



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

Connecting - October 11, 2017

1 message

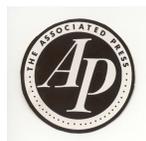
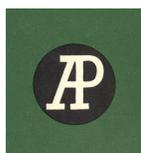
Jim Hood, Interloper <jimhood44@gmail.com>

Wed, Oct 11, 2017 at 5:01 AM

Reply-To: jimhood44@gmail.com

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Connecting

October 11, 2017

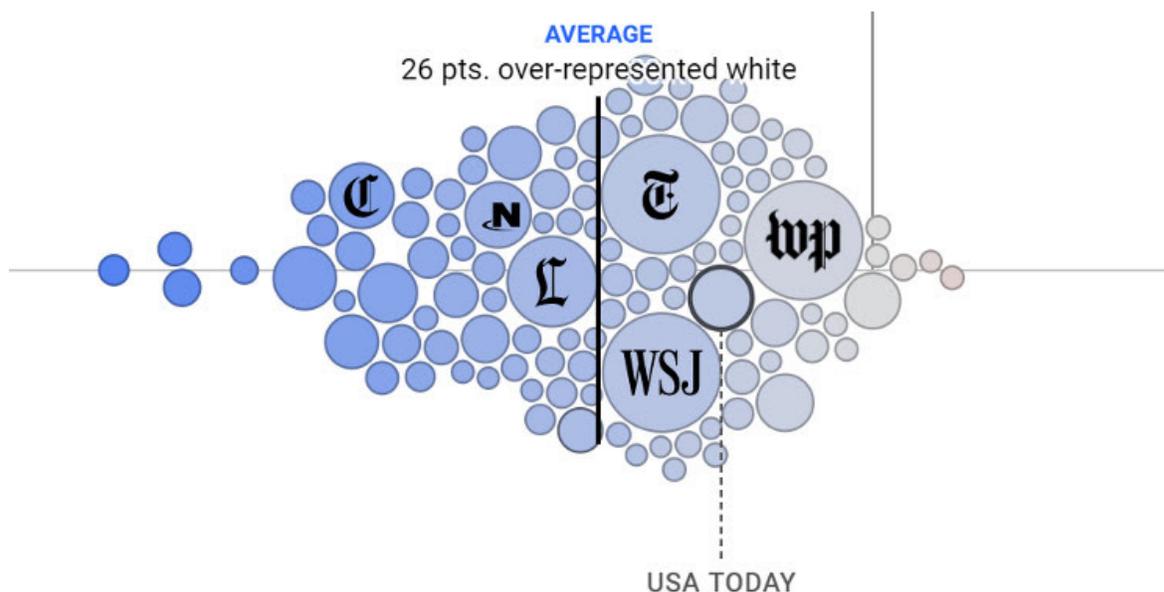
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SNE finds slump in newsroom diversity



The annual newsroom diversity survey from the American Society of News Editors shows slight decreases in diversity at American newsrooms compared with last year.

ASNE surveyed 598 newspapers and 63 online-only news sites and found:

- People of color made up 16.55 percent of those surveyed, down from 16.94 in 2016. In daily newspapers, 16.31 percent were minorities, compared with 16.65 last year. In digital-only newsrooms, 24.3 percent were minorities, compared with 23.3 last year.
- Women made up 38.9 percent of employees at daily newspapers, and 47.8 percent of online-only publications, both slightly up from the year before.
- Larger news organizations had more journalists of color, at 23.4 percent this year compared with 23.7 percent in 2016 at newsrooms with daily circulation of 500,000 or more.

This year, Google News Labs created visualizations to see how newsrooms are doing in terms of gender, race and ethnicity and leadership compared with the places they covered.

"It's important to paint a picture of how newsrooms are changing and visualizing that against the communities they report on in a way that is easy to understand," said LaToya Drake, inclusive storytelling lead for the Google News Lab, in a press release. "We hope this presentation is one the industry will value. We believe inclusion is crucial to creating media that opens us up to new perspectives on significant issues of our time, and this partnership with ASNE is a step in that direction."

For instance, the Poynter-owned Tampa Bay Times has 86 percent of leaders who are white, with 83 percent overall newsroom employees who are white, compared with 56 percent of the population.

Leadership at The Dallas Morning News is 87 percent white, with 78 percent of the overall newsroom who are white, compared with 29 percent of the population.

The Washington Post has leadership who are 73 percent white, a newsroom that's 69 percent white and a population that's 61 percent white. Half of the editors at the Post are women.

You can explore the results for yourself [here](#).

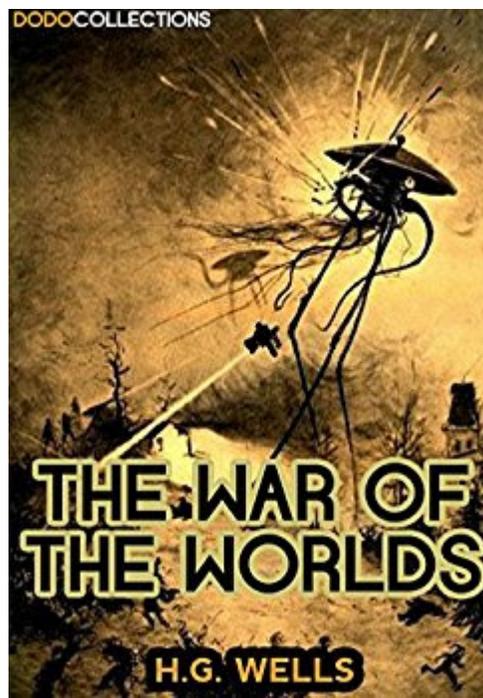
Martians in New Jersey

If anyone doubted that Americans could be taken in by fake news, Orson Welles proved them wrong 79 years ago with his "The War of the Worlds" broadcast, a fake news report about martians landing in New Jersey. It was, of course, meant to be a drama whereas much of today's fake news is propaganda, whose originators are purposely trying to mislead the recipients.

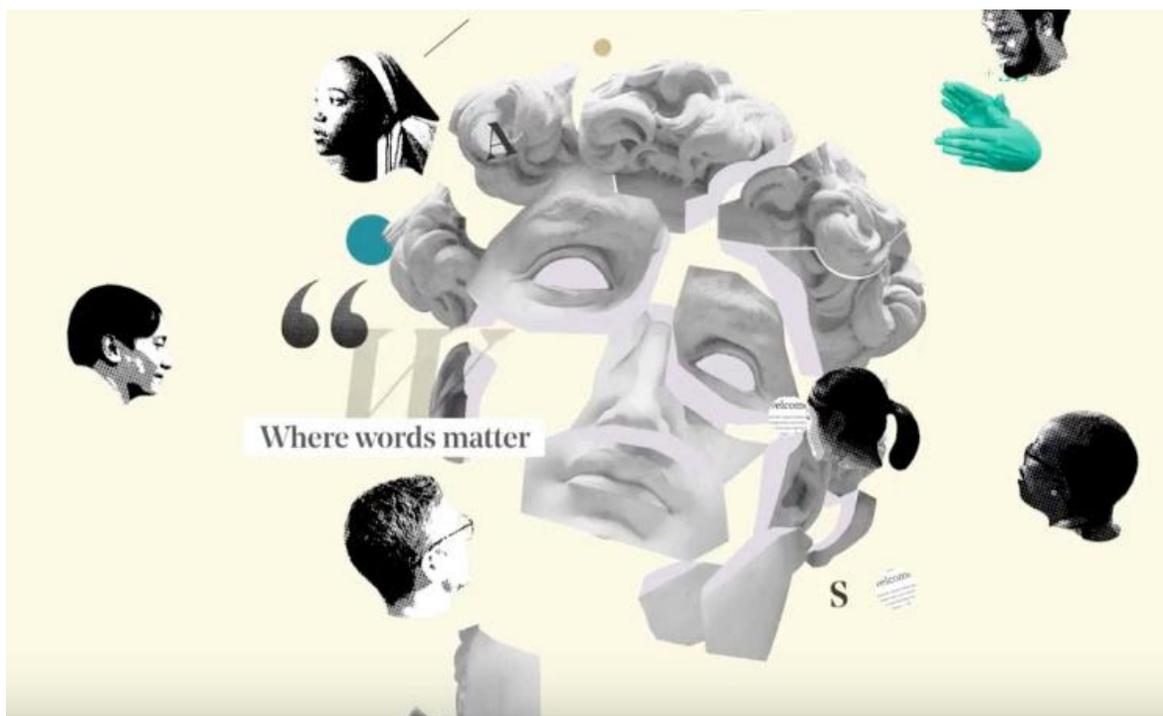
Welles' broadcast may have resulted in some sleepless nights but it's not known to have caused any serious harm. That's not the case, however, with today's epidemic of fake news, which often has very real consequences, the Columbia Journalism Review points out in its current issue.

David Wheeler lost a child in the 2012 Sandy Hook school massacre. His suffering has been multiplied by the charges of Second Amendment advocate and conspiracy theorist Alex Jones of Infowars, who have accused Wheeler of falsifying his child's murder as part of a campaign to undermine gun rights.

"It has been incredibly painful to have to live through this, to have to face this kind of thing for the offense of speaking publicly, but it comes back to something I landed on days after. From this point forward, are you going to make your decisions out of fear or out of love? I don't always succeed, but I try like hell to not have my decisions come out of fear," Wheeler is quoted as saying. Read the entire story [here](#).



Medium has a message



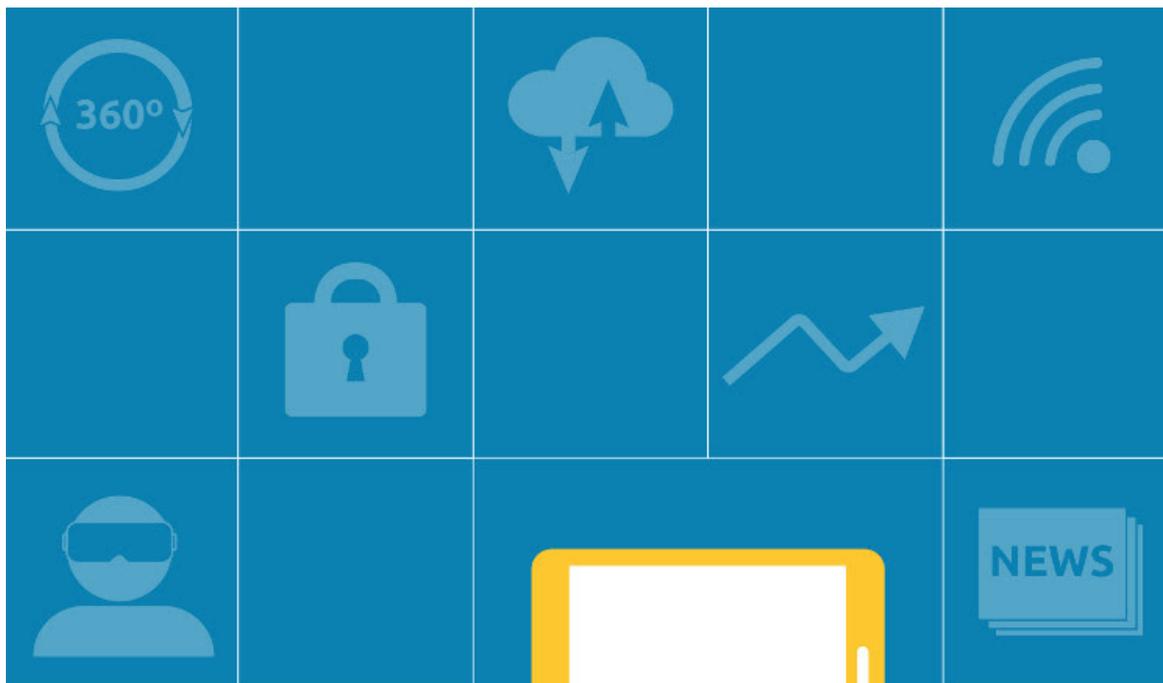
Most of us learned long ago not to expect big bucks from our writing. I remember the first stringer check I got from AP. It was for exactly \$1. Many of the struggling magazines I wrote for back in the day paid nothing at all. I tried to avoid lunching with editors because I feared being stuck with the check.

But now there is a new way to avoid raking in big bucks for your best work: Medium. It's a website that lets just about anyone write about just about anything, with a new added twist: you can choose to have your gems locked up behind a paywall, available only to those willing to pay for it.

The program started with little fanfare a few months ago and was open to only writers who had published frequently on the site. A few reported making more than they expected, a few hundred dollars in some cases. Now that the paywall option is open to all writers, it's likely the payouts will be more modest.

Those with time and talent to spare may want to check it out, however. Learn more [here](#).

How digitally deft are newsrooms?



Not enough, is the short answer according to a new global ICFJ report, released last week at the Online News Association conference in D.C. The survey, conducted with Georgetown University over the summer in 12 languages, found that many news organizations don't yet have the "digital-first" mindset.

Training, in particular, often fails to fulfill journalists' wants and needs. The journalists surveyed report wanting different skills training than what their newsrooms actually offered. Fifty-two percent said they wanted data journalism training, compared to 40 percent of newsrooms that actually offered it. Nine percent of journalists reported interdepartmental collaboration as a priority, while 22 percent of newsrooms offered training in it. And only 22 percent of journalists report wanting social media verification training, though 46 percent of newsrooms offer it.

The survey also found that of the 21 metrics it asked about - ranging from pageviews to clickthrough rate to engaged time - "only five are used regularly by the majority of newsrooms." You can read the complete study [here](#).

What did Google know -- and when?

President Trump has been talking about reinstating the Fairness Doctrine for broadcasters but pressure is building from the other side of the political aisle to bring more transparency to online advertising. The latest revelation adding fuel to that fire comes from Google, which has found evidence that Russian agents bought advertising on its search engine and content networks to influence the 2016 presidential election.

Russian agents purchased \$4,700 worth of ads, according to a New York Times report.

Facebook earlier conceded that Russian interests had used its platform to influence the election, and others may also be drawn into the investigation. Microsoft says it is examining whether Russian money flowed into its advertising network. Google and

Facebook already face hearings before various Congressional committees. Read more [here](#).

Shots fired, words exchanged



Photo (c) AdobeStock

The Trump presidency has produced at least one effect favorable to the much-abused press: Trump's over-the-top denunciations of "failing media" and "fake news" have actually silenced our usual critics and even elicited an occasional word or two of support from a few of them. We should enjoy this while it lasts, for it surely will not last long, media criticism being somewhat endemic to a free society.

An example from 1981, back when I was General Broadcast Editor (when there was still such a thing) of the AP: I ran the New York department that produced the national broadcast wire and also tried to coordinate and cheerlead the state broadcast reports. This latter task had taken me to the Dallas bureau, where I was waiting around hoping someone would offer to take me out for TexMex, when we received word that President Reagan had been shot outside the Washington Hilton.

Ironically, the manager of the Hilton had taken me on a tour of the hotel just weeks before, with special emphasis on the "Hall of Presidents," a rather dismal passageway lined with photos of presidents long dead and gone. It led to a special exit that allowed visiting potentates to slip out of the hotel without walking through the lobby, supposedly enhancing their safety. It turned out, of course, to also be a good place to stand around while waiting to shoot the President, as the young John Hinckley did that March morning.

Upon learning of this, I hightailed it to the airport while the super-efficient bureau secretary -- Anne, I believe? -- called American Airlines on my behalf. Soon, I was ushered aboard and led to the last remaining seat on the next flight to LaGuardia,

seat 2A. I knew this meant a session with Treasurer James Tomlinson's enforcers but thought it worth the price.

The captain was a loquacious sort. He initially regaled us with the -- to him -- fascinating news that Vice President George H.W. Bush's Air Force 2 had just lifted off from Houston, headed for D.C. "He's going straight in and flat out while we're being vectored around at milk run speeds," the captain carped.

He then turned his attention to radio reports of the shooting, passing on his interpretation of events. "As usual, the media has everything screwed up and confused," he fumed. "First it's one thing, then it's another."

After half an hour or so of this, I took out an AP business card, turned it over and inscribed: "Sir, you are paid for your work, not your opinions." I asked the flight attendant to take it to the captain and tell him it was from the passenger in 2A. She snickered and slipped into the cockpit.

The intercom fell silent and we completed the trip in peace.

The broadcast wire had done just fine without me, as it turned out. But DC-based APRadio's coverage was deemed inadequate by many members. Hell was raised, and it was decided that someone had to head south to "get Washington straightened out" (an assignment that has been a career-ender in one company after another).

Thus, while John Hinckley was being found insane and confined to St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Washington's leading mental institution, I was being found slightly sane and ordered confined to APRadio, not officially a mental institution but having certain similarities. Hinckley was recently released. I'm still here (though no longer with AP). Washington, last I heard, is still not straightened out.

She's gray but not grey

Colleen Newvine Tebeau ([email](#)):



Colleen & colleague

"I first started thinking about letting my gray show when I started at AP. Being the young one on a team with TES, TRB, JOL ... I thought it might help me look more like I had the experience to contribute to the team. I just wasn't ready to give up being a redhead, and my stylist thought it was the funniest request when I wanted to color just my naturally brown hair and let the gray show through.

"I think in general, men are considered "distinguished" when they go gray. Think of all the old network TV news anchors, who were serious and authoritative. Graying women don't get revered as having gravitas, they get shoved aside and replaced as Business Insider recently [reported](#).

"I'm fighting back. :-)"

Editor's note: Colleen is the product manager for the AP Stylebook. She added to her email: "I still have to look this up on Stylebook Online EVERY time -- gray. Not grey. But: greyhound." And I, interloping Connecting editor, must still look up "stylebook" every time, not being able to remember whether it's one word or two. This is why, when asked to conjure up a new broadcast stylebook, I dubbed it the "AP Broadcast News Handbook." Easier to remember.

Correction

In Monday's Connecting, we said that John Filo had been an AP photographer at the time he snapped his Pulitzer-winning Kent State photo. In fact, he was a student and free lancer at the time, joining AP a bit later. Connecting regrets the error and will take corrective action against the perpetrator.

Today in History

By The Associated Press



On Oct. 11, 1986, President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev opened two days of talks concerning arms control and human rights in Reykjavik, Iceland.

On this date:

In 1779, Polish nobleman Casimir Pulaski, fighting for American independence, died two days after being wounded during the Revolutionary War Battle of Savannah, Georgia.

In 1890, the Daughters of the American Revolution was founded in Washington, D.C.

In 1905, the Juilliard School was founded as the Institute of Musical Art in New York.

In 1910, Theodore Roosevelt became the first former U.S. president to fly in an airplane during a visit to St. Louis.

In 1932, the first American political telecast took place as the Democratic National Committee sponsored a program from a CBS television studio in New York.

In 1944, the classic films "To Have and Have Not," starring Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall, and "Laura," starring Gene Tierney and Dana Andrews, opened in New York.

In 1958, the lunar probe Pioneer 1 was launched; it failed to go as far out as planned, fell back to Earth, and burned up in the atmosphere.

In 1968, Apollo 7, the first manned Apollo mission, was launched with astronauts Wally Schirra, Donn Fulton Eisele and R. Walter Cunningham aboard. The government of Panama was overthrown in a military coup.

In 1975, Bill Clinton and Hillary Diane Rodham were married in Fayetteville, Arkansas. "NBC Saturday Night" (later "Saturday Night Live") made its debut with guest host George Carlin.

In 1984, Challenger astronaut Kathryn D. Sullivan became the first American woman to walk in space as she and fellow Mission Specialist David C. Leestma spent 3 1/2 hours outside the shuttle.

In 1985, Arab-American activist Alex Odeh was killed by a bomb blast in Santa Ana, California. (The case remains unsolved.)

In 1991, testifying before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Anita Hill accused Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas of sexually harassing her; Thomas re-appeared before the panel to denounce the proceedings as a "high-tech lynching."

In 2002, former President Jimmy Carter was named the recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.

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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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