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## Connecting - October 04, 2017

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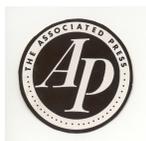
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Wed, Oct 4, 2017 at 9:10 AM

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# Connecting

October 04, 2017

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning!

Those paying their respects at the funeral home visitation for **Richard Pyle** on Tuesday evening were given memorial bookmarks with quotations from Richard, reports our Connecting colleague **Charles Hanley**.

They included this one, from Richard's AP oral history conducted by **Valerie Komor**, distilling the pride he felt for the integrity of his news organization:

***"Want me to sum it up? I wanted to say something. ... In all these years with the AP, at no time was I ever asked to do something or write something or not to do something or write something that went against the standards set forth by AP for itself, or did it ever compromise my own personal scruples. That's never happened. And, when I look at it, I think that maybe that's the most important thing of all. That counts for something, and it might be the most important thing. And that's about it."***

There was an error in the URL shared in Tuesday's Connecting for the Overseas Press Club Foundation, which launches the careers of college students who wish to become foreign correspondents, as Richard famously did. If sufficient funds are raised, the foundation will offer a scholarship in his name. [Click here](#) for the correct link.

Paul

## More memories of Richard Pyle



**Richard Pyle on rooftop terrace of Brooklyn apartment where he and Brenda lived. (Photo by Giovanna Dell'Orto)**

**Jon Wolman (Email)** - Richard Pyle - proud son of Highland Park MI -- was a terrific reporter, editor and friend, and over the decades he was the hub of an AP wheel with many (many) spokes. All our memories of Richard speak to the influence he had on an era of journalism.

He was a profile in courage. I saw it first-hand in March 1979 when we mustered a make-shift AP staff to cover the white-knuckle melodrama at the Three Mile Island nuclear complex in Pennsylvania. Overnight I found myself directing colleagues from Harrisburg, New York and Washington. The phrase that sticks with me is "uncontrolled burst of radiation," a danger that would become an ominous hydrogen bubble that experts said could potentially lead to a meltdown. The movie "China Syndrome" was in the theaters, literally.

Authorities were organizing a group of reporters to tour the TMI control facilities. This was an assignment no one wanted - the risks were mysterious and it only raised the level of emerging hysteria when they offered the protection of yellow plastic booties and personal dosimeters. I had no volunteers -- colleagues were walking in the other direction. Then a voice said to me, "I'd be willing." Who else? Richard Pyle.

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**Kazuo Abiko (Email)** - We in Tokyo - AP colleagues and old friends at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan - are deeply saddened by the news of Richard Pyle's passing, and we are planning to hold a "Memorial Night" at the FCCJ in honor of Richard.

While based in Tokyo in charge of the AP's Asia news operations, Richard also was an influential figure at the FCCJ and made many friends there. In 1987, when he left Tokyo to become a roving Mideast correspondent, he was made a life member for his contributions to the club.

On a personal note, I started my AP career in 1978 as a photo editor at the Tokyo bureau under Asia Photo Editor Max Desfor. Two years later, Richard, who had succeeded Ed White as Asia news editor a short time earlier, accepted me to his editorial department when I asked for the transfer. It was a privilege for me to work under such a remarkable journalist. I learned a lot from him.

Following my retirement from the AP in 2010, I undertook the project of translating the AP history book "Breaking News" into Japanese. When I had questions (actually, I had many), I sent emails to Richard, the author of two chapters on war. He was

delighted at my undertaking and helped me graciously. He even went out his way to obtain answers for me from other authors I did not know personally.

From late August to early September of last year, I visited New York on another book project about news agencies of the world. While in New York, I visited with Richard and Brenda at their Brooklyn apartment and had a nice dinner with them at a nearby restaurant. Although he was having health problems and looked frail, his passion for journalism did not seem to have faded at all. We extensively talked about the current issues news media were facing.

He was, indeed, a dedicated journalist for life. We miss him a lot.

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**Arnold Zeitlin (Email)** - The photo (in Tuesday's Connecting) of Richard with Peter Arnett, George Esper and Pat Milton moved me. I'd like to think that Richard made it to wherever old journalists go (somewhere between heaven and hell) to rest in peace and found George on the phone waking up a news source at 3 o'clock in the morning.

Richard and I did not often cross paths. I don't believe he was in Vietnam when I did my brief stint in Saigon at the end in March-May 1975. He did graciously invite me later to join him when he was covering the trial of Imelda Marcos at the federal courthouse in Foley square in Manhattan. He knew Imelda and I were buddies from my time in the Philippines. In the court room, she introduced me to her lawyer, someone from Hawaii. The lawyer asked who I was. I told him I was Imelda's dancing partner, referring to her asking me to dance with her in 1975 at a late-night party in Manila just days before she had me thrown out of the country. The lawyer said to her, "I thought you only danced with George Hamilton".

There was also a night with Richard at one of our reunions in Ho Chi Minh City when someone lifted his wallet. We all went to report the robbery to the police, who knew exactly who had taken the wallet. They soon got it back to him.

## Connecting mailbox

***Las Vegas story shows Doug Tucker has not lost his writing touch***

**Lindel Hutson** ([Email](#)) - A really nice job by Doug Tucker of communicating the atmosphere in Las Vegas the day after (in Tuesday's Connecting).

You can feel the tension and sorrow in the city from the way Doug handled the story.

Doug is retired from the AP but it's obvious he's never lost his reporting skill and excellent writing ability. Just like most of the people reading this.

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## ***My First Last Day at AP***



**New England AP photo editor Bill Sikes at work Monday in Boston bureau. AP Photo/Steven Senne.**

**Bill Sikes** ([Email](#)) - I can't recall my first day at AP, but my first last day as staff photographer in the Buffalo bureau is impossible to forget.

After seven years I was leaving a job that I truly loved for another job that I subsequently would truly love: picture editor at the award-winning Hartford Courant.

I was alone in the bureau on that day in late July 1998. The correspondent and technician were on the road, and we already had enjoyed a farewell gathering for the departing sportswriter and me earlier in the week. It was an odd and melancholy day to be alone completing final time sheets and expense reports, cleaning out drawers and cabinets.

The final duty that final day was to ship the assigned photo gear to the control bureau in Albany.

Cameras, strobes, lenses and laptops all had been locked into two big Cabbage shipping cases affixed with FedEx shipping labels. Their keys had been sealed in a separate FedEx envelope. Lights out, door closed, no goodbyes.

All had been stacked on the technician's cart and wheeled onto the building's freight elevator. As usual, when the door opened two floors below, the elevator had come to a stop about an inch below the loading dock floor.

A solid shove sent the cart over the bump, but it also sent the envelope of keys sailing. The odds it would find that little gap between the elevator and the loading dock floors were extremely low. But to my astonishment that's exactly where it went, vanishing from view and landing 10 feet below at the bottom of the elevator shaft!

The equally astonished security guard said there was no basement access to the shaft.

The FedEx pickup was minutes away and the cases still would be shipped that day. But I was under time constraints to leave for a family outing. The wayward envelope would wait till I could return with a 12-foot bamboo fishing pole with its handle covered by a wad of duct tape.

Of course, departing in that manner just wasn't right. So I was glad to be hired back to AP in 2005.

*Bill Sikes is AP's New England photo editor in Boston.*

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## ***Trump has been a master of propaganda***

**William Kaczor** ([Email](#)) - I cannot argue with the results of the Harvard study that showed coverage of Trump's issues overshadowed his personal scandals while just the opposite happened in regard to Clinton. (Despite all that, Clinton managed to win 3 million more votes than Trump yet lost due to the archaic and anti-democratic electoral college.) (See Charles McFadden post in Tuesday's Connecting.)

The study, though, I believe affirms a point I made in a January comment in Connecting that Trump, wittingly or not, has been a master of propaganda. He has made good use of virtually all of the major propaganda techniques. They include name-calling, appealing to fear and prejudice, focusing on an opponent's personality and character rather than their issues, using slogans, stereotyping and scapegoating, flag-waving, creating a personality cult, constantly repeating falsehoods (the "Big Lie"), employing disinformation and half-truths and, last-but-not-least, managing the news.

He has continued these tactics as president. Some of his critics, meanwhile, have helped him, notably athletes who have chosen to sit or kneel rather than stand during the national anthem at sports events to protest racial injustice. That has given Trump another opportunity to wrap himself in the flag while the athletes, unfortunately, come off looking unpatriotic no matter how just their cause may be.

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## ***77 Miles of Jewish Stories hits Amazon***

**Don Harrison** ([Email](#)) - My newest book, *77 Miles of Jewish Stories*, has just hit Amazon. It was written to demonstrate the thesis of my online blog, San Diego Jewish World that "There is a Jewish Story Everywhere" I got on San Diego County's major west-east freeway, Interstate 8, and took it from the coastline to the San Diego-Imperial Counties Lines, a point 77 miles away. At each exit, I got off and searched for a Jewish story, always finding at least one and in some cases several stories. Altogether there are 70 stories of great variety. I attach the front and back cover for your reference. [Click here](#) for a link.

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## ***Stark elected president of Missouri Press***

Connecting colleague **Carol Stark**, editor of The Joplin Globe, was elected president of the Missouri Press Association Friday, Sept. 29, during the 151st Annual MPA Convention in Springfield.



A southwest Missouri native, Stark has worked for The Globe since 1983, beginning as a reporter and working her way up to editor 10 years ago. She has served on the MPA Board of Directors since 2013.

Her newspaper career began at the age of 12 with an article for The Carthage Press about her final year in a one-room schoolhouse and country school consolidation. She was editor of her high school newspaper, and at 17, she began working full-time for The Carthage Press while attending Missouri Southern State University in Joplin, where she also worked for the college newspaper.

In addition to her editor duties at The Globe, Stark has worked to foster better relationships between the newspaper and its readers, including holding reader advisory sessions. She has also led high school journalism workshops, served as an adviser to students on MSSU's The Chart, and worked with students on Joplin High School's student newspaper, The Spyglass.

Stark was named Local Media Association Editor of the Year in 2011 for her work overseeing coverage of Joplin's EF-5 tornado. She has also served three times as a juror in the selection of the Pulitzer Prize.

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## ***The Second Act: Former Journalists Find Life Beyond the News Cycle***

**By JODIE JACKSON JR.**

**Columbia Business Times**

Veteran newsman Scott Charton rues the dwindling number of locally- and family-owned community media outlets - those like the radio station that took a chance on

him when he was an eager, enthusiastic barely-16-year-old and got his media career started.

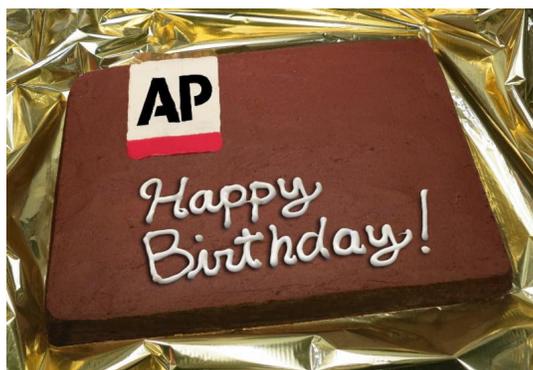
There's an uncanny similarity in our stories. I was barely 16 when Norman Gallagher hired me in November 1979 to write school news for The Belle Banner, my hometown newspaper. He paid me \$25 a week and gave me my own office. My head swelled too large to notice that the paltry sum foreshadowed things to come -my chosen career consistently paid far less than most professions.

Charton's sorrow over the far fewer opportunities for young people to connect with their local newspaper and radio stations is understandable. My worry is that fewer of the corporate types now gobbling up newspapers can recognize the heady aroma of printer's ink and newsprint.



Read more [here](#).

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Peggy Walsh - [pwalshnyt@aol.com](mailto:pwalshnyt@aol.com)

## Welcome to Connecting



Liz Irwin - [lirwin@molawyersmedia.com](mailto:lirwin@molawyersmedia.com)

## Stories of interest

### ***After Las Vegas Shooting, Fake News Regains Its Megaphone*** (New York Times)

By KEVIN ROOSE

When they woke up and glanced at their phones on Monday morning, Americans may have been shocked to learn that the man behind the mass shooting in Las Vegas late on Sunday was an anti-Trump liberal who liked Rachel Maddow and MoveOn.org, that the F.B.I. had already linked him to the Islamic State, and that mainstream news organizations were suppressing that he had recently converted to Islam.

They were shocking, gruesome revelations. They were also entirely false - and widely spread by Google and Facebook.

In Google's case, trolls from 4Chan, a notoriously toxic online message board with a vocal far-right contingent, had spent the night scheming about how to pin the shooting on liberals. One of their discussion threads, in which they wrongly identified

the gunman, was picked up by Google's "top stories" module, and spent hours at the top of the site's search results for that man's name.

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

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## ***This Singapore-based startup tests Southeast Asia's appetite for a member-funded journalism service*** (Nieman)

By YUNITA ONG

Most of Southeast Asia's legacy media are family businesses or for-profit entities controlled by conglomerates. But New Naratif, a new regional startup, is now testing the market for a paid membership approach to journalism via crowdfunding. Borrowing heavily from the ethos of De Correspondent, the Dutch news site that raised \$1.7 million from 20,000 subscribers back in 2013, New Naratif aims to build a community of readers across the region. Members can access the site's Southeast Asia-focused longform journalism, news, and comic art and offer feedback on the editorial process.

Those readers will also fund all of the site's operations - the project will be ad-free and the team has pledged to keep them abreast of how their money is spent. Annual memberships start at US\$52, and since its Sept. 9 crowdfunding launch in Singapore, New Naratif has netted just under 200 members. (It's aiming for 3,500 by early 2018 in order to begin operations.) The site's name includes the Bahasa Indonesian spelling of the word "narrative" and is a nod towards their ambitions to capture the sizable Malay- and Indonesian-speaking populations of the region.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Men's Rights? Simple: Same as Ours*** (Bill Moyers)

By **LYNN SHERR**

To paraphrase and modernize the once unassailable Dr. Freud, "Really, what do men want?"

The death of Hugh Hefner last week, long after his sex-is-all Playboy empire both liberated and scandalized American society, is a useful reminder that while some boys live forever in the locker room of their adolescence, others adapt very nicely, thank you, to the inevitability of growing up. In 2004, when I interviewed Hefner for the 50th anniversary of the magazine (yes, he was wearing his trademark black pajamas), he described his mantra as "the play and pleasure of life," including the once-radical notion that "nice girls liked sex." That benign definition - plus a genuine, if convenient, commitment to more pressing women's rights, including reproductive choice - theoretically justified squeezing women into bosom-popping costumes to slake boorish male fantasies, a fabulously successful formula that seemed to delineate the limits of men's desires. Along, of course, with the centerfolds: gauzy, airbrushed nudes stapled into each issue of the magazine, starting with Marilyn Monroe in issue No. 1.

Read more [here](#). Lynn Sherr is a Connecting colleague and former AP journalist.

## Today in History - October 4, 2017



By **The Associated Press**

Today is Wednesday, Oct. 4, the 277th day of 2017. There are 88 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlights in History:**

On Oct. 4, 1957, the Soviet Union launched Sputnik 1, the first artificial satellite, into orbit. The family sitcom "Leave It to Beaver" premiered on CBS.

**On this date:**

In 1777, Gen. George Washington's troops launched an assault on the British at Germantown, Pennsylvania, resulting in heavy American casualties.

In 1822, the 19th president of the United States, Rutherford B. Hayes, was born in Delaware, Ohio.

In 1931, the comic strip "Dick Tracy," created by Chester Gould, made its debut.

In 1940, Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini conferred at Brenner Pass in the Alps.

In 1959, the Soviet Union launched Luna 3, a space probe which transmitted images of the far side of the moon.

In 1960, an Eastern Air Lines Lockheed L-188A Electra crashed on takeoff from Boston's Logan International Airport, killing all but 10 of the 72 people on board.

In 1970, rock singer Janis Joplin, 27, was found dead in her Hollywood hotel room.

In 1976, Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz resigned in the wake of a controversy over an obscene joke he'd made that was derogatory to blacks.

In 1982, casino executive Frank "Lefty" Rosenthal survived the bombing of his Cadillac outside a Las Vegas restaurant; the case was never solved.

In 1990, for the first time in nearly six decades, German lawmakers met in the Reichstag for the first meeting of reunified Germany's parliament.

In 1991, 26 nations, including the United States, signed the Madrid Protocol, which imposed a 50-year ban on oil exploration and mining in Antarctica.

In 2002, "American Taliban" John Walker Lindh received a 20-year sentence after a sobbing plea for forgiveness before a federal judge in Alexandria, Virginia. In a federal court in Boston, a laughing Richard Reid pleaded guilty to trying to blow up a trans-Atlantic flight with explosives in his shoes (the British citizen was later sentenced to life in prison).

Ten years ago: Sen. Larry Craig, R-Idaho, defiantly vowed to serve out his term in office despite losing a court attempt to rescind his guilty plea in a men's room sex sting. A former city maintenance worker shot five people in a law office in Alexandria, Louisiana, killing two of them; the gunman was killed by police following a standoff. South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun and North Korean leader Kim Jong Il pledged to pursue a peace treaty and end their countries' decades-long standoff.

Five years ago: A day after his first debate with Mitt Romney, which had been widely seen as a victory for Romney, President Barack Obama suggested that his Republican rival hadn't been candid about his policy positions during the faceoff. The Nielsen Co. said an estimated 67.2 million people had watched the debate; it was the biggest TV audience for a presidential debate since 1992.

One year ago: Virginia Sen. Tim Kaine repeatedly challenged Mike Pence during their vice presidential debate, attempting to tie the Indiana governor to some of Donald Trump's most controversial statements about women, immigrants and foreign policy while Trump's running mate maintained a folksy, soft-spoken demeanor as he defended the New York billionaire. Hurricane Matthew slammed into Haiti's southwest peninsula, the first Category 4 storm to hit the country in more than a half century; the Haitian government put the death toll from Matthew at 546.

Today's Birthdays: Country singer Leroy Van Dyke is 88. Actress Felicia Farr is 85. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Sam Huff is 83. Author Roy Blount Jr. is 76. Author Anne Rice is 76. Actress Lori Saunders (TV: "Petticoat Junction") is 76. Baseball Hall of Famer Tony La Russa is 73. Actor Clifton Davis is 72. The former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Adm. Mike Mullen, is 71. Former Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel is 71. Actress Susan Sarandon is 71. Blues musician Duke Robillard is 69. Playwright Lee Blessing is 68. Actor Armand Assante is 68. Actor Alan Rosenberg is 67. Actor Christoph Waltz is 61. Actor Bill Fagerbakke (FAY'-guh-r-bah-kee) is 60. Music producer Russell Simmons is 60. Actress Kyra Schon (Film: "Night of the Living Dead") is 60. Actress-singer Wendy Makkena is 59. Musician Chris Lowe (The Pet Shop Boys) is 58. Country musician Gregg "Hobie" Hubbard (Sawyer Brown) is 57. Actor David W. Harper is 56. Singer Jon Secada is 56. TV personality John Melendez is 52. Actor-comedian Jerry Minor is 50. Actor Liev Schreiber is 50. Actor Abraham Benrubi is 48. Country singer-musician Heidi Newfield is 47. Singer-guitarist M. Ward (She & Him) is 44. Actress Alicia (ah-LEE'-see-ah) Silverstone is 41. Actress Dana Davis is 39. Actor Phillip Glasser is 39.

Rock singer-musician Marc Roberge (O.A.R.) is 39. Actor Brandon Barash is 38. Actress Rachael Leigh Cook is 38. Actor Tim Peper is 37. Actor Jimmy Workman is 37. Bassist Cubbie Fink is 35. Rhythm-and-blues singer Jessica Benson (31w) is 30. Actor Michael Charles Roman is 30. Actress Melissa Benoist is 29. NBA All-Star Derrick Rose is 29. Actress Dakota Johnson is 28. Figure skater Kimmie Meisner is 28. Actress Leigh-Anne Pinnoch (Little Mix) is 26. Actor Ryan Scott Lee is 21.

***Thought for Today: "Knowledge is like a garden: if it is not cultivated, it cannot be harvested." - Guinean saying.***

## 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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