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Connecting - September 25, 2018

1 message

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Tue, Sep 25, 2018 at 9:06 AM

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Connecting

September 25, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning!

The Alan Diaz' family has created the Alan Diaz Journalism Fund at Miami Dade College, in honor of the Pulitzer Prize-winning AP photojournalist [who died](#) in early July.

The fund will benefit student journalists at The Reporter, the school newspaper, and the MDC Summer High School Journalism Institute. [Click here](#) for more on the fund and how you can donate.

A celebration of Alan's life will take place on Saturday, December 1, at the home of Miami Herald photographer and friend, Al Diaz. More details will be sent closer to the date.

For further information, you may contact Marta Lavandier, AP News Editor for Photos, Florida, at MLavandier@ap.org



Alan Diaz, in 2017

Have a great day!

Paul

David Sedeno's words reflect generosity of spirit, love of family

Andy Lippman ([Email](#)) - David Sedeno's lovely story in Monday's Connecting is a well-written reflection of his gratitude for what he has received and accomplished. His words also reflect a generosity of spirit and love of family. He also hasn't forgotten his AP family-and I loved the honorific he bestowed upon me as an honorary godparent of his daughter Mary.

His work with the Catholic diocese shows that he has now carried that generosity of spirit to a new venue. He is right that he continues to be blessed. I am sure that G-d blesses him for his devotion and goodness to his religion and his family.

His story brought back many memories, and I am sure it did likewise to those colleagues and friends who worked with him in the AP.

A memory sparked by NYTimes newswomen on separate floor from

newsroom

Norman Abelson ([Email](#)) - I was taken by the photo and story of the NYTimes newswomen stashed on a separate floor from the newsroom (in Monday's Connecting). It stimulated this memory:

When I began as a copyboy at The AP's Boston bureau in 1951, there were but two women on staff. Barbara was the bureau chief's secretary. The other was the "women's writer," Mary Prim - that name is *cq*, honest. Her desk was not separate, but set among those of the male reporters.

Swearing in the newsroom during Ms. Prim's shift created a sometimes uncomfortable, and unresolved, situation. Frank Murphy, the old-school, cigar-chomping, day editor, had a seemingly bottomless and often boomed-out vocabulary of curses - reserved most often for hapless copy boys. John Knox, the bureau's Number 2, had a Puritan streak, and often chided offenders, including "Tsk, tsk" in response to Murphy's inevitable string of invectives.

As to Ms. Prim, I can recall no comments from her, one way or another. Perhaps a faint smile on occasion?

Using a manual typewriter for rehab from a stroke



Ed Williams ([Email](#)) - retired Auburn University journalism professor - "Hey Ed, do you know what I can do to stop the keys from sticking on this old typewriter? Or who may be able to fix it? Is there such a thing as typewriter oil?"

That was the Facebook message that I got recently from my former student Ross Moore. Seems that Ross, 38, suffered a stroke this summer and is hoping that the use of a manual typewriter might help in his rehab.

Ross lives in Fairhope, Ala., where he has taught middle school and coached youth swimming for nearly 10 years. He is undergoing vocational rehab because of the stroke and hopes to return to teaching after Christmas.

Back to the manual typewriter that's in need of repair. A friend bought the typewriter for Ross at an antique store in Loxley, Ala. Ross said he watched a video on YouTube on how to fix manual typewriters, but the how-to instructor said not to let the oil get on rubber or plastic. He is reluctant about self-repair.



Ross Moore and Meagan Furman, a swimmer he's coached for about a decade.

"I didn't want to try and damage the typewriter without further research," Ross said. "I thought it would be great to use the typewriter to help retrain the fine motor skills in my left hand."

Ross also enjoys portrait painting which helps in his rehab. Doctors have told him to give up playing water polo, which he had been doing once a year with the Auburn Alumni Team. Ross graduated from Auburn in 2003 with degrees in journalism and history.

I told him of a typewriter repairman I'd heard about in Birmingham. "I have a painting class in Huntsville soon so I'll be passing through Birmingham," Ross said.

Before turning to teaching, Ross was a staff writer, photographer and page designer for The Hartwell Sun, a weekly paper in Hartwell, Ga. He's an active member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Daphne, Ala. His email address - rhm503@gmail.com

Connecting sky shot - near Bode, Iowa



Tom Tierney took this photo when he and his wife Jackie found this sunset looking west from Bode, Iowa, With the Autumn Equinox, the sunset is still due west.

More on spelling and pronunciations

Henry Bradsher ([Email](#)) - In addition to the recent mention of problems with the name of the late Libyan dictator, there's more on the subject of spellings. One problem is conveying the sound of the letter taken from Persian script into English as an "h".

In Persian, it has a sound somewhat like "huh". Some early English versions of the name of Iran's capital, Tehran, spelled it Teheran in order to get that sound in there as a two-and-a-half-syllable word. But now the second "e" has been dropped, resulting in most English speakers' mispronouncing it. (That apostrophe with "speakers", because it's followed by a gerund, is a grammatical rule just about dead.)

When I was in India during the time of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, locals complained about foreigners' similar problem with his name. Nehru's "h" was the Persian one, from his family origins in Persian-influenced Kashmir. His name should be pronounced "Ney-huh-roo," with equal emphasis on each part, locals said, but most foreigners called him "NEIGH-roo".

Then there's also the problem of a dateline for his capital. Technically, there was, when I lived there more than half a century ago, no such place as New Delhi. The only official listing of a city was Delhi, for the ancient town on whose southern outskirts the British built in the 1920s a new capital for their Indian empire to replace Calcutta. This non-existence of New Delhi probably hasn't changed since then, but if journalists used only "Delhi" as a dateline, readers would be confused.

And Calcutta isn't Calcutta any more (brief outburst of song, in tune, please, of "Istanbul's not Constantinople now"). It's Kolkata.

A wave of nationalism in that part of the world decided that the British has mispronounced local names. Bombay became Mumbai. Poona became Pune. Burma, or the original British form Burmah, became Myanmar (the "r" being swallowed). But Madras became Chennai, an unconnected name with as long a history in southeast India as Madras but now preferred by Telugu speakers in the area. And in the southwestern Indian state of Kerala, when I was covering political turmoil there in 1959, the capital was Trivandrum. That British simplification has now been replaced by what is considered the traditional name, Thiruvananthapuram.

The chief minister of Kerala during that turmoil, the world's first freely elected Communist leader of a significant political entity, was E. M. S. Namboodripad. Or Nambudripad. Local English-language newspapers used both spellings. So I asked him which one was a correct usage from the local Malayalam script. He refused to choose. I chose Namboodripad, which sounded most like the pronunciation.

One needs an up-to-date map - and a flexible tongue.

My military career - and a memory of Sergeant Maxie

Carl P. Leubsdorf Sr. (Email) - My Military Career (excerpted from my forthcoming memoir, *Adventures of a Boy on the Bus*)

Early in 1961, I received a shocking piece of mail; a notice from the Selective Service System to report for a pre-induction physical. In those days, every male American between 18 and 26 had to serve in the military unless he failed to pass a physical or somehow contrived, usually by extended stays in graduate school, to get past his 26th birthday without being called. But you could avoid two- or three-year stints by joining a reserve or National Guard unit.

I got especially lucky by finding a place in a Public Information Unit that included a mix of public relations and newspaper types. I was able to specify when I would serve my six months, and I was soon directed to report for training on April 15 at Fort Leonard Wood. It was an interesting, though not especially arduous, period. There were a few casualties, though not on the battlefield: a number of people fainted while awaiting their shots, in part because of the rumor that the needle used for the penicillin shot was especially long.

My platoon's immediate supervisor was Sergeant Maxie, an 18-year veteran who was not too demanding; one day, when we were in a marching competition, he deliberately gave us an unfamiliar command, ensuring our elimination and sparing us-and him-from further marching. It was pretty hot. We were supposed to do a chin-up before entering the mess hall for dinner. I was never able to do one, but they still let me eat. (More than 50 years later, the publication of one of my columns in a Wisconsin paper precipitated an email from an Army colleague who recalled my difficulty in doing those chin-ups.) Most of my new comrades were farmers or factory workers from the Midwest. After two weeks, we were granted our first pass to go to the off-base area known as the Strip, which featured bars, tattoo parlors, and various other sorts of entertainment; several members of our unit returned with colorful tattoos on their arms, which soon got quite swollen, while others seemed to have contracted some sort of illness.

Sergeant Maxie also liked the Strip, it appeared, which explained why he tended to vanish about dinnertime and often did not reappear until the early morning hours. One day, he called me aside and asked to borrow \$10 until payday; feeling no choice, I complied and, in fact, on payday, he repaid me. However, it turned out that I was not the only one singled out for such a request, though I was one of the few who were ever repaid. Sergeant Maxie was soon court-martialed, and we went through the rest of basic training under the command of one of our own, an aspiring banker from Wisconsin.

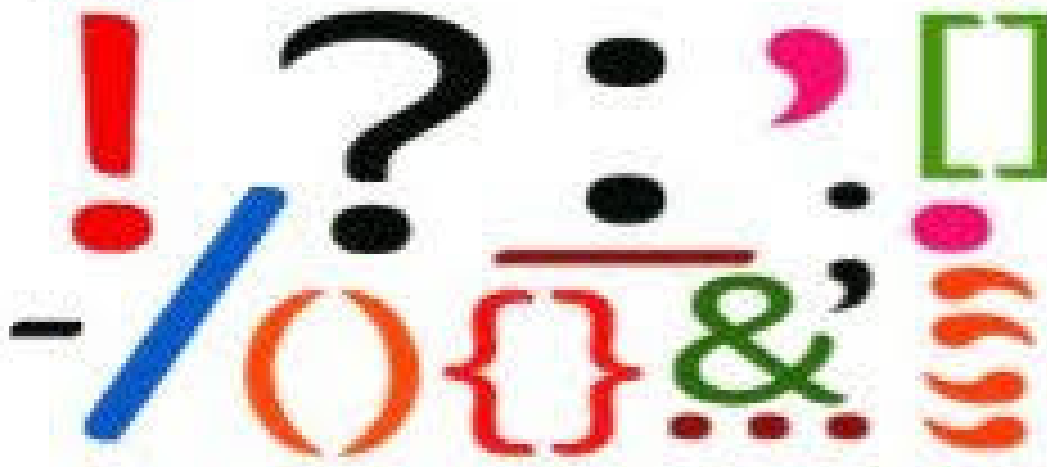
About the toughest thing we ever did was to crawl on pebbles and rocks with a pack on our back while bullets were fired just above us. After the eight-week basic training, I was reassigned for training as a clerk typist; the course passed the typing test despite using only two fingers. But I never made it to the last part because the commander of the Fourth Training Regiment spotted my background and had me assigned to his own little public relations section. He especially liked seeing his name in print; every article we wrote referred to Col. Edward Comm's Fourth Training Regiment. As a result, I spent the next four months writing for the regiment and post newspapers. This included covering softball games, to which I was driven by a soldier several ranks above my own; supervising picture-taking at the weekly

parade; and writing profiles of fellow reservists from the information they had supplied on biographical forms (most of us were reservists who had a real life outside the Army). I was especially proud of the one I wrote about myself.

Midway through our tenure, several of my compatriots discovered their units had been called to federal duty, which meant that, after their six months were up, they had to stay in. The reason was the crisis sparked by the Soviet Union's erection of the Berlin Wall that August. My unit was not called, and I was discharged on schedule October 15, having spent much of the final week on the base watching the World Series while also doing the required paperwork for my departure. That was the summer Roger Maris hit 61 home runs for the Yankees, an event I barely remember because I was so busy serving my country.

Did you celebrate National Punctuation Day on Monday?

Happy National Punctuation Day!



Ed Williams ([Email](#)) - Punctuation saves lives!

You really don't want to say "Let's eat Grandma!" when you mean "Let's eat, Grandma!"

Don't forget to celebrate National Punctuation Day today. (It was Monday.)

Jeff Rubin, founder of National Punctuation Day, has a game plan for your celebration of this special day:

Sleep late.

Take a long shower or bath.

Go out for coffee and a bagel (or two).

Read a newspaper and circle all of the punctuation errors you find (or think you find, but aren't sure) with a red pen.

Take a leisurely stroll, paying close attention to store signs with incorrectly punctuated words.

Stop in those stores to correct the owners.

If the owners are not there, leave notes.

Visit a bookstore and purchase a copy of Strunk & White's *The Elements of Style*.

Look up all the words you circled.

Congratulate yourself on becoming a better written communicator.

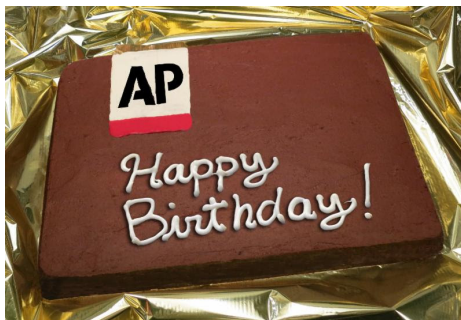
Go home.

Sit down.

Write an error-free letter to a friend.

Take a nap. It has been a long day.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Mark Mittelstadt - markmitt71@yahoo.com

Wayne Slater - wslater1066@yahoo.com

Stories of interest

Afghan journalists dying in record numbers to report the war (AFP)



In the Tolo News office in Kabul, reporters work beside photo tributes to two colleagues killed in a suicide attack in September

By ALLISON JACKSON

Moments after Afghan journalist Samim Faramarz wrapped up his live report on the latest suicide attack in Kabul, a car bomb exploded just metres away, killing him and his cameraman Ramiz Ahmadi.

Their colleagues at Tolo News choked back tears as they reported the deaths live on air -- cracking open a divisive debate on how Afghan journalists should operate in such a dangerous environment.

The deaths of Faramarz and Ahmadi on September 5 took the number of journalists and media workers killed in Afghanistan this year to 14, making the country the deadliest in the world for the media.

Among the dead were 13 journalists -- the highest number killed in Afghanistan in a single year since the start of the war.

The losses have devastated the tight-knit community that faces the real prospect of tragedy every time they go to work.

Read more [here](#).

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Billionaires buying up media: Savior complex or civic duty?



This Friday, Sept. 21, 2018, combination of file photos shows from left, Laurene Powell Jobs, who has a majority stake in The Atlantic, Jeff Bezos, who bought The Washington Post in 2013, Patrick Soon-Shiong, who bought The Los Angeles Times in 2018, John Henry, who bought the Boston Globe in 2013, and Marc Benioff, who bought Time Magazine. For the billionaires ownership of storied magazines or newspapers provides an alluring combination of a trophy property, a high-profile opportunity to demonstrate their business acumen and a chance to display highbrow civic-mindedness. (AP Photos)

By BARBARA ORTUTAY

NEW YORK (AP) - The Washington Post. Time Magazine. The Atlantic. The Village Voice. The Los Angeles Times. All American media icons, all bought by billionaires in the past half decade. Some are thriving. One died. On the rest, the jury's still out.

Still, for beleaguered news organizations the prospect of a deep-pocketed savior - even from the very same tech industry that has kneecapped the media's traditional business model - is all but irresistible.

But success is not guaranteed. And risks run from industry outsiders making poor business decisions to exposure to undue influence on editorial operations.

For the billionaires, meanwhile, ownership of storied magazines or newspapers provides an alluring combination of a trophy property, a high-profile opportunity to demonstrate their business acumen and a chance to display highbrow civic-mindedness.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

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Toner's return: Once a diligent newspaper carrier, journalist from Humboldt remains humble despite the Pulitzer in his past (Fort Dodge Messenger)

By CHAD THOMPSON

Mike Toner's decorated 40-year career as a journalist was full of accomplishments and thrills, but almost falling out of a helicopter wasn't among them.



It is true that Toner flew in a helicopter to photograph Mount St. Helens in Washington, but he said the part about him nearly falling out has been misinterpreted in online information about him.

Toner, who grew up in Humboldt, visited The Messenger offices Wednesday afternoon. He was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Explanatory Journalism in 1993 for a series of articles titled "When the Bugs Fight Back" that explored the diminishing effectiveness of antibiotics and pesticides.

About two years after winning the award, Toner visited with a journalism class at the University of Georgia, where he fielded questions from students.

Toner was asked if he had ever done anything he considered dangerous.

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word



Paul Stevens - Sunday at Arrowhead, my son Jon (wearing Number 15) and I made national TV - and here's proof thanks to his eagle-eyed friend in Oregon. Opening Day at the stadium was special for us, not so much for the Chiefs defeating the 49ers behind almost mystical QB Patrick Mahomes, but for our 25th year of sharing a Chiefs game together. We started when he was 8 and had to stand on a seat to see; now he's 6-7 and no seat needed.

Today in History - September 25, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 25, the 268th day of 2018. There are 97 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 25, 1981, Sandra Day O'Connor was sworn in as the first female justice on the Supreme Court.

On this date:

In 1513, Spanish explorer Vasco Nunez de Balboa crossed the Isthmus of Panama and sighted the Pacific Ocean.

In 1690, one of the earliest American newspapers, Publick Occurrences, published its first - and last - edition in Boston.

In 1775, American Revolutionary War hero Ethan Allen was captured by the British as he led an attack on Montreal. (Allen was released by the British in 1778.)

In 1789, the first United States Congress adopted 12 amendments to the Constitution and sent them to the states for ratification. (Ten of the amendments became the Bill of Rights.)

In 1911, ground was broken for Boston's Fenway Park.

In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson collapsed after a speech in Pueblo, Colo., during a national speaking tour in support of the Treaty of Versailles (vehr-SY').

In 1956, the first trans-Atlantic telephone cable officially went into service with a three-way ceremonial call between New York, Ottawa and London.

In 1957, nine black students who'd been forced to withdraw from Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, because of unruly white crowds were escorted to class by members of the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division.

In 1974, Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Tommy John underwent an experimental graft reconstruction of the ulnar collateral ligament in the elbow of his throwing arm to repair a career-ending injury; the procedure, which proved successful, is now referred to as "Tommy John surgery."

In 1978, 144 people were killed when a Pacific Southwest Airlines Boeing 727 and a private plane collided over San Diego.

In 1992, NASA's Mars Observer blasted off on a \$980 million mission to the red planet (the probe disappeared just before entering Martian orbit in August 1993).

In 1997, President Bill Clinton pulled open the door of Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, as he welcomed nine blacks who had faced hate-filled mobs 40 years earlier.

Ten years ago: Republican John McCain and Democrat Barack Obama sat down with President George W. Bush at the White House to discuss a multibillion-dollar Wall Street bailout plan, but the session, which also included top congressional leaders, devolved into what the McCain campaign described afterward as a "contentious shouting match." Republican vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin defended her remark that the close proximity of Russia to her home state of Alaska gave her foreign policy experience, explaining in a CBS interview that "we have trade missions back and forth." Anti-apartheid activist Kgalema Motlanthe (KHAH'-lee-mah moo-KAN'-tay) became the third president of South Africa since the end of white rule. After a 43-year wait, Paul McCartney performed his first concert in Israel, saying he was on a mission of peace for Israel and the Palestinians.

Five years ago: Nearly a dozen of Syria's powerful rebel factions, including one linked to al-Qaida, formally broke with the main opposition group in exile and called

for Islamic law in the country, dealing a severe blow to the Western-backed coalition. Skipper Jimmy Spithill and Oracle Team USA won the America's Cup with one of the greatest comebacks in sports history, speeding past Dean Barker and Emirates Team New Zealand in the winner-take-all Race 19 on San Francisco Bay.

One year ago: Former congressman Anthony Weiner was sentenced to 21 months behind bars for illicit online contact with a 15-year-old girl. North Korea's top diplomat said his country had the right to shoot down U.S. warplanes, after President Donald Trump's weekend tweet suggesting that the North's Kim Jong Un "won't be around much longer." Britain's Prince Harry and girlfriend Meghan Markle made their first public appearance as a couple, attending a wheelchair tennis event at the Invictus Games for wounded veterans in Toronto.

Today's Birthdays: Broadcast journalist Barbara Walters is 89. Folk singer Ian Tyson is 85. Polka bandleader Jimmy Sturr is 77. Former Defense Secretary Robert Gates is 75. Actor Josh Taylor is 75. Actor Robert Walden is 75. Actor-producer Michael Douglas is 74. Model Cheryl Tiegs is 71. Actress Mimi Kennedy is 70. Movie director Pedro Almodovar is 69. Actor-director Anson Williams is 69. Actor Mark Hamill is 67. Basketball Hall of Famer Bob McAdoo is 67. Actor Colin Friels is 66. Actor Michael Madsen is 60. Actress Heather Locklear is 57. Actress Aida Turturro is 56. Actor Tate Donovan is 55. TV personality Keely Shaye Smith is 55. Actress Maria Doyle Kennedy is 54. Basketball Hall of Famer Scottie Pippen is 53. Actor Jason Flemyng is 52. Actor Will Smith is 50. Actor Hal Sparks is 49. Actress Catherine Zeta-Jones is 49. Rock musician Mike Luce (Drowning Pool) is 47. Actress Bridgette Wilson-Sampras is 45. Actress Clea DuVall is 41. Actor Robbie Jones is 41. Actor Joel David Moore is 41. Actor Chris Owen is 38. Rapper T. I. is 38. Actor Van Hansis is 37. Actor Lee Norris is 37. Actor/rapper Donald Glover (AKA Childish Gambino) is 35. Actor Zach Woods is 34. Actor Jordan Gavaris is 29. Olympic silver medal figure skater Mao Asada is 28. Actress Emmy Clarke is 27.

Thought for Today: "History is too serious to be left to historians." - Iain Macleod, British politician (1913-1970).

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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