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Connecting - April 03, 2018

1 message

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Connecting

April 03, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning!

Are you a phubber?

"Phubbing" - snubbing someone you're talking to to look at a cell phone - may not be part of your everyday vocabulary," writes **Jamie Ducharme** in Time Magazine, "but it's almost certainly part of your everyday life. Just think about how often a conversation stalls because your friends (or you) have pulled out a phone and descended into an Instagram black hole."

Ducharme reports that the phenomenon may seem like a relatively harmless, if annoying, part of modern life, but research is finding that it may be hurting your relationships. "Ironically, phubbing is meant to connect you, presumably, with someone through social media or texting," says Emma Seppälä, a psychologist at Stanford and Yale universities and author of the Happiness Track. "But it actually can severely disrupt your present-moment, in-person relationships."

[Click here](#) to read more about what you need to know about phubbing.

In Monday's Connecting, we invited comment on any spouses who compete against one another in the journalism arena and there was mention of the marriage of UPI's **Helen Thomas** and AP's **Doug Cornell**.



A Google search found this 1971 AP photo showing first lady **Pat Nixon** motioning to Helen and Doug to join her on a platform at a White House reception. The caption noted that Thomas, the irrepressible White House correspondent who scooped so many, was herself scooped by the first lady who announced their engagement near the end of the impromptu reception.

Cornell died in 1982 and Thomas died in 2013.

Paul

First response to Connecting series

Married journalists' story hits close to home



This was taken last spring at Boothbay Harbor, Maine. No QE2 to get there, only our 15-foot boat.

Glenn Adams (Email) - Thanks for Daniel Brown's excellent married journalists piece (in Monday's issue). It kind of hit close to home.

My wife Betty and I met as reporters at the daily Today's Post in King of Prussia, Pa. in 1974, and went on to become co-editors of the Queen Elizabeth 2's daily, QE2 Express, for a year while the ship sailed around the world. Who was boss? We decided early on that we'd swap the editor's chair each day. The editor dummied pages and wrote heads while the reporter monitored short wave radio (there was no internet in those days) and wrote the stories -- on a typewriter of course.

I retired from AP and do freelance work now, and she continues working as court reporter for the Kennebec Journal in Augusta, Maine. (It's nice to know what's in the next day's paper before it comes out.)

Journalism awards from WHCA honor reporting on President Trump, taser deaths, sexual assault and private air travel

The White House Correspondents' Association is pleased to announce that journalists from the New York Times, CNN, Politico and Reuters are the winners of our 2018 journalism awards.

The awards will be presented at the White House Correspondents' Dinner on Saturday, April 28 at the Washington Hilton.

"The WHCA congratulates these award winners, and we're proud to honor them at our annual dinner as we celebrate the First Amendment and the crucial role of journalism in informing and protecting the public," said Margaret Talev, WHCA president and senior White House correspondent for Bloomberg. The WHCA represents the White House press corps in its dealings with the administration and advocates for journalists' ability to see and report on the president and his staff. Here are the details on these awards:

Read more [here](#).

Sasha surfaces



When Connecting colleague Paul Simon shared photos of three of his pets a few weeks ago, MIA was the shy one, Sasha. He coaxed her into this picture and got her to agree to Connecting use.

New survey takes pulse of young Americans

By LAUREN EASTON

As the run-up to the U.S. midterm elections begins, the new Youth Political Pulse survey, by MTV with The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, aims to reveal what political issues matter most to young Americans.

The survey of teens and young adults provides valuable insight into the next generation of potential voters as the midterms approach. Teens as young as 15, who will be eligible to vote in the 2020 presidential election, are surveyed, as well as young people up to age 34.

"The hundreds of thousands who answered the call of young people to rally this past weekend on the issue of gun safety demonstrates their potential to sway the outcome of the 2018 and 2020 elections," said David Scott, AP deputy managing editor for operations. "What motivates young Americans, what drives them and what might lead them to vote - or choose not to vote - is what we're looking to identify."

[Click here](#) for the first installment that moved last week, headlined: AP-NORC/MTV Poll: Young people run from Trump

Read more [here](#).

Opinion: The 2016 Exit Polls Led Us to Misinterpret the 2016 Election

By Thomas B. Edsall

The New York Times

Crucial disputes over Democratic strategy concerning economic distribution, race and immigration have in large part been based on Election Day exit polls that now appear to have been inaccurate in key ways.

According to subsequent studies, those polls substantially underestimated the number of Democratic white working-class voters - many of whom are culturally conservative - and overestimated the white college-educated Democratic electorate, a far more culturally liberal constituency.

"The short answer is that the exit polls are wrong," Matthew DeBell, a senior scholar at Stanford's Institute for Research in the Social Sciences, emailed me. He continued:

Read more [here](#). Shared by Peg Coughlin.

Connecting '80s/'90s Club

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Connecting publishes this list quarterly. If you are qualified for one of the age groups and would like to be listed, drop me a note.)

90s:

Mercer Bailey
Carl Bell
Albert Habhab
Gene Herrick
Elaine Light
Joe McKnight
Sam Montello
Robert O'Meara
Seymour Topping
Harold Waters

80s:

Paul Albright
Peter Arnett
Malcolm Barr
Lou Boccardi
Ben Brown
Charles Bruce
Hal Buell
Sibby Christensen
Mike Cochran
Eldon Cort
Don Dashiell
Otto Doelling
Phil Dopoulos
John Eagan
Mike Feinsilber
George Hanna
Bob Haring
Jack Howey
Kathryn Johnson
Warren Lerude

Art Loomis
Joe McGowan
Walter Mears
Yvette Mercourt
Reid Miller
Charlie Monzella
Greg Nokes
Joe Somma
Arlon Southall
Hank Waters
Paul Webster
Jeff Williams
Joe Yeninas
George Zucker

Stories of interest

News Anchors Reciting Sinclair Propaganda Is Even More Terrifying in Unison (New York Magazine)



By CHAS DANNER

Over the last week or so, local television news anchors across the the country have joined together to paradoxically warn viewers about the "troubling trend of irresponsible, one-sided news stories plaguing our country." The identical, seemingly earnest editorial messages paid lip service to the importance of fact-checking and unbiased reporting, but they also complained about "false news" and "fake stories." If that seems to echo the rhetoric of President Trump, it's probably because the statement was written by one of his allies.

The anchors were forced to read the so-called journalistic responsibility messages word for word by their employer, the conservative-leaning Sinclair Broadcast Group, the largest owner of television stations in the country. The features were one of Sinclair's now infamous "must-run" segments, consisting of conservative commentary that every Sinclair-owned station is required to air.

Think Progress rounded up many of the "fake stories" segments for a chilling video on Friday, but Deadspin's Timothy Burke published a much more terrifying version on Saturday, which at one point shows 30 of the segments synced up in unison:

Read more [here](#).

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How America's Largest Local TV Owner Turned Its News Anchors Into Soldiers In Trump's War On The Media (Concourse)

By **TIMOTHY BURKE**

Earlier this month, CNN's Brian Stelter broke the news that Sinclair Broadcast Group, owner or operator of nearly 200 television stations in the U.S., would be forcing its news anchors to record a promo about "the troubling trend of irresponsible, one sided news stories plaguing our country." The script, which parrots Donald Trump's oft-declarations of developments negative to his presidency as "fake news," brought upheaval to newsrooms already dismayed with Sinclair's consistent interference to bring right-wing propaganda to local television broadcasts.

You might remember Sinclair from its having been featured on John Oliver's Last Week Tonight last year, or from its requiring in 2004 of affiliates to air anti-John Kerry propaganda, or perhaps because it's your own local affiliate running inflammatory "Terrorism Alerts" or required editorials from former Trump adviser Boris Epshteyn, he of the famed Holocaust Remembrance Day statement that failed to mention Jewish people. (Sinclair also owns Ring of Honor wrestling, Tennis magazine, and the Tennis Channel.)

The net result of the company's current mandate is dozens upon dozens of local news anchors looking like hostages in proof-of-life videos, trying their hardest to spit out words attacking the industry they'd chosen as a life vocation.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Sandy Johnson.

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Will Trump Crash the Farm Economy?

By **Robert Leonard**

New York Times Op-Ed Contributor

Mr. Leonard lives in Marion County, Iowa, and is the news director for the radio stations KNIA and KRLS.

KNOXVILLE, Iowa - Donald Trump won over 60 percent of the 2016 vote in rural Iowa, where I live, and I haven't heard much concern from Republicans over the president's alleged infidelities with a porn actress, his ties to Russia or Jared Kushner's real estate shenanigans.

Or, for that matter, much concern about the administration scandals about wife beaters, Saudi princes, Ben Carson's table or Scott Pruitt's soundproof room. Many people don't even know these scandals exist - they generally don't lead in Sean Hannity's or Tucker Carlson's world.

Sure, there is a little rumbling about the increased deficit, but not much. Besides, it's the fault of Congress, in particular the Democrats.

But people here - Republicans and Democrats alike - are paying great attention to what President Trump is doing economically, especially since he started in on tariffs. We have a strong manufacturing base in our county; when tariffs on aluminum and steel were announced, local manufacturing leaders tried to be diplomatic, praising the Trump tax cuts but saying the steel and aluminum tariffs would hurt their businesses by driving costs up.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Michael Rubin.

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Bob Simpson, Big Rock founder, former N&O outdoors correspondent, has died (The News & Observer)



BY SAM NEWKIRK

Bob Simpson, a longtime advocate for the outdoors, the founder of the Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament and a newspaper columnist, has passed away, according to a Big Rock release. He was 92.

Simpson was a resident of Morehead City's Peltier Creek and along with three other friends in the "Fabulous Fishing Club" created the popular blue marlin tournament.

"Bob Simpson was a visionary and worked tirelessly to create what is now the 'Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament,'" Big Rock director Crystal Hesmer said in a statement. "He was told it was impossible and eventually persevered. We were so excited to have him as part of our 60th anniversary celebration and it will not be the same without him. Our thoughts and prayers are with his friends and family."

Simpson and his friends created the tournament in 1957 and landed the first blue marlin in the fall of that year.

Another of Simpson's passions was writing. He was a correspondent for The News & Observer and contributed a column from the 1950s until 2012. He also wrote a nature editorial on Sundays.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Estes Thompson, who noted: "I didn't know him personally, but read his column all the time and felt like I knew him. My favorite columns centered on his boat Sylvia II, which was kind of a dream for any coast-loving person - get an old boat cheap and fix it up. I am sure it hurt to sell it four years ago."

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Tariffs, paper shortage combine for financial pressure on newspapers (Tampa Bay Times)

By **SUSAN TAYLOR MARTIN**

Two years ago, a Washington state paper mill was bought by a private equity firm with interests in everything from pizza and urinalysis to car rentals and chemicals.

That transaction, little noted at the time, laid the groundwork for what could be a devastating blow to the already-struggling U.S. newspaper industry.

Under its new owner, North Pacific Paper Co. claimed that it faced unfair competition from Canadian paper mills. The U.S. Commerce Department agreed, recently slapping stiff tariffs on paper that the Canadian mills ship to American newspapers each year.

The action has benefited the U.S. mill - at least in the short term - but is contributing to a huge increase in the price of newsprint. And as newspapers cut costs to make up for that, it could mean:

* Smaller reporting staffs and less local news. Those changes will be seen not only in the print papers but also in the versions read on smartphones and computers.

* Fewer of the advertising inserts that many shoppers rely on to find good deals at Publix, Target and other retailers. Stores will cut back on advertising because the cost of paper for the inserts is going up, too.

* Some small newspapers could go out of business, leaving a news vacuum in rural areas with spotty access to the Internet.

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

Today in History - April 3, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, April 3, the 93rd day of 2018. There are 272 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 3, 1968, civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. delivered what turned out to be his final speech, telling a rally of striking sanitation workers in Memphis, Tennessee, that "I've been to the mountaintop" and "seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land!" (About 20 hours later, King was felled by an assassin's bullet at the Lorraine Motel.)

On this date:

In 1776, George Washington received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Harvard College.

In 1860, the legendary Pony Express began carrying mail between St. Joseph, Missouri, and Sacramento, California. (The delivery system lasted only 18 months before giving way to the transcontinental telegraph.)

In 1882, outlaw Jesse James was shot to death in St. Joseph, Missouri, by Robert Ford, a member of James' gang.

In 1936, Bruno Hauptmann was electrocuted in Trenton, New Jersey, for the kidnap-murder of Charles Lindbergh Jr.

In 1942, during World War II, Japanese forces began their final assault on Bataan against American and Filipino troops who surrendered six days later; the capitulation was followed by the notorious Bataan Death March.

In 1946, Lt. Gen. Masaharu Homma, the Japanese commander held responsible for the Bataan Death March, was executed by firing squad outside Manila.

In 1948, President Harry S. Truman signed the Marshall Plan, designed to help European allies rebuild after World War II and resist communism.

In 1965, the United States launched the SNAP-10A nuclear power system into Earth orbit; it was the first nuclear reactor sent into space.

In 1978, at the Academy Awards, Woody Allen's "Annie Hall" was named best picture of 1977; its co-star, Diane Keaton, won best actress while Richard Dreyfuss was honored as best actor for "The Goodbye Girl."

In 1985, the landmark Hollywood Brown Derby restaurant closed after 56 years in business.

In 1996, Unabomber Theodore Kaczynski (kah-ZIHN'-skee) was arrested at his remote Montana cabin. An Air Force jetliner carrying Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and American business executives crashed in Croatia, killing all 35 people aboard.

In 2003, Atlantic magazine editor Michael Kelly, 46, became the first American journalist to be killed while covering the Iraq war.

Ten years ago: NATO allies meeting in Bucharest, Romania, gave President George W. Bush strong support for a missile defense system in Europe and urged Moscow to drop its angry opposition to the program. Model Naomi Campbell was arrested at London Heathrow Airport after getting into an altercation with police during a dispute about lost luggage. (Campbell was later sentenced to 200 hours of community service and fined 2,300 pounds.) Ohio State defeated Massachusetts, 92-85, for the National Invitation Tournament title.

Five years ago: The White House announced President Barack Obama would return 5 percent of his salary each month to the Treasury in a show of solidarity with federal workers smarting from government-wide spending cuts. Palestinian militants launched several rockets into southern Israel and Israeli aircraft struck targets in the Gaza Strip in the heaviest exchange of fire between the sides since a cease-fire ended a major flare-up the previous year. Oscar-winning screenwriter and award-winning novelist Ruth Praver Jhabvala, 85, died in New York.

One year ago: A suicide bombing aboard a subway train in St. Petersburg, Russia, left 16 people dead and wounded more than 50; authorities identified the bomber as a 22-year old Kyrgyz-born Russian national. A divided Senate Judiciary Committee panel voted 11-9 along party lines to favorably recommend Supreme Court nominee Neil Gorsuch to the full Senate. The NHL announced it would not participate in the 2018 Winter Olympics in South Korea. North Carolina scored the last eight points for a 71-65 win over Gonzaga and an NCAA title.

Today's Birthdays: Actress-singer Doris Day is 96. Conservationist Dame Jane Goodall is 84. Actor William Gaunt is 81. Songwriter Jeff Barry is 80. Actor Eric Braeden is 77. Actress Marsha Mason is 76. Singer Wayne Newton is 76. Singer Tony Orlando is 74. Comedy writer Pat Proft is 71. Folk-rock singer Richard Thompson is 69. Country musician Curtis Stone (Highway 101) is 68. Blues singer-guitarist John Mooney is 63. Rock musician Mick Mars (Motley Crue) is 62. Actor Alec Baldwin is 60. Actor David Hyde Pierce is 59. Rock singer John Thomas Griffith (Cowboy Mouth) is 58. Comedian-actor Eddie Murphy is 57. Rock singer-musician Mike Ness (Social Distortion) is 56. Rock singer Sebastian Bach is 50. Rock musician James MacDonough is 48. Olympic gold medal ski racer Picabo Street is 47. Actress Jennie Garth is 46. Actor Jamie Bamber is 45. Actor Adam Scott is 45. Christian rock musician Drew Shirley (Switchfoot) is 44. Comedian Aries Spears is 43. Actor Matthew Goode is 40. Actress Cobie Smulders is 36. Rock-pop singer Leona Lewis is 33. Actress Amanda Bynes is 32. Actress-comedian Rachel Bloom is 31. Actress Hayley Kiyoko is 27.

Thought for Today: "Our firmest convictions are apt to be the most suspect, they mark our limitations and our bounds. Life is a petty thing unless it is moved by the indomitable urge to extend its boundaries." - Jose Ortega y Gasset, Spanish philosopher (1883-1955).

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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