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# Connecting - October 10, 2018

1 message

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# Connecting

October 10, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning!

Dictating a story from the scene of a news event and taking that dictation in the bureau were part of the DNA of any AP reporter and editor in the days before mobile phones and laptops came on the scene.

Connecting is seeking your own stories to share - asking, of course, that you email and not dictate them - and we lead today's issue with the first of those stories to arrive in our Inbox. I look forward to hearing from you with your own story.

Tuesday's lead story on **Tim Dahlberg**, the only person we know who is both an AP staffer and an AP member, sparked a memory from **Ray Newton** ([Email](#)) of **Sherm Frederick**, Tim's partner in ownership of six Nevada weeklies.

"Boy, you brought back another name-Sherm Frederick," Ray said. "He was a student of mine many years ago at NAU (Northern Arizona University)-when he returned from the service. Good student, very talented. He was one of the best student editors of a campus newspaper we ever had. He's returned now, has some family in Prescott Valley and a home in Flagstaff. Sherm was honored as an outstanding alum at NAU several years ago (I had nominated him). "

Finally, allow me to dictate a "Happy Birthday" to the Grumpy Olde Editor, my dad, **Walter Stevens**, who is into his sixth year of editing The Heavenly Times. He'd be 102 now down on Earth. His physical presence may have left our family and his newspaper colleagues, but his spirit is with us forever.

Have a great day!

Paul

## Get Me Rewrite! - Your stories of dictation



**Paul Albright (Email)** - The mention of rewrite brought to mind when I was a beginning reporter at The Rocky Mountain News in Denver in the 1950s. Leo Zuckerman was the sarcastic night rewrite man who turned jumbled notes from the cubs assigned to Denver's cop shop into short and snappy crime fillers for the next day's tabloid.

Working nights allowed Leo daylight hours to pursue a law degree at the University of Denver, a topic that he kept under wraps across the city room. Before many of us were aware, Leo took the bar exam, passed it, and hung out his shingle. At first, he was a criminal defense attorney, then into civil courts, and eventually became influential in Denver's political community.

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**Adolphe Bernotas (Email)** - I loved phoning stories to the bureau; but dictation could be hazardous. The phrase "to and fro" became "to and from" on the wire. Homonyms/homophones could be risky. A presidential wannabe stumping in New Hampshire spoke with a heavy southern drawl and talked about "first water," meaning "highest quality." Back at the bureau, the wire quoted Jesse Helms as saying "first order." On the tape of the speech, I heard Helms say "first water" (as written in my notes) but the editor swore he heard "first order" even though contextually only "first water" made sense. About a group of fervent activists who

cornered a politician at the Statehouse, I dictated that the group "beseeched" (as in "implored") the man to hear them out. On the wire it was transmogrified into "besieged," almost the opposite in meaning.

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**Julie Davey (Email)** - I just read Tuesday's feature and remembered, smiling, how I had to go to court and then immediately dictate the main story that would run on Page One, ultimately marked by the copy editor at my newspaper as Pi (pronounced P-Eye) , to a reporter on the re-write desk.

There were no cell phones, no computers, no short-cuts.

I had to dash to a pay phone, sometimes outside in the weather, always keeping change in my pocket, ready to make the call. Everyone on re-write had been alerted to "take the call" and that well-oiled mechanism was cranked up. Dictating was quite effective. I could hear the re-write reporter typing as I spoke. I loved coming back to the office and watching the trucks back up to the loading dock with that newspaper, that story, with my byline, hot off the press and leaving to be placed immediately in the coin-operated street racks and dropped off at delivery men's homes.

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**Mike Holmes (Email)** - Dictation was a skill I used from my first day on the job as a general assignment reporter for the Omaha World-Herald to my final days as an AP bureau chief.

When I joined the newspaper in 1973, like most cub reporters, I was assigned to the rewrite desk. The World-Herald published six morning and two evening editions in those days, and the rewrite desk was the crucial link between the city desk and beat reporters at the copshop, City Hall, county courthouse, federal courthouse and suburban bureaus. One of the glories of having a beat was the freedom of being out of the city editor's line of sight, so most beat writers preferred dictating to returning to the newsroom.

Some of those reporters could phone in on a tight deadline and dictate amazingly cogent stories; all that was required of me was to type as fast as they could talk. Others would throw you a jumble of facts and a couple quotes, then tell you to "pull something together." If there were holes in a story or unanswered questions, the overworked city editor expected the rewrite desk to know - or get - the answers. A stint on rewrite was far better training than four years of journalism school.

Throughout my 27 years with the AP - even after we reached the pinnacle of portable technology with the Radio Shack TRS-80s - the ability to dictate a story remained a valuable skill. The " earmuffs" on those Trash 80s wouldn't always fit properly around a telephone handset, and finding a working connection for more advanced laptop computers wasn't always possible.

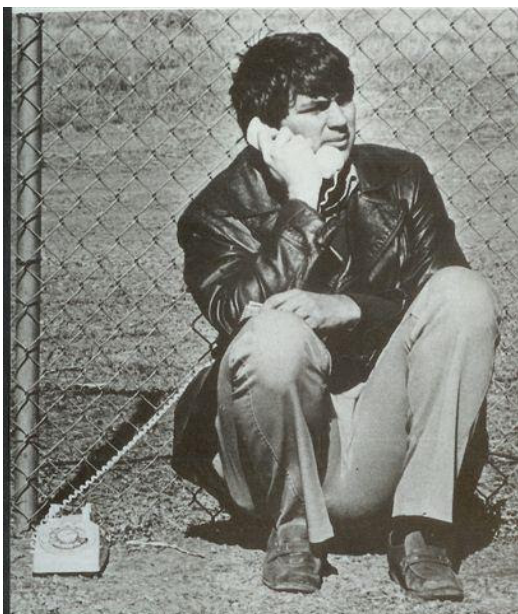
I dictated my final AP byline when a U.S. senator spoke to the state press association meeting I was attending as Nebraska COB. There were a few minutes between the speech and the awards luncheon, so I called the Omaha bureau. The young staffer on duty that Saturday was of the computer/cellphone generation and had never taken dictation. When I was done - "period-paragraph-30" - the old rewrite desk training kicked in. I made sure to ask if she had any questions.

Her reply: "Yeah. How do you do that?"

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**Paul Stevens** ([Email](#)) - No mobile phones, no Internet-connected laptops - just a pay phone. And a riot to cover...

No event I helped cover in my 36-year career matched the 1980 riot at the state prison near Santa Fe, New Mexico, when inmates took control of the prison for 36 hours in what has been called the bloodiest prison riot in U.S. history. When authorities regained control, they found that 33 prisoners had been killed by fellow inmates, some in the most gruesome ways imaginable, and more than 200 injured. None of the guards taken hostage was killed.

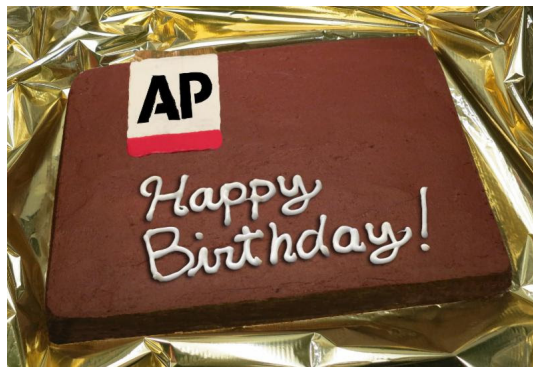


I was four months into my first AP bureau chief's job, in Albuquerque, and when we learned in the early morning hours of February 2 that the riot had begun, I joined several staffers at the scene while News Editor Kent Walz headed the bureau operations.

The nearest pay phone was several miles away, at a small local convenience store, and we made countless drives to file updates to the bureau. Once the riot ended, the state installed a single phone just outside the prison grounds for reporters to use and I am in the photo at left using that phone. Through a chain link fence, I had interviewed several prisoner survivors who told about "death

squads" of inmates who singled out prison snitches and others for death - and in this photo, I was dictating to the bureau what they told me.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

J.B. Forbes - [jforbes@post-dispatch.com](mailto:jforbes@post-dispatch.com)

## Stories of interest

### Being killed for their work is growing risk for journalists



**An activist, member of the Human Rights Association Istanbul branch, holds a poster with a photo of missing Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, during a protest in his support near the Saudi Arabia consulate in Istanbul, Tuesday, Oct. 9, 2018. Turkey said Tuesday it will search the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul as part of an investigation into the disappearance of a missing Saudi contributor to The Washington Post, a week after he vanished during a visit there. (AP Photo/Lefteris Pitarakis)**

**By DAVID BAUDER**

NEW YORK (AP) - Journalists are familiar with the risks of reporting from war-torn lands, but the recent death or disappearance of three people in Turkey, Bulgaria and Mexico illustrates the growing dangers to reporters targeted for practicing their craft.

Authorities in Turkey are searching for Jamal Khashoggi, a contributor to The Washington Post who has been missing since walking into the Saudi Arabian consulate last week in Istanbul. There are concerns that Khashoggi, who has written critically of the Saudi regime, may have been killed there.

Elsewhere, Bulgarian national radio reported an arrest Tuesday in the death of television reporter Viktoria Marinova, host of a show that reported on the alleged misuse of European Union funds by a Bulgarian building company.

And in Mexico this past week, journalist and activist Sergio Martinez Gonzalez was shot and killed by two people on a motorcycle as he ate breakfast with his wife at a cafe.

The Committee to Protect Journalists reports that 43 journalists have been killed in the line of their work so far in 2018. Last year, there were 46 deaths for all of 2017. The numbers aren't that unusual and, in fact, have been higher: 73 in 2015 and 2013, 74 in 2012, the committee said.

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

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## ***Kavanaugh and the fallacy of cause and effect*** (CJR)

**By KYLE POPE**

JOURNALISTS ARE IDEALISTS. We get into this business because we want to right wrongs, call out bad guys, and help underdogs. Yet these days, so much of what we do is either ignored by a public who no longer reads us or dismissed by a political class intent on casting us as partisans. If journalism doesn't seem to have much immediate impact, is it still effective? Does journalism have to have an effect to matter?

It certainly doesn't help morale, or our own sense of justice, when it doesn't, as was the case in coverage of Brett Kavanaugh, who has been sworn in to serve on the Supreme Court. He was approved by the Senate, defended by President Trump, and embraced by supporters, despite an extraordinary push by journalists-at The New York Times, The Washington Post, The New Yorker, and elsewhere-to prove that Kavanaugh was, at worst, a sexual predator and, at least, a liar with a drinking problem.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Sports Journalists Battle for Relevancy*** (Nieman)





**Seattle Seahawks running back Marshawn Lynch speaks to reporters during Super Bowl XLIX Media Day at the U.S. Airways Center in Phoenix in January 2015. He famously answered 29 questions in five minutes, all with a variation of "I'm just here so I don't get fined" Doug Mills/The New York Times/Redux**

**By J. BRADY MCCOLLOUGH**

When Washington Post sports reporter Kent Babb traveled to Oakland, Calif., to report a feature story on Oakland Raiders running back Marshawn Lynch during the summer of 2017, Babb knew that convincing Lynch to cooperate would be a tough sell.

Lynch, who nicknamed himself "Beast Mode" for his bruising running style, had for years been crafting a public persona built on mystery and mercurial interactions with the mainstream media. At Super Bowl media day in 2015, Lynch, facing a \$500,000 fine if he did not make himself available, answered 29 questions in five minutes, all with a variation of "I'm just here so I don't get fined." His behavior earned Lynch a loyal following among fans, particularly young ones.

Babb expected Lynch would turn down an interview, even though the story was likely to be a positive-leaning portrayal of Lynch coming out of retirement to play for his hometown Raiders. Babb walked alongside Lynch after a training camp practice

with his voice recorder out, hoping to capture any exchange they had. Lynch brushed by him, and that was that.

Read more [here](#). Shared by John Hartzell.

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## ***The Great Disconnect: How Journalists at Local and National Outlets Are Evolving Different Skill Sets*** (Nieman)

**By STEVE MYERS**

As the editor of a nonprofit news site in New Orleans, I occasionally receive emails from young, earnest college grads who have recently moved to town and want to do work that matters. They sometimes have a bit of journalism experience. They've discovered The Lens, which focuses on investigative and government accountability reporting. They ask: Can I freelance, do an internship or even make coffee so I can learn how to do this work?

I usually don't have money for freelancers. I know how much time it takes to teach the fundamentals of reporting. And I make my own coffee. But I usually offer to sit down with them so I can learn about their interests, explain what we do, and perhaps offer some advice on how to embark on a career in journalism.

New Orleans is known as a good "news town," which is journalist shorthand for "bad things regularly happen." Yet I usually suggest they consider leaving New Orleans if they want to get into journalism. We have news in New Orleans, but few news jobs-like most mid-sized cities.

A couple of years ago, Nieman Journalism Lab's Joshua Benton described how media jobs were becoming concentrated in New York and Washington, D.C. We all know why: While local newspapers have cut staff, online news orgs on the East Coast are expanding.

Read more [here](#).

# Today in History - October 10, 2018



## By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Oct. 10, the 283rd day of 2018. There are 82 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 10, 1973, Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, accused of accepting bribes, pleaded no contest to one count of federal income tax evasion, and resigned his office.

### On this date:

In 1845, the U.S. Naval Academy was established in Annapolis, Maryland.

In 1911, Chinese revolutionaries launched an uprising which led to the collapse of the Qing (or Manchu) Dynasty and the establishment of the Republic of China.

In 1913, the Panama Canal was effectively completed as President Woodrow Wilson sent a signal from the White House by telegraph, setting off explosives that destroyed a section of the Gamboa dike.

In 1938, Nazi Germany completed its annexation of Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland (soo-DAYT'-uhn-land).

In 1943, Chiang Kai-shek took the oath of office as president of China.

In 1957, President Dwight D. Eisenhower apologized to the finance minister of Ghana, Komla Agbeli Gbedemah, after the official was refused seating in a Howard Johnson's

restaurant near Dover, Delaware.

In 1964, the 18th Summer Olympic Games opened in Tokyo.

In 1967, the Outer Space Treaty, prohibiting the placing of weapons of mass destruction on the moon or elsewhere in space, entered into force.

In 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed a bill authorizing the Susan B. Anthony dollar.

In 1985, U.S. fighter jets forced an Egyptian plane carrying the hijackers of the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro (ah-KEE'-leh LOW'-roh) to land in Italy, where the gunmen were taken into custody. Actor-director Orson Welles died in Los Angeles at age 70; actor Yul Brynner died in New York at age 65.

In 1997, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and its coordinator, Jody Williams, were named winners of the Nobel Peace Prize.

In 2001, U.S. jets pounded the Afghan capital of Kabul. President George W. Bush unveiled a list of 22 most-wanted terrorists, including Osama bin Laden. U.S. Rep. Nancy Pelosi of California won the race for the post of House Democratic leader.

Ten years ago: Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson announced the government had decided to go forward with a plan to buy a part ownership in a broad array of American banks in response to the financial meltdown. Connecticut's Supreme Court ruled that gay couples had the right to marry, making the state the third behind Massachusetts and California to legalize such unions. An Alaska legislative committee released a report saying Gov. Sarah Palin had violated state ethics laws and abused her power by trying to have her former brother-in-law fired as a state trooper.

Five years ago: Gunmen from one of Libya's many militias stormed a hotel where Prime Minister Ali Zidan had a residence and held him for several hours. Kwame Kilpatrick, a former Democratic mayor of Detroit, was sent to federal prison to serve a 28-year sentence for widespread corruption that occurred under his watch. Scott Carpenter, 88, the second American to orbit the Earth and one of the last surviving Mercury 7 astronauts, died in Denver.

One year ago: The U.S. soccer team failed to qualify for the World Cup, eliminated with a 2-1 loss to Trinidad and Tobago; it ended a run of seven straight U.S. appearances at soccer's showcase event. A flood of new allegations poured in against movie executive Harvey Weinstein, including testimonies from Gwyneth Paltrow and Angelina Jolie. Reacting to reports that Secretary of State Rex Tillerson had called him a "moron" after a classified briefing, President Donald Trump challenged Tillerson to "compare IQ tests;" the White House insisted Trump was only joking.

Today's Birthdays: Former Illinois Sen. Adlai Stevenson III is 88. Actor Peter Coyote is 77. Entertainer Ben Vereen is 72. Singer John Prine is 72. Actor Charles Dance is 72. Rock singer-musician Cyril Neville (The Neville Brothers) is 70. Actress Jessica Harper is 69. Author Nora Roberts (aka "J.D. Robb") is 68. Singer-musician Midge Ure is 65. Rock singer David Lee Roth is 64. Actor J. Eddie Peck is 60. Country singer Tanya Tucker is 60. Actress Julia Sweeney is 59. Actor Bradley Whitford is 59. Musician Martin Kemp is 57. Actress Jodi Benson is 57. Rock musician Jim Glennie (James) is 55. Actress Rebecca Pidgeon is 53. Rock musician Mike Malinin (mah-LIHN'-ihn) (Goo Goo Dolls) is 51. Pro Football Hall of Famer Brett Favre is 49. Actor Manu Bennett is 49. Actress Joelle Carter is 49. Actress Wendi McLendon-Covey is 49. Actor/TV host Mario Lopez is 45. Retired race car driver Dale Earnhardt Jr. is 44. Actress Jodi Lyn O'Keefe is 40. Singer Mya is 39. Actor Dan Stevens is 36. Singer Cherie is 34. Actress Rose Mclver is 30. Actress Aimee Teegarden is 29.

**Thought for Today: "The opposite of a fact is falsehood, but the opposite of one profound truth may very well be another profound truth." - Niels Bohr, Danish physicist (1885-1962).**

## 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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