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## Connecting - May 09, 2018

1 message

**Paul Stevens** <paulstevens46@gmail.com>

Wed, May 9, 2018 at 8:54 AM

Reply-To: paulstevens46@gmail.com

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# Connecting

May 09, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning!

**Just call me 3 down (four letters)**

That's the headline on a post received from Connecting colleague **Neal Ulevich** ([Email](#)) - who explained:

*I have no idea how or why I ended up immortalized in a crossword puzzle as 3 down (four letters), clue: Pulitzer Prize Winner Ulevich. This literary accolade appeared in a book of "50 Never Before Published Puzzles" offered up by Simon and Shuster in 2003. The correct answer is 'Neal.'*

And another incoming post to start the morning, from colleague **Dave Lubeski** ([Email](#)) - on a chance encounter with longtime friend **Bud Weydert**:



*I was traveling south. Bud was traveling north. I was on my way from Kansas to an army reunion in Branson in southern Missouri. Bud was on his way home to Cameron in northwest Missouri. We both happened to stop at a gas station/snack bar on Highway 13 in Lowry, Mo. I wasn't paying attention and didn't look at him real close. He eventually walked up to me as I was standing in the aisle trying to decide on candy bar or potato chips. He said "I guess they'll let anybody in this place" which kind of stunned me until I realized I was looking at Bud Weydert, my longtime friend and former AP colleague who was our budget and logistics guru at so many Olympics as director of special events.*

*As we posed for this photo taken by his grandson, I couldn't help but think that we're now so far away from New York and Washington in so many ways.*

Ever had a chance encounter like that with an AP colleague? Send along your experience for all to share.

With that, here is today's latest news.

Paul

## AP Photo of the Day



Iranian lawmakers burn two pieces of papers representing the U.S. flag and the nuclear deal as they chant slogans against the U.S. at the parliament in Tehran, Iran, Wednesday, May 9, 2018. Iranian lawmakers have set a paper U.S. flag ablaze at parliament after President Donald Trump's nuclear deal pullout, shouting, "Death to America!". President Donald Trump withdrew the U.S. from the deal on Tuesday and restored harsh sanctions against Iran. (AP Photo)

## Memories of covering the Indy 500



*About a more sordid part of the 500*

**Mike Harris (Email)** - My old friend and colleague Bruce Lowitt, who covered a number of Indianapolis 500s while working in AP's NY Sports Department, reminded me the other day about one of the more sordid parts of the annual event.

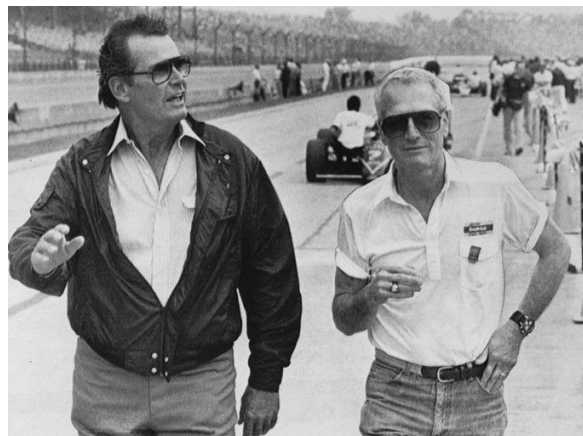
In the 50s and 60s, there was an area of the infield that became overrun on race day by rowdies. It was called "The Snake Pit." Lots of beer, booze, nudity and I'm sure all sorts of depravity, although I never witnessed that. There is the old story - unconfirmed - about a pink trailer in the Snake Pit where prostitutes plied their trade and you could see a line of men waiting for their turn.

By the time I got to the track for the first time, in May of 1970, much of that had been cleaned up by speedway officials, who were trying very hard to make the month of May at the track family friendly. But there were still occasional reminders of the sordid old days, especially on race morning when several drunks would be lying passed out in the infield after a long night of partying. Few of them ever saw or heard a race car.

One of my favorite things to do on practice days, when things were quiet, was to walk out to the grassy area between the track and the snake pit area in turn one. That area was reserved for credentialed people and gave a magnificent view of the cars, whipping past at more than 200 mph just 50 or 60 feet in front of you. The noise was also spectacular.

I was about to walk out to turn one with longtime Indianapolis News writer Dick Mittman when James Garner, the actor and an avid Indy fan who came to the track many times, walked past and inquired where we were going. When we said turn one, he asked to join us.

As we walked to the middle of the grassy area, a loud female voice could be heard shouting, "Jimmy! Jimmy! Jimmy!" We all looked around and there, at the edge of the Snake Pit, behind the wooden fence that separated the areas, was a buxom, red-haired woman beaming at us. As Jim waved to her in acknowledgement, she raised the top of her tank top and revealed her bare breasts.



**James Garner (left) with Paul Newman at 1985 Indy 500.**

Garner smiled, waved and shouted, "Very nice, honey." The people around her exploded in applause. Garner then turned around and muttered, "Wow! You get all kinds here."

But the redhead was persistent.

``Jimmy! Jimmy! Jimmy!"

Again, he turned around, saw her flashing her assets, smiled that movie star smile and shouted, ``Very nice, honey."

When she did it a third time, Garner, who wanted to watch the cars go by and talk racing with Dick and me, turned around slowly again, watched the woman flash him once more and shouted, ``Honey, I've seen better."

She didn't bother him again.

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## ***Filing copy by Western Union***

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send telex collect 056-280 florida times union sports jacksonville, florida  kallestad feature  INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. -- The unpredictable weatherman, calling for a 30 percent chance of rain Saturday, held a flowing throng in suspense and the start of the 54th running of automobile racing's richest derby near hour.  Members of the racing fraternity were found doing a variety of anything except thinking about the intir				

**Brent Kallestad (Email)** - Covered the 1970 race for the Florida Times-Union exactly two years before beginning my AP career. Attached a couple clips and a copy of what I filed daily through Western Union at the speedway. Not sure you can make heads or tails of this, but it was an exciting assignment at that time in my career.

For the record, race favorite Al Unser won and brother Bobby was 11th. The start of the race was delayed by bad weather. A guy named Greg Weld of Kansas City finished 32nd, done after just nine laps with a blown engine.

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## *Historic photos from the 500*



Photographer Bob Daugherty, left, covers qualifying runs for the Indy 500, May 1963, as Parnelli Jones is wheeled through Gasoline Alley at Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Daugherty was working for The Indianapolis Star, shortly before he joined the AP as the Indianapolis staff photographer in 1963.



Former Indianapolis UPI staff photographer Dave Boe, now a photo editor for AP, transmits photos from the AP workroom at the Indy 500, May 24, 1998. Photo editor Chuck Zoeller looks at film in background.

## Being tough with fairness to one's town

By **KEN NEWTON**

**St. Joseph News-Press**

Of all the names one can be called in a public setting, "degenerate filth" feels particularly demeaning.

Yet for efficiency of language, "word people" would have to admire what one screaming man could accomplish with a mere adjective and noun.

Journalists on the receiving end of this invective rant might fall short of a full appreciation of the fellow's brevity. He felt emboldened to yell at the news people,

cameras rolling all around, at a Michigan rally for President Trump a couple of weeks ago.

"Degenerate filth, all of you," he hollered at the reporters' section while repeating variations of this numerous times in a short span.

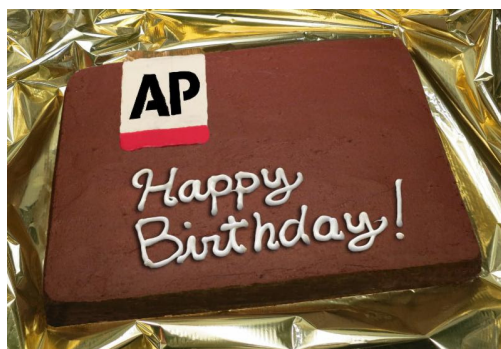
Earlier in the evening, the president had referred to the news media as "very, very dishonest people" who generate "fake news."

(In truth, when I went to look up this incident to be precise in the wording, using as a Google search the phrase "man yelling at news media," I had to sort through several items, including a guy at a Florida Trump rally in much the same posture but with the wordier, "Go home. You are traitors.")

The temptation exists for those working at smaller newspapers to set themselves apart from the vilification of national correspondents, reporters who travel with the president or other leaders.

Read more [here](#). Ken Newton is a columnist for the St. Joseph (MO) News-Press and a Connecting colleague. [Click here](#) for the story on Chuck Haney's death.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

**Bill Beecham - [bbeecham5@gmail.com](mailto:bbeecham5@gmail.com)**

**Thom Callahan - [tc5959@gmail.com](mailto:tc5959@gmail.com)**



Marc Humbert - [marc.a.humbert@gmail.com](mailto:marc.a.humbert@gmail.com)

Anita Miller Fry - [topscoop@aol.com](mailto:topscoop@aol.com)

## Stories of interest

### ***New data casts doubt on Facebook's commitment to quality news*** (CJR)

By MATHEW INGRAM

SOME RECENT DATA on the best-performing news brands on Facebook seems to show that high-quality news sources are getting less engagement on Facebook and lower quality sites are getting a lot more. This is the exact opposite of what CEO Mark Zuckerberg promised just last week, when he said the company was working to elevate quality journalism in the news feed, while cutting down on the visibility of fake news and clickbait.

NewsWhip, a social-media metrics company, tracks the "most engaged" sites on the network as measured by likes, comments, reactions, and shares. In its ranking for April, Fox News climbed from third place to first with more than 30 million engagements, while previous leader CNN dropped to second with 24 million. The Daily Mail rose to fourth from seventh and a site called Daily Wire, which specializes in conservative news, climbed to eighth with 14 million engagements.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Len Iwanski.

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### ***Walkout after German nationalists block reporter's question***

BERLIN (AP) - Journalists in Germany have walked out of a news conference after the nationalist Alternative for Germany party decided to refuse questions from a

prominent reporter.

Lawmakers from the nationalist party's chapter in the eastern state of Brandenburg said at the start of a news conference Tuesday that they wouldn't take questions from a reporter for mass-circulation daily Bild.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Claude Erbsen.

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## ***Can A New Business Model Save Small-Town Papers?*** (NPR)

GateHouse Media is thriving in the beleaguered newspaper industry. Critics say GateHouse makes money by decimating news operations. The company says it's saving newspapers with efficiencies of scale.

STEVE INSKEEP, HOST:

Roughly 2,000 newspapers have closed or merged across the United States in the last 15 years - 2,000 - which makes the newspaper buying spree of New York-based hedge fund GateHouse Media all the more surprising. It is now the largest newspaper owner in this country, although some warn that its business model is damaging to journalism. Here's Frank Morris of our member station KCUR.

FRANK MORRIS, BYLINE: Whether GateHouse Media is saving small-town journalism or eviscerating it depends on who you ask. In Columbia, Mo., the Daily Tribune was a proud, civic-minded, family-owned paper that prospered for generations. But in the fall of 2016, Jodie Jackson and another reporter joined a nervous scrum in the company gym to hear a GateHouse Media executive announce that 115 years of local ownership was over.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Scott Charton.

## **The Final Word**

# ***This study is all about what makes people bullshitters*** (Poynter)

By DANIEL FUNKE

Bullshitting has an academic definition.

"Communications that result from little to no concern for truth, evidence and/or established semantic, logical, systemic, or empirical knowledge" is how John V. Petrocelli put it in a new study.

The science of bullshitting goes back further. Petrocelli's definition is adapted from the philosopher Harry G. Frankfurt, who wrote a seminal essay in 1986 conceptualizing bullshitting - a phenomenon he said most people take for granted.

"One of the most salient features of our culture is that there is so much bullshit. Everyone knows this," he wrote. "(But) we have no clear understanding of what bullshit is, why there is so much of it, or what functions it serves."

Petrocelli agrees.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

## **Today in History - May 9, 2018**



## By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, May 9, the 129th day of 2018. There are 236 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On May 9, 1958, "Vertigo," Alfred Hitchcock's eerie thriller starring James Stewart and Kim Novak, premiered in San Francisco, the movie's setting.

### On this date:

In 1754, a political cartoon in Benjamin Franklin's Pennsylvania Gazette depicted a snake cut into eight pieces, each section representing a part of the American colonies; the caption read, "JOIN, or DIE."

In 1814, the Jane Austen novel "Mansfield Park" was first published in London.

In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson, acting on a joint congressional resolution, signed a proclamation designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

In 1918, CBS newsman Mike Wallace was born Myron Leon Wallace in Brookline, Massachusetts.

In 1926, Americans Richard Byrd and Floyd Bennett supposedly became the first men to fly over the North Pole. (However, U.S. scholars announced in 1996 that their examination of Byrd's flight diary suggested he had turned back 150 miles short of his goal.)

In 1936, Italy annexed Ethiopia.

In 1945, with World War II in Europe at an end, Soviet forces liberated Czechoslovakia from Nazi occupation. U.S. officials announced that a midnight entertainment curfew was being lifted immediately.

In 1961, in a speech to the National Association of Broadcasters, Federal Communications Commission Chairman Newton N. Minow decried the majority of

television programming as a "vast wasteland."

In 1978, the bullet-riddled body of former Italian prime minister Aldo Moro, who had been abducted by the Red Brigades, was found in an automobile in the center of Rome.

In 1980, 35 people were killed when a freighter rammed the Sunshine Skyway Bridge over Tampa Bay in Florida, causing a 1,400-foot section of the southbound span to collapse.

In 1994, South Africa's newly elected parliament chose Nelson Mandela to be the country's first black president.

In 2012, President Barack Obama declared his unequivocal support for same-sex marriage in a historic announcement that came three days after Vice President Joe Biden spoke in favor of such unions on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Ten years ago: Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama picked up the backing of nine superdelegates, all but erasing Hillary Rodham Clinton's once-imposing lead. Jury selection began in the Chicago trial of R&B superstar R. Kelly, accused of videotaping himself having sex with a girl as young as 13. (Kelly was later acquitted on all counts.) Journalist-feminist Nuala O'Faolain, who gained international fame with her outspoken memoir "Are You Somebody?" in 1966, died in Dublin, Ireland, at age 68.

Five years ago: Afghan President Hamid Karzai (HAH'-mihd KAHR'-zeye), who had irked Washington with his frequent criticism of U.S. military operations in his country, said his government was ready to let the U.S. have nine bases across Afghanistan after the withdrawal of most foreign forces in 2014. A 72-foot-long, high-tech catamaran sailboat capsized in San Francisco Bay while practicing for the America's Cup races, killing English Olympic gold medalist Andrew "Bart" Simpson. Malcolm Shabazz, 28, grandson of civil rights activist Malcolm X, died in Mexico City of blunt trauma injuries sustained in a bar dispute.

One year ago: President Donald Trump abruptly fired FBI Director James Comey, ousting the nation's top law enforcement official in the midst of an FBI investigation into whether Trump's campaign had ties to Russia's meddling in the election that sent him to the White House. The Senate confirmed Dr. Scott Gottlieb as commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, 57-42. Moon Jae-in declared victory in South Korea's presidential election after his two main rivals conceded. Actor Michael Parks ("Then Came Bronson") died in Los Angeles at age 77.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-writer Alan Bennett is 84. Actor Albert Finney is 82. Actress-turned-politician Glenda Jackson is 82. Producer-director James L. Brooks is 81. Musician Sonny Curtis (Buddy Holly and the Crickets) is 81. Singer Tommy Roe is 76. Singer-musician Richie Furay (Buffalo Springfield and Poco) is 74. Actress Candice Bergen is 72. Pop singer Clint Holmes is 72. Actor Anthony Higgins is 71. Singer Billy Joel is 69. Blues singer-musician Bob Margolin is 69. Rock singer-musician Tom Petersson (Cheap Trick) is 68. Actress Alley Mills is 67. Actress Amy Hill is 65. Actress Wendy Crewson is 62. Actor John Corbett is 57. Singer Dave Gahan (GAHN) (Depeche Mode) is 56. Actress Sonja Sohn is 54. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is 50. Rapper Ghostface Killah is 48. Country musician Mike Myerson (Heartland) is 47. Actor Chris Diamantopoulos (dy-uh-MAN'-toh-POO'-lehs) is 43. Rhythm-and-blues singer Tamia (tuh-MEE'-ah) is 43. Rock musician Dan Regan (Reel Big Fish) is 41. Actor Daniel Franzese is 40. Rock singer Pierre Bouvier (Simple Plan) is 39. Actress Rosario Dawson is 39. Rock singer Andrew W.K. is 39. Figure skater Angela Nikodinov is 38. Actress Rachel Boston is 36. TV personality Audrina Patridge is 33. Actress Grace Gummer is 32.

***Thought for Today: "A watch is always too fast or too slow. I cannot be dictated to by a watch." - From "Mansfield Park" by Jane Austen (1775-1817).***

## 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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