



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

Connecting - October 09, 2017

1 message

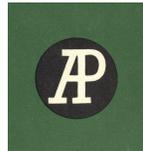
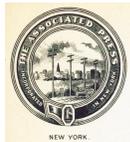
Jim Hood, Interloper <jimhood44@gmail.com>

Mon, Oct 9, 2017 at 5:10 AM

Reply-To: jimhood44@gmail.com

To: pjshane@gmail.com

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Connecting

October 09, 2017

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Colleagues,

Good morning and, to those of you who observe it, Happy Columbus Day. I will be trying to fill in for Paul Stevens this week while he views the changing leaves in New England and I ruefully view the leaves already collecting on our lawn in Virginia.

Please send me your submissions, observations and commentaries great and small -- jimhood44@gmail.com. It's been awhile since I've done this, so please pardon any glitches or omissions.

Capturing the Moment: You either see it or you don't



AP Photo

AP's Pulitzer Prize-winning photographers figured prominently in yesterday's CBS Sunday Morning. The show spotlighted the work of Alyssa Adams and her late husband, Eddie Adams in helping aspiring news photographers to recognize -- and capture -- that one shot that tells a story. Eddie Adams, of course, is best known for his startling photo of South Vietnamese National Police Chief Brig Gen. Nguyen Ngoc Loan executing a Viet Cong officer with a single pistol shot in the head in Saigon, Vietnam on Feb. 1, 1968. The photo won the 1969 Pulitzer Prize.

The segment also featured John Filo, now director of photography for CBS, who as an AP photographer in 1970 captured the agonizing Pulitzer-winning photo of a student shot by National Guardsmen at Kent State University.

"You're only as good as your last photo," Filo said. "So, you're always looking to improve. You're just trying to constantly whip yourself into being a better photographer. And what does that mean? It made me a better person."

Read the complete story [here](#).

13 Years of Shootings



AP Photo

"It's often said the birth of a child changes your life. Covering the shooting deaths of children in recent months amid a wave of violence in Rio de Janeiro, I have realized from the pain of grieving parents that losing one probably changes you even more." So writes AP Photographer Silvia Izquierdo in an AP Images blog posting.

Silvia tells of the many shootings she has covered in which children have been caught in the cross-fire and, on a more hopeful note, some innovative police practices that have helped bring the street violence under control.

See the entire essay [here](#).

Facebook Blunders Along ...

Facebook, Google and their ilk continue to seek a technological answer to the problem of fake news, all the while ignoring the most obvious solution -- a staff of professional journalists deploying their editorial smarts to keep things factual. Ralph Gage ([Email](#)) forwards a recent Nieman Lab article which discusses Facebook's latest attempt to bring some diligence to its daily output.

"Facebook ... on Thursday introduced a new feature meant to give users more context about articles while they're reading and before they share them with others," Nieman Labs wrote. "The new feature is small but, in Facebook's view, significant: Facebook users will soon start seeing a small information button on news articles that appear in the News Feed. When users click the button, they'll see a panel with information from the source site's Wikipedia page, content related to the article in question, and details about where and how the article is being shared." Read the rest [here](#).

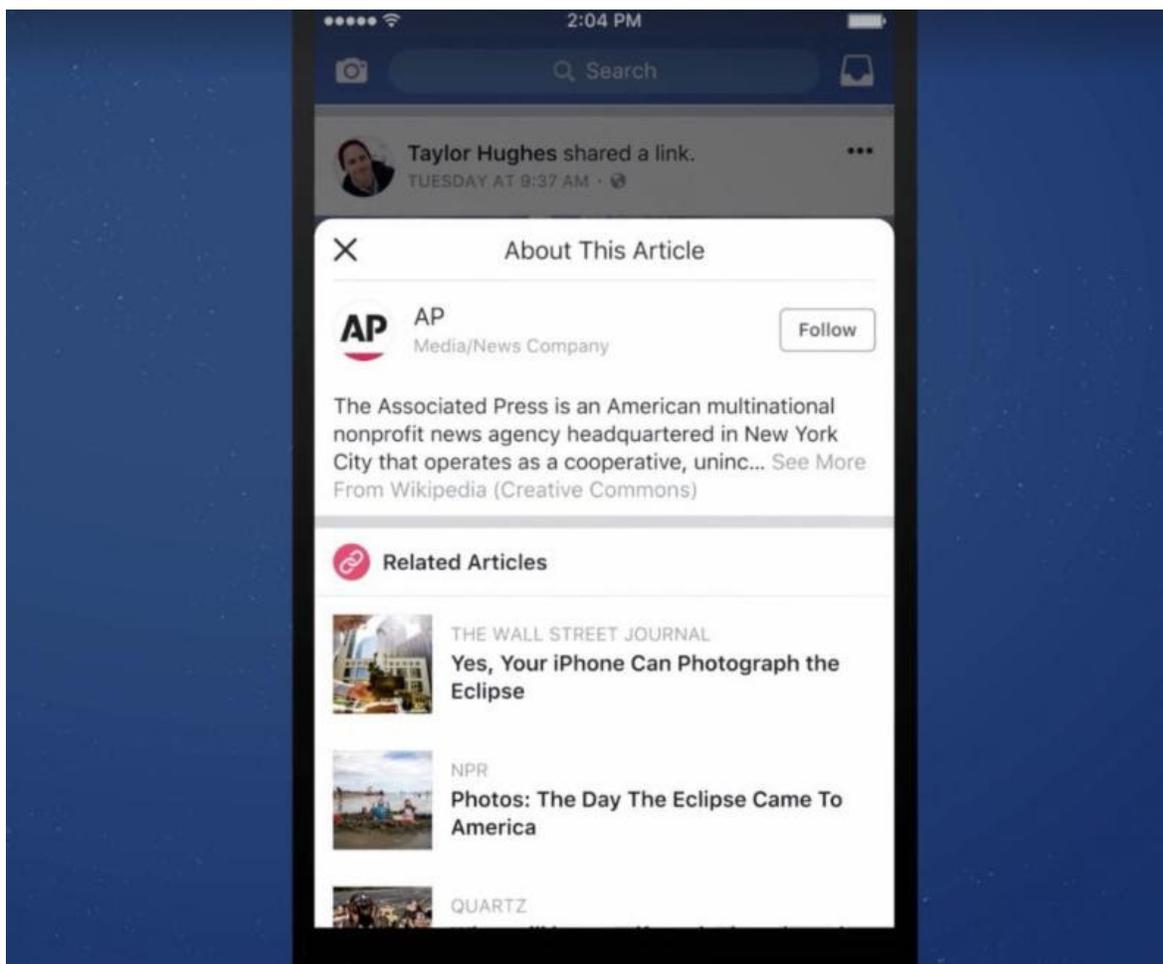


Photo via Facebook

Facebook's previous attempts to get things straight have at times bordered on laughable. Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg seems quite proud that he has hired thousands of humans to "curate" -- geekspeak for edit -- submissions but these humans too often lack not only journalistic training but common sense.

Case in point: I recently tried to "boost" (i.e. advertise) a story on [Rx411](#) one of my struggling news and information sites. I had already posted a brief excerpt on the site's Facebook page. Boosting it would have inserted it into thousands of users' newsfeeds, thus generating more traffic.



Rx411

Published by Jim Hood [?] · October 3 at 2:52pm · 



Smoother foreheads promised ...

<https://www.rx411.com/.../botox-fda-approved-treatment-foreh.../>



Botox wins FDA approval to treat forehead wrinkles - Rx411

Botox has won FDA approval for temporary treatment of moderate to severe forehead lines. It was already approved for crow's feet lines and glabellar lines.

RX411.COM
Learn More

140 people reached
 Not Boosted

Photo via Rx411

This was not to be, however. In no time at all, I received an email telling me the post did not meet Facebook's standards. Why? I asked.

Came the response: "The image depicts a body or body parts in an undesirable manner. Ads may not depict a state of health or body weight as being perfect or extremely undesirable."

There seems to be something a bit amiss when a rather dull health information site can't write about the FDA approving a new application for a drug that has been around seemingly forever. It reminds me of being in high school, when the principal had to approve all bulletin board postings.

The same site, Rx411, is also on Google's no-go list, apparently because, besides news stories, it contains label information for all 30,000+ FDA-approved drugs and Medicare ratings for all U.S. hospitals and nursing homes. Google regards this as duplicative content, dismissing arguments that assembling all this information in one

easy-to-navigate site is a service to readers. If, however, we hired Russians to make up drug information, that would presumably be deemed "original" content and thus given more prominent placement.

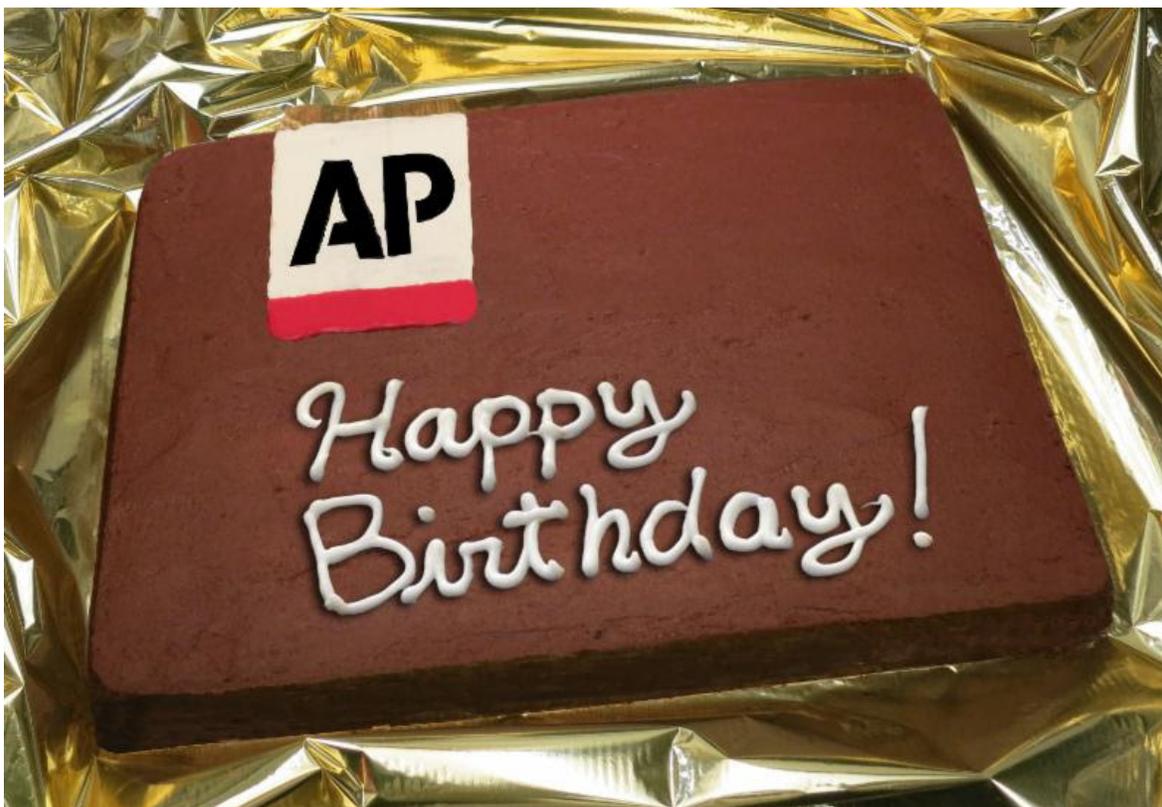
It's hard for some people -- reasonable people especially -- to understand how such things can happen but it's fairly easy for me, having been exposed to the internal workings of the cyberworld for the last few decades. It's a place where people actually say things like, "Well, this is the last time I put a journalist in charge of the news operation." You can imagine the circumstances under which this phrase was uttered so I won't bore you with the details.

More Time at the Office



Photo credit: Medium.com

Those on their death bed are seldom thought to wish they had spent more time at the office. But not the late Mark Mooney. The longtime New York reporter and editor died last month at 66 of prostate cancer, and according to a posthumously published essay, would have welcomed many more months and years at his keyboard. When he got the fatal prognosis, Mooney did what so many journalists do -- he began to write about, writing a blog aptly named "Closing in on -30-." Read more [here](#).



Connecting wishes Happy Birthday

Sue Price Johnson - sue.price.johnson@gmail.com

Connecting Mailbox

No free press

Marc Wilson ([Email](#)) -- We are on a University of Colorado Alumni tour. Beijing, Tibet, Shanghai, and other major points of interest in the People's Republic of China. Pandas, Terra-cotta soldiers and all the sites. Chinese state-owned media excited about Trump's upcoming visit. One of our early stops was the Great Wall (see photo). Our Chinese guide is very good. His grandfather was imprisoned in the Cultural Revolution. Our Tibetan guide is very good, too. He has hinted at the Buddhas destroyed during the Cultural Revolution. Armed Chinese soldiers everywhere in Tibet.

Wordsmithy photographers

Chris Connell ([Email](#)) -- I always admired the storytelling skills of our staff photographers, never more so than when I was on the White House beat in Bush Sr.'s administration and got to spend weeks at a time seeing close up how Doug Mills, Ron Edmunds, Scotty Applewhite and others operated in Kennebunkport.

Their abilities as master storytellers were really driven home in my stint as ACOB at the end of my career in Washington when I'd put on the occasional dog-and-pony show for visiting students and our kids on Take Your Child to Work Days. I'd ask an ace reporter or two and a photographer to prepare short remarks. The writers seldom did, preferring to wing it, and the photographers always did, holding the kids rapt. Of course, they had better props. Mills came in once with that week's issue of

Time with a shot of his on the cover.

Want a superlative with that?

Dave Tomlin ([Email](#)) -
- Dennis Montgomery's meditation on superlatives in news reports reminded me of an item I read years ago in the New York Times's Metropolitan Diary column. The writer said he went to brunch downtown with friends. After one friend ordered, the waitress said "Great choice!" When the next friend ordered, she said, "That's my personal favorite." But when the writer added his own selection, all she said was "Okay, got it." As she turned to leave, he quipped, "Hey, don't I get a superlative too?" The waitress looked a little confused, then replied, "Uh, I think yours comes with hash browns."

Today In History - Oct. 9, 2017



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Oct. 9, the 282nd day of 2017. There are 83 days left in the year. On Oct. 9, 1936, the first generator at Boulder (later Hoover) Dam began transmitting electricity to Los Angeles.

On this date:

In 1446, the Korean alphabet, created under the aegis of King Sejong, was first published.

In 1514, Mary Tudor, the 18-year-old sister of Henry VIII, became Queen consort of France upon her marriage to 52-year-old King Louis XII, who died less than three months later.

In 1776, a group of Spanish missionaries settled in present-day San Francisco.

In 1888, the public was first admitted to the Washington Monument.

In 1914, the Belgian city of Antwerp fell to German forces during World War I.

In 1946, the Eugene O'Neill drama "The Iceman Cometh" opened at the Martin Beck Theater in New York.

In 1958, Pope Pius XII died at age 82, ending a 19-year papacy. (He was succeeded by Pope John XXIII.)

In 1966, the Baltimore Orioles won their first World Series as they swept the Los Angeles Dodgers in four games with a 1-0 victory at Memorial Stadium.

In 1975, Soviet scientist Andrei Sakharov (AHN'-dray SAHK'-ah-rawf) was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

In 1985, the hijackers of the Achille Lauro (ah-KEE'-leh LOW'-roh) cruise liner surrendered two days after seizing the vessel in the Mediterranean. (Passenger Leon Klinghoffer was killed by the hijackers during the standoff.)

In 1995, a sabotaged section of track caused an Amtrak train, the Sunset Limited, to derail in Arizona; one person was killed and about 80 were injured (the case remains unsolved).

In 2009, President Barack Obama was named the recipient of the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize for what the Norwegian Nobel Committee called "his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples."

Ten years ago: North Korea faced a barrage of condemnation and calls for retaliation after it announced that it had set off a small atomic weapon underground; President George W. Bush said, "The international community will respond." Google Inc. announced it was snapping up YouTube Inc. for \$1.65 billion in a stock deal.

American Edmund S. Phelps won the Nobel prize for economics.

Five years ago: At least 27 people were killed and more than 200 injured during massive clashes in downtown Cairo in the worst sectarian outburst since the February revolution. The NHL returned to Winnipeg after 15 years; Carey Price stopped 30 shots as the Montreal Canadiens put a damper on a massive civic celebration with a 5-1 victory over the Jets. The Milwaukee Brewers beat the St. Louis Cardinals 9-6 in Game 1 of the National League Championship Series. Sir Paul McCartney married Nancy Shevell at Old Marylebone Town Hall in London. One year ago: President Barack Obama visited Roseburg, Oregon, the scene of a community college shooting which had claimed the lives of nine victims as well as the gunman; the president met with victims' relatives, but also faced protests from legal gun owners. A democracy group, the Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet, won the Nobel Peace Prize for its contributions to the first and most successful Arab Spring movement. Former British Treasury chief and foreign secretary Geoffrey Howe, 88, died in Warwickshire, England.

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.

Paul Stevens
 Editor, Connecting newsletter
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10/19/2017

Gmail - Connecting - October 09, 2017

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