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Connecting - July 28, 2017 - Writethru

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Connecting

July 28, 2017

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COLLEAGUES - TOP PHOTO IN CONNECTING JUST SERNT IS NOT THAT OF JONATHAN LEMIRE - THIS SUBS TO INCLUDE THE CORRECT PHOTO OF JONATHAN. APOLOGIES



Colleagues,

Good Friday morning!

On any given night when you tune in to any of the nightly cable news programs - on CNN, Fox, MSNBC, to name three - you're likely to see an Associated Press reporter being interviewed individually or on a panel discussing the news of the day. Most often they are from the Washington bureau.

Connecting colleague **Bob Daugherty** ([Email](#)) - who worked in AP Washington Photos for many years - wrote to ask, "Do you remember when AP reporters were forbidden to appear on television programs? I recall there was a bit of pushback with Barry Schweid did frequent spots for NPR."

I asked **Lauren Easton** ([Email](#)), AP's director of media relations, whether the policy when I worked for the AP was still in place today and she responded:

"The policy remains the same. Reporters need approval before proceeding with TV or radio interviews. They refrain from expressing opinion, they stick to the facts, and they don't break news anywhere but on the wire."



"We are pleased when staffers are available to showcase AP's expertise and offer objective news and analysis that reflects what we provide to our members and customers in our news services."

I agree that the exposure of some of AP's finest reporters beyond their AP roles is a good thing. How about you? Any interesting experiences you can share from your reporting days? Send them along and we will publish on Monday.

Speaking of hearing your thoughts, how about sharing them on our leadoff story - and the position editors and producers found themselves on whether to print or broadcast the words of White House communications director Anthony Scaramucci.

A reminder: A memorial for **James Finley**, AP's St. Louis photographer for 22 years, and an exhibition of his work will be held 5 p.m to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, August 1, at the Third Degree Glass Factory, 5200 Delmar Blvd, in St. Louis. Friends and colleagues are welcome to attend.

Have a great weekend!

Paul

White House aide's tirade tests editors and producers



White House communications director Anthony Scaramucci speaks to members of the media at the White House in Washington. Scaramucci offered newsroom leaders a test on Thursday. They needed to decide whether to fully use the obscenities relied on by Scaramucci to describe fellow White House aides or talk around them. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) - A presidential aide's explosion of profanity while talking to a reporter about his new White House colleagues tested newsroom leaders Thursday, forcing decisions about whether to use the graphic language or leave much of what he said to the imagination of readers and viewers.

Anthony Scaramucci, the incoming White House communications director, aimed his tirade at chief of staff Reince Priebus and chief strategist Steve Bannon. An account of his conversation late Wednesday with Ryan Lizza of The New Yorker was published in graphic detail Thursday afternoon on the magazine's website, complete with expletives and anatomical references.

Scaramucci used the language in suggesting to Lizza that Priebus had leaked information about him, and that Bannon was more interested in advancing his own agenda than President Donald Trump's.

Following The New Yorker's lead, The New York Times printed all of Scaramucci's words. Times editors, including executive editor Dean Baquet, first discussed whether it was appropriate to do so, Clifford Levy, the newspaper's deputy editor, said on Twitter.

Levy said the Times concluded that it was newsworthy that a top Trump aide would use such language, and its readers shouldn't have to search elsewhere to find out what Scaramucci said.

The Washington Post similarly published the expletives Scaramucci used in reference to Priebus, but avoided the very graphic descriptor of self-love he used in reference to Bannon. Post analyst Aaron Blake called Scaramucci's outburst "vulgar, vindictive and volatile."

Julie Bykowicz and Jonathan Lemire of The Associated Press wrote that Scaramucci was "exposing West Wing backstabbing in language more suitable to a mobster movie than a seat of presidential stability." The service referred to Scaramucci's description of Priebus as a "f----- paranoid schizophrenic," using the dashes instead of spelling out the word. That was the AP's only direct reference to a profanity.

The AP's rules prohibit use of obscenities, racial epithets or other offensive slurs "unless they are part of a direct quotations and there is a compelling reason for them." Scaramucci's words satisfied the first part of that restriction, but editors concluded there wasn't a compelling reason to use the profanity.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Scott Charton.

Connecting mailbox

A memorial to journalists who covered a bloody war



Denis Gray ([Email](#)) - This may have been the bloodiest war for journalists in modern times, per capita wise. The press corps that covered the war was minute compared to the battalions of journalists who have covered more recent ones. And this monument does not include the many Cambodian journalists killed by the Khmer Rouge after the war ended, including a number who worked for the AP.

The memorial stands outside the colonial hotel in Phnom Penh where many journalists resided and where the AP had its offices.

Photo comes from Carl Robinson, who is visiting Phnom Penh now, and was one of the journalists who pushed for this memorial.

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About those AP anniversary gifts

Steve Looper ([Email](#)) - LOL on Larry Margasak's reference to the "flat screen" TV with the bulging behind that he received for one of his company anniversaries (see Thursday's Connecting). I got one for my 30th and was similarly surprised. I thought I knew heavy-lifting from three decades at the AP, yet it was never like getting that thing off my front porch. I'm pleased to report, however, that I received a

real flat screen for my 40th, although not much larger than my iPhone screen. But five years later, it still works and I'm getting my daily dose of DC drama as I write.

AND...

Andy Lippman ([Email](#)) - I remember my 30th anniversary gift every time I eat a meal. I got a wonderful set of plates, bowls, and cups which I still use, and which still looks great.

My 30th anniversary was memorable too because Wick Temple organized a dinner party in New Orleans, where a lot of the AP folks had gathered for a newspaper convention. Any gathering organized by Wick was special, and the invitees and the location made the anniversary even more special.

I am also still using the small tv I got for taking early retirement.

While these were the good items, I remember those AP bud vases, and tie bars that were available.

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Lew Ferguson taught by example

Dennis Ellsworth ([Email](#)) - In the annals of AP reporting and news writing. I reserve special status for Lew Ferguson, who was mentioned in Connecting recently. As an AP intern reporter in Topeka in the spring of 1976, I had the enriching experience of watching Lew and Elon Torrence in action on a daily basis. Both were great reporters who served AP clients with boundless energy and enthusiasm for their craft. My most vivid memory is of accompanying Lew to the local courthouse for the conclusion of what I recall to be a trial about bid-rigging and public corruption. When the verdict came in, Lew made a dash for one of the few available pay phones. I then stood by as a dramatic scene unfolded. Lew dictated a comprehensive story - lead, quotes, facts - totally from his notes and recall. He was determined to be first with the story, and to make it the best story possible. I was in awe in the way that anyone would be seeing journalism practiced at its highest level. I know others were great at dictation, but Lew was the full package.

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Happy birthday, Gene - and keep your dispatches coming

Cecilia White ([Email](#)) - My tardy, but hearty, "HAPPY BIRTHDAY!" greetings to Gene Herrick. Between the photo of you in Thursday's (7/27) "Connecting" and the consistent crispness of your writing, Gene, I would say you seem closer to "39" than 91. So, go ahead and celebrate your next trip around the sun. Each one is a gift - and a victory. And keep your ever-interesting dispatches coming! 73s, Cecilia White/KC

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On the history of 'Roger that'

Mike Holmes ([Email](#)) - Enjoyed Thursday's The Final Word on the history of "roger." As our pilots aboard the USS Oriskany would have said, "Sierra Hotel." (A few readers will know what that means.)

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He seconds Harry King sentiments

Dennis Montgomery ([Email](#)) - I second Scott Charton's Harry King sentiments.

AP names Sanz US South deputy director for newsgathering

ATLANTA (AP) - The Associated Press has named Alex Sanz as its new deputy director of newsgathering for the U.S. South, a position overseeing breaking news and enterprise across all media formats in 13 states.



The appointment was announced Thursday by Ravi Nessman, AP's news director for the U.S. South.

From AP's South regional desk in Atlanta, Sanz will help lead the effort to fully integrate the region's visual and text newsgathering operation. He will work closely with the region's journalists to cover breaking news and create distinctive enterprise stories for AP members and customers.

The AP is merging its text, photo, video and interactive journalism operations at each of its U.S. regional publishing centers as part of a restructuring similar to one the cooperative has already completed overseas.

"Alex is a veteran journalist who has covered some of the decade's most important stories, in video, text and photos," Nessman said. "His proven ability to tell compelling stories regardless of the medium will be essential to the South region's transformation."

A video journalist at AP since 2013, Sanz has covered stories that include the Charleston, South Carolina, church shooting, the killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, and the American space program, including the flight test of the Orion spacecraft and the development of the Space Launch System.

Originally from South Florida, Sanz began his career as a reporter at the Sun-Sentinel in Fort Lauderdale, and later worked as an anchor and reporter at television stations in New York, Indianapolis, Houston and Florida. He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland, University College.

The AP's South region encompasses 13 states: Alabama, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North and South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.

[Click here](#) for a link to this story.

Hillary Clinton calling new book 'What Happened'



By HILLEL ITALIE

NEW YORK (AP) - Hillary Clinton is calling her new book "What Happened" and promising unprecedented candor as she remembers her stunning defeat last year to Donald Trump.

"In the past, for reasons I try to explain, I've often felt I had to be careful in public, like I was up on a wire without a net," Clinton writes in the introduction, according to publisher Simon & Schuster. "Now I'm letting my guard down."

Simon & Schuster told The Associated Press on Thursday that Clinton's book will be a highly personal work that also is a "cautionary tale" about Russian interference in last year's election and its threat to democracy. In public remarks since last fall, the Democrat has cited Russia as a factor in her defeat to her Republican opponent, along with a letter sent by then-FBI Director James Comey less than two weeks before the election.

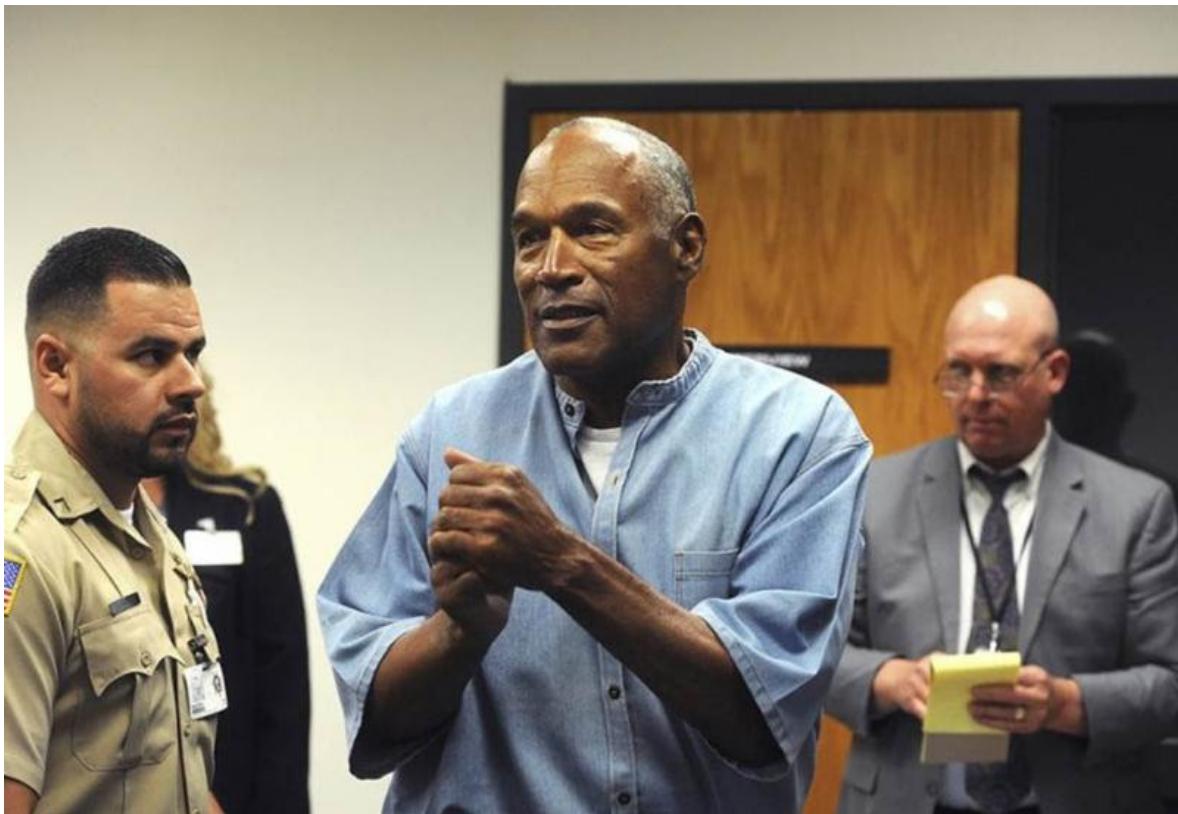
Comey's letter, sent to Congress on Oct. 28, said the FBI "learned of the existence of emails that appear to be pertinent to the investigation" into the private email server that Clinton used as secretary of state. Days later, Comey wrote that the FBI did not find anything new.

Read more [here](#).



BEAT OF THE WEEK

AP team leads media fight for photo access at OJ Simpson parole hearing



O.J. Simpson reacts after learning he was granted parole at Lovelock Correctional Center in Lovelock, Nev., July 20, 2017. Simpson has served nine years of a sentence for armed robbery and kidnapping. JASON BEAN / THE RENO GAZETTE-JOURNAL, POOL VIA AP

What happens when the state of Nevada announces it intends to use its own photographer to cover the parole hearing of O.J. Simpson, and exclude all others.

The Associated Press steps up, rallies the media and forces the state to backtrack. The tale of how that came to pass is the story of the Beat of the Week.

Planning began months ago for covering the long-awaited hearing, when the former football star would plead to be released after serving his term for robbing two sports collectable dealers at gunpoint. Las Vegas reporter Ken Ritter, who has covered the case since Simpson was first arrested in 2007, was determined that the AP would be inside the hearing room when Simpson walked in - and in fact, Ritter was named as the text pool reporter at Lovelock prison while AP reporter Scott Sonner would be admitted to the hearing room in Carson City, where the parole commissioners were to conduct the hearing by video conference.

That's when the trouble began.

Surprisingly, a communication in early July from the two public information officers (PIO) handling the hearings named state employees as the photographers. A phone call confirmed that the state intended to allow no media photographers into the hearing rooms and would instead offer handouts.

The public information officer laughed at the suggestion that the media would decline to run handout photos.

West Regional Photo Editor Stephanie Mullen immediately began a conversation with one of the PIOs, explaining why the state could not and should not restrict photo access; she came away with the impression that the issue had been resolved. Instead, the other PIO flatly refused to change the plan and said he could not be swayed. He even laughed at the suggestion that the media would decline to run handouts.

Nevada-Utah News Editor Tom Tait quickly emailed the top editors in Nevada, explaining the situation and seeking their support. It came quickly. USA Today and its legal counsel enlisted, as did the Gannett-owned Reno Gazette-Journal. Tait also contacted AP Legal Counsel Brian Barrett to consult on strategy and legal options.

Mullen contacted the PIO to share the unanimous opposition of Nevada's top newspaper editors to a state-run pool. Again, he again refused to budge.

Tait and Mullen then approached editors in and out of state, seeking their signatures to a letter that would also include a pledge to not use any handout photos. It was signed by the AP, Las Vegas Review-Journal, Reno Gazette-Journal, Reuters, Nevada Press Association, European Press Association, Agence France-Presse, Las Vegas Sun, Nevada Appeal, Los Angeles Times and San Francisco Chronicle.

The obstinate PIO reacted angrily, but there followed lengthy conversations with Mullen and Tait. The PIO contacted the newspapers and press association to gauge

support.

AP approached editors, seeking a pledge to not use any handout photos ... and the public information officer reluctantly named two newspaper pool photographers.

Three days before the hearing, he realized the press was serious and united in its opposition; he reluctantly named two northern Nevada newspapers to act as photo pools for the hearings. Mullen coached the two photographers, who were inexperienced with pool responsibilities.

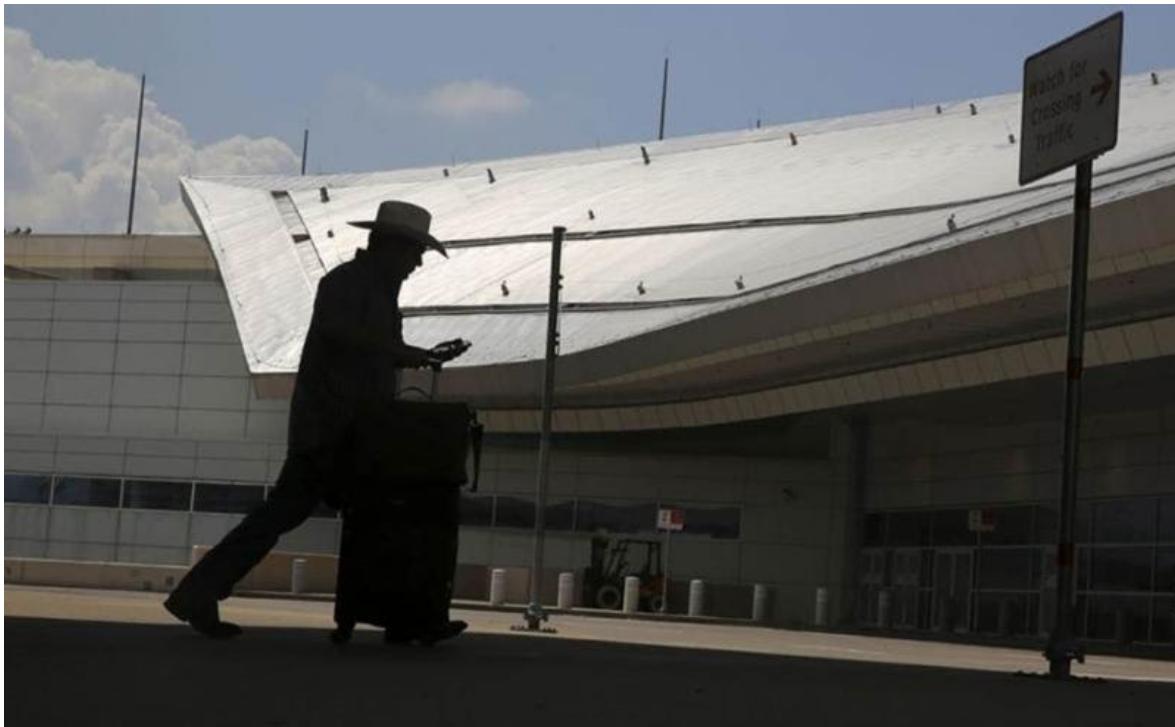
While the state still shot photos, the quality images came from the media pool photographer and were used around the world. Member editors expressed their appreciation to the AP for leading the fight.

"Many thanks back to you for keeping the press free and getting us all together to be on the same page," wrote Kelly Ann Scott, executive editor of the Gazette-Journal. "That's like rounding up goldfish to swim in one direction."

For their stalwart and successful campaign to ensure that the press would be allowed to do its work, Mullen, Ritter and Tait share this week's \$500 prize.



AP finds US buildings using the same cladding blamed in London fire



A traveler walks toward Terminal D at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport in Grapevine, Texas, June 27, 2017. Panels made of the cladding material Reynobond PE, under the roof and on the wall at left, were installed in parts of the interior and exterior of the terminal. Those same panels are under investigation in London's Grenfell Tower apartment building fire, which killed at least 80 people. AP PHOTO / LM OTERO

Sometimes a story doesn't come from a reporter's beat or region, just from natural journalistic curiosity.

Atlanta's Jeff Martin was intrigued after investigators blamed the deadly tower fire in London in part on the flammable cladding that wrapped around its exterior. Wondering what buildings in the U.S. might be using the cladding, he went to the manufacturer's website and found a trove of information in a promotional brochure.

The brochure said the cladding was used on a terminal at the Dallas airport, the Cleveland Browns stadium, an Alaska High School and a high-rise hotel in Baltimore. Martin, Gainesville, Florida, reporter Jason Dearen, and Baltimore reporter Juliet Linderman helped coordinate a cross-country, multi-media reporting effort that wins this week's Best of the States.

What the reporters found was that in many cases no one seemed to know if Reynobond PE was used in the buildings. Linderman - with help from Annapolis reporter Brian Witte - spoke to the city, the architect, Marriott, the fire department, everyone she could think of, and none of them knew if the hotel was wrapped in Reynobond PE.

In the end, Marriott said it had to send the panels out for testing. In Anchorage, news editor Mark Thiessen contacted the school district to ask about the cladding on a local high school. That sparked an investigation that confirmed that it was indeed wrapped in the cladding. Detroit said it was investigating whether the cladding was on six Early Childhood Development Centers. Officials in Denver said they were trying to find out whether it was on a nine-story office building.

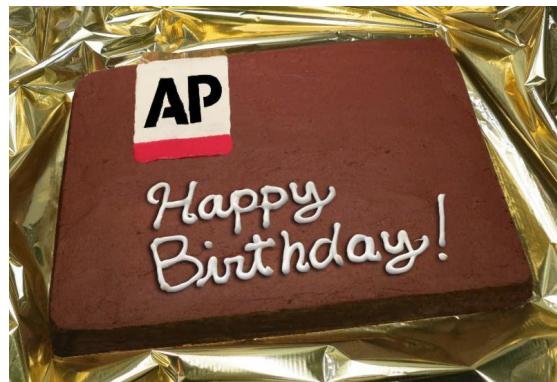
AP's findings led to a comprehensive story looking at the possible use of this cladding across the country and the difficulty in figuring out where it was used. The story was used by hundreds of news organizations and was accompanied by photos and video shot across the country and assembled by video journalist John Mone.

The story was used by hundreds of news organizations. "It was a pretty thorough piece you guys put together." - Marriott spokesman

Within hours of its publication, the city of Cleveland, which had said it would wait to comment until the London investigation was complete, held a press conference. Officials confirmed Reynobond was used in the NFL stadium, but assured the public it was safe. PBS Newshour listed it as one of its five important stories of the week. Even a Marriott spokesman said: "It was a pretty thorough piece you guys put together."

For their enterprising work, Martin, Dearen and Linderman share this week's Best of the States prize.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



A day late to:

Harry Atkins - hatkins727@aol.com

Jim Suhr - jsuhr@ap.org

On Sunday:

David Briscoe - dcbriscoejr@gmail.com

Stories of interest

What do you know about current events? (Pew)

Test your knowledge of prominent people and major events by taking our short 10-question quiz. When you finish, you will be able to compare your News IQ with the average American and compare responses across demographic groups.

[Click here](#) to take the test.

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A Reporter's East Africa File Cabinets Yield Untold Stories (New York Times)



The author in Kenya's Kibera slum in 2013. Credit Peter Muller for The New York Times

By JEFFREY GETTLEMAN

On one of my last nights in Nairobi, Kenya, after serving as The New York Times's East Africa bureau chief for more than a decade, I sat down on the office floor under one of those grim energy-saver light bulbs that gave off a cold bluish light, pulled open the file cabinets and began excavating.

I found plugs for computers that they don't make anymore, receipts from Somali hotels that have since been bombed and some rain-stained notebooks of stories gone cold. I didn't know what to do with the satellite phone I used to pull out all the time, when the region had no functioning internet. Just about every place these days is wired with Wi-Fi; I can't tell you the last time I made a satellite call.

In 11 years, so much had changed in East Africa, and as the progression of my press-pass photos showed, with a few more gray hairs and wrinkles in each one, so had I. It can be depressing clearing out an office, inspecting all the old stuff like an archaeologist sifting through the layers. Even the most mundane objects seemed meaningful and close to my heart. I loved this job. It had been a dream to get. And as I reached into a drawer and discovered a small stack of Somali shillings so soft and worn they were about to crumble apart in my fingers, it hit me. These are my last hours in this place. It's over.

Read more [here](#).

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***Shut out of the locker room with a deadline looming, Claire Smith had a job to do* (Poynter)**

By ED SHERMAN



It is hard to recall more universal acclaim for a sports journalism honor than Claire Smith being named the recipient of the 2017 J.G. Taylor Spink Award. She will take part in the Hall of Fame induction ceremonies this weekend, and will have her name enshrined with the previous baseball writer winners at Cooperstown.

Smith is the first women and only the fourth African-American to win the Spink Award, which is the highest honor conferred to journalists by the Baseball Writers' Association of America. She deserves it not only for a body of work that includes covering baseball for the Hartford Courant, The New York Times, and The Philadelphia Inquirer, but also for the dignity and professionalism she continues to display throughout her career.

I told Smith, whom I first met when we were both baseball beat writers as young kids in the mid-80s, that the positive testimonials from her peers had to feel like being alive to hear your own eulogy.

Read more [here](#).

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***Enthusiastic, prolific, simplistic Chris Cillizza reaches new heights* (CJR)**



CHRIS CILLIZZA MIGHT BE THE ONLY PERSON IN AMERICA who can have goofy fun talking about Trumpcare, Russian election interference, and the emoluments clause. CNN's new political analyst and editor at large-long a punching bag for fellow journalists who tend to be less adept at stacking up digital clicks-somehow maintains an affable, enthusiastic obliviousness even as he tosses out apocalyptic scenarios about the state of democracy.

Whether he's on CNN discussing Medicaid, or chatting with you about baseball, Cillizza comes off like a normal guy, your brother-in-law from the Midwest, the one who actually seems to like you and won't get mad at you for talking about the Paris climate accord at Thanksgiving. His enthusiasm is almost tangible: Do you like barbecue? He loves barbecue! You live in Cedar Rapids, Iowa? He loves Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and remembers talking to then-candidate Barack Obama there! And that's the small difference between Cillizza and a normal guy-he knows, loves, and obsesses over politics.

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

Today in History - July 28, 2017



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, July 28, the 209th day of 2017. There are 156 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On July 28, 1945, a U.S. Army B-25 bomber flying in heavy fog crashed into the 79th floor of New York's Empire State Building, killing all three people in the plane and 11 people in the building. The U.S. Senate ratified the United Nations Charter by a vote of 89-2.

On this date:

In 1540, King Henry VIII's chief minister, Thomas Cromwell, was executed, the same day Henry married his fifth wife, Catherine Howard.

In 1794, Maximilien Robespierre, a leading figure of the French Revolution, was sent to the guillotine.

In 1821, Peru declared its independence from Spain.

In 1914, World War I began as Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia.

In 1932, federal troops forcibly dispersed the so-called "Bonus Army" of World War I veterans who had gathered in Washington to demand payments they weren't scheduled to receive until 1945.

In 1959, in preparation for statehood, Hawaiians voted to send the first Chinese-American, Republican Hiram L. Fong, to the U.S. Senate and the first Japanese-American, Democrat Daniel K. Inouye, to the U.S. House of Representatives.

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson announced he was increasing the number of American troops in South Vietnam from 75,000 to 125,000 "almost immediately."

In 1976, an earthquake devastated northern China, killing at least 242,000 people, according to an official estimate.

In 1977, Roy Wilkins turned over leadership of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to Benjamin L. Hooks.

In 1984, the Los Angeles Summer Olympics opened.

In 1995, a jury in Union, S.C., rejected the death penalty for Susan Smith, sentencing her to life in prison for drowning her two young sons (Smith will be eligible for parole in 2024).

In 2002, nine coal miners trapped in the flooded Quecreek Mine in Somerset, Pa., were rescued after 77 hours underground.

Ten years ago: Vice President Dick Cheney, with a history of heart problems, had surgery to replace an implanted device that was monitoring his heartbeat.

Five years ago: Syria's government launched an offensive to retake rebel-held neighborhoods in the nation's commercial hub of Aleppo. At the London Olympics, Chinese swimmer Ye Shiwen set the first world record, winning the women's 400-meter individual medley in 4:28.43. Ryan Lochte of the U.S. won the men's 400-meter individual medley in 4:05.18.

One year ago: Hillary Clinton accepted the Democratic presidential nomination at the party's convention in Philadelphia, where she cast herself as a unifier for divided times as well as an experienced leader steeled for a volatile world while aggressively challenging Republican Donald Trump's ability to do the same.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Darryl Hickman is 86. Ballet dancer-choreographer Jacques d'Amboise is 83. Musical conductor Riccardo Muti is 76. Former senator and NBA Hall of Famer Bill Bradley is 74. "Garfield" creator Jim Davis is 72. Singer Jonathan Edwards and actress Linda Kelsey are 71. TV producer Dick Ebersol of Litchfield and actress Sally Struthers are 70. Actress Georgia Engel is 69. Rocker Simon Kirke is 68. Rocker Steve Morse is 63. Former CBS anchorman Scott Pelley is 60. Alt-country-rock musician Marc Perlman is 56. Actor Michael Hayden is 54. Actress Lori Loughlin is 53. Jazz musician Delfeayo Marsalis is 52. Actress Elizabeth Berkley is 45. Singer Afroman is 43. Country's Todd Anderson is 42. Rocker Jacoby Shaddix is 41. Country's Carly Goodwin is 36. Actors Jon Michael Hill and Dustin Milligan are 32. Actor Nolan Gerard Funk is 31. Rapper Soulja Boy is 27. Pop/rock singer Cher Lloyd is 24.

Thought for Today: "All youth is bound to be 'misspent'; there is something in its very nature that makes it so, and that is why all men regret it." - Thomas Wolfe, American author (1900-1938).

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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