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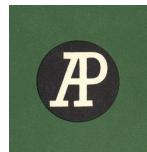
## Connecting - September 20, 2017

1 message

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Wed, Sep 20, 2017 at 9:06 AM

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# Connecting

September 20, 2017

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning!

"When I think back on all the crap I learned in high school, it's a wonder I can think at all. And though my lack of education hasn't hurt me none, I can read the writing on the wall."

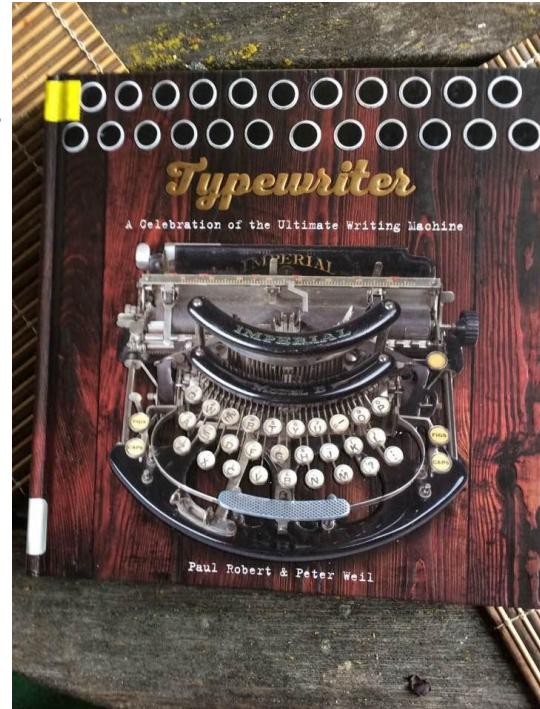
Now that Paul Simon's lead-in to his song "Kodachrome" has your attention, I ask:

What was the most valuable thing you learned in high school? In college? As it relates to your career in journalism, as well as your life?

Our colleague **Jim Carrier** says that "when I think back to all the things I learned in high school -- touch typing, which I think was part of 'home economics,' was the most valuable - 1.5 million words and counting."

Connecting would like to hear from you on what you found most valuable in high school and college as it applied or applies to your career.

Meantime, our long-running series on My First Day in the AP - originated with a post by Carrier - continues in today's issue with two more shared memories.



But first, an animal in the news story from **John Brewer**, who spotted the newspaper-thief coyotes photo and story in an earlier Connecting feed by **Mark Mittelstadt** and who has an animal story of his own to tell.

Sundown marks the start of Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. Millions of Jewish people around the world will be marking it with feasts, prayers and reflection.

Shana Tova to our Jewish friends and colleagues.

Paul

## A bull elk with a taste for news



A bull elk eating what he should be eating - not a newspaper.

**John Brewer** ([Email](#)) - I got a laugh from Kyle Birdno's report of the newspaper-stealing coyote photographed in a Tucson neighborhood (Connecting, Sept. 14).

After 19 years with AP and 10 years with The New York Times, I became publisher of the Peninsula Daily News, a community daily serving the North Olympic Peninsula of Washington state.

It's a gorgeous area, the rural Northwest at its best, filled with lovely homes with lovely views on roads that wind through the middle of fir and cedar forests.

One day we got a call from a subscriber who said he didn't get his paper.

We called the carrier -- carriers are docked for every subscriber they miss -- and he swore up and down that he didn't miss anyone.

The next day we got a call from two subscribers on the same road who didn't get a paper.

Then we got a call from three or four subscribers who also didn't get their papers.

The carrier again swore up and down that someone must be stealing the papers. "I'm going to find out who's doing this to me," he vowed darkly.

So after he delivered all his papers the next morning, he drove to the end of the road and parked. He watched and waited, and he was just starting to nod off when something moved at the end of the street.

He peered down the block...just as a huge bull elk stuck its head out of the forest.

The elk peered up and down the road, then emerged from the trees and trotted over to each of our orange newspaper delivery tubes at the homes - and pulled out the papers.

And ate them.

Apparently he found something tasty in the soybean ink or newsprint. He worked his way down the street, gobbling up each of the papers. Then he strolled back into the forest.

The carrier called our circulation manager, Dave Jacobsen. "You're not going to believe what I'm about to tell you," he said.

Dave, being a very experienced circulation manager, did believe him.

This was a man who dealt with new subscribers at motor home parks who said "just leave the paper under the big ceramic frog," and, when the carrier got there at 3 in the morning, he discovered that every trailer house in the park had a big ceramic frog.

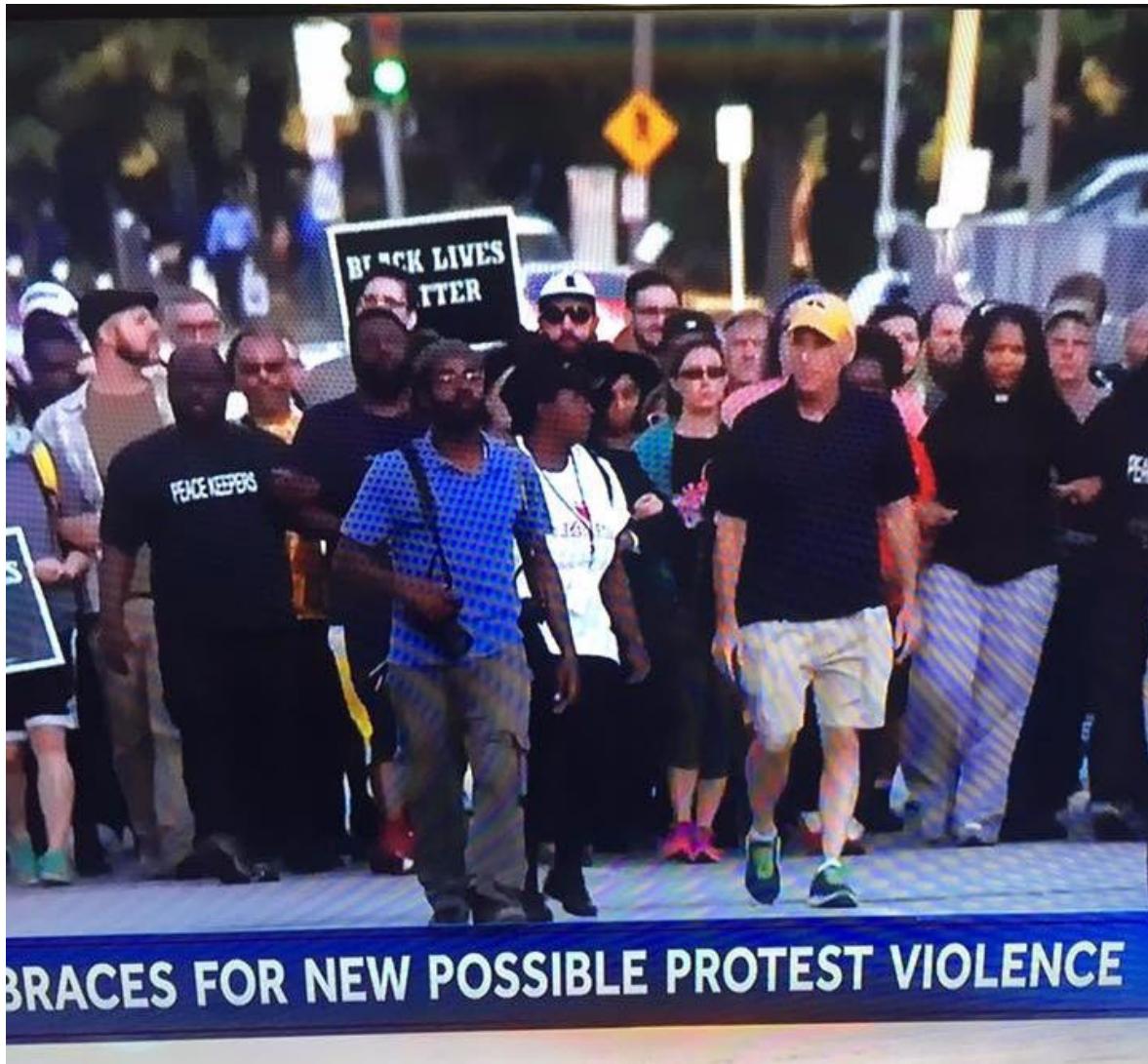
And we had coyote problems, too - they would steal our newspapers from lawns and use them as nesting material in their dens during pupping season.

Anyway, Dave knew exactly what to do - he ordered a bunch of white flaps that allowed us to seal up the tubes.

That ended the case of the missing newspapers.

In fact, for a while we thought seriously about changing the newspaper's slogan -- "Your Peninsula. Your newspaper" -- to "Reads good. Tastes good."

## In the middle of a turbulent news story



Former AP St. Louis newsman Chris Leonard posted this photo on Facebook, with this caption:

Watching coverage of the St. Louis tensions on NBC News, and I see my former boss (St. Louis Correspondent) Jim Salter right in the middle of the story (the guy in the Mizzou hat). What an inspiring reporter. Jim is the best there is: diligent,

honest, tireless and willing to put himself in harm's way to inform the rest of us of what's happening.

## ***Connecting series:***

# **My first day at The Associated Press**

## ***Taking the application tests on day of AP strike***

**Mike Harris** ([Email](#)) - Karol Stonger's first-day tale referred to taking the test that AP gave to applicants. It covered spelling, some grammar and, if I recall correctly, a couple of small writing assignments (reports on a fire and a traffic accident).

I was working at the Rockford, Ill., newspapers when I applied to AP. Chicago Bureau Chief Al Orton invited me to come to the bureau to be interviewed and to take the test. I stayed at my in-laws' home in suburban Skokie the night before and got up bright and early on the appointed day, excited to be heading into the Chicago Loop. I bought a Chicago Sun-Times at the station, got on the train and opened the paper. There on the front page, surrounded by a thick black border, it read: ``AP WRITERS ON STRIKE FOR THE FIRST TIME".

What to do?

The AP office was housed on the third floor of an office building at the corner of Randolph and LaSalle Streets, alongside the EL tracks. When I got to the building there were people I didn't know walking a picket line outside. I decided to cross the picket line and at least tell Mr. Orton I had shown up.

The office was, understandably, in chaos. I stood in the doorway for a few minutes until someone noticed me and asked what I needed. I asked for Mr. Orton. Flustered, he came striding up, shook my hand and apologized for not calling me to cancel the appointment.

``But, as long as you're here, you can sit at that corner desk and take the test. Take all the time you need and just leave it on the desk when you're done. I'll call you

after the strike ends and we'll try this again."

I spent most of the day at that desk, taking the test piece by piece, but also watching those that hadn't gone out on strike trying to put out a report. I could see it wasn't easy and there were a lot of unhappy people in that room.

The strike, the only one in AP's long history, was over in exactly one week. A week later, I was getting ready to go to my night shift on the sports desk in Rockford when my phone rang. Mr. Orton was on the other end.

``How soon can you come to work?'' he asked. I was stunned.

Two weeks later, my AP career began. And 18 months later, I was transferred to Indianapolis and took over the job as state sports editor.

After about a year in Indy, I walked into the bureau one afternoon and was called in to see the bureau chief's secretary.

``Mr. Harris, it seems you failed to take part of the test when you applied at the AP,'' she said. ``Personnel is insisting you take it now so that it is in your permanent record.''

So I sat down that afternoon, nearly three years into my time with AP, and finished the spelling and grammar test that had been lost or that I had somehow missed that crazy day in Chicago.

I guess I passed.

-0-

## ***Learning from Ed Howard in Omaha - he was one helluva newsman***

**John Willis** ([Email](#)) - I cannot express how much I am enjoying the "First day at The AP" stories over the past few weeks, and I hope there are many more to come. For the life of me, I don't remember much about my first day in the Omaha bureau

on the second floor of The Omaha World-Herald Building. It was June, 1973. The Senate Watergate Committee was in full flower.

Correspondent Ed Nicholls showed me my mail box and where we stored the wire machine ribbons and then he introduced me to Mildred "Millie" Hollingsworth, the chain smoking, husky-voiced AM broadcast editor who had been there since God made rocks, I was told. I was hired as the PM broadcast editor, and she was my mentor.

It was a noisy place with at least 15 machines clattering. The World-Herald used our bureau as their wire room, too

Glamorous it was not. It was a fairly dusty, dingy place. No pictures, just pale green walls, fluorescent lighting, machines everywhere and threadbare carpet. The only window was translucent, so we got no real sunlight or views to distract us. The radio ran 24 hours a day, and was set on KFAB-AM, which had a veteran news team.

Our state editor was Ed Howard, a native Ohioan, like me. Though I was about two years his senior, Howard had already been with The AP for five or six years, and had worked in Columbus, Cincy and NYC. Needless to say, I was impressed by this brash, savvy young man. He could be very abrasive. To say he had a "short fuse" is an understatement.

He was the embodiment of "get it first and get it right."

Shirt sleeves rolled up, tie loosened, he went at every day hammer and tong. The only faster gun taking dictation on the CRT was Nicholls, who made us all look like snails.

Howard became the correspondent in Lincoln about a year later, and I moved into his slot as state editor. Two years later I was named correspondent in Vegas. Howard remained the Lincoln correspondent for a long, long time. I don't know when he left The AP.

I Googled Howard (Tuesday afternoon) and found a Lincoln Journal Star obit. Howard died in June, 2012, following a long illness, according to the LJS. In his final years he wrote columns syndicated by the Nebraska Press Association and for a Nebraska website.

If my math is right, Howard was just shy of 64 when he died. RIP Eddie, and thanks for all the help and advice you gave this kid.

Eddie Howard was one hellava newsman.

## 'Isn't That the Trump Lawyer?': A Reporter's Accidental Scoop



**Ty Cobb (right), a member of President Trump's legal team, discussing details of the team's response to the Russia investigations with John M. Dowd, the president's lead outside attorney in the investigations, at BLT Steak in Washington. Credit Kenneth P. Vogel/The New York Times**

By KENNETH P. VOGEL

The New York Times

WASHINGTON - I have always thought of overhearing conversations as an underappreciated journalistic tool.

When political donors, lobbyists and politicians gather at hotels for meetings and strategy sessions, they often keep out reporters. But they usually can't keep us out of the lobby bars and restaurants where they gather afterward to gossip. And I've picked up all manner of tantalizing nuggets - from U.S. senators, billionaire donors and influential operatives, among others - by positioning myself within earshot of those conversations while nursing a beer at the bar.

Sometimes, those nuggets have been featured in my journalism, including in my behind-the-scenes reporting on how major donors have influenced politics; more often, they've merely helped me add texture to my reporting on money and influence.

But I've never overheard a conversation quite like the one I accidentally encountered last Tuesday, when I met a source for lunch at BLT Steak, a downtown Washington steakhouse frequented by the capital's expense-account set. My source chose the restaurant, but I didn't protest, since BLT is on the same block as The New York Times's Washington bureau and has a delightful tuna niçoise salad with fingerling potatoes and green beans.

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

## AP launches next-generation live video exchange newsgathering platform

The Associated Press, in collaboration with LiveU, today announced the launch of AP Live Community, the first live video content and service exchange platform for global newsgathering.

The new platform was to go live last week at the International Broadcasting Convention in Amsterdam.

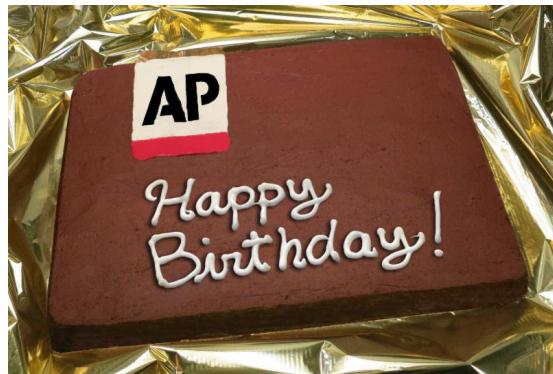
Combining AP's global news network with LiveU's technological expertise, the innovative online platform expedites live coverage of breaking news and events in any location by connecting live video publishers and contributors around the world.

AP Live Community, which is free to access, makes it straightforward and cost-effective for any broadcaster to book a service provider for a specific time to cover anything from live breaking news to the coverage of planned events. The platform enables publishers to offer their consumers a wide range of live content, including

events they otherwise may not have been able to cover, and those where a live feed is needed immediately.

Read more [here](#).

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

**Julie Inskeep Simpson** - [jinskeep@jg.net](mailto:jinskeep@jg.net)

**Terry Petty**- [traigpetty@outlook.com](mailto:traigpetty@outlook.com)

**Teresa Walker**- [tessandruss@bellsouth.net](mailto:tessandruss@bellsouth.net)

## Stories of interest

***A chilling study shows how hostile college students are toward free speech*** (Washington Post)



Demonstrators march during a free speech rally in Berkeley, Calif. (Josh Edelson/AP)

By CATHERINE RAMPELL

Here's the problem with suggesting that upsetting speech warrants "safe spaces," or otherwise conflating mere words with physical assault: If speech is violence, then violence becomes a justifiable response to speech.

Just ask college students. A fifth of undergrads now say it's acceptable to use physical force to silence a speaker who makes "offensive and hurtful statements."

That's one finding from a disturbing new survey of students conducted by John Villasenor, a Brookings Institution senior fellow and University of California at Los Angeles professor.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mike Short.

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**Samantha Power: Why Foreign Propaganda Is More Dangerous Now** (New York Times)

**By SAMANTHA POWER**

When George Washington gave his Farewell Address in 1796, he urged the American people "to be constantly awake" to the risk of foreign influence. In the wake of Russia's meddling in the 2016 United States election, the president's warning has a fresh, chilling resonance.

The debate in the United States about foreign interference concentrates on who did what to influence last year's election and the need for democracies to strengthen their cybersecurity for emails, critical infrastructure and voting platforms. But we need to pay far more attention to another vulnerability: our adversaries' attempts to subvert our democratic processes by aiming falsehoods at ripe subsets of our population - and not only during elections.

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

-0-

***A casualty of Trump's war with CNN is back in the game*** (Vanity Fair)**By JOE POMPEO**

Earlier this summer, after he and two other investigative journalists were forced to resign from CNN following the retraction of an article about Trump consigliere Anthony Scaramucci, Thomas Frank considered leaving journalism altogether. The drama surrounding the Mooch story had seized the public's attention, and Frank suspected that in the immediate future, no news outlet would want to touch him with a 10-foot pole. After his defenestration, he spent a lot of time looking at job postings for things in the realm of public-policy analysis. Think tanks seemed like a good option. Even lobbying wasn't looking so bad.

But within a few weeks, it became clear that the fallout from L'Affaire Scaramucci hadn't turned Frank into a journalistic pariah. The story as it has unfolded is murkier, having as much to do with the idiosyncrasies of CNN's journalistic culture-and its ongoing troubles with the president-as any error that may have been committed.

Frank now has a new job covering national security and counterintelligence for BuzzFeed, which he landed after applying through a link he saw on Facebook. He will start on October 2 as the Web site's first full-time reporter on that beat. In particular, Frank will focus on the very story that his former colleagues at CNN's investigative unit have reportedly been told to lay off of-the various probes investigating the Trump team's potential role in Russia's alleged 2016 election interference.

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

## The Final Word

*A picture that tells it all?*



White House Chief of Staff John Kelly, left, reacts as he listens to President Trump's U.N. speech. The photo has gone viral on social media. (Photo: Mary Altaffer/AP)

**Today in History - September 20, 2017**



## By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 20, the 263rd day of 2017. There are 102 days left in the year.

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

On September 20, 1967, the Cunard liner RMS Queen Elizabeth 2 was christened by Britain's Queen Elizabeth II in Clydebank, Scotland.

### **On this date:**

In 1519, Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan and his crew set out from Spain on five ships to find a western passage to the Spice Islands. (Magellan was killed enroute, but one of his ships eventually circled the world.)

In 1870, Italian troops took control of the Papal States, leading to the unification of Italy.

In 1884, the National Equal Rights Party was formed during a convention of suffragists in San Francisco; the convention nominated Belva Ann Bennett Lockwood for president.

In 1911, the British liner RMS Olympic collided with the Royal Navy cruiser HMS Hawke off the Isle of Wight; although seriously damaged, the Olympic was able to return to Southampton under its own power.

In 1947, former New York City Mayor Fiorello H. La Guardia died at age 64.

In 1957, Finnish composer Jean Sibelius, 91, died. The police drama "M Squad," starring Lee Marvin, premiered on NBC-TV.

In 1958, Martin Luther King Jr. was seriously wounded during a book signing at a New York City department store when he was stabbed in the chest by Izola Curry. (Curry was later found mentally incompetent; she died at a Queens, New York, nursing home in 2015 at age 98.)

In 1962, James Meredith, a black student, was blocked from enrolling at the University of Mississippi by Democratic Gov. Ross R. Barnett. (Meredith was later admitted.)

In 1973, in their so-called "battle of the sexes," tennis star Billie Jean King defeated Bobby Riggs in straight sets, 6-4, 6-3, 6-3, at the Houston Astrodome. Singer-songwriter Jim Croce, 30, died in a plane crash near Natchitoches, Louisiana.

In 1984, a suicide car bomber attacked the U.S. Embassy annex in north Beirut, killing at least 14 people, including two Americans and 12 Lebanese. The family sitcoms "The Cosby Show" and "Who's the Boss?" premiered on NBC and ABC, respectively.

In 1999, Lawrence Russell Brewer became the second white supremacist to be convicted in the dragging death of James Byrd Jr. in Jasper, Texas. (Brewer was executed on September 21, 2011.) Raisa Gorbachev, wife of the last Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, died at a German hospital after a battle with leukemia; she was 67.

In 2000, Independent Counsel Robert Ray announced the end of the Whitewater investigation, saying there was insufficient evidence to warrant charges against President Bill Clinton and first lady Hillary Clinton. Former Soviet cosmonaut Gherman Titov died at age 65.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush declined to criticize Blackwater USA, a security company in Iraq accused in a shooting that resulted in civilian deaths, saying investigators needed to determine whether the guards violated rules governing their operations. Thousands of chanting demonstrators filled the streets of Jena (JEE'-nuh), Louisiana, in support of six black teenagers, five of whom were initially charged with attempted murder in the beating of a white classmate (the

charges were later reduced). Floyd Landis lost his doping case when two of three arbitrators upheld the results of a test that showed the 2006 Tour de France champion had used synthetic testosterone to fuel his spectacular comeback victory. (Landis forfeited his Tour title and was subject to a two-year ban, retroactive to January 30, 2007.)

Five years ago: On a day when thousands of angry Pakistanis tried to make their way to the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, the embassy aired an ad on Pakistani TV showing President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton denouncing an anti-Islamic video produced in the United States. Space shuttle Endeavour, riding atop a Boeing 747, landed at Edwards Air Force Base in California en route to its eventual retirement home, the California Science Center in Los Angeles.

One year ago: In their final speeches at the annual gathering of world leaders, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon railed against leaders who kept "feeding the war machine" in Syria, while U.S. President Barack Obama said there was no military solution to the five-year conflict. A black police officer fatally shot Keith Lamont Scott, a black man, at a Charlotte, North Carolina, apartment complex, prompting days of civil unrest (Charlotte-Mecklenburg police later said that the shooting was justified). Movie director and screenwriter Curtis Hanson ("L.A. Confidential") died in Los Angeles at age 71.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Sophia Loren is 83. Pro Football Hall of Famer Jim Taylor is 82. Rock musician Chuck Panozzo is 69. Actor Tony Denison is 68. Hockey Hall of Famer Guy LaFleur is 66. Actress Debbi Morgan is 66. Jazz musician Peter White is 63. Actress Betsy Brantley is 62. Actor Gary Cole is 61. TV news correspondent Deborah Roberts is 57. Country-rock musician Joseph Shreve (Flynnville Train) is 56. Rock musician Randy Bradbury (Pennywise) is 53. Actress Kristen Johnston is 50. Rock singers Gunnar and Matthew Nelson are 50. Rock musician Ben Shepherd is 49. Actress Enuka Okuma is 45. Actress-model Moon Bloodgood is 42. Actor Jon Bernthal is 41. Singer The Dream is 40. Actor Charlie Weber is 39. Rock musician Rick Woolstenhulme (WOOL'-sten-hyoolm) (Lifehouse) is 38. Actress Crystle Stewart is 36. Rapper Yung Joc is 35. Actor Aldis Hodge is 31. Actor Malachi (MAL'-ah-ky) Kirby is 28.

***Thought for Today: "History must stay open, it is all humanity." - William Carlos Williams, American author and poet (1883-1963).***

**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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