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Connecting -- May 16, 2018

1 message

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Wed, May 16, 2018 at 9:05 AM

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Connecting

May 16, 2018

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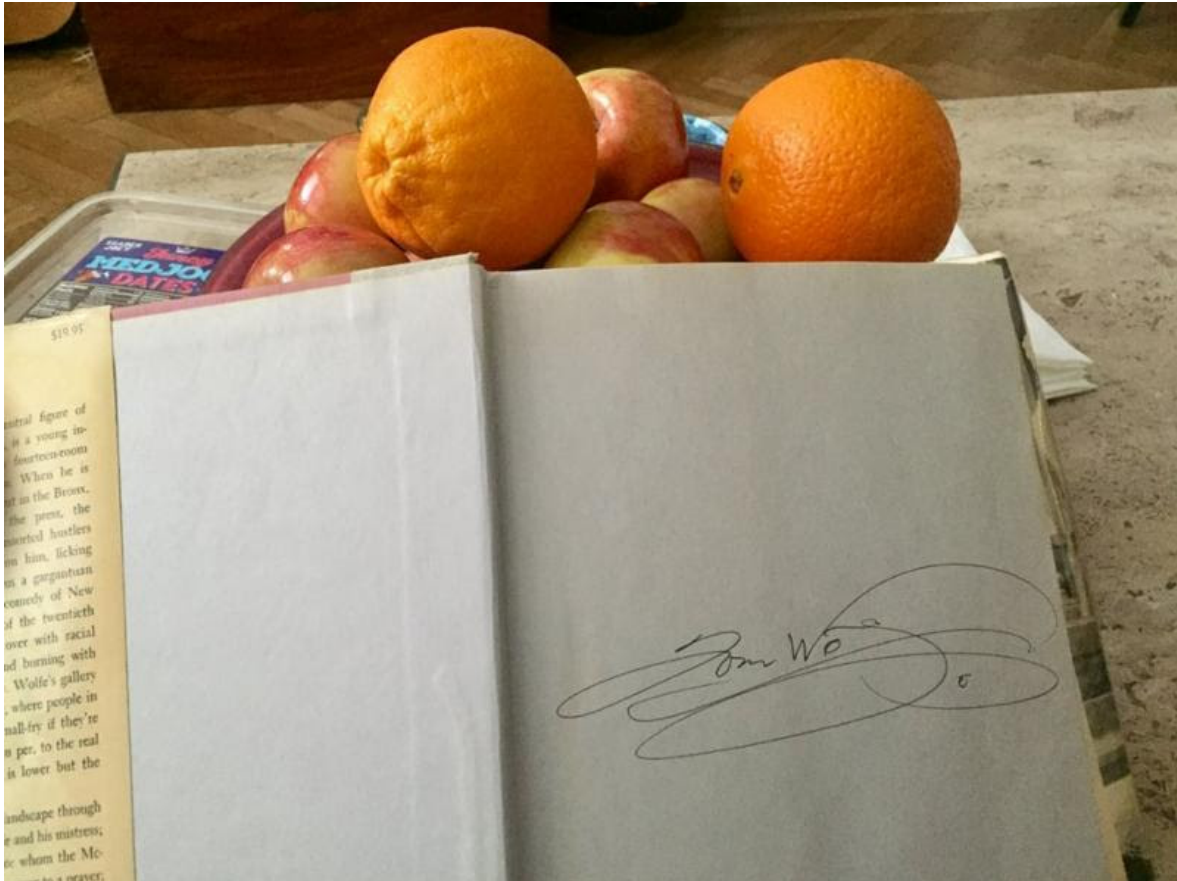
Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning!

Today's issue of Connecting brings you word that AP is scrapping the in-person exit poll in its election coverage and will replace it with an elaborate election voter survey, called VoteCast.

Tom Wolfe, American author and journalist, died on Monday, prompting the following from one of your colleagues:

Marcus Eliason ([Email](#)) - shared that "on reading the superb obituary of Tom Wolfe by my former Associated Press comrade **Hillel Italie**, I was reminded of my own brief encounter with the master.



"I was living in London, and Wolfe was there signing copies of *The Bonfire of the Vanities*. I already had read it, having gotten someone to send me the U.S edition published weeks earlier. Since it was my favorite book of the Eighties I wanted it signed. So I joined a pretty long queue at Waterstones in Hampstead.

"When I reached Wolfe, he seemed pleasantly surprised to encounter his baby in its original get-up. We chatted briefly about the frustrations of dueling publication dates. I then asked him if he planned a sequel. He made a cryptic mention of the West Coast, and indeed, it has a small but important role early in *A Man in Full* though the Southeast is the main arena.

"To me, the main attraction of my day was the signature; it looks to me like Wolfe got bored with signing his name over and over and decided instead to dance a tarantella."

You can read Hillel's excellent story in today's Final Word. Excerpt from his story:

Wolfe once took The Associated Press writing test and "dismally failed," he later recounted, noting that he was faulted for embellishing the test material, a primal sin at the AP.

Meantime, we bring you a variety of stories in a full Connecting Mailbox.

Enjoy!

Paul

AP to offer election voter survey to replace exit polls

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) - The Associated Press said Tuesday that it will begin conducting an elaborate election voter survey designed to replace the traditional in-person exit poll, which has been criticized in recent years for inaccuracy and failing to keep up with changes in how Americans vote.

AP is convinced that science is on its side. Still, it's a bold and potentially risky move for the news cooperative, which counts political coverage as a strong suit and which has, until recently, pooled resources with ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN and Fox News to conduct exit polling in major elections.

AP has been concerned about the accuracy of in-person exit polls for the past several years, said Sally Buzbee, the news agency's executive editor. On election night in 2016, when she was then serving as AP's Washington bureau chief, she directed that only actual results be used to declare winners after exit poll results varied widely from actual vote returns. The exit poll that year was far more favorable to Hillary Clinton in many states than to eventual winner Donald Trump.

"If you don't trust it enough to use it, it doesn't have much value," Buzbee said.

The new AP VoteCast service, developed with NORC at the University of Chicago, uses a combination of online and telephone surveys conducted four days before Election Day and through the close of polls. In all, AP expects to conduct more than 85,000 interviews with voters for this year's midterm election survey, said David Scott, the AP's deputy managing editor for operations. That's far more than the roughly 19,400 conducted by the exit poll in 2014, Scott said, allowing for a deeper and more accurate understanding of the electorate.

The poll's methodology allows for results from every state holding a statewide election, Scott said, as well as details about the opinions of registered voters who elect not to cast a ballot. AP's approach will deliver to customers more reliable information on what drives the choices of different segments of the electorate than is available from traditional exit polls, Scott said.

Unlike the exit poll, VoteCast won't use people with clipboards seeking to buttonhole voters after they leave polling places, an approach AP argues is no longer appropriate in an era when 40 percent of the electorate votes early, absentee or by mail. That percentage is growing in every election, Buzbee said.

There's also concern that in-person exit polls, in a polarized political climate, fail to capture the opinion of all voters. In the roughest years for the accuracy of exit polls, 2004 and 2016, the surveys showed a stronger vote for the Democratic presidential candidates than actually took place.

AP said it successfully tested the approach that would become AP VoteCast in three statewide elections last year. Among them, a special election for U.S. Senator in Alabama in which the poll predicted Democrat Doug Jones would beat Republican Roy Moore 50 to 47 percent. The actual tally was 50 to 48 percent.

AP spent "millions" of dollars to develop the new system, said Gary Pruitt, AP president and CEO, although he would not be more specific. AP considers it a long-term investment that will pay off if the new system becomes the industry standard.

"We certainly consider it a bold move but we do think it will pay off because we think it will prove to be an accurate reflection of voter sentiment and what was driving elections," Pruitt said.

AP has conducted research aimed at improving the exit poll for the past decade, funded in part by a grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. Its 2017

experiments were conducted in partnership with Fox News, which like AP quit the National Election Pool of media organizations last year.

Fox News is AP's first customer for its new polling service, which the network will use to power what it plans to call the Fox News Voter Analysis. AP said Tuesday that The Washington Post has also signed up to receive VoteCast results in several states.

ABC, CBS, CNN and NBC have opted to remain together as the National Election Pool, using an in-person exit poll administered by Edison Research. The four networks have also hired Edison to provide them with election returns, replacing a service NEP previously bought from AP. AP has conducted its nationwide tally of election results since 1848.

[Click here](#) for link to this story. Shared by Paul Albright, Adolphe Bernotas.

Connecting mailbox

In praise and appreciation of Kathy Gannon

Andy Lippman ([Email](#)) - I very much enjoyed reading Monday's Q-and-A story by Kathy Gannon. What shines through is how she always faced the light in spite of all the adversities she has faced over her career.

This is not to say she is some "Pollyanna". It would be hard for poor Polly to last long in Afghanistan. But Kathy shows grace and gratitude both for those whose lives she has shared, and for the wonderful career she has created.

I agree with Paul that it is a privilege to be in the same company. It is also heartening to see someone who refuses to bow in the face of adversity.

AND...

Cindy Saul ([Email](#)) - Monday's Q-&-A from Kathy Gannon continues Connecting's great coverage of her life and pursuits over the past four years.

Kathy has become a courageous sister to me as I have come to know and respect her through Connecting articles and outstanding photographs.

I read this one a couple of times, and continue to be inspired by this AP professional and wounded warrior who has a great deal to teach all of us about thriving in adversity. I would be blessed to say about my life and career "I would do it all over again and I wouldn't change a thing!"

Great work about a great woman.

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Letting his fellow Vietnam Old Hacks know about Peter O'Loughlin's death



Peter O'Loughlin (left) and Carl Robinson in 2017

Carl Robinson (Email) - I'm not sure how many VOHers (Vietnam Old Hacks) would've known Australian-born and Southeast Asia AP Bureau Chief Peter O'Loughlin, but it's my sad duty to inform you of his passing early this morning in Sydney from liver cancer at the age of 78. Born in the then-steel making town of Woolongong on 15 January 1940, he grew up in Adelaide and then Sydney's Bondi Beach and a boarding school before enrolling in Australia's Point Cook Naval College at the age of 11. Deciding against a career as an officer in the Royal Australian Navy (RAN), Peter was one of that generation of young Aussies who headed overseas, mostly to London, in the early 60's to escape a then-stiffly boring Australia to lives of fun & adventure - and many into journalism.

After a stint as a hack tabloid journo in London, Peter ventured back to Asia where he landed a job with the AP bureau in Manila, then run by the legendary George MacArthur, and graduated to Bangkok Bureau Chief in the mid-60's as the Vietnam War was cranking up. And that's where I first met Peter on R&R and the odd assignment from Saigon after hiring on with its AP bureau after Tet '68. Not at the office? Well, try Mizu's in Patpong Road. Endlessly and unfailingly entertaining. A great raconteur and lunch companion. And he even banged out the odd story or two, one of the easiest and most relaxed wire service writers I ever knew making it all look entirely too easy. (I always wished he wrote more.) From Bangkok, Peter covered events in Thailand, including those endless military coups, and the Thai side of the Vietnam War including Laos which he also knew well. He and his Australian-born wife Millie, a registered nurse, had three daughters, all born in Bangkok.

After a brief stint in Singapore, Peter returned to Australia in 1974 as Sydney Bureau Chief for The Associated Press, a position he would hold through the 2000 Sydney Olympics and his retirement the following year. The island colonies of the South Pacific, including Papua, New Guinea, were just gaining their independence and his extensive travels earned him the title of the doyen of the small band of journalists - the South Pacific Press Corps - who covered the region. He never missed a South Pacific Forum meeting and knew the islands like the back of his hand, including their leaders. His long tenure also saw the expansion of the bureau with a news editor, AP-Dow Jones correspondent and photographer, in this case the award-winning Russell McPhedran who passed away just last week, and transition into the digital age.

While never a regular of Vietnam War coverage, Peter's most gut-wrenching assignment was as a "fireman" out of Sydney covering the Fall of South Vietnam in March and April 1975, most dramatically from a chartered merchant ship off the northern port city of Danang as the country's second largest city fell to columns of invading North Vietnamese tanks. Fighting their way aboard from crowded barges and pushing civilians out of the way, South



Vietnamese army deserters then settled scores with guns and grenades in the holds below as Peter and the crew locked themselves in the bridge above. Years later, he never failed to choke up recalling that dreadful story. He returned to Saigon and, along with fellow Aussie and Newsweek correspondent Tony Clifton, covered the dreadful crash of that huge USAF C-5 Galaxy carrying a couple hundred orphaned babies in the infamous Operation Babylift. He was on hand at Clark Airbase as those of us who escaped on those last choppers out of Saigon finally arrived in the Philippines.

During the Vietnam War, I was a regular visitor to Bangkok from AP Saigon and always spent much time with him, my wife and kids meeting theirs too. The Bureau there also played an important logistics role for the Saigon Operation, including photo supplies and us dollars. I regarded him as a great colleague, but always a challenge to match in the sheer banter and stories.

After two years in NY following the Fall of Saigon, I was assigned as News & Photo Editor in Sydney in June 1977. But still too screwed up mentally from all my years in Vietnam and especially leaving my wife's family behind, her father now in a re-education camp, the assignment was a personal disaster, unable to write or find the motivation to cover what, even now, is a real backwater on the world news stage. In AP parlance, I just wasn't 'performing' and the onerous task of terminating my 10 years-long employment - not even one year in Sydney - fell to Peter who chose, most appropriately, the top bar in the Criterion Hotel across from the AP office, our all-too-regular watering hole. (Peter always said firing me was one of the toughest assignments he ever had.) Offered a First Class return airfare to US for me and my family, I opted instead to stay and begin my life anew in Australia where I soon landed a position with Newsweek magazine.

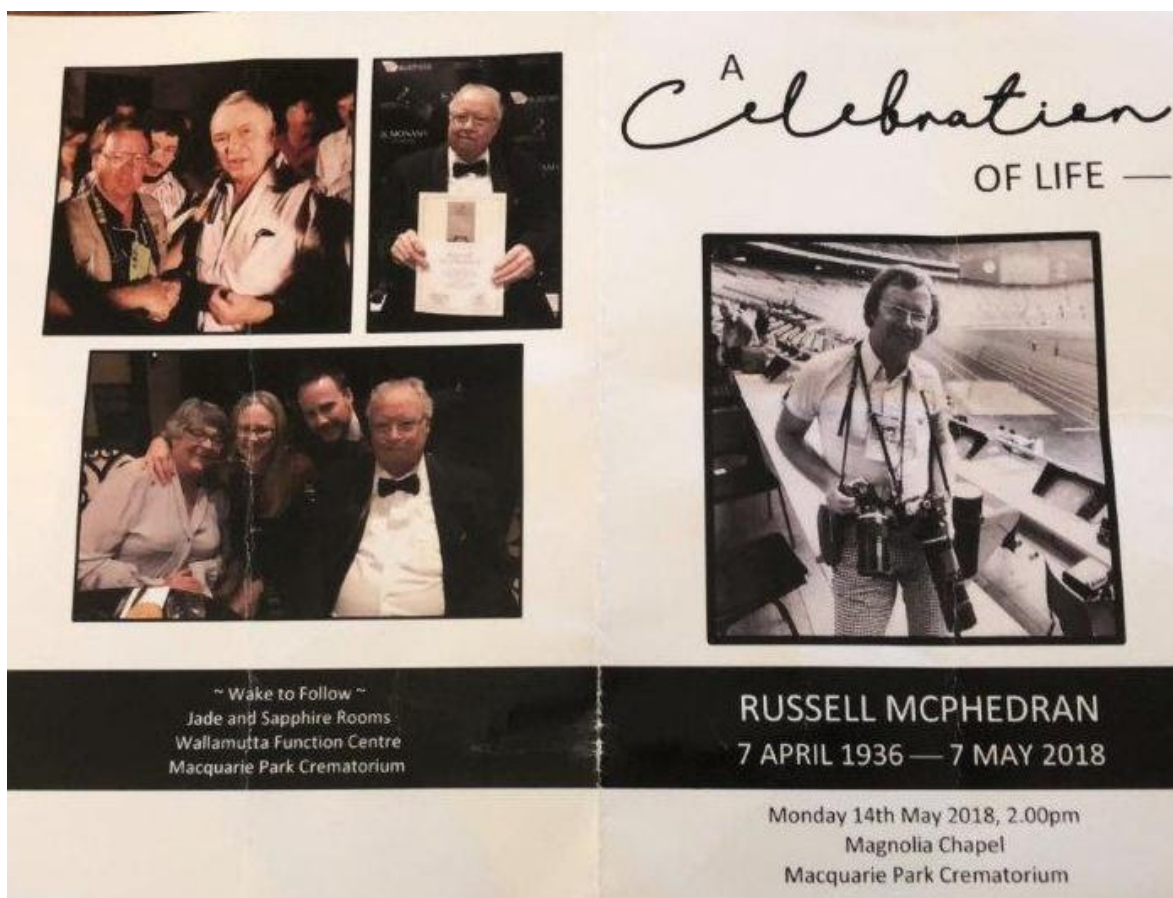
No longer work colleagues, our friendship grew as we covered stories together in Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific. In the mid-80's, we teamed up to start the Foreign Correspondents Association (FCA) with him as President and myself as vice president holding monthly lunches with newsmaking speakers, parties and trips, an organisation that endures to this day. When I left the profession after 1990, Peter was a regular at our 'Old Saigon' Vietnamese restaurant and we kept in regular touch with his attending two of our five-yearly VOH Reunions in Saigon. After his own retirement from AP, he and his wife Millie opened a vineyard in the Hunter Valley northwest of Sydney producing a few vintages before the economics caught up with them. Sadly, their marriage fell apart.

Distance and retirement kept us apart but regular contact resumed with regular lunches of former foreign correspondents in Sydney about five years ago and the eventual founding with ex-ABC's Trevor Watson of the William Boot Society, named after the bumbling hack journo in Evelyn Waugh's classic novel 'Scoop'. But never into social media, Peter mysteriously disappeared on us about 18 months ago - totally out of contact by phone or email - but finally re-emerged with a harrowing tale of surviving kidney cancer. Now more frail and slower, Peter remained as sharp, witty and companionable as ever and we were looking forward to many more

thinking his absence in hospital from last week's lunch at Chinatown's Golden Harbour just a passing moment. Sadly, not to be.

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Russell McPhedran's life celebrated, not mourned



The brochure that was handed out at the funeral. On the far left of the first photo, Russ is with Frank Sinatra. The other two are him receiving his Australian Media Hall of Fame award last year in Sydney.

Dennis Passa ([Email](#)) - Russell McPhedran's widow Shirley set the tone for the long-time AP photographer's funeral service on May 14 when she asked everyone to celebrate her late husband's life, not mourn his passing.

McPhedran died on May 7 at the age of 82 due to a heart ailment. He was farewelled by an estimated 100 to 150 friends, former colleagues and relatives at the Magnolia Chapel at the Macquarie Park Crematorium, not far from the couple's home in Chatswood across the Harbour Bridge from downtown Sydney.

Shirley McPhedran was first introduced by Kristie Hall, a niece who said Russ and Shirl were like "second parents" to her as she grew up on the Central Coast of New South Wales.

"Probably the most difficult part of the last year of his life was Russ' inability to take part in his favorite past time in life, golfing," Shirley said.

Longtime News Corp. executive John Hartigan, a former neighbor of the McPhedrains, told several workplace anecdotes, most of which involved Russell scooping his fellow photographers because of his dogged determination to get a photo that no one else could get.

After a photo collage of Russ' career and personal life compiled by former AP freelancer and family friend Steve Holland was shown, Darcy Cluff, a longtime golf partner of Russell's at Pennant Hills golf club in Sydney, provided numerous golf-related anecdotes, mostly centering on Russ's ability to hit the ball straight and keep it on the fairway while those around him hit into bunkers and the trees.

Later, friends and family gathered at the Great Northern Hotel to salute Russell in the style he would have appreciated, toasting him with glasses of white wine, Russ's favorite libation.

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Memorial held in London for Richard Blystone

Denis Gray ([Email](#)) - This description of Richard Blystone's service comes courtesy and permission of Fiona Rogers, wife of former Reuters Bangkok bureau chief and senior editor John Rogers:

Fiona Rogers - Just back from the London memorial service for Dick. It was a very good send-off at St Bride's in Fleet Street, the "journalists' church". Lovely service, with a professional choir. Well attended, with lots of vaguely-familiar faces, presumably of CNN folks, and friends from various parts of their lives. Good, robust hymns including "Mine eyes have seen the glory of the Lord" (John Brown's body), very Dick. Titi, John and Dan (Bly's children) were there. Titi gave the family tribute to "my hero". Dan, John and Helle (Bly's wife) all did readings. Helle's was of "So we'll go no more a roving", by Byron. There was an excellent reception at a nearby bar. Helle, sitting in her "red racer" with the family and a carer hovering around, was

very strong. While most people were reaching for their hankies during the service, it was a joyous celebration of Dick's life rather than a lament. That was very much the tone of remarks afterwards, which included a long montage of CNN clips of Dick's reporting. How good he was with the perfect concise phrase! And how funny. The only version I could find was the one which Denis sent us the day after his death. [Here's a link](#) from the CNN website: If we can get copies of the tributes in the service and the longer video, we'll send them on.

Eddie Lederer (still working at the U.N.) gave a short speech at the reception about Dick's days at the AP.

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Mulligan's story on the royal wedding of Charles, Diana

Ann Blackman ([Email](#)) - I was delighted to see the piece about Hugh Mulligan (in Tuesday's Connecting) but disappointed not to read one or two of his pieces about the (royal) wedding. Hugh was such a fabulous and funny writer.

Connecting found this story filed by Hugh and moved as an AP Was There piece. [Click here](#) to read.

And, more on Mulligan:

Nick Ludington ([Email](#)) - Memories dim but I vividly recall a Mulligan tale told me while based in Beirut. A visiting AP staffer who had been recently in the Far East related that Mulligan was working at a desk near a Time magazine staffer. The Timesman agonized loudly as he worked under pressure to prepare his weekly Friday file. Mulligan turned and suggested, "Maybe you should work for an annual."

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Dave Tomlin ([Email](#)) - Hugh came to one of my first state meetings in South Carolina, and I met him at the airport in Hilton Head. As we strolled to baggage claim, he said, "I can't wait to show you the terrific luggage I found." Minutes later he hefted it off the carousel and my jaw dropped. It was a large lady's suitcase in powder blue, with small castors on its bottom corners. "Look at this," Hugh said

triumphantly as he attached a matching leash to the bag and began yanking it behind him like a bad dog. It tracked like a grocery cart and fell over several times before we got to my car. I still marvel that AP's most frequent traveler could have thought this was progress.

Next time I saw him, I was COB in Des Moines, and Hugh had joined the stampede to the now ubiquitous airline-style roller bag as he arrived for another state meeting, this time in Lincoln, Nebraska. He had done his homework on the state, learning somewhere that many Nebraskans descended from Hungarian or other central European stock. He used that as pretext for telling an introductory joke about an immigrant momma who was upset that her daughter was lingering too long on the porch in the dark with her boyfriend. Hugh did not let his stutter stop him from offering the punchlines with a heavy Zsa Zsa Gabor accent. "Come in, daughter, and stop dat spooning out dere," said the momma. "Oh, momma, vee are not spooning," the daughter replied. "Vee are forking."

I held my breath. It was a luncheon, and there was nothing stronger than iced tea on the tables. But the gathering dissolved in mirth, and all was well, as it generally was whenever Hugh was in the room.

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Story on News exhibition struck a chord

Peggy Walsh ([Email](#)) - Brendan Riley's piece on the News exhibition in San Francisco struck a chord. (See Tuesday Connecting)

To this day I still have nightmares of my early days with AP when I was responsible for ripping, sorting and putting on clipboards tons of copy.

Handling the avalanche felt like the famous Lucille Ball chocolate conveyor belt scene for those old enough to remember it.

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Distinguished journalist and Reynolds alum Frank McCulloch dies at age of 98



Frank McCulloch addressed a homecoming gathering at the Reynolds School of Journalism, University of Nevada, Reno, in October 2009. Photo by Tammy Krikorian.

By Warren Lerude

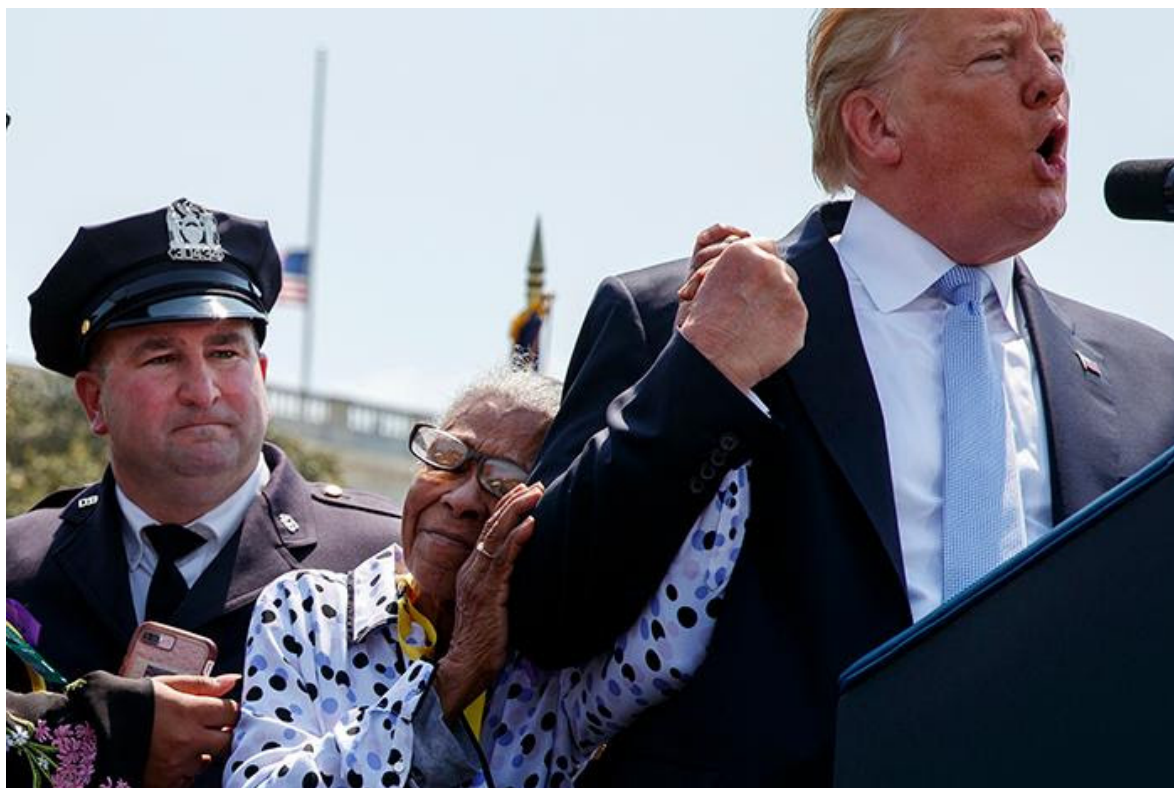
Frank McCulloch, the son of a pioneer Nevada ranch family who served as a combat war correspondent and led major American news organizations distinguishing himself as an icon for a free press, died Monday night. He was 98. His family was close by at a Santa Rosa, CA. nursing facility where he had been treated for a brief illness.

McCulloch served as a reporter, editor and bureau chief for Time-Life News Service bureaus ranging from New York and Washington, D.C. to Dallas and Los Angeles. He served as Southeast Asia bureau chief in Hong Kong and Saigon covering the Vietnam war and in top editor positions at the Los Angeles Times, the national McClatchy newspaper company based at the Sacramento Bee and the San Francisco Examiner.

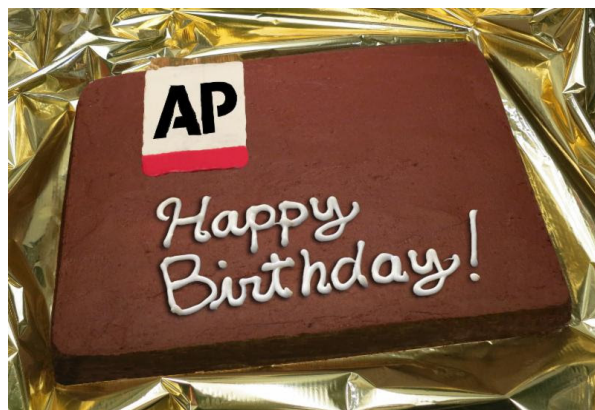
Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism in New York presented McCulloch its highest award in 1984 "for singular journalistic performance in the public interest" and "overarching accomplishment and distinguished service to journalism."

Read more [here](#).

AP Photo of the Day



Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Susana Hayward - haywardsusana@gmail.com

Joe McGowan - joedos2@comcast.net

Stories of interest

I'm Not Quoting Enough Women (New York Times)

By David Leonhardt, Opinion Columnist

Five years ago, a freelance journalist named Adrienne LaFrance decided to figure out the gender breakdown of the people she was quoting. With help from an M.I.T. researcher, LaFrance analyzed the articles she had written over the previous year, spanning many subjects, in a variety of big-name publications.

"I expected we'd find that I quote more men than women, but I also secretly hoped the gender representation in my work would be more balanced than most," she later wrote. "I make an effort to find women sources. I'm a feminist! Surely that would show over the course of a year." Yet it didn't. About 25 percent of the people she mentioned were women, very similar to the overall share in the media, according to other studies.

But if LaFrance's project was disappointing, it was also ahead of its time. Over the past five years, the shortage of women's voices in the media - and at public events - has started to get more attention.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady.

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Smart knows that's not English - how adland took a mallet to the language (Guardian)



By **CHRISTOPHER BEANLAND**

It's taken a millennium and a half for English to develop into a language as rich and complex as a character from your favourite multi-part Netflix drama series - and just a few years for the advertising industry to batter it into submission like a stained piñata at a child's party.

Baffling slogans have become the new norm in adland. Perhaps Apple laid the foundations in 1997 with its famous Think Different campaign, but things have since gone up a notch: in 2010, Diesel blurted out perplexing offerings such as "Smart had one good idea and that idea was stupid". Then came Zoopla with its "Smart knows" campaign. Now we're informed by Ireland's flag carrier that "Smart flies Aer Lingus". Who are these people called Smart and how can we avoid sitting next to them on our next flight?

Today's language-mangling ad campaigns run the greasy gamut from the somewhat confusing "Live your unexpected Luxembourg" to the head-scratching "Start your impossible".

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

The Final Word

Remembering author Tom Wolfe, 'a magician' with words



2016 AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews

By HILLEL ITALIE

NEW YORK (AP) - You only had to look at him - in his white suits and two-tone shoes - or read such books as "The Bonfire of the Vanities" and "The Right Stuff" to know that Tom Wolfe was like no other.

"He was a magician," Wolfe's friend and fellow "New Journalist" Gay Talese told The Associated Press on Tuesday. "He would take a sentence and work that sentence in loops and do all kinds of things with words. He'd take you out for a spin and after a while you'd wonder if he knew where he was headed. But he always knew exactly where he was headed."

Wolfe, who died Monday at age 88, was a rule breaker and traditionalist and a man of other contradictions. He mingled happily with hippies and published in Rolling Stone, but was a supporter of Ronald Reagan and otherwise old-fashioned in his tastes. He mocked the insular nature of American fiction, but was gracious in person, making a point before literary luncheons of reading the works of his fellow guests.

In recent years, he was badly stooped, but still stylish as he moved about with the help of a high cane with a wolf's head on top. Ever curious and energetic, he had figured out the world long before.

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

Today in History - May 16, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, May 16, the 136th day of 2018. There are 229 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 16, 1868, at the U.S. Senate impeachment trial of President Andrew Johnson, 35 out of 54 senators voted to find Johnson guilty of "high crimes and misdemeanors" over his attempted dismissal of Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, falling one vote short of the two-thirds majority needed to convict; the trial ended 10 days later after two other articles of impeachment went down to defeat as well.

On this date:

In 1532, Spanish conquistador Francisco Pizarro and a small band of soldiers landed on the northwestern coast of Peru.

In 1703 (Old Style calendar), the Russian city of Saint Petersburg was founded by Peter the Great.

In 1770, Marie Antoinette, age 14, married the future King Louis XVI of France, who was 15.

In 1920, Joan of Arc was canonized by Pope Benedict XV.

In 1939, the federal government began its first food stamp program in Rochester, New York.

In 1946, the Irving Berlin musical "Annie Get Your Gun," starring Ethel Merman as Annie Oakley, opened on Broadway.

In 1948, CBS News correspondent George Polk, who had been covering the Greek civil war between communist and nationalist forces, was found slain in Salonika Harbor.

In 1953, Associated Press correspondent William N. Oatis was released by communist authorities in Czechoslovakia, where he had been imprisoned for two years after being forced to confess to espionage while working as the AP's Prague bureau chief.

In 1966, China launched the Cultural Revolution, a radical as well as deadly reform movement aimed at purging the country of "counter-revolutionaries."

In 1975, Japanese climber Junko Tabei became the first woman to reach the summit of Mount Everest.

In 1988, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *California v. Greenwood*, ruled that police could search discarded garbage without a search warrant. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop released a report declaring nicotine was addictive in ways similar to heroin and cocaine.

In 1991, Queen Elizabeth II became the first British monarch to address the United States Congress as she lauded U.S.-British cooperation in the Persian Gulf War.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush visited Saudi Arabia, where he failed to win help from Saudi leaders to relieve skyrocketing American gas prices. Osama bin Laden said in an audio statement that al-Qaida would continue its holy war against Israel and its allies until the liberation of the Palestinians. Robert Mondavi, the patriarch of California wine country, died in Yountville at age 94.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama named a temporary chief for the scandal-marred Internal Revenue Service and pressed Congress to approve new security money to prevent another Benghazi-style terrorist attack. Candice Glover won the 12th season of "American Idol" on Fox.

One year ago: The White House issued a furious denial after a report that President Donald Trump personally appealed to FBI Director James Comey to abandon the bureau's investigation into National Security Adviser Michael Flynn. President Trump met with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan (REH'-jehp TY'-ihp UR'-doh-wahn) at the White House, where both leaders vowed to repair a relationship battered by years of disputes over Syria's civil war and its various fighting groups.

Today's Birthdays: Former U.S. Rep John Conyers, D-Mich., is 89. Former U.S. Senator and Connecticut Governor Lowell Weicker is 87. Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats is 75. Jazz musician Billy Cobham is 74. Actor Danny Trejo is 74. Actor Bill Smitrovich is 71. Actor Pierce Brosnan is 65. Actress Debra Winger is 63. Olympic gold medal gymnast Olga Korbut is 63. Olympic gold medal marathon runner Joan Benoit Samuelson is 61. Actress Mare Winningham is 59. Rock musician Boyd Tinsley (The Dave Matthews Band) is 54. Rock musician Krist Novoselic (noh-voh-SEL'-ik) is 53. Singer Janet Jackson is 52. Country singer Scott Reeves (Blue County) is 52. Actor Brian (BREE'-un) F. O'Byrne is 51. Rhythm-and-blues singer Ralph Tresvant (New Edition) is 50. Actor David Boreanaz is 49. Political correspondent Tucker Carlson is 49. Actress Tracey Gold is 49. International Tennis Hall of Famer Gabriela Sabatini is 48. Country singer Rick Trevino is 47. Musician Simon Katz is 47. TV personality Bill Rancic is 47. Actress Tori Spelling is 45. Actor Sean Carrigan is 44. Singer-rapper B. Slade (formerly known as Tonex) is 43. Actress Lynn Collins is 41. Actress Melanie Lynskey is 41. Actor Jim Sturgess is 40. Actor Joseph Morgan is 37. DJ Alex Pall (The Chainsmokers) is 33. Actress Megan Fox is 32. Actor Drew Roy is 32. Actor Jacob Zachar is 32. Actor-comedian Jermaine Fowler is 30. Actor Thomas Brodie-Sangster is 28. Actor Marc John Jefferies is 28. Olympic bronze medal figure skater Ashley Wagner is 27. Actor Miles Heizer is 24.

Thought for Today: "I want, of course, peace, grace, and beauty. How do you do that? You work for it." - Studs Terkel, American writer (born this date in 1912, died 2008).

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.

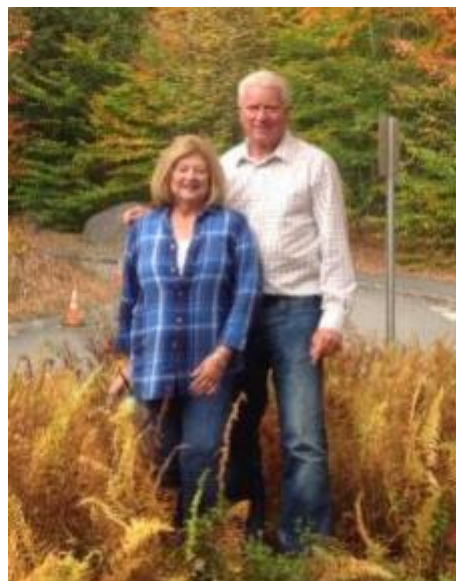
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

- **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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5/19/2018

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