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Connecting - October 30, 2018

1 message

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October 30, 2018







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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning!

Since the tragic shootings at the Jewish synagogue in Pittsburgh on Saturday, few have been busier than the journalists chronicling what happened and why.

And among them is our Connecting colleague **Sally Stapleton** (**Email**) - managing editor of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and formerly with AP Photos from 1990-2003, who took time out Monday to share with her colleagues the Page One images above and the following:

I have loved what the journalism industry has stood for up to last Friday. The following day, a high school dropout who had an indistinct footprint, except for his online rantings, committed a hate-crime massacre.

All I've felt since is the outpouring of journalists' goodwill with offers to help out by feeding the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette newsroom. We got fried chicken - who knew Pittsburgh had good Southern fried chicken? - from Managing Editor Jane Elizabeth of the News & Observer and the staff. Today's meals came from the Toledo Blade Newspaper Guild. More than 30 pizzas showed up before lunch.

And we got offers to send colleagues to reinforce our staffing - ProPublica's Editorin-chief Steve Engelberg reached out to us hours after the shooting to ask if we needed any reporter help.

Hearing our colleagues just saying "good job" is what I'll remember about October 27. That and a desire to be considered a Pittsburgher sooner rather than later.

Paul

Connecting series:

Your early journalism job experiences

Larry Margasak (Email) - Connecting has once again triggered old memories. You asked about our copy boy experiences, and my days in that lowly job at the old Philadelphia Bulletin are prancing through my head now.

The hazing came first. An editor sent you to the composing room for a heavy metal bar (I think it was pig iron) that you struggled to carry back to the newsroom. You finally made it, only to see everyone laughing at you.

And then, there was:

- The night city editor whose normally reserved demeanor changed drastically if you didn't have super-sharp pencils at his desk for ready for editing copy.
- The Phillies beat writer who always sent me to the cafeteria for sandwiches that had to have the crust cut off on all sides (but he was a good tipper).

- The cleaning lady who also sent me for sandwiches. I asked myself why I had to get sandwiches for a cleaning woman, but felt terrible about my negative thoughts when this low-paid person gave me a tip.
- The copy desk editor who knew I (a journalism major in college) wanted to get some stories published in the paper - but told colleagues that he didn't care how may stories I wrote, I was out of there if I didn't have his editing pencils ready for him. (I later learned that he was in the famous Korean War battle at Pork Chop Hill and had tremendous respect for him).
- My great time alongside the Phillies dugout at Connie Mack Stadium with the photographer assigned to the game. It lasted until the day I took the caption notes for him, leading to a caption in the paper that had the wrong guy sliding into home plate.
- The sports writer who had a brace on one leg (I think from polio) who always told me it was better to light one candle than to curse the darkness. He believed the writers spent too many words on the games and ignored the athletes, especially those in minor sports. So he wrote a daily People In Sports column that often named people who would never otherwise make it into the paper.
- The nightside reporter who had unbelievably good jokes, did great imitations, and later became a friend when we both covered Congress - he with Newsday and me with AP. Unfortunately, he had a heart attack and died young.

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Connecting mailbox

How sweet would be the sound of silence

Karol Stonger (Email) - Why do daily newspapers and wire services continue to report Trump's rantings about "fake media" and "fake news." He's assailed us so many times that it's time to stop it at his mouth. It's not ignoring his biases. It is an opportunity to stop parroting him and ask him to cite specific examples. If he can't, or if they don't hold up, then ignore him. Silence in the days before the election could do a lot for the country.

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Department of Redundancy Department

Joe Frazier (Email) - The horrific shootings in Pittsburgh bring endless broadcast references to the "Jewish synagogue." As opposed to the Jesuit kind?

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Rusk's reply to AP's Peter Arnett was the final straw for Air Force fighter pilot

Eric Newhouse (Email) - Connecting colleague Peter Arnett's interview with former Secretary of State Dean Rusk nearly two decades after the end of the war in Vietnam was the final straw for Russ Goodenough, who had been a fighter pilot with 148 combat missions over Southeast Asia.

In that interview, Arnett said he had heard rumors that the American government had notified North Vietnam where it intended to bomb the following day. Rusk confirmed that was correct, saying he had hoped their government would use the advance warning to move innocent civilians out of the way.

"It is almost incomprehensible to me and anyone associated with the Air Force or Navy to absorb the enormity of that admission," writes Goodenough in his book, Why Johnny Came Marching Home. "It is sad that the triad of Johnson, McNamara and Rusk seemed to consider the lives of the unknown North Vietnamese civilians as more important than those of us entrusted to carry out the missions under their orders. In retrospect, this was an act of blatant treachery....

"The North Vietnamese were well equipped with mobile AAA guns and mobile Surface to Air missiles," he adds. "With a day's advance notice, they could use the same mobile guns and missiles to move to and position around each target as identified. To give an enemy advanced notice of intended targets is an astounding piece of information."

Why Johnny Came Marching Home is also remarkable in several other ways.

First, although the American government denied it, the supposed "Vietnam War" involved most of Southeast Asa.

"To the public, the American air war against North Vietnam was rarely mentioned," Goodenough writes. "Likewise the fact that Chinese and North Koreans were manning many of the anti-aircraft artillery guns in the north was never mentioned, as was the fact that the surface-to-air missile batteries battling our fighter aircraft were entirely manned by Russians. Nor was there mention of Chinese and North Korean fighter pilots manning many of the MIGs flown against our forces. Those aircraft launched from Chinese military airfields, as well as those in North Vietnam."

Goodenough cites recently declassified DoD documents showing American military causalities across Southeast Asia years before the American government acknowledged being in combat there.

Second, Goodenough was a Phantom jet pilot who saw it first-hand. He recounts chasing a MIG back to its base in China. And he was shot down (and rescued) in Laos in 1966, years before our government admitted we had been fighting there.

These government lies - fabrications, Goodenough calls them - undermined his faith in the cause he was fighting for, which is one element of a moral injury. But that injury was made even worse by some of the things he was ordered to do. One of them was destroying many South Vietnamese villages, which he did reluctantly.

"It is these missions targeted against villages here in the South that has me concerned," he wrote in his war diary on July 15, 1966. "I have to wonder just what we are doing. We were sent to South Vietnam ostensibly to protect its citizens from the VC and the North Vietnamese Army regulars. And here we are killing the very villagers we are tasked to protect. What kind of war is this?"

Goodenough notes that it would be easy for the Viet Cong to infiltrate a village and fire at American planes, inviting retaliation.

"Since the ARVN (Army of the Republic of Viet Nam) is notoriously infiltrated with VC sympathizers, the whole concept of village elimination does not make sense. With napalm and the gun firing high-explosive 20 mm shells, it does not take any of us very long to totally destroy a village. The longer I fight this war, the more troubling this action becomes."

That's a hallmark of moral injury, which is a focus of my newest book: Faces of Recovery: Treatments that help PTSD, TBI and Moral Injury, that was released in October.

Pulitzer Linked the Republic and the Press



Paul Albright (Email) - These are distressing - even dangerous - times for those in the media. In this dark period, perhaps there is a glimmer of hope for better times by considering the past. This came to me as I was sorting a donated postage stamp collection that I was preparing to turn over to the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library where I volunteer.

One canceled stamp, clipped from an envelope, caught my attention. It was a threecent stamp issued on April 10, 1947. That date marked the 100th anniversary of the birth of publisher Joseph Pulitzer, whose name is affixed to the Pulitzer Prizes in journalism, as well as recognizing achievements in literature, poetry, history, music, and drama.

Printed on the postage stamp was this quote from Pulitzer:

"Our republic and its press will rise or fall together."

Indeed, the words of this Hungarian immigrant who rose to great heights as a publisher in the U.S. may be a reminder for our own disturbing times.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Cheryl Arvidson - cheryl@arvidson.com

Chuck Lewis - chuck.lewis2014@gmail.com

Welcome to Connecting



Carol Robinson - vacarolr@msn.com

Stories of interest

Red Sex and prison time: CNN apologizes for `embarrassing' typos (New York Daily News)

By LEONARD GREEN

Call them the Chagrined News Network.

CNN issued a correction and an apology for a newsletter Monday that had a couple of embarrassing typos.

The email update promises information on "5 Things" subscribers should know. The Monday morning topics included baseball, which prompted the question:

"One of the best teams ever? That's what a lot of people are calling the Boston Red Sex this morning, after the team won the Fall Classic with a 5-1 drubbing of the Los Angeles Dodgers last night in Game 5."

CNN later acknowledged the error.

"We meant Red Sox and not Red Sex," the correction said. "Embarrassing!"

Read more here. Shared by Len Iwanski.

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Anger toward media spreads into local communities



FILE - In this Oct. 4, 2018 file photo, a Trump supporter holds up a T-shirt reading "You Are Fake News" before a rally by President Donald Trump in Rochester, Minn. Local members of the media says they've noticed more hostility from the public since Trump began his attacks on 'fake news.' Trade groups are spreading safety tips because of the incidents. (AP Photo/Jim Mone, File)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK - The hostility she's felt from the public recently wasn't necessarily the last straw in television news photographer Lori Bentley-Law's decision to guit the business after 24 years, but it was one of them.

Bentley-Law's recent blog post explaining why she was leaving Los Angeles' KNBC-TV hit home for many colleagues. While President Donald Trump's attacks on the media are usually centered on national outlets like CNN and The New York Times, the attitudes unleashed have filtered down to journalists on the street covering news in local communities across the country.

When a president describes the press as enemies of the people, "attitudes shift and the field crews get the brunt of the abuse," she wrote. "And it's not just from one side. We get it all the way around, pretty much on a daily basis."

Read more here. Shared by Adolphe Bernotas, Paul Albright.

Today in History - October 30, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Oct. 30, the 303rd day of 2018. There are 62 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 30, 1735 (New Style calendar), the second president of the United States, John Adams, was born in Braintree, Massachusetts.

On this date:

In 1912, Vice President James S. Sherman, running for a second term of office with President William Howard Taft, died six days before Election Day. (Sherman was replaced with Nicholas Murray Butler, but Taft, the Republican candidate, ended up losing in an Electoral College landslide to Democrat Woodrow Wilson.)

In 1944, the Martha Graham ballet "Appalachian Spring," with music by Aaron Copland, premiered at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., with Graham in a leading role.

In 1945, the U.S. government announced the end of shoe rationing, effective at midnight.

In 1953, Gen. George C. Marshall was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Dr. Albert Schweitzer received the Peace Prize for 1952.

In 1961, the Soviet Union tested a hydrogen bomb, the "Tsar Bomba," with a force estimated at about 50 megatons. The Soviet Party Congress unanimously approved a resolution ordering the removal of Josef Stalin's body from Lenin's tomb.

In 1972, 45 people were killed when an Illinois Central Gulf commuter train was struck from behind by another train on Chicago's South Side.

In 1974, Muhammad Ali knocked out George Foreman in the eighth round of a 15round bout in Kinshasa, Zaire (zah-EER'), known as the "Rumble in the Jungle," to regain his world heavyweight title.

In 1975, the New York Daily News ran the headline "Ford to City: Drop Dead" a day after President Gerald R. Ford said he would veto any proposed federal bailout of New York City.

In 1979, President Carter announced his choice of federal appeals judge Shirley Hufstedler to head the newly created Department of Education.

In 1985, schoolteacher-astronaut Christa McAuliffe witnessed the launch of the space shuttle Challenger, the same craft that would carry her and six other crew members to their deaths in Jan. 1986.

In 1995, by a razor-thin vote of 50.6 percent to 49.4 percent, Federalists prevailed over separatists in a Quebec secession referendum.

In 2002, Jam Master Jay (Jason Mizell), a rapper with the hip-hop group Run-DMC, was killed in a shooting in New York. He was 37.

Ten years ago: A federal jury in Miami convicted the son of former Liberian President Charles Taylor in the first case brought under a 1994 U.S. law allowing prosecution for torture and atrocities committed overseas. (Charles McArthur Emmanuel was later sentenced to 97 years in prison.)

Five years ago: President Barack Obama claimed "full responsibility" for fixing his administration's troubled health insurance website, while on Capitol Hill, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius apologized to frustrated people trying to sign up, declaring that she was accountable for the failures but also defended the historic health care overhaul. The government said the deficit for the 2013 budget year totaled \$680.3 billion, down from \$1.09 trillion in 2012. The Boston Red Sox romped to their third World Series championship in 10 seasons, thumping the St. Louis Cardinals 6-1 in Game 6 at Fenway.

One year ago: Former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort and a former Manafort business associate, Rick Gates, were indicted on felony charges including conspiracy against the United States as Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election revealed its first targets. A former Trump campaign adviser, George Papadopoulos, admitted he lied to the FBI about his contacts with Russians. At his sentencing hearing, Army Sqt. Bowe Bergdahl apologized to the military personnel who were wounded searching for him after he walked off his post in Afghanistan in 2009. A federal judge in Washington barred the Trump administration from proceeding with plans to exclude transgender people from military service.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Claude Lelouch is 81. Rock singer Grace Slick is 79. Songwriter Eddie Holland is 79. Rhythm-and-blues singer Otis Williams (The Temptations) is 77. Actress Joanna Shimkus is 75. Actor Henry Winkler is 73. Broadcast journalist Andrea Mitchell is 72. Rock musician Chris Slade (Asia) is 72. Country/rock musician Timothy B. Schmit (The Eagles) is 71. Actor Leon Rippy is Actor Harry Hamlin is 67. Actor Charles Martin Smith is 65. Country singer T. Graham Brown is 64. Actor Kevin Pollak is 61. Rock singer-musician Jerry De Borg (Jesus Jones) is 58. Actor Michael Beach is 55. Rock singer-musician Gavin Rossdale (Bush) is 53. Actor Jack Plotnick is 50. Comedian Ben Bailey is 48. Actor Billy Brown is 48. Actress Nia Long is 48. Country singer Kassidy Osborn (SHeDAISY) (sh-DAY'-zee) is 42. Actor Gael Garcia Bernal is 40. Actor Matthew Morrison is 40. Business executive and presidential adviser Ivanka Trump is 37. Actress Fiona Dourif is 37. Actor Shaun Sipos (SEE'-pohs) is 37. Actress Janel (juh-NEHL') Parrish is 30. Actor Tequan Richmond is 26.

Thought for Today: "All men are almost led to believe not of proof, but by attraction." - Blaise Pascal, French philosopher (1623-1662).

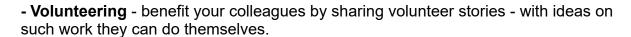
Got a story or photos to share?

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.





- 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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