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Connecting - November 09, 2017

1 message

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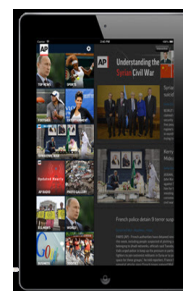
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Connecting

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of the Teletype



Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning!

To friends and former colleagues of **Max Desfor**, who celebrated his 104th birthday on Wednesday, comes this note from his son **Barry**:

"Dad has enjoyed hearing from his former AP colleagues. He is still living comfortably in his Silver Spring, MD apartment. His comprehension is quite limited now, and he has good days and bad days. Communication can be difficult, as Dad is suffering from some vision and hearing loss. But on the rare good days, Dad can comprehend and follow conversations. Thanks to all of you for remembering him so kindly."

We extend congratulations to **Errin Haines Whack**, AP's newly named race and ethnicity writer.

And be sure to read another memory of the late **Susan Linnee** and the story she wrote for the AAA after weighing a python as part of a CIA job interview. **Monte Hays** tells the tale for his Connecting colleagues.

We will salute **Connecting military veterans** in Friday's edition - so if you have not yet submitted the favorite memory you have of your military service, it's not too late. Send along today.

Paul

Errin Haines Whack named AP's race and ethnicity writer

Deputy Managing Editor for U.S. News Noreen Gillespie announced a key appointment Tuesday, sending this memo to staff:

I am pleased to announce that **Errin Haines Whack** has been appointed AP's Race and Ethnicity Writer.

This national writer-level position will place a dedicated, full-time reporter focused on issues of race, culture and politics who can help us with rapid response around stories such as Charlottesville and Ferguson and the recent NFL protests. It will also help us bring a higher profile to the already strong work being done by the Race and Ethnicity team. Errin brings a passion for the topic, a history of breaking news within it and sees how the AP can be a leader with its coverage.

To understand why she's an ideal choice for the position, it's best to listen to how she describes the opportunity:

"I believe we have an opportunity to lead conversation on these issues as the world's largest newsgathering organization - not just in major outlets, but in the small cities and towns between the coasts, with communities and newsrooms that



may lack the demographics or resources to have such discussions, and for the international audience that is fascinated by America's racial dynamics," she said.

We couldn't agree more.

In the role, Errin will continue to collaborate closely with Race and Ethnicity team leader Sonya Ross, and report to newly-appointed News Editor for National Beats Josh Hoffner.

Errin's first journalism job was at The Atlanta Daily World, one of the oldest continuously published black newspapers in the country. She has sought to make race a part of every position since. As part of the Atlanta bureau from 2005 to 2012, she covered urban affairs and focused on historically black colleges, the legacy of the civil rights movement, voting rights, black politics and the black electorate. She joined the Washington Post in 2012, where she joined the team covering Virginia politics, and covered the intersection of race, politics and culture for a variety of outlets before returning to AP in Philadelphia in 2015. Since then, she has been a leading member of the Race and Ethnicity beat team.

She was recently honored by the Philadelphia Association of Black Journalists as its print journalist of the year.

Please join me in congratulating Errin. We're excited to see everything ahead with her in this role.

Connecting mailbox

Happy birthday, Max Desfor - wish I could have met you

John Epperson ([Email](#)) - The feature in Wednesday's Connecting on the career and images from Max Desfor are incredible. His photos from Korean conflict and India will stand the test of time... virtually forever.

Happy birthday Max, wish I could have met you.

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Susan Linnee and weighing a six-foot python for the CIA

Monte Hays ([Email](#)) - Susan Linnee and I worked together in the early 80s on the overnight shift at the World Desk. One night she arrived at midnight grinning from ear to ear and told me the following story:

The CIA was interviewing people for jobs, so she decided to apply to see what it involved. When she got to the building someplace in Manhattan, she was told that one of the things the agency wanted to check was how she could handle a task under pressure. The officers then proceeded to put her into a room with a 6-foot python and a set of scales. They told her that her job was to weigh the snake.

At that point I would have told the CIA to shove its job, but not Susan. She quickly decided to let the python wrap itself around her. She then stepped onto the scales and weighed herself and the snake. She somehow got the serpent off her (not easy, I assume), got back on the scales, deducted her weight and figured how much the python weighed.

It must have blown the CIA officers' minds, but Susan was delighted with the experience. She quickly wrote a story about the whole experience and filed it directly onto the world wire without waiting for the dayside supervisor.

I clearly remember how much trouble I had with my editing tasks the rest of the night.

I couldn't stop thinking about what it felt like to have a 6-foot python wrapped around me.

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Susan Linnee on assignment in Abidjan



Susan Linnee is shown writing a story from her apartment office in Abidjan in this photo from an AP World issue of 1982. Thanks to Francesca Pitaro of AP Corporate Archives for finding and sharing the photo, Susan died Monday in Minneapolis at the age of 75.

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In the aftermath of Sutherland Spring Baptist Church shootings



Vice President Mike Pence and his wife Karen, visit with family and victims of the shooting at the Sutherland Spring Baptist Church as Sen. Ted Cruz, foreground right, prays with a woman on Nov. 8 in Floresville, Texas. Eric Gay/AP Photo

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The teletype bells ring - and it's a race to read the shocking news

Gene Herrick ([Email](#)) - Where Was I When JFK Was Killed?

When the teletype bells echoed through the Minneapolis AP newsroom, with that never forgettable clang that signals a highly important news event, I ran to the printer and read the shocking news that President John F. Kennedy had been shot.

It is almost impossible to describe shock. One's mind runs rampant with anxiety, wonderment, and memories of covering the man, whose behavior, actions, and personality upset the political world.

To much of the nation John F. Kennedy was a symbol of family, attractiveness, and hope I felt those emotions that day.

I remembered well traveling with Kennedy during the presidential primary in various parts of Wisconsin, including Milwaukee, and another time when he spoke to the Montana Democratic convention in Helena. I was pulled off the National Governor's Convention in Glacier National Park to fly there for coverage. I remember covering JFK in Iowa during a stopover. My last coverage of JFK was in Duluth, MN., just one week before he was assassinated in Dallas.

I had an odd feeling that I remembered being in the Minneapolis office all day, and all night, on election night when Kennedy was finally elected to the presidency. Minnesota brought in the final tally from far northern Minnesota border in the morning - a tally that put him over the top to win the presidency.

Within minutes of Kennedy being shot in Dallas, Executive Newsphoto Editor Al Resch in New York called me and told me about the killing, and to get my stuff together, and be on standby to fly to Dallas to help out on coverage. About an hour later he called to say they were able to get some staff from closer bureaus.

I had an odd chill of figuratively being there at the beginning and almost at the time end.

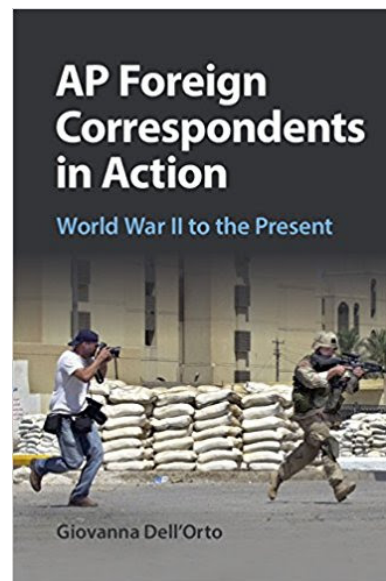
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Dell'Orto's book underscores significance of the AP

Charlie Hanley ([Email](#)) - sends along a review of Connecting colleague Giovanna dell'Orto's book *AP Foreign Correspondents in Action* (Cambridge University Press, 2016), noting that the review itself, by a Cal State-Fullerton historian, is quite a tribute to the work of APers over generations. (Note it also gets wrong the country where Terry Anderson was held hostage.)

It begins:

An interview with a killer of thousands in Cambodia.
The aftermath of a nuclear reactor meltdown in Japan.
The nagging sense that any story from France should



mention the Eiffel Tower or wine. From the grave to the gratuitous, Associated Press (AP) foreign correspondents have told the story of the world beyond US borders. Giovanna Dell'Orto's study of reporting practices abroad underscores the significance of the AP, which has evolved from its origins in 1846 to today's journalistic giant providing news to roughly half the world's population via two thousand stories per day. Historians will find much to ponder in Dell'Orto's work.

Read more [here](#).

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Sparking a memory of the AP writing test and the lemonade stand story

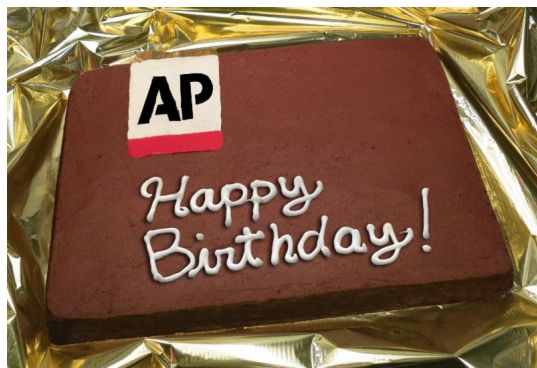
Mark Mittelstadt ([Email](#)) - For those who recall grading countless lemonade stand stories from the AP writing test, this may be of interest. This appeared on the Marana, Ariz., Police Department Facebook page today with this caption:



Marana Police Department

...because when you see a lemonade stand while patrolling, stopping with the squad is mandatory...#MaranaPD YouUsedOrganicSugarRight# BurpeesLaterToBurnItOff

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Andale Gross - sonofpauncho@yahoo.com

Stories of interest

'The Post' trailer is out, and it shows how little many newsrooms have changed (Poynter)



By KRISTEN HARE

The trailer for "The Post" is out, and if you can keep from fixating on Tom Hanks' attempt at a Ben Bradlee growl, you may notice something else - the fictional newsroom doesn't look all that unfamiliar.

There are two reasons. One, it's mostly full of white men. And two, it's mostly full of fluorescent lighting.

"The Post," which comes out early next year in wide release, stars Meryl Streep as Katharine Graham, "the first female publisher of a major American newspaper, and Hanks plays the paper's editor, Ben Bradlee - both of whom risk their careers and personal security to help expose a cover-up of government secrets spanning three decades and four presidents," according to Rolling Stone.

In a time when people have a lot of different feelings about journalism versus the government, Steven Spielberg's telling of "The Post" and the Pentagon Papers may feel satisfying, depending on those feelings.

But the sameness of how many newsrooms still look is not satisfying at all.

Read more [here](#).

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As 'Meet the Press' turns 70, Chuck Todd reflects on the high-stakes pressures journalists face (Poynter)



BY JAMES WARREN

It now seems so remarkably quaint.

Back in the 1990s Chuck Todd, the young and maniacally sober editor of what was a Daily Racing Form for politics junkies called the Hotline, would surface on C-Span for 20 or 30 minutes and exhibit an almost confounding micro-knowledge of American elections.

He knew about this congressional race in Florida and that race in Idaho, as well as how much money was being spent, the names of consultants and what the issues were. He got to speak for minutes on end about a race or a candidate. He delved into minutiae that was engrossing but - or so I thought - certainly not for a broader audience beyond a small universe in the nation's capital.

And imagine this: You could get his handiwork, which was the brainchild of a serial entrepreneur named Doug Bailey, messengered to you in downtown Washington and even later by fax machine! Further, it would include summaries of political stories from just a day or two earlier in faraway newspapers in Omaha, Dallas, Seattle and Albany. Wow! No need for snail mail to learn about unrest in Georgia's 4th District.

Fast-forward and NBC's "Meet the Press," now hosted by Todd, is celebrating its 70th birthday and asserting a claim as TV's longest-running show. He's a multi-platform presence, with Sunday's top-rated morning show the hitching post. And the data crunching, and references to stories elsewhere, which seemed novel, even a tad obscure, is now a pro forma part of mainstream political journalism.

Read more [here](#).

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We Asked Local Newsrooms to Pitch Us on Funding Investigations. The Response Has Been Enormous. (ProPublica)

By ERIC UMANSKY

Last month, we announced a project in which ProPublica would pay for a reporter next year to do investigative journalism at up to six news organizations across the country.

Our theory was that many journalists and local news organizations were aching to do this kind of work, which is vital to our democracy, but have been hamstrung by constraints on resources and time. By offering financial and editorial support, we figured we could help create a path for crucial accountability journalism that wouldn't otherwise be done.

So how's our theory working out? Last week, a few of us guessed how many applications we'd get. The smart money was on 75. (No, we didn't actually bet money.) By the time the deadline hit on Sunday, we'd gotten 239.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - November 9, 2017



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Nov. 9, the 313th day of 2017. There are 52 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 9, 1967, a Saturn V rocket carrying an unmanned Apollo spacecraft blasted off from Cape Kennedy on a successful test flight.

On this date:

In 1620, the passengers and crew of the Mayflower sighted Cape Cod.

In 1872, fire destroyed nearly 800 buildings in Boston.

In 1918, it was announced that Germany's Kaiser Wilhelm II would abdicate. He then fled to the Netherlands.

In 1935, United Mine Workers president John L. Lewis and other labor leaders formed the Committee for Industrial Organization (later renamed the Congress of Industrial Organizations).

In 1938, Nazis looted and burned synagogues, as well as Jewish-owned stores and houses in Germany and Austria, in a pogrom that became known as

"Kristallnacht."

In 1952, Chaim Weizmann, the first president of Israel, died.

In 1965, the great Northeast blackout began as a series of power failures lasting up to 13 hours left 30 million people in seven states and part of Canada without electricity.

In 1970, former French President Charles de Gaulle died at age 79.

In 1976, the U.N. General Assembly approved resolutions condemning apartheid in South Africa, including one characterizing the white-ruled government as "illegitimate."

In 1986, Israel revealed it was holding Mordechai Vanunu, a former nuclear technician who'd vanished after providing information to a British newspaper about Israel's nuclear weapons program. (Vanunu was convicted of treason and served 18 years in prison.)

In 1989, communist East Germany threw open its borders, allowing citizens to travel freely to the West; joyous Germans danced atop the Berlin Wall.

In 1999, with fireworks, concerts and a huge party at the landmark Brandenburg Gate, Germany celebrated the 10th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Ten years ago: Six U.S. troops died in an insurgent ambush in the high mountains of eastern Afghanistan, making 2007 the deadliest year for American forces in Afghanistan since 2001. President Gen. Pervez Musharraf (pur-VEHZ' moo-SHAH'-ruhv) of Pakistan placed opposition leader Benazir Bhutto (BEN'-uh-zeer BOO'-toh) under house arrest for a day, and rounded up thousands of her supporters to block a mass rally against his emergency rule.

Five years ago: Retired four-star Army Gen. David Petraeus abruptly resigned as CIA director after an affair with his biographer, Paula Broadwell, was revealed by an FBI investigation. Thousands of union bakers went on strike against Hostess Brands, Inc., to protest cuts to wages and benefits under a new contract offer. (Hostess responded by shutting down its operations and selling its assets to new owners who revived the Hostess brand.)

One year ago: Democrat Hillary Clinton conceded the presidential election to Republican Donald Trump, telling supporters in New York that her defeat was "painful, and it will be for a long time." But Clinton told her faithful to accept Trump and the election results, urging them to give him "an open mind and a chance to lead."

Today's Birthdays: Baseball Hall of Famer Whitey Herzog is 86. Baseball Hall of Famer Bob Gibson is 82. Actor Charlie Robinson is 72. Movie director Bille August is 69. Actor Robert David Hall is 69. Actor Lou Ferrigno is 66. Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, is 65. Gospel singer Donnie McClurkin is 58. Rock musician Dee Plakas (L7) is 57. Actress Ion Overman is 48. Rapper Pepa (Salt-N-Pepa) is 48. Rapper Scarface (Geto Boys) is 47. Blues singer Susan Tedeschi (teh-DEHS'-kee) is 47. Actor Jason Antoon is 46. Actor Eric Dane is 45. Singer Nick Lachey (98 Degrees) is 44. Country musician Barry Knox (Parmalee) is 40. Rhythm-and-blues singer Sisqo (Dru Hill) is 39. Country singer Corey Smith is 38. Country singer Chris Lane is 33. Actress Nikki Blonsky is 29. Actress-model Analeigh (AH'-nuh-lee) Tipton is 29.

Thought for Today: "I think charm is the ability to be truly interested in other people." - Richard Avedon, American fashion photographer (1923-2004).

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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