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## Connecting - June 06, 2017

1 message

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# Connecting

June 06, 2017

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## Foreign bureaucrats - or bureau cats?



**Spotty/Dotty, an adopted stray, on Dionne Searcey's desk in Dakar, Senegal. Credit Dionne Searcey/The New York Times**

Colleagues,

An article appeared in Monday's New York Times that has your cat-loving Connecting Editor intrigued - and hoping you will take the Times' lead.

"A Times Tradition: Meet the Bureau Cats" tells the story of cats who make their home in many of the Times' foreign bureaus. Writes **Stephen Hiltnerju**:

*It's become a tradition of sorts at The New York Times: far-flung foreign correspondents who populate their sometimes isolated outposts - from Kabul and Baghdad to Cairo and Dakar, in bureaus that often consist of only one or two journalists and occasionally their families - with local feline companions.*

Now, surely AP bureaus domestic and foreign have their own adopted live-in pets (cats, dogs, whatever) - either now or in the past - and I hope you will share your stories. Meantime, [click here](#) for a delightful Times read.

Today's issue updates you on our now-retired colleague **Nick Ut**, who seems just as active in retirement as he was when working as a photographer in the Los Angeles bureau. His activities include Thursday's 45th anniversary of his photograph of The Napalm Girl that earned a Pulitzer and played a role in ending the Vietnam War.

Have a great day.

Paul

**Where in the world is Nick Ut? It depends on the day...**



**Nick Ut (Email)** - I have been retired for only three months and I already miss the hustle and bustle of daily photojournalism but I have kept busy with traveling and

other projects.

In the last three months, I have been to Amsterdam for the 2017 World Press Photos awards in April.

I then came home for a few days and then returned to Vietnam in late April through mid May to visit family.

I return to Vietnam's Trang Bang Village before for this Thursday, June 8, the 45th anniversary of the Napalm Girl photo.

I've also have an Alaska and Switzerland tour schedule soon along with some whale watching, star trail photography, Moon & Planes photography.

So as you seen, I've been busy so far but I still miss my AP assignments and all my colleagues and friends from the AP in the LA office.

I hope to see many of you at the AP soon.

Thank you and warmest regards, Nick Ut, AP Photojournalist 51 years (Retired)

## Connecting mailbox

### ***Praise for Jerry Schwartz' eulogy for Jim Fitzgerald***

**Chris Connell** ([Email](#)) - What a tribute (to Jim Fitzgerald, Monday's Connecting). He was always one of the nicest to pick up the phone on the Gen Desk.

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### ***Someone not to imitate***

**Chuck McFadden (Email)** - Here's a warning for reporters from McClatchy, via the Washington Post's online "The Fix" edition for June 5:

Republican officials, says the McClatchy report, have hit upon a 2018 strategy to savage the media in hopes of boosting their candidates' chances.

"The hope, say these officials, is to convince Trump die-hards that these mid-term races are as much a referendum on the media as they are on President Trump. That means embracing conflict with local and national journalists, taking them on to show Republicans voters that they, just like the president, are battling a biased press corps out to destroy them ... The strategists interviewed say they don't want their candidates imitating Republican candidate Greg Gianforte, who last month was charged with assaulting a reporter in Montana."

Oh, good.

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## ***Mar is a huge fan of bubbles***



**Brian Horton (Email)** - My wife, Marilyn Dillon, and I try to catch the sunset almost every night we are at our second home on Long Beach Island, a barrier island off the coast of New Jersey about 20 miles north of Atlantic City. The island is three blocks wide and 18 miles long. We live on the bay side so it is just a short walk to the end of the street to catch the sunsets.

We are at the house several nights a week year-round and even chase the sunsets in the dead of winter when it is cold and the sun goes down over Barnegat Bay around 4:30!

Mar is a huge fan of bubbles, a kid at heart, and is the ringleader of a group of our neighbors who gather for sunset at the end of our street to mark the passage of another day, often with the bubble wands Mar supplies. This past week, we had a run of amazing sunsets with the sky turning all kinds of shades of red and orange. I try to always have my camera with me to catch the sunsets and made this photo of Mar celebrating the start of the summer season. I posted it on Facebook and we got nearly 150 likes and more than three dozen comments from a wide range of folks - friends from our high school, college and professional lives. Lots of fun.

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## ***Moving \$\$\$***

**Gene Herrick (Email)** - Didja ever wonder how much money The Associated Press has spent over its 170 years to transfer their personnel from bureau-to-bureau?

Staffers have been great writers, photographers, bureau chiefs, editorial and communications, and other specialists from city-to-city to fill an important need.

I know I had eight assignments where I moved all of my belongings.

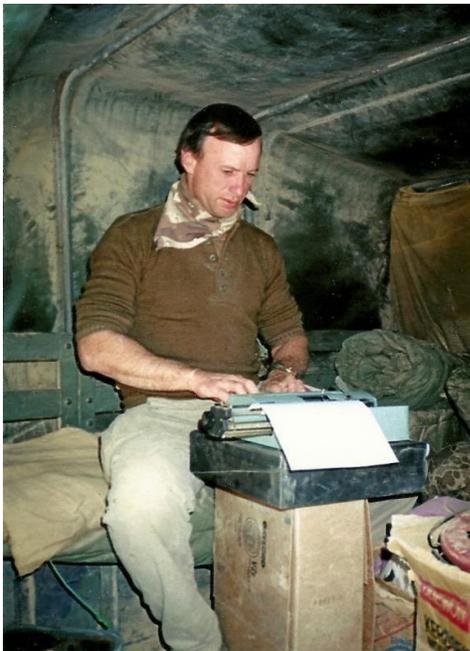
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## ***It's lucky Dylan doesn't work for AP***

**James Warren, Poynter:** It's lucky Dylan doesn't work for the AP. He belatedly surfaces with his acceptance speech for his Nobel Prize for Literature, taped apparently in a studio, and actually just meeting the prize deadline.

Better late than never. It's about 20 minutes, just on audio, and engrossing, starting with his fascination with **Buddy Holly** and the other influences that shaped him as a kid in Minnesota. (The Guardian)

## Connecting profile - Bob Dvorchak



**Bob Dvorchak (Email)** - I appreciate the connection (to Connecting). I came from the same small town in Pennsylvania as George Esper (we're both in the Uniontown High School Hall of Fame, by the way) and would pinch myself sometimes because someone was paying me to go here and there to write stories for the world's supreme news organization. My lifelong dream was to join the old salts in Newsfeatures who operated in the POETS Corner -- Piss On Everything, Tomorrow's Saturday. The universe expanded the way it did.

For nearly 20 years, after beginning a journalism career at the age of 17 at a small-town newspaper, I wrote the human stories from such events as Legionnaires Disease, the Three Mile Island nuclear accident, the collapse of the domestic steel industry, droughts and floods, hurricanes and tornadoes, plane crashes and train wrecks, earthquakes, the first war with Iraq as a combat correspondent, Jeffrey Dahmer, the first World Trade Center bombing, the Oklahoma City bombing, and when I worked at the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, I covered an awful Pittsburgh Pirates baseball team. You pick the one that took the biggest emotional toll.

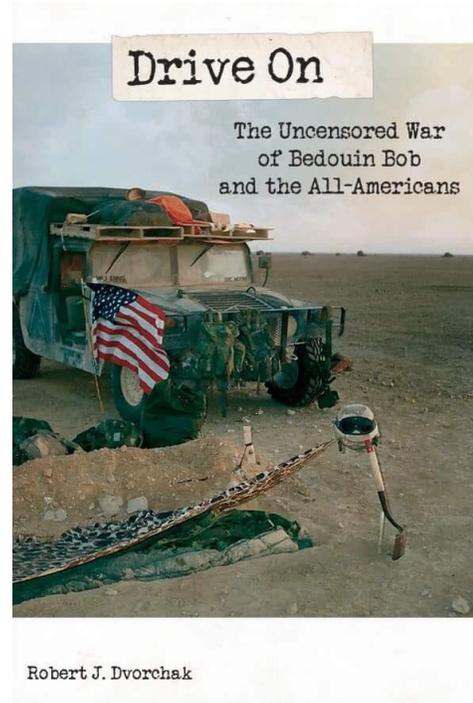
Having started my AP career in Philadelphia in 1976, I was the correspondent in Harrisburg, correspondent in Pittsburgh, correspondent at-large for Pennsylvania and national writer based in NYC headquarters until 1995. Each assignment was a journey of discovery. When I first started, I couldn't believe someone would actually pay me to write stories, and I couldn't believe someone would pay me not to write stories when I got bought out five years ago.

As an Air Force veteran, you might appreciate the latest book -- Drive On: The Uncensored War of Bedouin Bob and the All-Americans. It's part memoir, part history, part confessional and part dumping the contents out of a sand bag.

## Welcome to Connecting



Dave Bauder - [dbauder@ap.org](mailto:dbauder@ap.org)



## Stories of interest

### ***Journalists keep getting in trouble for tweeting*** (Axios)

In the past month:

June 5: Breitbart writer Katie McHugh has reportedly been fired after sending a series of incendiary tweets following the London Bridge terrorist attack.

June 4: CNN host Reza Aslan received heavy criticism and eventually apologized for tweeting inflammatory language about the president.

May 29: Denver Post reporter Terry Frei was fired for tweeting that he was uncomfortable with a Japanese driver winning the Indy 500 on Memorial Day weekend.

May 26: LBC radio host Katie Hopkins was fired for a tweet calling for a "final solution" to Islamic terrorism in wake of the Manchester terror attack

May 24: Freelance writer David Leavitt apologized for tweeting insensitive remarks following the Manchester terror attack.

Terrorism trend: A lot of these tweets and ones from the past year (extended list below) are related to inappropriate comments/language used around terrorist attacks.

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

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***Craig From Craigslist's Second Act - Up next for the man who changed how we find apartments? Bird-watching and an active role in fighting fake news.*** (The Ringer)

Craig Newmark has been really into birding lately. The habit began a few years ago, by accident, much like his famous "list." When he wasn't answering customer service emails from Craigslist users - something the 64-year-old tech icon still does to this day - he'd flip through TV channels until he hit a nature special. Eventually he built up enough bird knowledge that he could identify different species from his Cole Valley, San Francisco, patio, where he and his wife, Eileen, have seen more than 50 types, as evidenced by his bird-heavy Instagram and Facebook pages. His favorites, by the way, are hummingbirds and California towhees, "which sing great," and robins - he gets a lot of robins.

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

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# ***ABC "Pink Slime" Trial Opens With Scathing Attacks on Media Bias, Corporate Secrecy***

(Hollywood Reporter)

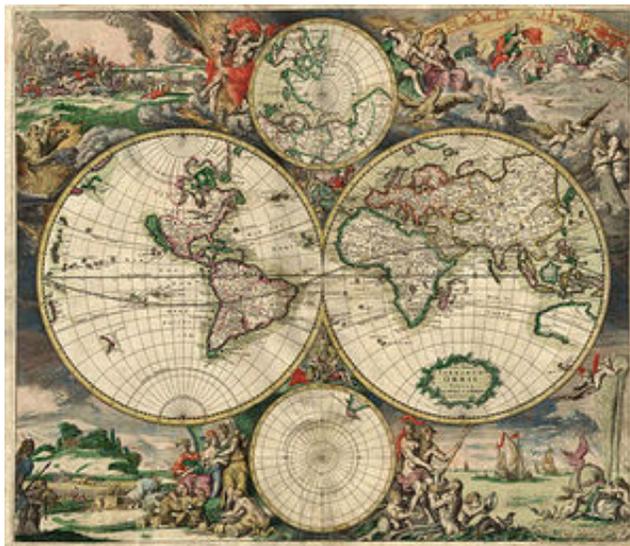
The highly anticipated proceeding gets underway with Beef Products Inc. telling jurors that the broadcaster killed much of its business with a series of reports in March 2012.

Where's the beef? The question brings to mind the popular 1980s slogan of the fast food chain Wendy's that made its way into politics courtesy of a 1984 presidential debate. More than three decades later, that question is again being raised in a high-stakes, politics-infused showdown between Beef Products Inc. and ABC News.

On Monday, both sides presented opening statements in what could become the biggest defamation trial in American history. With billions of dollars on the line, BPI told jurors how a series of ABC News reports in March 2012 about its product, officially called "lean finely textured beef" (LFTB) and dubbed "pink slime" by critics, is to blame for the loss of 75 percent of its business. ABC, in turn, defended itself with a scathing attack on BPI's product while defending the integrity of its own journalism.

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

## **Today in History - June 6, 2017**



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Tuesday, June 6, the 157th day of 2017. There are 208 days left in the year.

### **Today's Highlight in History:**

On June 6, 1944, during World War II, Allied forces stormed the beaches of Normandy, France, on "D-Day" as they began the liberation of German-occupied Western Europe.

### **On this date:**

In 1523, Gustav Vasa became Sweden's new king, Gustav I.

In 1654, Queen Christina of Sweden abdicated; she was succeeded by her cousin, Charles X Gustav.

In 1799, American politician and orator Patrick Henry died at Red Hill Plantation in Virginia.

In 1809, Sweden adopted a new constitution.

In 1844, the Young Men's Christian Association was founded in London.

In 1925, Walter Percy Chrysler founded the Chrysler Corp.

In 1933, the first drive-in movie theater was opened by Richard Hollingshead in Camden County, New Jersey. (The movie shown was "Wives Beware," starring Adolphe Menjou.)

In 1966, black activist James Meredith was shot and wounded as he walked along a Mississippi highway to encourage black voter registration.

In 1968, Sen. Robert F. Kennedy died at Good Samaritan Hospital in Los Angeles, a day after he was shot by Sirhan Bishara Sirhan.

In 1977, a sharply divided U.S. Supreme Court struck down a Louisiana law imposing an automatic death sentence on defendants convicted of the first-degree murder of a police officer.

In 1982, Israeli forces invaded Lebanon to drive Palestine Liberation Organization fighters out of the country. (The Israelis withdrew in June 1985.)

In 1994, President Bill Clinton joined leaders from America's World War II allies to mark the 50th anniversary of the D-Day invasion of Normandy. A China Northwest Airlines passenger jet crashed near Xian (SHEE'-ahn), killing all 160 people on board.

Ten years ago: The Group of Eight summit opened in Heiligendamm, Germany. Police arrested a suspect in the abduction and death of 18-year-old Kelsey Smith, whose body was found in a Missouri park four days after she'd disappeared from a Kansas store's parking lot. (Edwin R. Hall later pleaded guilty to capital murder and was sentenced to life in prison.) Police in Connecticut looking for clues in the yearlong disappearance of a 15-year-old Bloomfield girl found her locked in a hidden room in a West Hartford home owned by an acquaintance of her parents. (Adam Gault later pleaded guilty to kidnapping and sexual assault and was sentenced to 25 years in prison.) The Anaheim Ducks captured the Stanley Cup with a 6-2 victory over the Ottawa Senators in Game 5. Bob Barker taped his last episode as host of CBS' "The Price Is Right."

Five years ago: Business social network LinkedIn reported that some of its users' passwords had been stolen and leaked onto the Internet. New Yorkers lined the West Side waterfront to welcome the space shuttle Enterprise as it sailed up the Hudson River to its new home aboard the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum.

One year ago: A jury in Los Angeles returned a death sentence for Lonnie Franklin Jr., the serial killer known as the "Grim Sleeper" who murdered nine women and a teenage girl over several decades. Space station astronauts opened the world's first inflatable space habitat, the Bigelow Expandable Activity Module, or BEAM, and floated inside. Kimbo Slice (Kevin Ferguson), the bearded street fighter who parlayed his internet popularity into a mixed martial arts career and worldwide fame, died in Margate, Florida, at age 42. Theresa Saldana, the "Raging Bull" actress who survived a stalker's brutal attack to become a crime victims' advocate and reclaimed her acting career with "The Commish" and other TV shows, died in Los Angeles at 61. Playwright Peter Shaffer ("Equus"; "Amadeus") died in County Cork, Ireland at age 90.

Today's Birthdays: Singer-songwriter Gary "U.S." Bonds is 78. Country singer Joe Stampley is 74. Jazz musician Monty Alexander is 73. Actor Robert Englund is 70. Folk singer Holly Near is 68. Singer Dwight Twilley is 66. Playwright-actor Harvey Fierstein (FY'-ur-steen) is 65. Comedian Sandra Bernhard is 62. International Tennis

Hall of Famer Bjorn Borg is 61. Actress Amanda Pays is 58. Comedian Colin Quinn is 58. Record producer Jimmy Jam is 58. Rock musician Steve Vai is 57. Rock singer-musician Tom Araya (Slayer) is 56. Actor Jason Isaacs is 54. Rock musician Sean Yseult (White Zombie) is 51. Actor Max Casella is 50. Actor Paul Giamatti is 50. Rhythm-and-blues singer Damion Hall (Guy) is 49. Rock musician Bardi Martin is 48. Rock musician James "Munky" Shaffer (Korn) is 47. TV correspondent Natalie Morales is 45. Country singer Lisa Brokop is 44. Rapper-rocker Uncle Kracker is 43. Actress Sonya Walger is 43. Actress Staci Keanan is 42. Actress Amber Borycki is 34. Actress Aubrey Anderson-Emmons is 10.

***Thought for Today: "Excellence is to do a common thing in an uncommon way." - Booker T. Washington, American educator (1856-1915).***

## Got a story or photos to share?



Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

Here are some suggestions:

- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.
- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.
- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.
- **"A silly mistake that you make"** - a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.
- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.

- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

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