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# Connecting - November 15, 2018

1 message

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# Connecting

November 15, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning!

A good quote can make a story - and if you agree with that premise, Connecting has an assignment for you that we hope you'll share with all your colleagues.

## What's the best quote you used in a story and - if you have one - the best quote not used?

To get the ball rolling, your colleague **Doug Richardson** ([Email](#)) - who suggested the idea - has two of his own to share:

In my time at the AP, the two best quotes came on the same day, when Mike Tyson was indicted in Indianapolis for rape. Don King, the boxing promoter, told me that day: "If indictments was convictions, I'd be doing a hundred years. God bless, America." The second was from Tyson himself, when I asked him about his reputation for being abusive to women. He said: "I love women. I respect women. My mother was a woman."

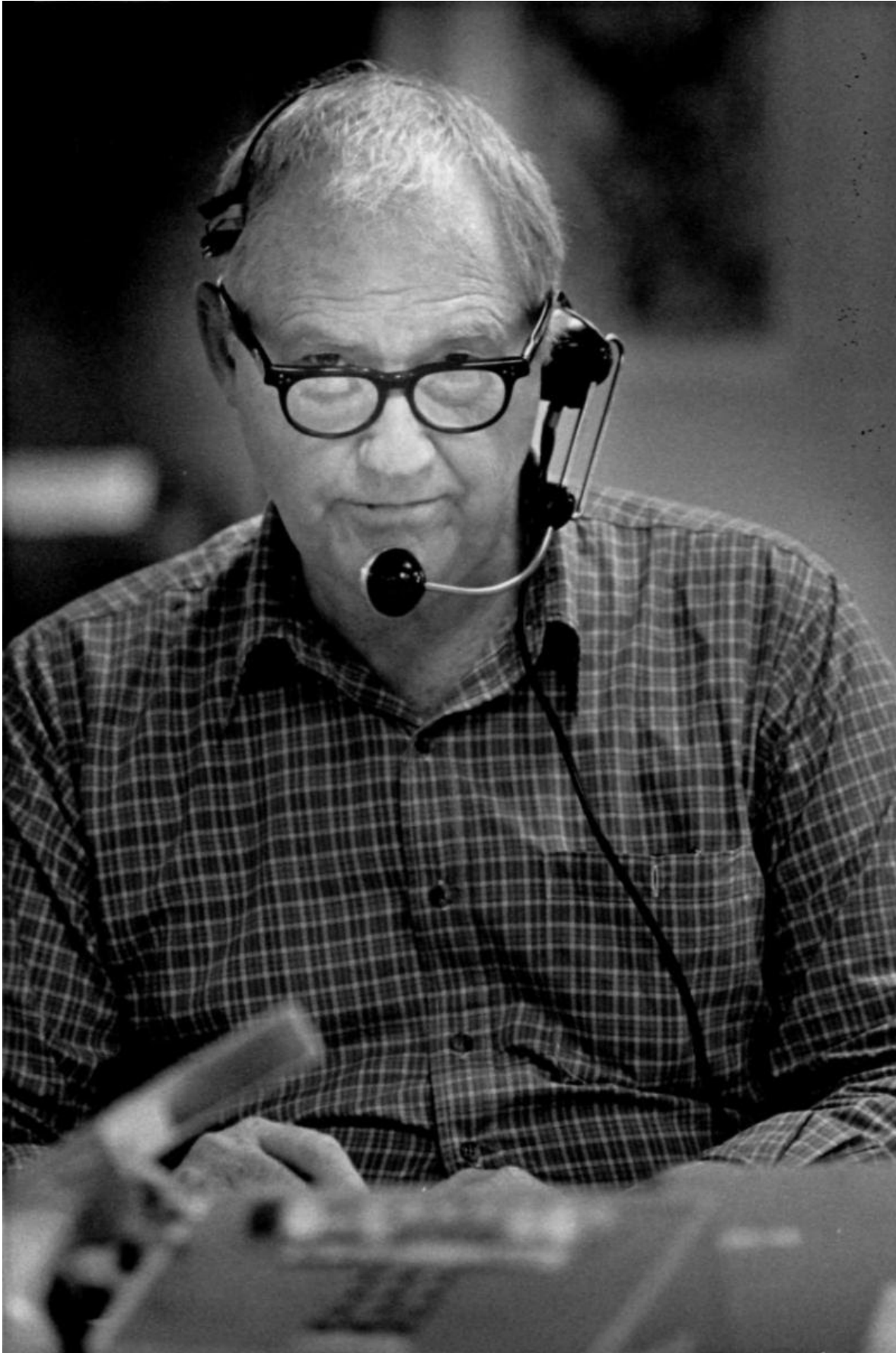
Not used: a prominent Republican state legislator, at a sine die party, bragging to a young intern. "I've raised more taxes than anyone in Indiana history." I wish I could have worked it into a story, but I respected the two-beer rule: that is, anything said after two beers is off the record.

I look forward to hearing your best quotes.

Have a great day!

Paul

## Who was Bill Crider?



**Kent Prince (Email)** - Jim Hood slyly put the ball in my court with his cryptic reference to Bill Crider in the wonderfully descriptive piece on Jerry Cipriano (Connecting, Nov. 13). As Hood said, if you don't know who Crider was, you should.

Crider was one of the best AP writers who never went to New York, so his reputation never spread as far as he deserved. He worked all but anonymously in Memphis for a couple of decades before he came to New Orleans during the Civil Rights wars and began by-lining his copy. As New Orleans news editor, I heard more than one staffer look at his writing and moan in envy, "Why should I even try?" Visiting reporters would peer into the newsroom and ask quietly, "Which one is Crider?"

He could turn out pure poetry on deadline. I asked him once how he did it. He looked at me as if he had never thought about it, then said, "I just try to make it jump off the page."

Four or five years ago, I copied out a few of his ledes. If I did it for Connecting, I apologize, but they are worth repeating:

NEW ORLEANS (AP) - A gently fading bayou beauty with skin as white as magnolia blossoms asked a state court of appeals Thursday to change the race listed on her birth certificate from "colored" to white.

Both sides in Susie Guillory Phipps' long and expensive legal fight asked the 4th Circuit Court of Appeal to set standards that would clarify any question of when is a person a Negro.

NEW ORLEANS ( AP) - The odious stench of spilled crude oil hung along the river like skunk gas but the Coast Guard reopened the Mississippi to ships and barges today after a four-hour shutdown.

NEW ORLEANS (AP) - The kid put three .38 caliber bullets into Max Minnig and left him to gasp out his life on a sidewalk - another traveler to go home from New Orleans in a box.

NEW ORLEANS (AP) - Everyone sweats in Preservation Hall except the musicians. They're so old the heat of the humid summer night is soothing to their ancient bones.

MORGAN CITY, La. (AP) - Trying to tame a wild oil well can get you killed. Paul N. "Red" Adair does it for a living. He has been crushed, blown up, burned, broken. But it pays well.

ABEREDEEN, Miss. (AP) - The great air war against the fire ant is lurching onward, ending a stall brought on by a feeling that maybe a fire ant sting is less to be feared than cancer.

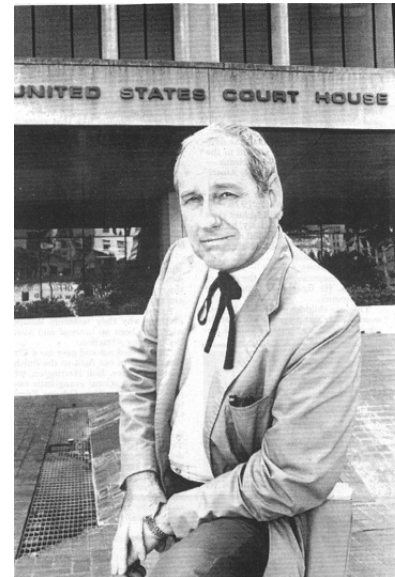
And this brief golf obit:

NEW ORLEANS (AP) - Mourners gathered Friday for Michael Scaglione, 26, who made a bad shot on the 12 hole and threw his club against a golf cart. The shaft broke and the head rebounded, stabbing him in the throat, severing the jugular artery.

Other members of the foursome said Scaglione staggered back, gasped, "I stabbed myself," and pulled the piece of golf club from the wound.

Surgeons said if Scaglione had not done that he might have lived, since the metal might have reduced the gush of blood. Rushed to a hospital, he was revived temporarily but died Thursday.

A wake was held Friday in nearby Chalmette. The funeral will be held Saturday. Scaglione was district manager for an insurance company. He leaves the widow and an 18-month-old son.



**EDITOR'S NOTE: The lead grafs of Bill Crider's wire obituary, from November 10, 2003:**

Bill Crider, who covered hurricanes, riots, politics and other great Southern stories for The Associated Press, died Sunday after a long illness. He was 83.

Crider, who had been living in retirement in Sky Valley, Ga., returned to New Orleans earlier this year when his health failed. He died at Canon Hospice in suburban New Orleans.

Idolized by fellow reporters as one of the best writers ever to work for the AP, Crider was asked at his retirement the secret of how he did it. Startled, as if he had never really thought about it before, he said, "Why, I just try to make it jump off the page."

A turning point in his career came in 1962 when he was hit in the back with a shotgun blast during the riots over integration at the University of Mississippi. He carried a buckshot pellet near his spine for the rest of his life.

As his reward for surviving, he said he claimed from the AP a new suit of clothes and a transfer to New Orleans from the Memphis bureau, where he had worked 14 years.

# Ever get nostalgic for the CRTs of the '80s? Disappearing stories? NOT!



**A Delta Data 7300 CRT in the Kansas City bureau. That's the late Chief of Communications Herb Mundt in the immediate background.**

**Hal Spencer (Email)** - I've read a fair amount of nostalgia about the typewriters we once pounded, the old Underwood etc. and later the elegant IBM Selectric. I even saw an appreciative story about the TRS 80 (Trash 80, we called it) with the tricky acoustic coupler you unpacked in a grimy phone booth hoping it'd work on the first try.

But what about that homely, hulking CRT of the 1980s? Do I hear a collective groan?

It's been 35 years and I still carry the pain, the day I'd just about finished a long roundup of municipal election results statewide (perhaps only in Alaska would this be expected.) My colleague stood up, lit a cigar, turned and touched my CRT. His static electricity wiped out my entire story. Yes, I should have stored and kept storing, but who does that?

Still, my favorite memory of the static electricity phenomenon involved another victim, the night broadcast editor at the Boston Bureau in what must have been 1982. As the night-desk supervisor, I was filing copy just across from him (he shall remain nameless but his first name was Ed) when static struck and you know the rest. I heard a shout and then a bang. I looked up from my work to see a dent on the top of Ed's CRT and a wisp of smoke above it. Good for you, Ed, I thought. A blow against tyranny. But the tech was pretty unhappy.

## Connecting mailbox

### *Paul Freeman took his job seriously, but with remarkable sense of humor*

**Joe Galu (Email)** - Paul Freeman was a hands-on guy who took his job very seriously although with a remarkable sense of humor. Without going into detail, he took radio station complaints seriously and helped re-establish the AP as the dominant force throughout Western New York.

In my recent profile, I mentioned the night when I took a few paragraphs from the end of a long story out of Washington and reconstructed it around some quotes from U-S Senator Jacob K. Javits. I was working in the Troy broadcast outpost, a one-man operation that resulted in some very strange activity by some of my predecessors. In Albany, they could not find any story anywhere about Javits commenting about things going on in a foreign nation. I received this curious tone-of-voice call from Paul who asked where the story came from. There was the real possibility that I had joined the very creative people who put strange things on the

broadcast wire. I said it was at the end of an A-wire story out of WX. Paul was very much relieved and somewhat impressed.

We also had very few people who had ever worked broadcast, so when an illness and a vacation collided, there was no one to work the day shift although I was scheduled to work at night. Paul called and appealed to me, saying they NEEDED me to work the 5 a.m. to 1 p.m. shift and the 3 to 11:30 or whatever shift. So, that's what I did, I suspect on a very long Tuesday, but around 4 pm I called Paul and said, "I know it's looking a long way into the future, but what are we doing tomorrow?" (I remember some quotes word-for-word even after all these years). When Paul finished laughing, he said, "about the same." I don't remember if I sighed audibly, but I survived the double shift again the next day. I don't think I would survive it if I tried it today. But we got the job done, and Paul greatly appreciated my work.

He greatly appreciated anybody and everybody who put himself/herself out for the AP and for the good of the report.

Paul wrote a daily critique of the report, which included criticism, praise and humor. Buffalo sent out a very brief story about a fatality in Elmira that occurred when an elderly person was struck and killed by a young person on a sawed-off shopping cart. It was two grafs and an address, and Paul opined that it was adequate since it was becoming a common occurrence, and no one dared step out of his home for fear of the sawed-off shopping carts that went whizzing by at all hours of the day and night. We all chuckled. I very much wish his successor had taken those critiques and worked them up into a book rather than throwing them away.

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## ***Acosta deserved to lose access to White House***

**Joe McGowan** ([Email](#)) - I congratulate Mike Rouse for his words on CNN trying to sue the White House (in Wednesday's Connecting). Jim Acosta deserved to lose access to the White House. Acosta certainly represents the far left wing media and made a fool of himself that day in the White House. Just to show what a person he is, he refused to apologize to the petite (and far smaller than Acosta) intern he DID touch. The pictures don't lie.

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## ***Sunset on the Adriatic Sea. Ulcinj, Montenegro***



***Submitted by Kevin Walsh.***

## **Newspapers in art**

***EDITOR'S NOTE:*** Last week, our colleague Kevin Walsh suggested that fellow Connecting readers contribute examples of newspapers in art. Here are responses to date:



**John Brewer** ([Email](#)) - My personal trainer, Josie, and I are standing in front of a sidewalk cafe reader of La Provence, a French language daily newspaper published in Marseille, France (one of my favorite countries). This lithograph was a delightful retirement gift from comrades Cecilia and Connie White in Kansas City.

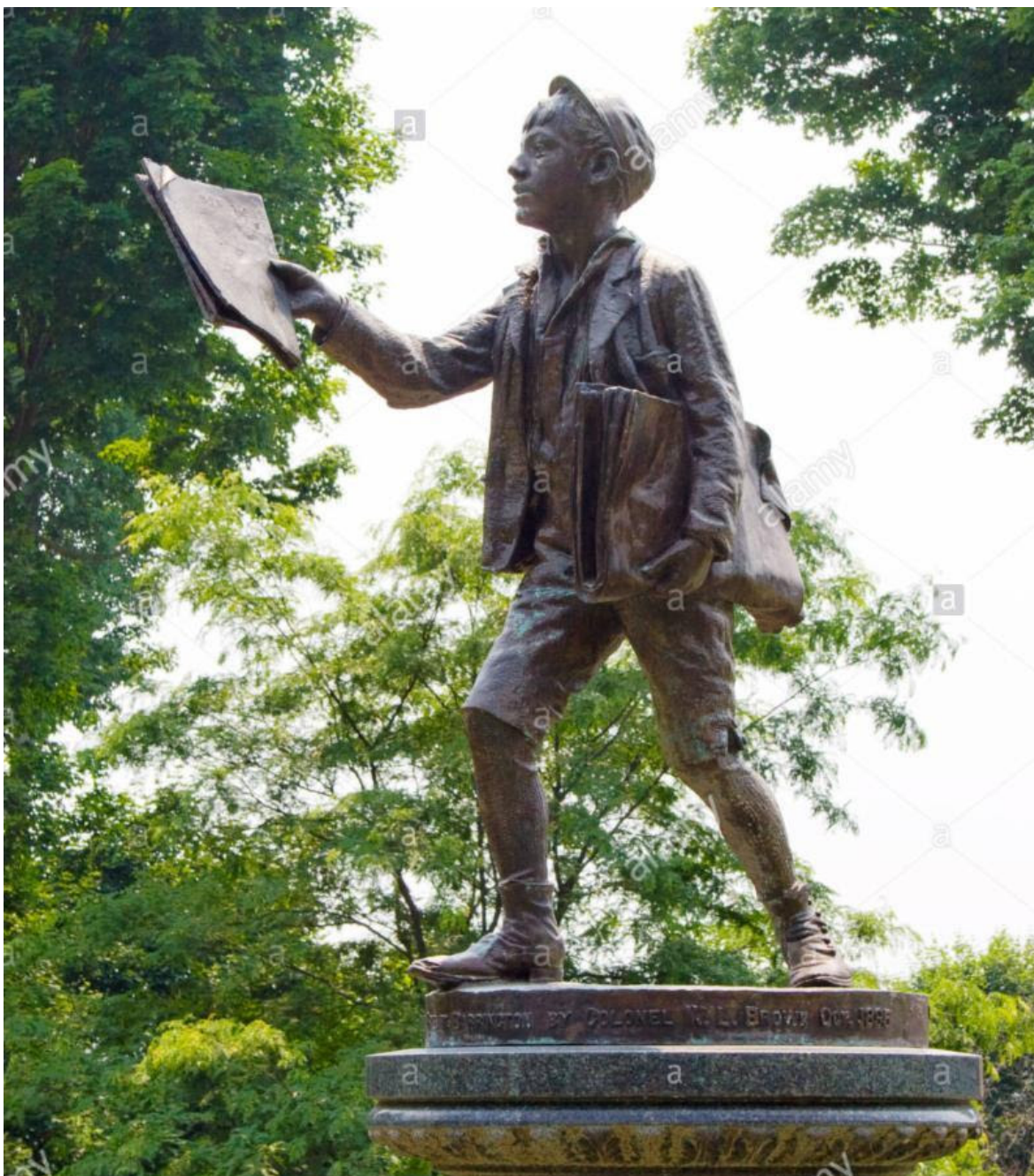
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**Tom Fenton (Email)** - The photo above is of a 30x40-inch watercolor by the late western artist Bill Rakocy. It is titled Late Edition Madonna and hangs by the front door of our El Paso Inc. building. I bought the piece from Rakocy probably 15 years ago.

The likeness of the carrier is pretty good. She haunted that bank corner until the PM Scripps-Howard Herald-Post shut down October 11, 1997. The paper was part of a JOA with the Gannett morning El Paso Times, which survives. Interesting to note the Times circulation is now down to around 20,000 - not far from where the Herald-Post was when they pulled the plug. It was a numbers-driven decision for the two corporate partners. Ad prices remained the same after the closure, despite some complaints, but editorial, production, marketing and delivery expenses for the PM product disappeared and went to the bottom line. I worked at the Herald-Post prior to AP, then got hired by Gannett as editor and publisher of the Times and president of the JOA after AP. The Times crested 103,000 one Sunday in the late 1980s when I was there. How times have changed.

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**Gary Gentile** ([Email](#)) - My favorite is the newsboy statue in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. It is a beautiful tribute to news carriers, which is another thing you see less and less of these days.

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**Bruce Lowitt** ([Email](#)) - One of the posters in an exhibit called "Embracing our Differences," art by schoolchildren from around the world.

## Welcome to Connecting



**Noah Trister** - [ntrister@ap.org](mailto:ntrister@ap.org)

# Stories of interest

## *Trump administration defends its case against CNN's Acosta*



**CNN's Jim Acosta walks into federal court in Washington, Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2018, to attend a hearing on legal challenge against President Donald Trump's administration. Trump's administration contends it has "broad discretion" to regulate press access to the White House as it fends off a legal challenge from CNN and other outlets over the revocation of Acosta's "hard pass." (AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)**

**By ASHRAF KHALIL**

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Donald Trump's administration is trying to fend off a legal challenge from CNN and other outlets over the revocation of journalist Jim Acosta's White House "hard pass."

U.S. District Court Judge Timothy Kelly heard arguments Wednesday afternoon from lawyers representing CNN and the Justice Department. The news network is seeking an immediate restraining order that would force the White House to return Acosta's press credentials - which grant reporters as-needed access to the 18-acre complex.

Kelly said he would announce his decision Thursday afternoon.

Acosta has repeatedly clashed with Trump and press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders in briefings over the last two years. But the dynamic devolved into a near-shouting match during a combative press conference last week following midterm elections in which Republicans lost control of the House.

Acosta refused to give up a microphone when the president said he didn't want to hear anything more from him. Trump called Acosta a "rude, terrible person."

The White House quickly announced that Acosta's White House access would be revoked.

The CNN lawsuit calls the revocation "an unabashed attempt to censor the press and exclude reporters from the White House who challenge and dispute the President's point of view."

The Associated Press joined with a group of 12 other news organizations, including Fox News, in filing an amicus brief Wednesday in support of CNN.

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

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## ***Woodward blasts CNN's lawsuit over Jim Acosta credentials*** (New York Post)

**By Yaron Steinbuch**

Famed Watergate journalist Bob Woodward blasted CNN for suing the Trump administration over its suspension of Jim Acosta's press credentials, according to a report.

"Too many people for Trump or against Trump have become emotionally unhinged about this," Woodward said at the Global Financial Leadership Conference in Naples, Florida, on Tuesday, according to Fox News.

"The remedy [isn't a lawsuit]," argued Woodward, whose explosive tell-all "Fear" described a White House in disarray. "It's more serious reporting about what he's doing."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Paul Albright.

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***Midwest J Schools don't see Trump bump***  
(Gateway Journalism Review)





**William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications, University of Kansas**

**By Rocio Villaseñor**

Journalism schools in the Midwest are not necessarily seeing the same bump in enrollment from President Trump's war on the media as their counterparts closer to the nation's capital.

The Washington Post reported in September that Trump appeared to be "giving a jolt to journalism schools that in recent years struggled to cope with industry contractions." The Post highlighted the University of Maryland's Philip Merrill College of Journalism, where the number of freshmen enrolling in journalism increased 50 percent compared with the previous year.

But the story from Trump Country, like much of the news in the middle part of the country, is not the screaming headline it often is on the coasts. The economic forces that pushed college enrollment down for the sixth year in a row in 2018 are still causing declines at traditional journalism schools in the Midwest. At a few schools where journalism enrollment is up, administrators aren't automatically crediting Trump.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***In memory of a local reporter who made small stories big*** (Poynter)



**By KRISTEN HARE**

On Nov 1., Nikki Delamotte and Anne Nickoloff made a pitch to their Cleveland.com editor:

"We have a series that we want to launch, and we think it's timely," they wrote in an email to their editor, Michael Norman. "We want to focus on Cleveland's entertainment/culture scenes (music, art, food, film, theatre, comedy/improv, dance, literature and fashion, among other sectors) and look at how different organizations or individuals are working to promote safety, diversity and inclusiveness.

"These topics already come up so often in our regular reporting, and it's something that young people continuously tell us they're concerned about."

That series was set to launch in less than a week. Nikki, 30, was found dead in a suspected homicide on Monday.

Read more [here](#).

## The Final Word

***'Toxic' Is Oxford's Word of the Year. No, We're Not Gaslighting You.*** (New York Times)



**"Toxic" expanded its reach in 2018, with people using it to describe a variety of things. Photo by Petros Karadjias/Associated Press**

**By Jennifer Schuessler**

It's official: 2018 is toxic.

Well, lexicographically speaking, at least. Oxford Dictionaries has chosen "toxic" as its international word of the year, selecting it from a shortlist that included such politically inflected contenders as "gaslighting," "incel" and "techlash."

Katherine Connor Martin, the company's head of U.S. dictionaries, said there had been a marked uptick of interest in the word on its website over the past year. But the word was chosen less for statistical reasons, she said, than for the sheer variety of contexts in which it has proliferated, from conversations about environmental poisons to laments about today's poisonous political discourse to the #MeToo movement, with its calling out of "toxic masculinity."

In fact, Martin said, the committee initially considered choosing "toxic masculinity," until it realized how widespread "toxic" itself had become.

"So many different things," she said, "are tied together by the word."

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

## Today in History - November 15, 2018



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Thursday, Nov. 15, the 319th day of 2018. There are 46 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:**

On Nov. 15, 1864, during the Civil War, Union forces led by Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman began their "March to the Sea" from Atlanta; the campaign ended with the capture of Savannah on Dec. 21.

**On this date:**

In 1777, the Second Continental Congress approved the Articles of Confederation.

In 1806, explorer Zebulon Pike sighted the mountaintop now known as Pikes (cq) Peak in present-day Colorado.

In 1937, at the U.S. Capitol, members of the House and Senate met in air-conditioned chambers for the first time.

In 1942, the naval Battle of Guadalcanal ended during World War II with a decisive U.S. victory over Japanese forces.

In 1959, four members of the Clutter family of Holcomb, Kansas, were found murdered in their home. (Ex-convicts Richard Hickock and Perry Smith were later convicted of the killings and hanged in a case made famous by the Truman Capote book "In Cold Blood.")

In 1966, the flight of Gemini 12, the final mission of the Gemini program, ended successfully as astronauts James A. Lovell and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin Jr. splashed down safely in the Atlantic after spending four days in orbit.

In 1982, funeral services were held in Moscow's Red Square for the late Soviet President Leonid I. Brezhnev.

In 1984, Stephanie Fae Beauclair, the infant publicly known as "Baby Fae" who had received a baboon's heart to replace her own congenitally deformed one, died at Loma Linda University Medical Center in California three weeks after the transplant.

In 1986, a government tribunal in Nicaragua convicted American Eugene Hasenfus of charges related to his role in delivering arms to Contra rebels, and sentenced him to 30 years in prison. (Hasenfus was pardoned a month later.)

In 1987, 28 of 82 people aboard a Continental Airlines DC-9, including the pilots, were killed when the jetliner crashed seconds after taking off from Denver's Stapleton International Airport.

In 1998, Kwame Ture (KWAH'-may TUR'-ay), the civil rights activist formerly known as Stokely Carmichael, died in Guinea at age 57.

In 2003, two Black Hawk helicopters collided and crashed in Iraq; 17 U.S. troops were killed.

Ten years ago: World leaders battling an economic crisis agreed in Washington to flag risky investing and regulatory weak spots in hopes of avoiding future financial meltdowns. A wildfire destroyed nearly 500 mobile homes in Los Angeles. Gay rights supporters marched in cities coast to coast to protest the vote that banned gay marriage in California. Somali pirates hijacked the Sirius Star, a Saudi-owned oil supertanker, in the Indian Ocean. (The ship was released eight weeks later after the pirates were reportedly paid a ransom.)

Five years ago: Toronto Mayor Rob Ford vowed to take the City Council to court after it voted overwhelmingly to strip him of some of his powers over his admitted drug use, public drinking and increasingly erratic behavior. China's leaders announced the first significant easing of their one-child policy in nearly 30 years and moved to abolish its labor camp system. Dressed in a black Batman costume, 5-year-old leukemia patient Miles Scott fulfilled his wish to be his favorite superhero, fighting villains and rescuing a damsel in distress in an elaborate fantasy staged by the city of San Francisco and arranged by the Make-a-Wish Foundation. (The event cost the city \$105,000, but the tab was picked up by the John and Marcia Goldman Foundation.)

One year ago: Zimbabwe's military was in control of the country's capital and the state broadcaster and held 93-year-old President Robert Mugabe and his wife under house arrest; the military emphasized that it had not staged a takeover but was instead starting a process to restore the country's democracy. (The military intervention, hugely popular in Zimbabwe, led to impeachment proceedings against Mugabe, who was replaced.) Eight members of a family who were among more than two dozen people killed in a shooting at a small Texas church were mourned at a funeral attended by 3,000 people. Max Scherzer of the Washington Nationals won his third Cy Young award; Cleveland Indians ace Corey Kluber was the winner in the American League.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Ed Asner is 89. Singer Petula Clark is 86. Comedian Jack Burns is 85. Actress Joanna Barnes is 84. Actor Yaphet Kotto is 79. Actor Sam Waterston is 78. Classical conductor Daniel Barenboim is 76. Pop singer Frida (ABBA) is 73. Actor Bob Gunton is 73. Former New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson is 71. Actress Beverly D'Angelo is 67. Director-actor James Widdoes is 65. Rock

singer-producer Mitch Easter is 64. News correspondent John Roberts is 62. Former "Jay Leno Show" bandleader Kevin Eubanks is 61. Comedian Judy Gold is 56. Actress Rachel True is 52. Rapper E-40 is 51. Country singer Jack Ingram is 48. Actor Jay Harrington is 47. Actor Jonny Lee Miller is 46. Actress Sydney Tamiia (tuh-MY'-yuh) Poitier is 45. Christian rock musician David Carr (Third Day) is 44. Rock singer-musician Chad Kroeger is 44. Rock musician Jesse Sandoval is 44. Actress Virginie Ledoyen is 42. Actor Sean Murray is 41. Pop singer Ace Young (TV: "American Idol") is 38. Golfer Lorena Ochoa is 37. Hip-hop artist B.o.B is 30. Actress Shailene Woodley is 27. Actress-dancer Emma Dumont is 24.

**Thought for Today: "News reports don't change the world. Only facts change it, and those have already happened when we get the news." - Friedrich Durrenmatt, Swiss author and playwright (1921-1990).**

## 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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