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Connecting - October 17, 2018

1 message

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Connecting

October 17, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning!

The AP and Donald Trump made news Tuesday.

In a wide-ranging interview with AP's **Catherine Lucey**, **Jonathan Lemire** and **Zeke Miller**, the president said he won't accept the blame if Republicans lose control of the House in November, arguing his campaigning and endorsements have helped Republican candidates.

Trump, as noted in this morning's Politico Playbook, defended Saudi Arabia from growing condemnation over the case of a missing journalist, accused his longtime attorney Michael Cohen of lying under oath and flashed defiance when asked about the insult - "Horseface" - he hurled at Stormy Daniels, the porn actress who accuses him of lying about an affair.

"Asked if it was appropriate to insult a woman's appearance, Trump responded, 'You can take it any way you want.' Throughout much of the nearly 40-minute interview, he sat, arms crossed, in the Oval Office behind the Resolute Desk, flanked by top aides, including White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders and communications director Bill Shine. White House counselor Kellyanne Conway listened from a nearby sofa.

[Click here](#) for a transcript of the entire interview.

CORRECTION: In the Walter Mears' memory of the dictating skills of Doug Cornell, in Tuesday's Connecting, he repeated Robert Kennedy's name when the flame is over the grave of his brother John F. Kennedy.

Have a great day!

Paul

In interview with AP

Trump criticizes rush to condemn Saudi Arabia over Khashoggi



President Donald Trump speaks during an interview with The Associated Press in the Oval Office of the White House, Tuesday, Oct. 16, 2018, in Washington. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

By **ZEKE MILLER, JONATHAN LEMIRE** and **CATHERINE LUCEY**

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Donald Trump on Tuesday criticized rapidly mounting global condemnation of Saudi Arabia over the mystery of missing journalist Jamal Khashoggi, warning of a rush to judgment and echoing the Saudis' request for patience.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Trump compared the case of Khashoggi, who Turkish officials have said was murdered in the Saudis' Istanbul consulate, to the allegations of sexual assault leveled against Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh during his confirmation hearing.

"I think we have to find out what happened first," Trump said. "Here we go again with, you know, you're guilty until proven innocent. I don't like that. We just went through that with Justice Kavanaugh and he was innocent all the way as far as I'm concerned."

Trump's remarks were his most robust defense yet of the Saudis, a U.S. ally he has made central to his Mideast agenda. They put the president at odds with other key allies and with some leaders in his Republican Party who have condemned the Saudi leadership for what they say is an obvious role in the case. Trump appeared willing to resist the pressure to follow suit, accepting Saudi denials and their pledge to investigate.

The Oval Office interview came not long after Trump spoke Tuesday with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. He spoke by phone a day earlier with King Salman, and he said both deny any knowledge of what happened to Khashoggi.

Read more [here](#)

There's a reason they're called reporters, not interpreters

Norman Abelson ([Email](#)) - I remember these guidelines from my days as an Associated Press reporter in the 1950s and 60s:

Get it first. Get it fast. But get it right.

Just the news, please.

Key news at the top of the story (reverse triangle).

I realize I'm in danger of being tagged an old fogey. And, at age 87, with my reporting days long behind me, that's probably just what I am. But I maintain those old guidelines are worth a new look.

The media seem to be emphasizing the fast and the first - but the "Get it right"? Not so much.

Online stories and later editions often use updates instead of correcting earlier errors or omissions. And there are instances of just deleting pieces. Also, the widespread use (I believe overuse) of unnamed sources on stories might do more to confuse than authoritatively inform readers.

The now-widely accepted practice of feature-type leads in news stories abounds, e.g.: "Tiffany Jones lifted a small leaf from her sopping wet lawn." That sure is poetic. But "Heavy winds and flooding have caused wide damage, including 14 fatalities, to the Florida panhandle." has a ring of the real news. I certainly wrote my share of "Tiffany" stories, but usually as sidebars or second-day features.

I have no problem with pieces that are slugged "Interpretive" or "News Analysis." They often are quite helpful. But I find it a bit unsettling when papers (notably the NYTimes) lead Page 1 with them.

Also, I join Joe McGowan in taking exception to the Columbia Journalism Review's Kyle Pope stating "we got in this business to right wrongs, call out bad guys and help underdogs." Often well-reported stories can lead readers to do good works. But, in these times of fake news and blog bloviating, giving readers the unbiased news, straight forward, with accuracy, and as complete as possible, should remain Job Number 1 for the Fourth Estate.

There should be some respect for the readers' ability to think and conclude on their own. If the news is reported straight and well documented, without the writer's assumptions, bias or opinion, they will be given what they need to do just that.

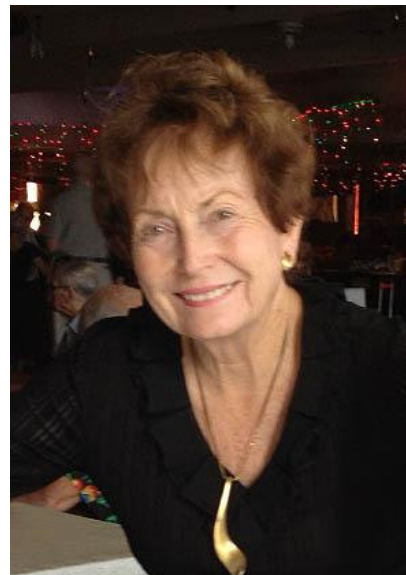
P.S. - I know, I know. The above are my opinions.

New-member profile - Julie Davey

Julie Davey (Email) was born June 1, 1942 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. She attended public schools and graduated from Palmer High School in 1960. She has an A.A. from Colorado Woman's College in Denver, a B.A. (journalism) and an M.A. (American Studies) from California State University, Los Angeles. She did post graduate work at UCLA. in screenwriting. She and her former Air Force pilot husband, Bob, have been married 56 years.

Her journalism career included being a full-time reporter for two Texas dailies (*Laredo Times*) and (*San Antonio Light*) and as a news writer at station (KGNS-TV) in Laredo, Texas. Davey also was associate editor for *Engineering and Science Magazine* at California Institute of Technology (Caltech) prior to becoming a journalism teacher at Glendale High School for 15 years and then a full-time journalism professor at Fullerton College for 18 years.

Davey has written four books, two mystery novels and two nonfiction. She wrote freelance Op-Ed articles for the *Orange County Register* and has been published by magazines and newspapers, including the *Los Angeles Times*.



One book, **Writing for Wellness**, written as a result of 10 years as a volunteer writing teacher for fellow patients, their caregivers and family members, and medical staff at City of Hope Cancer Center, is now used in one medical school as well as in hospitals and wellness centers.

Honors include: Woman of the Week CBS-2 Los Angeles (for work with cancer patients); featured on the Channel 4 KNBC news at 6 p.m. (for the wellness book); Humanitarian of the Year, Duarte (CA) City Council, and the Heart of Hope Award, City of Hope.

Currently, she is a volunteer at Camp Pendleton, teaching Writing for Strength, a writing therapy program for Marines and sailors who have returned from combat.

Get me rewrite! More dictation stories



Robert Dopkin (Email) - I don't claim to hold a candle to either Doug Cornell or Walter Mears when it comes to dictation. It was a way of life in the Washington Bureau in the pre-computer days and a daunting task for most newcomers to the bureau, including myself. I picked up on it by following COB Marv Arrowsmith's simple advice to just start doing it and "it will come to you." It did, but I found it could be problematical in certain competitive situations, especially when using open pay phones within ear shot of an interested party.

As AP's national labor writer during most of the Seventies, I covered two long nationwide coal strikes. In the first, federal mediators convened union and management negotiators in round-the-clock bargaining sessions at the Hay-Adams Hotel across Lafayette Park from the White House. The talks were progressing and the desk sent over Tom Raum, who was new to the bureau, to give me a hand. We camped in the lobby along with the rest of the reporters. As the dinner hour approached everyone decided to head for the dining room just off the lobby. I feigned no appetite and remained behind with Tom, and then asked him to watch the lobby while I climbed the back stairs to the second floor where the talks were underway. I lucked out and found a reliable union source who confirmed for me that a tentative settlement had been reached moments earlier and that a news conference would be held once an official announcement was prepared.

With that, I headed downstairs to a bank of three pay phones behind the main lobby elevators. It was getting close to the 7 pm network news hour and Bernard Shaw, then of CBS, was on one phone talking to his desk. I grabbed the far phone, dialed the bureau and quietly said, "Bulletin dictation." "What'd you say?" came the desk editor's reply. Cupping my mouth over the phone, I again asked for dictation. Meanwhile, I could tell Shaw stopped talking to listen. Finally I was put through to

dictation and slowly, as quietly as possible, dictated the bulletin with sufficient background for a short, but complete story.

I returned to the lobby, told Raum what I did, and said watch what happens. The phones behind the hotel's lobby desk started ringing almost immediately. One-by-one the bellmen walked over to the dining room and shouted, "Mr. so-and-so, your office is calling." They repeated the same thing for each reporter who was informed by their desk that the AP has the strike settled, where's your story? The late Ben Franklin of the New York Times looked at me across the lobby and smilingly gave me the finger.

I wasn't finished. I asked Raum to cover the news conference once it began while I returned upstairs to find my source, who then provided the settlement details. Then back to the pay phones, none of which was occupied, and dictated a new write-through lede. I got back to the news conference in time for its conclusion. Walter Cronkite went with my bulletin and credited AP, I later learned.

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Bill Kaczor (Email) - I can only add my voice to those who have expressed their admiration for "Fast Eddie" Schuyler's ability to dictate a story on the fly. I had heard about him, but finally got a chance to see him in action when he came to Pensacola in 1995 to cover hometown boxer Roy Jones Jr.'s IBF super middleweight title defense. I had covered several of Jones' fights against lesser opponents, but I tagged along with Ed to "help." He didn't really need much, and all I could do is watch in awe as Schuyler was on the phone dictating just seconds after Jones dispatched Antoine Byrd with a TKO just 2:06 into the first round. His lede: "Roy Jones Jr.'s fans and neighbors packed the Pensacola Civic Center to see their hometown hero Saturday night, but they didn't see him for long."

My own dictating talents paled in comparison. I'd usually try to write out a lede and several paragraphs in longhand either immediately before or after an event ended depending how much time I had or how competitive it was.

The biggest issue prior to cell phones was finding a landline to dictate from. In 1984 I went along when Florida Gov. Bob Graham did one of his periodic "workdays" aboard the aircraft carrier USS Lexington. We were flown out to the ship, which was cruising in the Gulf of Mexico, in a small cargo plane known as a COD, short for Carrier Onboard Delivery. The only way to call in my story was to use the ship's radio telephone. I had gotten several paragraphs into the story when a sailor interrupted me and said the captain would like to see me - immediately. So, I ended the call and went up to the bridge. It turned out the captain was listening in and wanted to clarify some comments he had made to Graham about how budget issues could threaten the ship's continued role as the Navy's sole training carrier. After

getting the captain's input, I again called the desk in Miami to complete the story. I wasn't interrupted again, so I guess the captain was happy with the rewrite.

A couple years later, I covered a neutral court basketball game at the Pensacola Civic Center between the Florida Gators and Southern Methodist. The Civic Center helpfully had set up a media room complete with several phones. When the game ended we filed back into the media room only to find technicians had started removing the phones. They'd assumed the phones were no longer needed because, after all, the game was over. They reluctantly plugged the phones back in after we explained that our work was just beginning and we needed the phones to call in our stories.

Another dicey dictation took place in 1995 when I covered the trial and sentencing of a small-town Florida Panhandle sheriff who was convicted of coercing sex from female jail inmates. The trial was held in a small federal courthouse in Panama City. There was only one pay phone in the tiny lobby downstairs from the courtroom. As soon as the sheriff was sentenced to 4.5 years in prison I rushed down to the phone and started dictating my story. I was only a couple minutes into the call when the sheriff's adult daughter started loudly complaining that she needed to make a call and I was hogging the phone. I tried to ignore her, but she continued her tirade until finally a couple U.S. marshals escorted her from the building.

Even in the cell phone era, a landline may be the only way to call in a story. I found that to be true when covering hurricanes because one of the first things to go is cell service. In 2004, I had weathered Hurricane Ivan at the Pensacola News Journal but was anxious to see if my house on the other side of Pensacola Bay had survived. My little pickup and the laptop I'd left inside it had been inundated by flood waters that surrounded and crept inside the newspaper building. The storm also knocked out the News Journal's electronic phone system, so my two landlines, one of them for my desktop computer, were the only means of communication during the storm and for many hours after. The next day I hitched a ride out to my house with a photographer. What usually was a 15-minute trip took two hours because bridges were out. The house looked fine except for a huge downed tree limb that we pushed off the driveway so I could get my daughter's car - she had evacuated with my wife to Illinois - out of the garage. The photog said he checked the phone at my house and it wasn't working so I planned to drive the car back to Pensacola and file from there after we interviewed and photographed people in Gulf Breeze who had suffered extensive damage. I ducked back in the house to get some stuff for what I expected would be another night in a Pensacola motel, but I didn't bother to check the phone again. As I was stepping out the door, the telephone rang. Even though the power was still out at my house, it apparently had been restored to the phone system. A friend was calling to check on us. Now that I had a working phone, I immediately called in my notes and quotes and spent the night at home.

The next year we had another hurricane (Dennis) and I recall finding a working pay phone in the midst of one of the hardest hit communities. That's something reporters covering Hurricane Michael the past few days probably are not finding much of. That's not because pay phones aren't working, It's because few exist anymore. Also, my landline at home undoubtedly won't spring to life again in the future because it

now is part and parcel of my internet service and goes silent every time there's a power outage.

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Bruce Lowitt([Email](#)) - Walter Mears' recollection of taking dictation from Doug Cornell reminded me of one time I took dictation from Walter when I was in the Los Angeles buro in 1968 and he was on the presidential campaign. I was 26 then, two years into my AP career and already thinking seriously about pursuing a goal as a political writer, and Walter's almost-lyrical copy reinforced that desire.

When he was finished I inquired if he had a few minutes. He did, and I asked him about his experiences. He made it sound exciting and desirous.

In 1969 I got my wish, assignment to Sacramento to cover politics. Within a few months, though, I became jaded, cynical at seeing how politics works and how politicians lie, that I knew they lied and they knew I knew they lied but there seemed to be nothing I could do about it. I couldn't wait to get out of there. I had to stay for the rest of the session but was told if something else became available they'd let me know.

Shortly before the session ended I was told the night sports editor's position would be opening up, I said I'd take it, and when I returned to LA in September I began what has become 49 years of covering sports. Although I've been retired from full-time writing since 2004 I'm still at it when the occasion arises.

I was among the AP writers covering the 1976 Indianapolis 500 when Jerry Garrett was the AP Auto Racing Writer and saw a remarkable example of cool under pressure.

Johnny Rutherford was leading after 103 laps when rain halted the race. As I remember it, Jerry started writing his lede shortly after the cars stopped running. A few of us wondered why he was wasting his time since the race would eventually resume, but he just kept typing away on a computer (I think it was called a Teleram) that used a cassette tape. We'd write in 200-word blocks.

Eventually he had 800 or maybe 1,000 words done when they wheeled the cars back onto the track - at which point the skies opened up, the race was called and Rutherford was declared the winner. Garrett, his story done, tried to send it but the tape started whirring from one end to the other and back again without stopping. (I can still hear its high-pitched whine.) We watched, expecting a justified explosion of profanity and who knows what else as Jerry tried to get the computer to work.

After a minute or two without success, he popped out the cassette and fired it onto the track, then picked up the phone, called NY Sports, calmly told them he had to

dictate his lede, then even more calmly and slowly began:

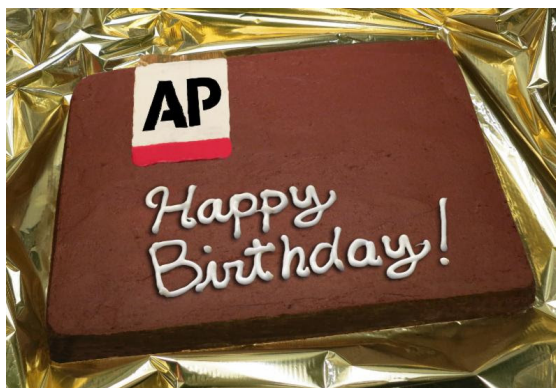
"INDIANAPOLIS, open pren, AP, close pren, long dash ..."

An AP sighting



Joe McGowan ([Email](#)) - I was at Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport Saturday and saw AP on a Robinson helicopter. The pic has me and Heliops pilot and flight instructor Grace Wagner. The airport is about two miles from our home in Broomfield.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Brian Bland - blandcbhs@aol.com

Marty Crutsinger - mcrutsinger@ap.org

Stories of interest

Drone journalism's battle for airspace (CJR)

By TRAVIS FOX



Josh Haner flies a drone on the Greenland Ice Sheet. Photo: Gavin A. Sundwall, courtesy of The New York Times.

THE IMAGES, taken by photographer Josh Haner from about 135 feet above the smoldering remains of a subdivision decimated by a wildfire in Santa Rosa, California, are mesmerizing.

In Haner's video, the camera glides smoothly over the jagged landscape, close enough to make out details-partially burned palm trees, a lone fire truck-but high enough for viewers to get a sense of the scale of the disaster.

And the story was inarguably worth covering: According to The Washington Post, the nearly 9,000 fires that ripped across Northern California in the fall of 2017 burned more than a million acres, destroyed almost 11,000 structures, and killed at least 46 people.

The story was straightforward, but Haner, a staff photographer and senior editor for photo technology at The New York Times, covered it in an unusual way. With fellow staff photographer Jim Wilson already covering the fires from the ground, Haner and photo editor Crista Chapman decided that he would focus only on aerial photography, using two prosumer drones.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mike Holmes.

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Trump's Attacks on the Press Are Illegal. We're Suing. (Politico)

By SUZANNE NOSELL

President Donald J. Trump's frequent threats and hostile acts directed toward journalists and the media are not only offensive and unbecoming of a democratic leader; they are also illegal. In the Trump era, nasty rhetoric, insults and even threats of violence have become an occupational hazard for political reporters and commentators. To be sure, a good portion of President Trump's verbal attacks on journalists and news organizations might be considered fair game in this bare-knuckled political moment. The president has free-speech rights just like the rest of us, and deeming the news media "the enemy of the American people" and dismissing accurate reports as "fake news" are permissible under the First Amendment.

But the First Amendment does not protect all speech. Although the president can launch verbal tirades against the press, he cannot use the powers of his office to suppress or punish speech he doesn't like. When President Trump proposes government retribution against news outlets and reporters, his statements cross the line. Worse still, in several cases it appears that the bureaucracy he controls has acted on his demands, making other threats he issues to use his governmental powers more credible. Using the force of the presidency to punish or suppress legally protected speech strikes at the heart of the First Amendment, contravening

the Constitution. Presidents are free to mock, needle, evade and even demean the press, but not to use the power of government to stifle it.

That is why this week PEN America, an organization of writers that defends free expression, together with the nonprofit organization Protect Democracy and the Yale Law School Media Freedom and Information Clinic, is filing suit in federal court seeking an order directing the president not to use the force of his office to exact reprisals against the press.

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

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NPR Names The Houston Chronicle's Nancy Barnes Its Editorial Director (New York Times)

By Jaclyn Peiser

Nancy Barnes, the executive editor of The Houston Chronicle, will be the new senior vice president of news and the editorial director at NPR, a position last officially held by Michael Oreskes, who resigned last November amid allegations of sexual harassment.

Ms. Barnes, 57, who is also the executive editor for Hearst Texas Newspapers, will start on Nov. 28. She will take over from Chris Turpin, who has held the role temporarily. He will become vice president for editorial innovation and newsroom development, the public radio network said on Tuesday.

"I'm very excited about this opportunity to work at NPR," Ms. Barnes said. "It's a great opportunity to grow and do something a little bit different and still serve the great journalistic work."



In a statement, Jarl Mohn, NPR's president and chief executive, said, "Nancy has the news judgment to guide our storytelling, believes in the power of the NPR mission, sees the tremendous opportunity in unifying NPR and member station newsrooms, and has the business acumen to think creatively about how we can bring our journalism to even more eyes and ears."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Sibby Christensen.

Today in History - October 17, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Oct. 17, the 290th day of 2018. There are 75 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 17, 1933, Albert Einstein arrived in the United States as a refugee from Nazi Germany.

On this date:

In 1610, French King Louis XIII, age nine, was crowned at Reims, five months after the assassination of his father, Henry IV.

In 1777, British forces under Gen. John Burgoyne surrendered to American troops in Saratoga, New York, in a turning point of the Revolutionary War.

In 1807, Britain declared it would continue to reclaim British-born sailors from American ships and ports regardless of whether they held U.S. citizenship.

In 1931, mobster Al Capone was convicted in Chicago of income tax evasion. (Sentenced to 11 years in prison, Capone was released in 1939.)

In 1939, Frank Capra's comedy-drama "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," starring James Stewart as an idealistic junior U.S. senator, had its premiere in the nation's capital.

In 1941, the U.S. destroyer Kearny was damaged by a German torpedo off the coast of Iceland; 11 people died.

In 1967, Puyi (poo-ye), the last emperor of China, died in Beijing at age 61.

In 1973, Arab oil-producing nations announced they would begin cutting back oil exports to Western nations and Japan; the result was a total embargo that lasted until March 1974.

In 1979, Mother Teresa of India was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

In 1989, an earthquake measuring 7.1 on the Richter scale struck northern California, killing 63 people and causing \$6 billion worth of damage.

In 1992, Japanese exchange student Yoshi Hattori was fatally shot by Rodney Peairs in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, after Hattori and his American host mistakenly knocked on Peairs' door while looking for a Halloween party. (Peairs was acquitted of manslaughter, but was ordered in a civil trial to pay more than \$650,000 to Hattori's family.)

In 2000, the New York Yankees followed the Mets into the World Series, beating the Seattle Mariners 9-7 and winning the American League championship series four games to two.

Ten years ago: Wall Street ended a tumultuous week that turned out to be its best in five years. The Dow Jones industrial average lost 127 points, closing at 8,852.22, but turned in the strong week because of two huge days of gains - a record 936-point jump the previous Monday and an increase of 401 points on Thursday. Four Tops frontman Levi Stubbs died in Detroit at age 72.

Five years ago: The government reopened its doors hours after President Barack Obama signed a bipartisan congressional measure passed the night before to end a

16-day partial shutdown. The Boston Red Sox edged the Detroit Tigers 4-3 for a 3-2 lead in the AL championship series.

One year ago: Just hours before President Donald Trump's latest travel ban was due to take effect, a federal judge in Hawaii blocked most of the ban, saying it suffered from the same flaws as the previous version. U.S.-backed Syrian forces gained control of the northern Syrian city of Raqqa, which was once the heart of the Islamic State group's self-styled caliphate.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Marsha Hunt is 101. Actress Julie Adams is 92. Country singer Earl Thomas Conley is 77. Singer Jim Seals (Seals & Crofts) is 76. Singer Gary Puckett is 76. Actor Michael McKean is 71. Actor George Wendt is 70. Actor-singer Bill Hudson is 69. Astronaut Mae Jemison is 62. Country singer Alan Jackson is 60. Movie critic Richard Roeper is 59. Movie director Rob Marshall is 58. Actor Grant Shaud is 58. Animator Mike Judge is 56. Rock singer-musician Fred LeBlanc (Cowboy Mouth) is 55. Actor-comedian Norm Macdonald is 55. Singer Rene' Dif is 51. Reggae singer Ziggy Marley is 50. Actor Wood Harris is 49. Singer Wyclef Jean (zhahn) is 49. World Golf Hall of Famer Ernie Els is 49. Singer Chris Kirkpatrick ('N Sync) is 47. Rapper Eminem is 46. Actress Sharon Leal is 46. Actor Matthew Macfadyen is 44. Rock musician Sergio Andrade (an-DRAY'-day) is 41. Actress Felicity Jones is 35. Actor Chris Lowell is 34. Actor Dee Jay Daniels is 30.

Thought for Today: "The thinking of a genius does not proceed logically. It leaps with great ellipses. It pulls knowledge from God knows where." - Dorothy Thompson, American journalist (1894-1961).

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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