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# Connecting - September 28, 2017

1 message

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# Connecting

September 28, 2017

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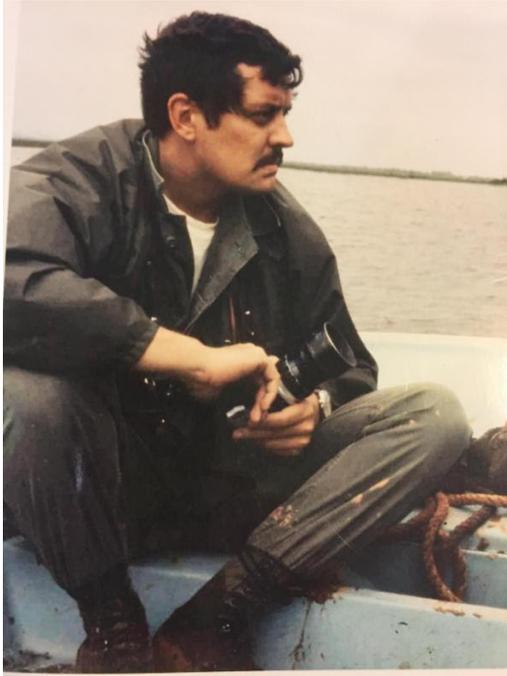
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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning!

Ironically, as the Ken Burns' Vietnam War series unfolds on PBS, one of the most vaunted journalists who covered that war has been in a hospital.

Our Connecting colleague **Richard Pyle** has been in Brooklyn Methodist Hospital for the past week and has been undergoing tests, according to his wife Brenda Smiley, who said he had an EEG Wednesday afternoon and is looking like "a sprightly gorgon."



Richard is an AP legend and the AP's last surviving Saigon bureau chief. He served the AP for 49 years before retiring in 2009 - one of his last stories being coverage of the passenger jet that landed in the Hudson River.

The photo of him at left - Richard believes it was taken by legendary AP photographer Horst Faas - shows Richard at the Mekong Delta in 1969.

Brenda says he would love to hear from you, so if you would like to drop him a note of encouragement, you can do so through Brenda at [brenstar358@gmail.com](mailto:brenstar358@gmail.com)

Brenda said it's important for him to feel he's still a part of the world of AP and journalism.

We join in wishing Richard all the best.

Paul

### ***Connecting series:***

## **What I learned in high school, college that was most valuable to my career**

### ***Getting my typing fingers to coordinate with my brain***

**Mike Harris (Email)** - I've read some of the typing tales sent in by my old friend and colleague Bruce Lowitt and others and, of course, it reminded me of my typing trials.

I knew I wanted to be a writer by the time I was 7 years old. And, in my mind, writers had to know how to type. I finally signed up for a typing class in 11th grade, and it turned out to be a difficult skill for me to learn.

I was not a great student, but I was also never a cheater. The only time in my school career that I did cheat was in that typing class.

The first few weeks of typing class, I simply couldn't coordinate my fingers with my brain. I was lagging behind and, being the only boy in the class, it was embarrassing. I kept trying to learn to touch type in class, but I started typing out the assignments at home (using the hunt and peck method) and slipping the finished work into class, struggling to do the assignment and handing in the cheat sheets.

It worked and I kept doing it until, suddenly and miraculously, I got it. My fingers began working with my brain and I began to type.

I actually became pretty proficient at typing, but I'm still a little embarrassed about my cheating ways in that class.

## ***Connecting series***

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

## ***Oh, the places you'll go - the people you'll meet***

**Paul Stevens (Email)** - What I recall most about my first day with the AP was not what happened that day - I really can't remember much of that other than a newsroom surrounded by 20 or so Teletypes. But rather the people on the staff I

joined - many of whom are friends and members today of the Connecting family we've created over the past five years.

My first day with the AP was August 27, 1973, in the Albany bureau, housed in the building owned by the Times-Union and Knickerbocker News. I joined the editorial staff headed by Chief of Bureau Ed Staats - who hired me off the circular, where I was placed after taking the AP tests at headquarters at 50 Rock months earlier and being interviewed there by then-Personnel Director Keith Fuller.

Linda and I had arrived in Albany a couple days earlier, traveling from Lawrence, Kansas - where I completed grad school at the University of Kansas after four years in the Air Force. Linda drove our car and I was behind the wheel of a 24-foot U-Haul truck with our dog Chauncey in the right seat. To this day, Linda reminds me that although we passed through Buffalo and never stopped to see Niagara Falls (something we remedied years later in retirement). We landed in the Hollandale Apartments in Clifton Park, where my new fellow colleague Doug and Sandy Kienitz lived.

Those on the staff back then who are current Connecting friends - 44 years later - are Ed Staats, Charlie Hanley, Doug Kienitz, Mike Hendricks and Joe Galu. Also on the staff who I can recall were Pete Jacobs, Tony Baker, Dawn Force, Chris and Jim McKnight, Bob Hoyt, Jon Halvorsen, Howard Clark, Dave Shafer, Mary Feiss and Greg McGarry. A talented crew.

I was the numerical replacement - remember that term? - for Denis Gray, who left Albany destined for the AP's Saigon bureau and has been in Southeast Asia ever since. He, too, is a Connecting colleague.

My first bureau experience lasted just 14 months - until a nationwide AP staff cutback caught me as the junior member of the Albany staff. But with the help of Wick Temple, then AP's sports editor, and Ron Thompson, then a personnel manager, I was assigned to a staff vacancy in St. Louis - opened when Terry Ganey, another Connecting colleague, was transferred to Jefferson City - and what almost ended as a one-year AP career developed into one spanning 36 years and four more bureaus.

## **AP FACT CHECK: Smoke and mirrors in Trump tax plan**

**By CALVIN WOODWARD and JOSH BOAK**

WASHINGTON (AP) - Nothing brings out smoke and mirrors like a tax overhaul plan, especially one as incomplete as President Donald Trump's.

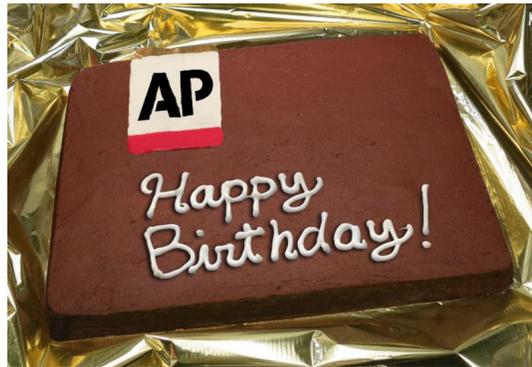
A look at some of the claims emerging from the debate sparked by the plan released Wednesday:

TRUMP: "I think there's very little benefit for people of wealth" - to reporters Wednesday.

THE FACTS: Actually there's a clear and substantial benefit for people of super wealth: the proposal to eliminate the estate tax. Under current law, the first \$11 million of an estate is exempt for a married couple, meaning only the wealthiest Americans pay it. Those super-rich would be off the hook. Also, business owners who report business income on their individual returns - as most do - would see their top tax rate drop to 25 percent from 39.6 percent.

Read more [here](#).

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Linda Sargent - [lindasgt@swbell.net](mailto:lindasgt@swbell.net)

## Stories of interest

## ***Is the First Amendment Obsolete?*** (Knight First Amendment Institute)

The First Amendment was a dead letter for much of American history. Unfortunately, there is reason to fear it is entering a new period of political irrelevance. We live in a golden age of efforts by governments and other actors to control speech, discredit and harass the press, and manipulate public debate. Yet as these efforts mount, and the expressive environment deteriorates, the First Amendment has been confined to a narrow and frequently irrelevant role. Hence the question - when it comes to political speech in the twenty-first century, is the First Amendment obsolete?

The most important change in the expressive environment can be boiled down to one idea: it is no longer speech itself that is scarce, but the attention of listeners. Emerging threats to public discourse take advantage of this change. As Zeynep Tufekci puts it, "censorship during the Internet era does not operate under the same logic [as] it did under the heyday of print or even broadcast television."<sup>1</sup> Instead of targeting speakers directly, it targets listeners or it undermines speakers indirectly. More precisely, emerging techniques of speech control depend on (1) a range of new punishments, like unleashing "troll armies" to abuse the press and other critics, and (2) "flooding" tactics (sometimes called "reverse censorship") that distort or drown out disfavored speech through the creation and dissemination of fake news, the payment of fake commentators, and the deployment of propaganda robots.<sup>2</sup> As journalist Peter Pomerantsev writes, these techniques employ "information . . . in weaponized terms, as a tool to confuse, blackmail, demoralize, subvert and paralyze."<sup>3</sup>

Read more [here](#).

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## ***How a Critic Opens a Book: A Q&A With Parul Sehgal*** (New York Times)

Parul Sehgal joined The New York Times's team of daily book critics in late July. She was previously a senior editor for The New York Times Book Review; she also wrote a column, "Roving Eye," focused on international literature. Her latest review is on "Difficult Women," by David Plante. What follows is a lightly edited Q. and A.

You recently transitioned from editor and columnist to critic. What has changed about your approach to covering books?

My relationship with the reader - the reader I have in my mind when I write - is a bit different. There's more of a responsibility to convey what's happening in the world of literature, and to do it in a timely manner, and to explain why it matters. I can't direct myself purely by my own idiosyncrasies, or my own temptations.



The challenge for me is remembering that, in spite of the weekly pressures, my reviews can never be formulaic, that they always have to be full of pleasure, that they have to be full of delight - and that I have to stay fresh, and stay excited.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Hugh Hefner, Who Built Playboy Empire and Embodied It, Dies at 91*** (New York Times)

Hugh Hefner, who created Playboy magazine and spun it into a media and entertainment-industry giant - all the while, as its very public avatar, squiring attractive young women (and sometimes marrying them) well into his 80s - died on Wednesday at his home, the Playboy Mansion near Beverly Hills, Calif. He was 91.

His death was announced by Playboy Enterprises.

Hefner the man and Playboy the brand were inseparable. Both advertised themselves as emblems of the sexual revolution, an escape from American priggishness and wider social intolerance. Both were derided over the years - as vulgar, as adolescent, as exploitative, and finally as anachronistic. But Mr. Hefner was a stunning success from his emergence in the early 1950s. His timing was perfect.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Getty Images Bans Photos Containing Photoshopped Weight*** (PetaPixel)

Getty Images has banned photos that contain subjects whose body shapes have been retouched to make them look thinner or larger. The move comes in response to a new law in France that requires that Photoshopped weight be clearly labeled.

France's new law, which was passed in December 2015, takes effect for commercial digital photos starting on October 1st, 2017. From that date forward, photos with digitally manipulated models will need to be marked as "photographie retouchée," which translates to "retouched photograph."

Advertisers who break this new law face fines of up to €37,500 (~\$44,000).

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

## **Today in History - September 28, 2017**



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Thursday, Sept. 28, the 271st day of 2017. There are 94 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:**

On September 28, 1892, the first nighttime football game took place in Mansfield, Pennsylvania, as teams from Mansfield State Normal and Wyoming Seminary played under electric lights to a scoreless tie. (The game was called after the first half due to hazardous conditions caused by inadequate illumination; it also didn't help that a lighting pole was located in the middle of the field.)

**On this date:**

In 1066, William the Conqueror invaded England to claim the English throne.

In 1542, Portuguese navigator Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo arrived at present-day San Diego.

In 1787, the Congress of the Confederation voted to send the just-completed Constitution of the United States to state legislatures for their approval.

In 1850, flogging was abolished as a form of punishment in the U.S. Navy.

In 1914, the First Battle of the Aisne during World War I ended inconclusively.

In 1928, Scottish medical researcher Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin, the first effective antibiotic.

In 1939, during World War II, Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union signed a treaty calling for the partitioning of Poland, which the two countries had invaded.

In 1958, voters in the African country of Guinea overwhelmingly favored independence from France.

In 1967, Walter E. Washington was sworn in as the first mayor-commissioner of the District of Columbia following his appointment by President Lyndon B. Johnson.

In 1976, Muhammad Ali kept his world heavyweight boxing championship with a close 15-round decision over Ken Norton at New York's Yankee Stadium.

In 1989, deposed Philippine President Ferdinand E. Marcos died in exile in Hawaii at age 72.

In 1995, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO chairman Yasser Arafat signed an accord at the White House ending Israel's military occupation of West Bank cities and laying the foundation for a Palestinian state.

Ten years ago: The International Monetary Fund chose France's Dominique Strauss-Kahn as its new leader. (Strauss-Kahn resigned the post in 2011 following allegations he'd sexually assaulted a New York hotel employee; prosecutors ended up dropping all the charges.) Traveler Carol Gotbaum of New York died in a holding cell at Sky Harbor International Airport in Phoenix; authorities say Gotbaum, 45, accidentally asphyxiated herself after being chained to a bench.

Five years ago: Citing national security risks, President Barack Obama blocked a Chinese company from owning four wind farm projects in northern Oregon near a Navy base where the U.S. military flew unmanned drones and electronic-warfare planes on training missions. Homer Bailey of the Cincinnati Reds threw the season's seventh no-hitter, beating the Pittsburgh Pirates 1-0.

One year ago: In a resounding rebuke, Democrats joined with Republicans to hand Barack Obama the first veto override of his presidency, voting overwhelmingly to allow families of 9/11 victims to sue Saudi Arabia in U.S. courts for its alleged backing of the attackers. Israeli statesman Shimon Peres, 93, died of complications from a stroke. Agnes Nixon, 93 the creative force behind the popular soap operas "One Life to Live" and "All My Children," died in Haverford, Pennsylvania.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Brigitte Bardot is 83. Actor Joel Higgins is 74. Singer Helen Shapiro is 71. Movie writer-director-actor John Sayles is 67. Rock musician George Lynch is 63. Zydeco singer-musician C.J. Chenier (sheh-NEER') is 60. Actor Steve Hytner is 58. Actress-comedian Janeane Garofalo (juh-NEEN' guh-RAH'-fuh-loh) is 53. Country singer Matt King is 51. Actress Mira Sorvino is 50. TV personality/singer Moon Zappa is 50. Actress-model Carre Otis is 49. Actress Naomi Watts is 49. Country singer Karen Fairchild (Little Big Town) is 48. Country musician Chuck Crawford is 44. Country singer Mandy Barnett is 42. Rapper Young Jeezy is 40. World Golf Hall of Famer Se Ri Pak is 40. Actor Peter Cambor is 39. Writer-producer-director-actor Bam Margera is 38. Actress Melissa Claire Egan is 36. Actress Jerrika Hinton is 36. Neo-soul musician Luke Mossman (Nathaniel Rateliff & the Night Sweats ) is 36. Pop-rock singer St. Vincent is 35. Rock musician Daniel Platzman (Imagine Dragons) is 31. Actress Hilary Duff is 30. Actor Keir Gilchrist is 25.

***Thought for Today: "A great truth is a truth whose opposite is also a truth." - Thomas Mann, German writer (1875-1955).***

## 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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