They're called "golden visas" - legal permission for non-citizens to reside in the U.S. or other countries in exchange for investment. But how much are such investments worth, and who is making them?

These were questions that AP's Nomaan Merchant set out to answer, encouraged by Greater China news director Gillian Wong.

After months of searching out data from 20-plus countries, analyzing it and interviewing investors, Merchant could report that more than 100,000 Chinese have poured \$24 billion in the last decade into "golden visa" programs across the world, and notably in the U.S. - an exclusive AP analysis that earns the Beat of the Week.

Merchant, part of the AP's Texas staff and currently based in Houston, had the "fantastic" opportunity to fill in for six months for a staffer on leave from the Beijing bureau. Even before his arrival, Wong said she wanted to find out what were the top investment migration programs that Chinese were using. Merchant's data collection experience on a prior project might help.

Soon after landing in China, Merchant started getting text message ads for the U.S. EB-5 program and seeing ads for other countries.

"Quickly after I landed in China in August, I started getting text message ads for the U.S. EB-5 program and seeing ads for other countries, and I soon realized how big a deal 'golden visa' programs are in China," he said.

He would discover that China's investors in these visas are part of a wave characterized not by poverty, persecution or war, but by people with steady jobs and homes who are pursuing happiness that's eluded them in their homeland.

He called or emailed authorities from Australia to Spain to ask for the numbers of visa investors in their countries.

First, seeking raw material, he called or emailed authorities from Australia to Spain to ask for the numbers of Chinese and total visa investors in their countries. Documents arrived but weren't always easy to decipher at first, including some in Latvian. But with help from Larry Fenn, New York-based AP data specialist, he reached a final accounting for each of their programs, which the officials verified.

Next came interviews with about a dozen investors in several cities. Here Merchant, who does not speak Chinese, got help from AP researchers Yu Bing, Fu Ting and Liu Zheng, who asked his questions, transcribed interviews and went back for follow-ups.

The investors spoke of their worries about rising housing costs and smog, and their desire for an alternative to China's pressure-filled schooling for their children. For one woman, getting a prized "green card" would be a pathway for a less stressful education for her 9-year-old son, who "has a lot of homework to do every day, but I don't think he has learned a lot from school."

A professor in Beijing explained: "Middle-class investors' choosing to leave shows that their confidence in their future, their dreams and the regime in China is fading."

U.S. "golden visa" program promoted by Jared Kushner's family has drawn "Ponzi scheme" allegations in Senate. <https://t.co/4UwWf0dj7Lpic.twitter.com/YznZy7UD0e>

- The Associated Press (@AP) May 16, 2017

The story, which won wide play and topped AP Mobile, got a boost from news that the sister of Jared Kushner, President Donald Trump's son-in-law, promoted the

U.S. EB-5 program to Beijing investors for a New Jersey building project.

Merchant said Wong shepherded the golden visa story from start to finish. "After I left China in February, there was hardly a day that Gill wasn't emailing me (often during my work day and in the middle of the night for her), adding great context to the story, or mobilizing resources there to do interviews or attend events."

For untangling a dense web of bureaucratic data to reveal an important story about economics and culture, Merchant and Wong share this week's \$500 prize.



AP Exclusive: a look inside the 'pie car' and the last days of Ringling Bros.



Beth Walters, left, and Stephen Craig, both clowns with Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, talk during the clowns' final group breakfast aboard

the circus train, May 4, 2017, in Providence, R.I. AP PHOTO / JULIE**JACOBSON**

New York City photographer Julie Jacobson and Michelle Smith, Providence, Rhode Island, correspondent, spent weeks negotiating with the parent company of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus about what sort of access they could get to the performers and crew as the 146-year history of "The Greatest Show on Earth" drew to a close this spring.

What they really wanted was to get on the train where the workers lived, the last of its kind in the world. Getting inside the cabins, and the heart and soul of a unique way of life that was coming to an end, was the key to telling a compelling story, they felt.

Finally the word came down, from CEO Kenneth Feld: We could get on the "pie car" for the clowns' last breakfast, but they would not be in costume, and we could absolutely not see the rest of the train, out of respect for the privacy of the performers.

Good thing Jacobson and Smith don't take no for an answer.

As they talked with the clowns at that breakfast, Smith asked one: "What are you going to do when you're done performing for the last time?" He replied that there was a cupboard in his cabin where all the clowns that came before him had signed their names before moving on. After the last show, he'd add his name to it.

Smith asked if she and Jacobson could see it. Of course they could, he said. Other cast and crew members followed suit, eager to share with the AP their stories of life in the circus and on the train, and of their plans for the future.

Jacobson raced to process hours' worth of stills, video and 360 in time to get them out before the "last last" performance.

The access they got, the stories they heard and the images they saw formed the basis for an exclusive and heart-tugging package of photos, traditional and 360 video, and text. Once the circus unit they visited had wrapped up its performances, Jacobson raced to process hours' worth of stills, video and 360 in time to get them out before the "last last" performance by the other unit of the circus just a couple of weeks later.

Smith, juggling it with her work on another major piece of enterprise about school sexual abuse, set about writing heart-tugging vignettes, coordinating her subject choices so they could be paired with Jacobson's strongest images in a stack on the AP News app. Social promotions were coordinated by East UGC reporter Michael Sisak and East enterprise editor Jeff McMillan, and McMillan built the stack overnight after the story moved around 1 a.m.

RT @APEastRegion Exclusive look at Ringling Bros. final days.<https://t.co/MUEBowuep5> 360 VR: <https://t.co/vWV1QTTAL9>

- The Associated Press (@AP) May 17, 2017

Jacobson's online video and Smith's lead vignette focused on the narrative spun by Sandor Eke, the colorful "boss clown" who was living on the train with his toddler son.

Smith's vignette package concluded: "In a few days, the two will fly back to Hungary to visit family before their permanent move to Las Vegas. Eke is planning to visit a circus he has heard about there. 'Any time I have a chance to see a circus,' he says, 'I will be there.' But tonight, he stands on the arena floor one last time, holds his son in his arms, and cries."

The Nieman Storyboard said Smith's collected vignettes "offer sweet and sorrowful snapshots of the carnies as they say goodbye to the only life that most of them have known ... sigh."

The Nieman Storyboard called Smith's collection of vignettes "lovely. It offers sweet and sorrowful snapshots of the carnies as they say goodbye to the only life that most of them have known. One of them is sixth-generation circus, and he likes to say his parents fell in love in the air. Sigh."

The package made Mike Allen's Top 10 on Axios AM. Jacobson's images were used inventively by outlets including CBS News and WBUR in Boston.

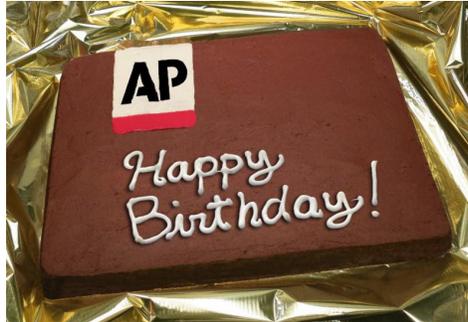
The spokesman for Feld Entertainment called Smith the morning the package ran to thank her and Julie, saying that in 100 years, people will look back at their work to understand what life was like on the Ringling Bros. circus.

The journalists' work continued a string of AP scoops on the circus, including by Tampa newswoman Tamara Lush, who previously reported on Ringling's decision to

drop elephants from its act and later the demise of the circus itself, and Smith's first interview with circus officials after an accident in 2014.

For trust-building that gave the AP access that no other media outlet had to the end of a singular way of life, and for building on a record of exclusivity that will now stand for all time, Jacobson and Smith win this week's \$300 Best of the States prize.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Paul Shane - pjshane@gmail.com

Welcome to Connecting



Marty Hair - martyhair@gmail.com

Stories of interest

Media watchers blame hostility toward reporters on Trump

By TAMARA LUSH

The Associated Press

The case of a Montana congressional candidate accused of body-slaming a reporter is being blamed by some media watchers on a wave of hostility toward journalists that President Donald Trump helped generate.

"It definitely started before Trump, but he definitely exacerbated it," said Kelly McBride, a vice president at the Poynter Institute, a media think tank and training center in St. Petersburg, Florida.

For months, Trump, first as a candidate, now as president, has attacked the media, calling it dishonest, branding it the "enemy of the people" and accusing it of putting out "fake news."

During the White House campaign, reporters at Trump rallies were often confined to a penned-in area, vilified by the candidate and subjected to such insults and threats from his supporters that some members of the media feared for their safety. At one rally, a man was photographed in a shirt that read, "Rope. Tree. Journalist. Some Assembly Required."

Trump campaign manager Corey Lewandowski was arrested during the campaign on battery charges for grabbing a female reporter. A Florida prosecutor later dropped the charge.

On Wednesday, Greg Gianforte, the Republican candidate for a House seat in a special election Thursday, was charged in Montana with misdemeanor assault for allegedly grabbing Guardian reporter Ben Jacobs by the neck and slamming him to the ground after Jacobs asked him about the GOP health care bill. Gianforte could be fined up to \$500 or get six months in jail if convicted.

Gianforte, who has tried to align himself with Trump, said the reporter was being aggressive and grabbed him by the wrist. Jacobs said he never touched Gianforte. And a Fox News reporter who witnessed the incident said Jacobs was not physically aggressive.

"The attack in Montana is only the crudest and most visible expression of the rising hostility toward the media," Jonathan Turley, a constitutional law expert at George Washington University, wrote in an email. "The chilling fact is that half of the people seeing the Guardian reporter being beaten may actually - if privately - relish the image."

Read more [here](#).

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President Trump's war on the press is dangerous. He's discrediting a profession he fears (Poynter)

If you can't handle reporters asking questions, Congress isn't the place for you, because that happens here every day. Snowflake, you best stay home.

That's the first takeaway of shocking events on the eve of Montana's special election for the U.S. House of Representatives. GOP nominee Greg Gianforte, 56, a Christian conservative multi-millionaire, flew into a rage when a reporter questioned him on health care, grabbing the reporter around the neck, throwing him to the ground, and breaking his glasses while the journalist's phone recorded and a stunned FOX News crew watched. The candidate blamed "aggressive behavior from a liberal journalist;" FOX, not known as a bastion of "liberal journalists," said the politician "slammed" and punched the reporter unprovoked.

The second takeaway is that Gianforte's outburst is part of a troubling trend in attacks by politicians and restrictions by authorities on reporters playing their constitutionally enshrined role in our democracy: asking tough, inconvenient questions for the public who can't ask for themselves.

Read more [here](#).

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The Bombing, the Crime Scene Photos and the Outcry (New York Times)

By LIZ SPAYDE

Around midday on Wednesday, The New York Times published several photographs showing, in eerie detail, the makeshift shrapnel, shredded blue backpack and powerful lead acid battery used by the Manchester bomber who killed 22 people. The story accompanying the photos, describing the forensic evidence and crime scene found by investigators, said the bomber's torso had been heaved toward the entrance of the Manchester Arena.

Nothing in the story directly states the source of the material but it says the evidence was photographed and distributed by British authorities. Now, British officials are accusing U.S. intelligence of leaking the material, saying it could seriously impede an investigation into the deadliest terrorist attack in Britain in more than a decade. Following complaints by Prime Minister Theresa May, President Trump has called for a Justice Department investigation into the "alleged leaks."

Why did The Times publish the evidence and how did it weigh the public interest in the information against any potential damage to the investigation?

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

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AP issues correction on Kellyanne Conway story; GOP says it will bill reporter (New Hampshire Union Leader)

The Associated Press has issued a correction for its report on Kellyanne Conway's speech to New Hampshire Republicans last week, acknowledging that its crowd estimate was wrong, and the freelance reporter who covered the event says the wire service will no longer use her for political coverage.

The original, four-paragraph report from Melanie Plenda estimated the attendance at about 150. "Further reporting has indicated the hotel ballroom, which seats 500, was near capacity," reads the AP correction.

State GOP officials remain outraged that Plenda made her way into the ballroom at the Nashua Radisson on May 18, since it was a closed-to-press event, and media outlets were informed that it was a ticketed, private event.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

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Wanna Know What Donald Trump Is Really Thinking? Read Maggie Haberman (Elle)



The man with the orange hair is making a scene. Maggie Haberman, a White House correspondent for the New York Times, stops midsentence to stare at his back as he gesticulates broadly and shouts at his dinner companions over the already considerable din at BLT Steak in Washington, DC, downstairs from the offices of the Times' bureau.

Haberman has what can only be described as a wildly expressive poker face: her slender, Clara Bow-ish eyebrows lifting, her tired eyes widening behind her smudged glasses, a tiny pinpoint of a mole on her upper lip emphasizing the thin line she's pressed her mouth into, the dimple in her chin appearing and disappearing as her jaw muscles shift. Intense is one of the words friends and

colleagues most often use to describe her. As she regards the man with the orange hair, it's like watching a predator decide whether or not to go in for the kill.

"This place is so loud I want to put a bullet in my brain," she had said, matter-of-factly, when we first sat down for a late dinner, observing that so much hard-partying energy on a weeknight seemed more NYC than DC.

Like the president she covers, Haberman, 43, is a born-and-bred New Yorker and slightly ill at ease in Washington. She commutes to DC several times a week from her home in Brooklyn, where she lives with her husband and three young children. On this evening, she is recovering from the flu and has been up for the better part of two days, racing back and forth on Amtrak between her family and an Oval Office interview with the president, and speaking engagements at New York's Lincoln Center and DC's Newseum.

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

Today in History - May 26, 2017



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, May 26, the 146th day of 2017. There are 219 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 26, 1917, a tornado in central Illinois killed 101 people, mostly in the Mattoon-Charleston area.

On this date:

In 1521, Martin Luther was banned by the Edict of Worms (vohrms) because of his religious beliefs and writings.

In 1868, the impeachment trial of President Andrew Johnson ended with his acquittal on the remaining charges.

In 1897, the Gothic horror novel "Dracula" by Bram Stoker was first published in London.

In 1938, the House Un-American Activities Committee was established by Congress.

In 1940, Operation Dynamo, the evacuation of some 338,000 Allied troops from Dunkirk, France, began during World War II.

In 1942, the Tule (TOO'-lee) Lake Segregation Center for Japanese-American wartime internees opened in northern California. The U.S. War Department formally established the Armed Forces Radio Service (AFRS). Radio Tokyo boasted of recent victories in the Pacific War and declared that "the Japanese people can look forward to a triumphal march into London and a victory march in New York."

In 1954, explosions rocked the aircraft carrier USS Bennington off Rhode Island, killing 103 sailors. (The initial blast was blamed on leaking catapult fluid ignited by the flames of a jet.)

In 1960, U.N. Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge accused the Soviets during a meeting of the Security Council of hiding a microphone inside a wood carving of the Great Seal of the United States that had been presented to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow.

In 1972, President Richard M. Nixon and Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev signed the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty in Moscow. (The U.S. withdrew from the treaty in 2002.)

In 1977, George Willig scaled the outside of the South Tower of New York's World Trade Center; he was arrested at the top of the 110-story building.

In 1981, 14 people were killed when a Marine jet crashed onto the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz off Florida.

In 1991, a Lauda Air Boeing 767 crashed in Thailand, killing all 223 people aboard.

Ten years ago: Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki (NOO'-ree ahl-MAHL'-ih-kee), U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker and American commander Gen. David Petraeus flew to Iraq's blistering western desert in a rare joint outing to highlight gains there in the fight against insurgents.

Five years ago: Gruesome video posted online showed rows of dead Syrian children lying in a mosque in Houla, haunting images of what activists called one of the deadliest regime attacks yet in Syria's 14-month-old uprising. International space station astronauts floated into the Dragon, a day after its heralded arrival as the world's first commercial supply ship.

One year ago: President Barack Obama, visiting Japan, said foreign leaders were "rattled" by Donald Trump and had good reason to feel that way, as he accused the presumptive Republican presidential nominee of ignorance about world affairs. First lady Michelle Obama told graduates at a Native American high school in Santa Fe, New Mexico, to take pride in their history and cultures at a time when she said the "loudest voices in the national conversation" suggested turning away from the tribal values that were part of their education. Angela Paton, an actress best known for appearing with Bill Murray in "Groundhog Day," died in Oakland, California, at age 86.

Today's Birthdays: Sportscaster Brent Musberger is 78. Rock musician Garry Peterson (Guess Who) is 72. Singer Stevie Nicks is 69. Actress Pam Grier is 68. Actor Philip Michael Thomas is 68. Country singer Hank Williams Jr. is 68. British Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn is 68. Actress Margaret Colin is 59. Country singer-songwriter Dave Robbins is 58. Actor Doug Hutchison is 57. Actress Genie Francis is 55. Comedian Bobcat Goldthwait is 55. Singer-actor Lenny Kravitz is 53. Actress Helena Bonham Carter is 51. Distance runner Zola Budd is 51. Rock musician Phillip Rhodes is 49. Actor Joseph Fiennes (FYNZ) is 47. Singer Joey Kibble (Take 6) is 46. Actor-producer-writer Matt Stone is 46. Contemporary Christian musician Nathan Cochran is 39. Actress Elisabeth Harnois is 38. Actor Hrach Titizian is 38.

Thought for Today: "Life is a tragedy full of joy." - Bernard Malamud, American author (1914-1986).

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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