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Connecting - September 01, 2017

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Connecting

September 01, 2017

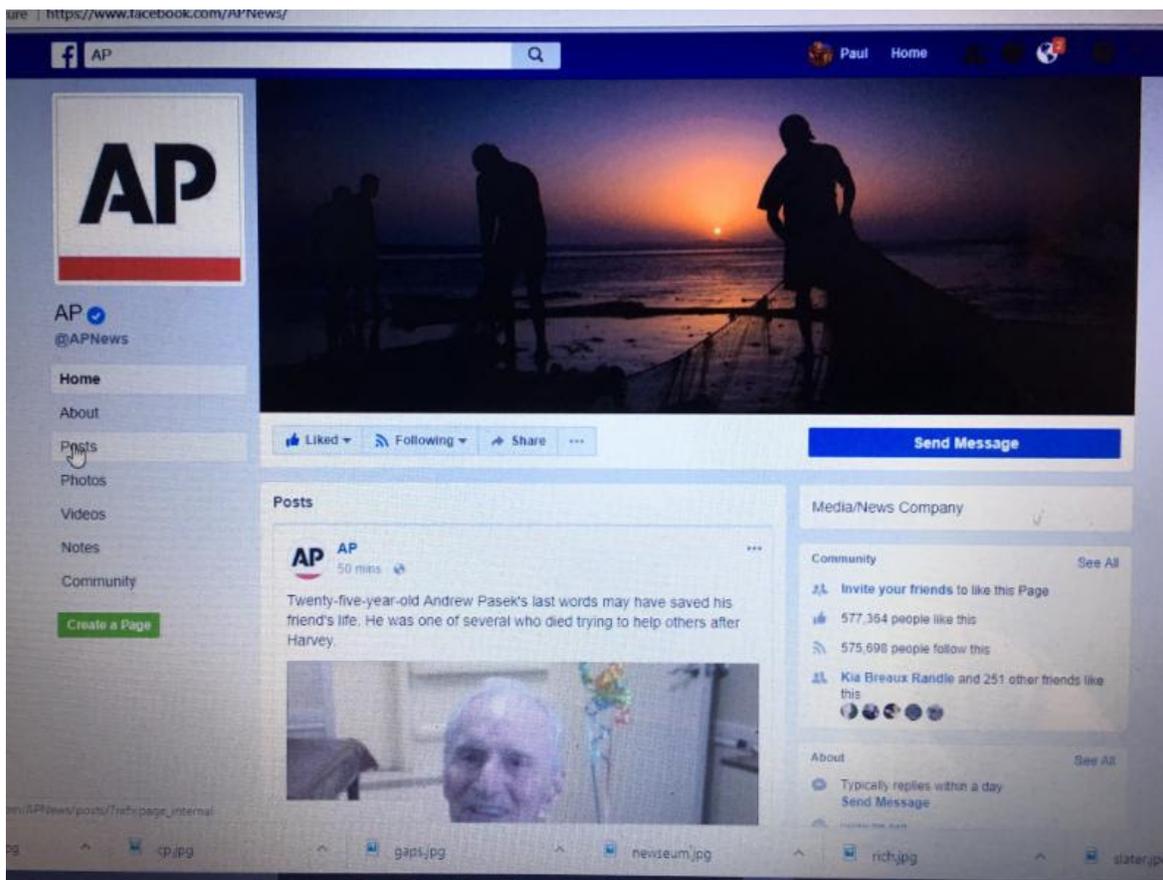
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Largest supplier of stories on Facebook? Take a bow, 171-year old Associated Press



Colleagues,

Good Friday morning - and here's to the new month of September!

We lead today's edition with a story that tells how the largest provider of stories on Facebook, the world's biggest social media platform, is the world's oldest news agency, The Associated Press.

In the story, AP global news manager **Mark Davies** says that the agency remains mindful not to oversell its journalism with exaggerated headlines. "We will never be in the business of clickbait and we are very strict about that," he says. "If we can see a way of making a headline more engaging, or doing something that works on mobile - because so much consumption now is on mobile and you don't get a second chance with a headline - it's got to be clear and it's got to be concise and that's where we are always looking at making improvements."

Other items of interest:

CORRECTION: The URL in Thursday's Connecting for the AP Emergency Relief Fund was incorrect. [Click here](#) for the correct address.

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A memorial and celebration of life of veteran AP journalist **Lew Ferguson** will be held Saturday, Sept. 30, at First Lutheran Church at 1234 SW Fairlawn Road in Topeka. It will begin at 11 a.m, according to his daughter, Diane Ferguson, and anyone who knew Lew is welcome to attend. No RSVP is needed. Ferguson died August 24 at the age of 83. He distinguished himself as a newsman, sports writer and for 29 years, AP's correspondent in Topeka.

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Would you like to meet the Associated Press reporting team on the ground in Texas, covering Harvey and its aftermath including the devastation in Houston? [Click here](#) to do so.

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The world for each one of us was directly or indirectly changed by an event chronicled in today's Today in History: "On September 1, 1939, World War II began as Nazi Germany invaded Poland." We thank all who fought and who died in the coming years for our freedom.

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And as I share with you each September 1, take a click on this link but first turn up the volume - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G069dndIYk> Thank you, Earth Wind and Fire.

Have a great weekend!

Paul

How a 171-year-old news agency is the hidden mainstay of news on Facebook



By IAN BURRELL

The Drum

New research reveals that the bedrock of journalism on Facebook is far more stable than one might have thought of a news environment stigmatised by rampant clickbait and fake stories.

It turns out that the biggest provider of stories by far on the world's biggest social media platform is the world's oldest news agency, Associated Press.

A study by news analytics company NewsWhip found that the AP - set up in 1846 by a group of New York dailies to provide coverage of the Mexican-American War - is generating almost 35m engagements a month on Facebook, a fact disguised by the agency's comparative anonymity, masked by the brands of its members and clients in the news industry. This huge number of engagements (likes, comments etc) can't be matched by any single news publisher, even the phenomenal Mail Online, which currently leads the chasing pack with 27m interactions.

The AP's most popular content is its breaking news, its political coverage, and its celebrity and "odd" stories.



Mark Davies

In an interview with The Drum, the AP's global news manager Mark Davies admits that the scale of AP's contribution to news on Facebook came as a surprise, even to him. "I had a gut feeling that we would be somewhere in the top 20 but we were quite surprised to see that actually we came out as number one," he says. "I think it's very reassuring that very accurate, unbiased reporting is still driving engagement and obviously stimulating debate on social platforms."

In the midst of the fake news debate, and fears that voters are being misled by lies and propaganda masquerading as journalism, these are significant findings. But the picture is more nuanced than the comforting idea that Facebook users are largely basing their opinions on facts professionally compiled by a venerable news wire with an adherence to balanced reporting.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Valerie Komor.

Remembering Michael Feldman



Jo Steck ([Email](#)) - I'm sometimes hesitant to open your emails in fear another old friend and colleague has left our newsroom... today was sad.

I met Feldman - for that's all I ever called him - during the days of the Polytron and two-minute intervals. He, like many others, seemed tough and gruff and, well, arrogant... It was easier to imagine a hard-bitten Mike from my comfortable seat in LA.

I could never have been so wrong. The Feldman that I grew to admire and call my friend was tough... and gruff... but he was also the consummate editor. Compassionate, caring, direct and firm... a leader among leaders.

His sense of humor - dark as it was - kept the light shining during many crises and life will be just a little dimmer without him.

Rest in peace, Mike.

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Mark Duncan (Email) - While I never had the opportunity to work head to head against Mike Feldman I already knew a lot about him from his colleague and my competitor in Cleveland, UPI photographer Ron Kuntz. It was my good fortune to work many assignments with Mike after he came to the AP and share stories about the crazy things that could happen when working with Ronnie.

Michael was very intelligent and opinionated which would lead to spirited conversations over dinner or in the darkroom at assignments. He also considered himself a wine expert and would peruse the wine list at restaurants to order for the group during dinner. I can cite no evidence he was NOT well-versed in fermented grape juice as his selections were always good.

Even in Rochester, NY - The site of the 1989 U.S. Open golf championship - probably the best memory I have working with Mike.

For the tournament at Oak Hill CC, we were still shooting film, but used the new Leafax 35 to scan and transmit our photos. Mike had set up in a small storage barn off the course but near the 18th green. This was to the AP's advantage as the media tent was well away from the action.

Things went flawlessly for until late in the final round Sunday. Moments before Curtis Strange putted out to win, the power failed in our little barn and when we rushed our film of the winner back, Mike was a bit upset. We could process the film, but had no way of drying the film or transmitting without power.

Here is where his instincts and experience took over. He found the barn had outlets on the second floor (which we were not using) and one worked! Quickly running an extension from above he was able to dry and edit the film after sending me and another photographer to the media tent to set up the Leafax transmitters.

Our film messengers would run the negatives to us to scan and transmit the images to New York and the world.

I always remember that day when something goes "not according to plan" and you have to improvise. Just stay cool, think it out, and try to be like Mike.

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Bruce Pomerantz (Email) - When Mike first joined the Photo Desk at 50 Rock, Madge Stager and I were given the honor of bringing him up to speed on the desk's operation. I wound up learning from him. After I left the AP we remained friends. What a great man! I will always have the most respect and admiration.

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John Gaps (Email) - Not a big deal. But the photo of Diana's casket going into Westminster Abbey back in 1997 was my photo. (See Thursday's Connecting.) The timing is interesting as Mike Feldman was the editor I dealt directly with during the funeral. Digital was still rather exotic in news coverage back then, and because of restrictions, photographers had to hold onto their film and/or disks until after the funeral before they could be picked up by messengers. Because fellow AP staffer Jerome Delay had put a special sim card in my London issued cell phone, I was probably the only still photographer who could transmit photos from the Abbey within minutes. Mike later told me that we had about a three-hour lead on transmitting our photos and the play on front pages around the world proved that out. Mike was always pushing us to be better and will be missed. I've attached one other photo from that assignment that also got very good play. See photo at left.

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UPI story on Michael Feldman's death

Aug. 31 (UPI) -- Michael Feldman, a former UPI photographer based out of Philadelphia who later went on to become a top photo editor with the Associated Press, has died. He was 70.

Feldman died and was buried Wednesday in Bensalem, Pa.

Feldman began his career with UPI in the early 1970s in Philadelphia and went on to cover numerous World Series, Super Bowls, Olympics and presidential inaugurations through the mid-1980s.

After UPI, he worked for Reuters in Brussels as a top regional editor and in 1988 moved to the AP, where he worked until his retirement in 2008.

UPI Director of Photography Pat Benic credited Feldman for essentially kick-starting his career by convincing an editor to allow Benic to fill in for a sick photographer in Game 2 of a World Series.

"Mike was respected by everyone in the wire service photo business. He was a great shooter and editor, and a great person," Benic said. "He mentored many photographers and cared for everyone that worked for him."

Feldman is survived by his wife, Mary-Ann Feldman; son, Adam Feldman; grandson, Leo Bowers-Feldman; brother, Carl Feldman; and mother, Dorothy Feldman.

More comments on editorial cartoon based on AP Houston flood photo

Neal Ulevich ([Email](#)) - Yes, I think you are too critical. I see no insult or slap at all. If anything the cartoon is rather anodyne. As for appropriating the work of the photographer, the cartoon image would fall within the definition of fair use. If anything, the cartoon is tribute to the photographic image as much as the heroic and desperately hard-working responders. Over the years I've had my own news photographs used in a similar way, sometimes in a manner more editorially strident than this one.

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John Hartzell ([Email](#)) - Re the various critiques in Connecting of Gary Varvel's editorial cartoon on Houston flood rescue, I fail to see what all the hullabaloo is all about. Looked like an obvious homage to all those who've helped those in need there.

I must say, however, that I was miffed initially with the reference in the first posting to "MSM bias." Maybe I'm getting senile in my old age (I'll turn 70 in a few weeks). Unlikely. Maybe I'm not hip to the latest lingo, and social media. More likely. Or maybe my mental focus is no longer what it once was, thanks to various health issues and the medications I take for them. Most likely. But it took me a couple of days to figure out that the reference was to an allegation of "mainstream media" bias. So now I'm offended, not at the cartoonist but the anonymous person whose comment started this stream of discussion.

Having spent about 40 years as a newsman for The Associated Press, I'm proud to have been part of the mainstream media and of the work it continues to do. In my initial efforts to figure out what the person was talking about, I found at least 92 different things that MSM stood for - the most prominent of which was methylsulfonylmethane, Masters of Science in Management, and men who have sex with men - none of which made any sense in the context of the posting. So if you are going to insult me and other journalists, at least act like one and say what you mean.

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John Wylie (Email) - With 47 years experiencing covering disasters as a reporter, bureau chief, editor and publisher and a quarter century working as a volunteer (or paid just enough to cover workers comp) in emergency management/emergency services, I saw the cartoon before the controversy began and just assumed the rescuer was a police officer. Blue cap, blue slacks under his water gear, blue shirt typical (Houston officers wear blue uniforms) for a rescue-type uniform. If I had been guessing, the rescuer in the photo was in some branch of the military or National Guard--the lettering on the cap was indeed illegible and the camo uniform is more typical for that branch of service. No way was it a slam on police--when an emergency strikes, those responding do whatever job is most urgent at that moment and regardless of what economic class, skin color, age, religion, gender or whatever the victim may be--and also regardless of their specific title. If a police officer is the only one available to make a rescue, he or she does it. If a firefighter or paramedic is the only person available to direct traffic away from a broken levee or clogged drainage horn that has created a rushing river invisible to oncoming motorists, he or she does it. Their sole thought is saving lives. The critics obviously have never been involved in a major disaster, especially not one of the scope Texas now faces. How sad, when the cartoon was meant to praise signs of unity visible throughout this ordeal.

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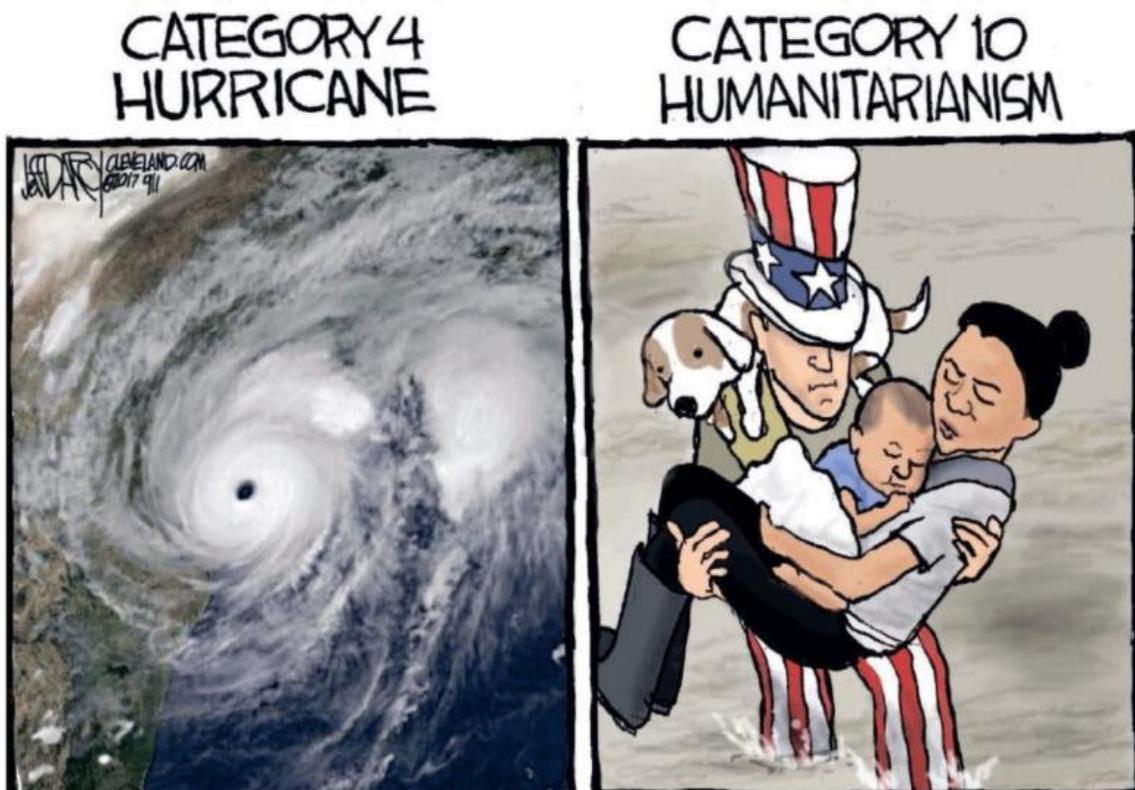
Joe Galu (Email) - Aren't the vast majority of aid givers civilians and neighbors in any flood or other major emergency? 'First Responders' seems to be a term that is being monopolized by uniformed defenders/protectors. The cartoon show people helping people. I think reading anti-cop sentiments into the motivation of the cartoonist is nonsense like reading history backwards.

Just yesterday, there was a story - far from Houston - of a teenager risking his life to go to the aid of a suicidal person in a subway system - with a very moving photo.

Civilians are on the scene of various floods and other emergencies and almost always provide the first round of support, although we are thankful for the invaluable professional help provided by men and women in uniforms, many of them medical workers.

Unlike in New Orleans a few years ago, it is refreshing not to see military people with their weapons aimed at helpless, desperate people, which happened until a black general (whose name I cannot recall) ordered the troops to lower their weapons.

Another editorial cartoon take on Dave Phillip's photo



Connecting colleague Amy Sancetta shares another take of Dave Phillip's hurricane picture, this by Cleveland Plain Dealer cartoonist Jeff Darcy.

With major roads swamped, photographer flies to Port Arthur



By The Courier, Findlay OH

Port Arthur's major roads were swamped by rising waters brought by Harvey, and there were few images showing the devastation that virtually cut off the East Texas city.

So as the sun rose Thursday, that's where Associated Press photographer Gerald Herbert took his plane first.

"We heard Port Arthur got hit the worst," Herbert said, a few hours after taking a more than 200-mile aerial journey over Port Arthur, Beaumont and other communities near the Texas and Louisiana coasts. "It seemed like no one could get there."

Herbert, who joined the AP in Washington in 2002 and has worked in the AP's New Orleans bureau since 2010, got his pilot's license four years ago.

"I fell in love with a woman in Shreveport, and I found a better way to get there," he said. The two are now engaged.

While he was finishing his flight training, Herbert bought a Cessna 172, a four-seater single-engine airplane. That's the plane that his friend and fellow pilot Juan Asturias flew on Wednesday, meeting Herbert around dusk in Lake Charles, Louisiana.

They spent the evening planning their flight and were wheels up around 7 a.m., with Asturias at the controls so Herbert could safely shoot pictures.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting mailbox

Covering big stories: 'Get out of my face, you media maggot!'

Dave Lubeski (Email) - After the Loma Prieta earthquake struck and delayed the 1989 World Series in San Francisco for ten days I was at Candlestick Park every day talking to players about staying loose and coping with the idle time. After a few days, their irritation was beginning to fester. One morning when I checked in with the desk I was told they needed me at the Marina where the worst damage in the city took place. I felt relieved that I didn't have to deal with surly ball players yet again.

I don't know why I thought the average citizen would be glad to see me and talk about their own personal ordeal, but I was gladly on my way.

There was a large crowd of people in a plaza seeking various forms of aid when I arrived. There were plenty of aid workers and police on hand. As I made my way through the crowd I heard a loud voice of someone obviously unhappy. A man who appeared to be in his 60s was giving aid workers an earful about the lack of assistance or timely help. I waited outside the ropes and when he finished his tirade and walked away I followed him.

When I reached him, I told him I was a reporter and would be glad to tell his story if he'd be willing to talk to me about his grievances. He immediately lashed out at me.

I can't remember everything he yelled at me, but I do recall him saying, "get out of my face, you media maggot!"

Realizing I wasn't going to convince him I was friend and not foe I simply turned and walked away without comment. He continued bellowing at anybody who would listen and went on how in one of his neighbors died in the quake and as rescue workers pulled the body from the rubble all the lights from the TV cameras came on as they crowded in to get the best angle. Before I could get too far away he yelled out at me, "who are you with, anyway?" I was a little shaken by the verbal attack and just answered, "it really doesn't matter" and kept on going.

I couldn't wait to get back to my surly ballplayers.

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Charlotte Porter enters divinity program



Charlotte Porter ([Email](#)) - After almost 30 years at AP and 11 at Bloomberg, I decided it was time to do something different with my life. This week, I began a three-year Master of Divinity program at Union Theological Seminary in New York with a goal of working in clinical pastoral care.

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Need to see their faces, hear what they want to accomplish

Brian Bland ([Email](#)) - Predictably, in Berkeley over the weekend, the black-clad and masked anarchists/black bloc, et al, helped make the point discussed in Connecting on Aug. 24, namely that their tactics are "attack first," while their effect is to provide talking points for the president, the alt-right generally and white racist groups.

In addition to a fine AP story from Berkeley, the L.A. Times fronted their own story with the headline "Antifa violence decried." The Times referenced the AP story in an editorial and called the black-bloc marauders "thugs."

Other publications took note, including The New Yorker - [click here](#).

The press is now reporting that this small subset of leftists (?) is having a disproportionate effect -- and the opposite effect of what they claim to want. Now we need to see their faces and hear what they imagine they're trying to accomplish. Such reporting, including their names and what they do when not fomenting violence, may reveal them as being as ignorant and as crazy as their far more numerous racist, extreme right-wing, counterparts.

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On Diana's death - and Dodi Fayed

Linda Deutsch ([Email](#)) - I was so moved by your coverage of Princess Diana's death in Thursday's "Connecting." Myron Belkind's recollections coupled with Maureen Johnson's exquisite story on the funeral captured those tragic days. Then last night I watched the PBS special on Diana's story and memories came flooding back of my own very minor but extremely painful involvement in the story from afar.

In Diana's final weeks, she had been photographed with Dodi Fayed, the son of the owner of Harrod's and an unknown figure to most of the world. As AP writers looked for information on this mystery man, it turned out that he had quite a history in Beverly Hills where he had rented homes and hobnobbed with the rich and famous. I was assigned to research his past and the details turned out to be a bit unsavory.

Fayed had left a trail of unpaid bills including rent on a mansion which was left trashed when he moved out. People who knew him were providing an unflattering picture of the man who apparently aspired to be Diana's husband.

So many stories were popping up everywhere that he hired a publicist to counter them. I got comments from her, put together a profile of Dodi Fayed and it moved on the AP wires Friday night Aug. 30, the night before both he and Diana were killed in a Paris car crash.

I remember being in my car that Saturday, on my way home from an event, when the news came across my radio. At that point, the report was that Fayed was killed and Diana was in the car. I called the LA-AP bureau from my car, barely able to speak. The editor on the desk asked why I sounded so strange. "I'm hyperventilating," I said. "Give me a minute." Then I asked the question: "Is Diana alive?" He did not know.

But the one thing that was alive on the wires was my uncomplimentary story about Fayed.

The rest of the day was a blur. I raced home to my computer. Soon I knew that Diana had been killed. One of the first to call me was my friend and colleague Edie Lederer who was in the London bureau putting together a story on Diana's tragic final romance. And across the continents, we shared information.

I tried to get reaction from the publicist for Dodi who had been so forthcoming earlier. She sounded shattered and angry and her only comment was, "I don't have to talk to you anymore."

I was aware that there was a lot of hand wringing going on about my story and before the night ended, it was withdrawn from the wire. I didn't object. The story now was the tragedy of Diana's death and Dodi Fayed would wind up being a footnote.

Connecting profile - Wayne Slater

Wayne Slater ([Email](#)) - I'm an AP alum, having worked for AP between 1972-1984, and so wanted to subscribe to your good work. I joined the Dallas Morning News in late 1984, where I worked for 30 years before retiring in 2015. Here's some bio info:



Slater joined the Associated Press in 1972 in Charleston, W.Va., under bureau chief Tom Briley and subsequently worked for the AP in Topeka, Kan., with correspondent Lew Ferguson (1975-77), Peoria, Ill. under Chicago bureau chief Tom Dygard (1978-81) and Denver as news editor under bureau chief Joe McGowan (1981-84). I joined the Dallas Morning News in 1984, where I reported on politics and government for 30 years as Austin bureau chief and the newspaper's Senior Political Writer.

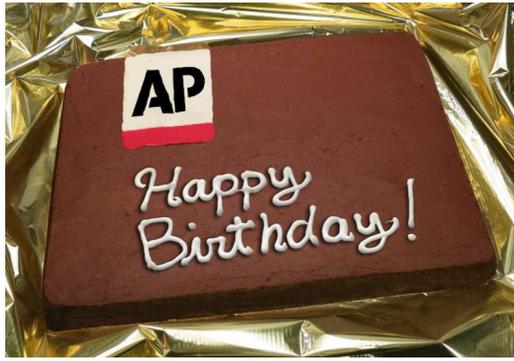
I co-authored two books, the New York Times best seller *Bush's Brain: How Karl Rove Made George W. Bush Presidential* and *The Architect: Karl Rove and the Dream Absolute Power*, published by Random House.

With the AP and with The Dallas Morning News, I reported on a variety of political and public figures, including Pope John Paul II and Presidents Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton, both George Bushes and six Texas governors. I traveled for 16 months full-time covering the 2000 presidential campaign of George W. Bush and reported on the 2004 re-election race for the White House. And he covered every Republican and Democratic national convention from 1988 to 2012.

During my reporting career, I appeared on NBC's Meet the Press, CNN and ABC's Good Morning America, C-Span, National Public Radio, Hardball with Chris Matthews, the Rachel Maddow show and Fox News' The O'Reilly Factor. He appeared in PBS Frontline's The Jesus Factor and four-part BBC series The Protestant Revolution. He is also featured in several film documentaries including the 2000 presidential campaign film *Journeys With George* and *All About Ann: Ann Richards and the Lone Star State*.

I am fellow at the LBJ School Center for Politics and Governance at the University of Texas, where I taught a course "The Modern American Political Campaign," and now teach a course in politics, literature and film at the University of Texas.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Bill Chevalier - billc164@comcast.net

John Hanna - jdhanna@ap.org

Paul Harrington - paulj1938@yahoo.com

Welcome to Connecting



Joe Gugerty - jgugerty@ap.org

Stories of interest

The Newseum opened as the journalism industry tanked. No wonder it's in deep trouble. (Washington Post)



By MARGARET SULLIVAN

"Make no little plans," wrote the visionary architect Daniel Burnham. "They have no power to stir men's blood."

Inspiring words, yes, but sometimes one can get carried away.

There are few better examples than the Newseum, the iconic edifice that opened its Pennsylvania Avenue NW doors in 2008 and has been awash in red ink ever since.

On Monday, its chief executive, Jeffrey Herbst, stepped down and the museum's parent, the Freedom Foundation, acknowledged publicly what insiders have known for a long time:

The Newseum is in big financial trouble. It may have to sell its building - still shiny and new. And, though no one is saying it publicly, it may end up going under altogether.

The signs weren't good from its overblown start. The building is seven stories tall with 250,000 square feet of exhibit space, 15 theaters and an adjoining multistory Wolfgang Puck restaurant.

Relocated from a much smaller space in Arlington, Va., the museum opened at a terrible time: 2008 was a year of precipitous advertising decline, and round after round of layoffs at newspapers and the other news organizations that had pledged to support it.

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

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Debunking the myth of the 'liberal media' (Raleigh News & Observer)

By CHUCK TRYON

As a scholar of political media, I was intrigued by a recent News & Observer column by Justin Haskins, a researcher at The Heartland Institute discussing media bias. However, Haskins again pushed the tired argument that the news media is dominated by a liberal bias.

This argument has been around for decades, and the evidence for it has been built on misleading evidence and faulty logic. The idea of a "liberal media" is, in fact, a myth, one that has enabled the rise of a right-wing media infrastructure that helped to sow doubts and misinformation during the last election. The liberal media myth must be debunked once and for all. These are some of the common claims about the news media and why they don't hold up under serious scrutiny:

The political affiliation of journalists doesn't guarantee biased reporting. Haskins cherry-picks data from an Indiana University study that shows that only 7.1 percent of journalists identify as Republican, down from 25.7 percent in 1971. But the majority of journalists - 50.2 percent - identify as independents.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Harry Dunphy.

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How the Houston Chronicle is covering the city's historic disaster (Poynter)

By KRISTEN HARE

Albert Gonzalez tugged a pallet piled with newspapers through a maze of donated clothes, pillows and blankets on Tuesday. They formed tumbled islands at the George R. Brown Convention Center, where at least 10,000 came after Houston flooded.

On Tuesday, the Houston Chronicle delivered more than 4,000 free copies of the newspaper to evacuees there.

When they saw the newspapers, a group standing nearby cheered a bit and thanked them.

"We were their first big news," said Doug Windsor. He works in the Chronicle's sales department and went along with Gonzalez, an independent distributor, for deliveries.

Read more [here](#).

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French zine Charlie Hebdo: Harvey drowned neo-Nazis in Texas (Houston Chronicle)

The French satire magazine Charlie Hebdo, best known in Texas for a terror-attack tragedy on its offices, is taking a slap at Texas' catastrophic and deadly devastation from Hurricane Harvey.

The cover trumpets: "God Exists! He Drowned All the Neo-Nazis of Texas."

The cover features an illustration of half-submerged swastika flags and arms giving the Nazi salute.

The ongoing Texas tragedy has claimed at least 37 lives, displaced more than 30,000 people with damages estimated to run upwards of \$150 billion. Flooding is continuing in the Houston area and in East Texas.

The cover, first reported Thursday morning, quickly brought angry responses on social media.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Bob Daugherty.

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Cincinnati Enquirer editor named editor of Detroit Free Press

Peter Bhatia, who has led the Cincinnati Enquirer for more than two years, today was named editor of the Detroit Free Press.

Bhatia, 64, was credited with elevating the newsroom's watchdog reporting and innovative storytelling, while placing a strong emphasis on growing digital audience. He also served as the USA TODAY Network's regional editor for Ohio, supervising the 10-publication Media Network of Central Ohio (MNCO).

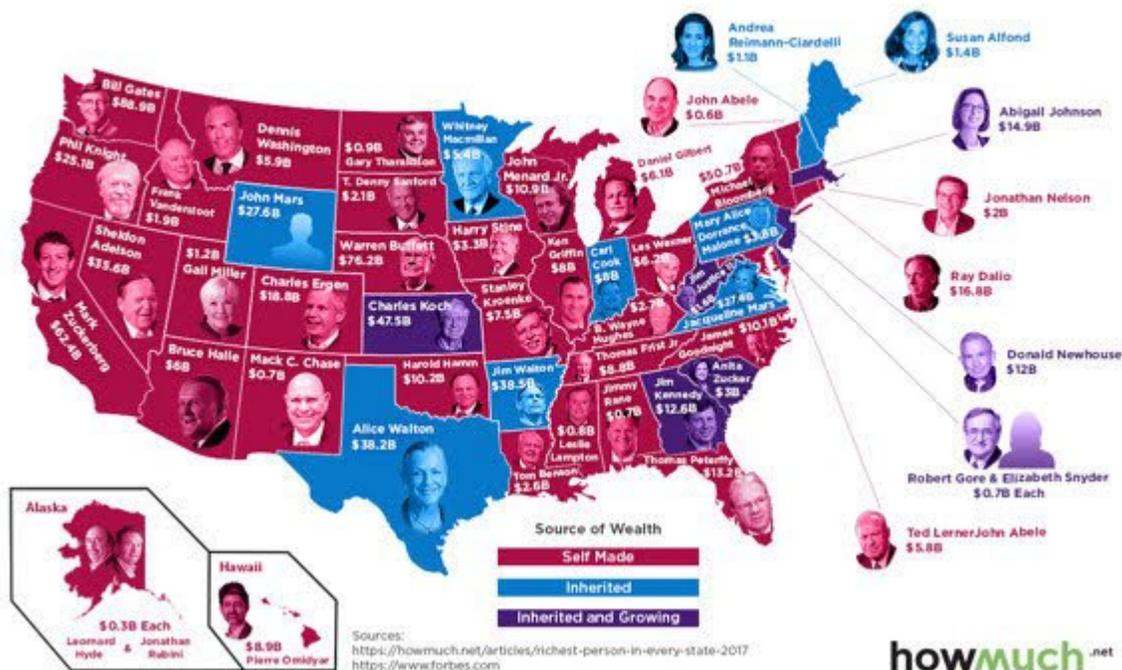
Bhatia's last day with the Enquirer will be Sept. 13.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Andy Lippman.

The Final Word

Meet the richest person in every U.S. state in 2017 (MarketWatch)

The Richest Person in Every State 2017



By **SALLY FRENCH**

Who is the richest person in your state? Data tracking site HowMuch put together a map of the richest people in each U.S. state in 2017, based on new data from Forbes.

The map is color-coded, with red going to states where its richest person is self-made, blue going to states where that person's wealth was inherited, and purple where the richest's person's wealth is inherited but growing.

The list actually includes 52 people, since two states (Alaska and Delaware) had ties.

While many of the richest people in each state are billionaires, that's not true for all states - particularly the smaller ones. Seven of the 50 states don't have any billionaires (Alabama, Alaska, Delaware, New Mexico, North Dakota, Mississippi, Vermont) - though that's fewer than the nine states without any billionaires last year. In other states, the billionaire's club is pretty lonely; eBay EBAY+1.23% founder Pierre Omidyar is the sole billionaire living in Hawaii.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - September 1, 2017



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Sept. 1, the 244th day of 2017. There are 121 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On September 1, 1939, World War II began as Nazi Germany invaded Poland.

On this date:

In 1807, former Vice President Aaron Burr was found not guilty of treason. (Burr was then tried on a misdemeanor charge, but was again acquitted.)

In 1897, the first section of Boston's new subway system was opened.

In 1905, Alberta and Saskatchewan entered Confederation as the eighth and ninth provinces of Canada.

In 1914, the last passenger pigeon in captivity, "Martha," died at the Cincinnati Zoo.

In 1923, the Japanese cities of Tokyo and Yokohama were devastated by an earthquake that claimed some 140,000 lives.

In 1945, Americans received word of Japan's formal surrender that ended World War II. (Because of the time difference, it was Sept. 2 in Tokyo Bay, where the ceremony took place.)

In 1951, the United States, Australia and New Zealand signed a mutual defense pact, the ANZUS treaty.

In 1969, a coup in Libya brought Moammar Gadhafi to power.

In 1976, U.S. Rep. Wayne L. Hays, D-Ohio, resigned in the wake of a scandal in which he admitted having an affair with "secretary" Elizabeth Ray.

In 1983, 269 people were killed when a Korean Air Lines Boeing 747 was shot down by a Soviet jet fighter after the airliner entered Soviet airspace.

In 1987, peace demonstrator S. Brian Willson lost his lower legs when he was hit by a train at the Concord Naval Weapons Station in California while protesting weapons shipments to Central America.

In 1995, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in Cleveland. (The hall opened to the public the next day.)

Ten years ago: Idaho Sen. Larry Craig announced his resignation, saying he would leave office on September 30, 2007, in the wake of fallout over his arrest and guilty plea in a Minnesota airport gay sex sting. (However, Craig later reversed his decision, saying he would serve out the rest of his term.) Clay Buchholz threw a no-hitter in his second major league start, just hours after being called up by the Boston Red Sox. Buchholz struck out nine, walked three and hit one batter to give the Red Sox a 10-0 victory over Baltimore.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama ridiculed the just-completed Republican National Convention as better-suited to an era of black-and-white TV and "trickle-down, you're on your own" economics, and declared that Mitt Romney "did not offer a single new idea" for fixing the economy. Lyricist Hal David, 91, who teamed with Burt Bacharach on dozens of timeless songs for movies, television and a variety of recording artists in the 1960s and beyond, died in Los Angeles.

One year ago: A massive fireball and explosion erupted at SpaceX's main launch pad at Cape Canaveral, destroying a rocket as well as a satellite that Facebook was counting on to spread internet service in Africa. Dallas police Chief David Brown, who oversaw the response to a July 2016 sniper attack that killed five of his officers, announced his retirement effective in October. Fred Hellerman, a member of the influential folk music quartet the Weavers, died in Weston, Connecticut, at age 89.

Today's Birthdays: Actor George Maharis is 89. Conductor Seiji Ozawa (SAY'-jee oh-ZAH'-wah) is 82. Attorney and law professor Alan Dershowitz is 79. Comedian-actress Lily Tomlin is 78. Actor Don Stroud is 74. Conductor Leonard Slatkin is 73. Singer Archie Bell is 73. Singer Barry Gibb is 71. Rock musician Greg Errico is 69. Talk show host Dr. Phil McGraw is 67. Singer Gloria Estefan is 60. Former White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers is 56. Jazz musician Boney James is 56. Singer-musician Grant Lee Phillips (Grant Lee Buffalo) is 54. Country singer-songwriter Charlie Robison is 53. Retired NBA All-Star Tim Hardaway is 51. Rap DJ Spigg Nice (Lost Boyz) is 47. Actor Ricardo Antonio Chavira is 46. Actor Maury Sterling is 46. Rock singer JD Fortune is 44. Actor Scott Speedman is 42. Country singer Angaleena Presley (Pistol Annies) is 41. Actor Boyd Holbrook is 36. Actress Zoe Lister-Jones is 35. Rock musician Joe Trohman is 33. Actress Aisling (ASH'-ling) Loftus is 27.

Thought for Today: "When nothing is sure, everything is possible." - Margaret Drabble, British author.

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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