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Connecting - November 23, 2018

1 message

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Fri, Nov 23, 2018 at 9:40 AM

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Connecting

November 23, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning!

One of the most popular sports events of Thanksgiving week is the Maui Invitational, a men's college basketball tournament held since 1984 in Lahaina, Hawaii.

And until this year, AP college basketball writer **Jim O'Connell** was one of the media fixtures at the event that draws seven teams to Hawaii. Oc, as he was known to friends and colleagues, died in early July after a series of ailments.

To honor Jim, the tournament included a full-page tribute in its program and reserved a seat for him in the media workroom, with a lei draped over his seat.



Duke coach **Mike Krzyzewski** also mentioned O'Connell during his postgame news conference after the top-ranked Blue Devils beat San Diego State in their Maui opener.

"I didn't notice it until they were asking questions, brought a smile to my face to see the chair for Jim O'Connell and God bless him," Krzyzewski said. "This was one of his favorite, favorites, and he was the only guy to ever come here and never see the beach. And even coaches on the day off or something, we walk the beach, he wouldn't do that. So that's a cool thing."

Michael Giarrusso, AP's sports editor, said O'Connell covered 25 Maui Classics.

"He took a great assignment and turned it into just another basketball tournament," Giarrusso said. "He never went to the beach and always ate cheap. One year, someone who handled the expense reports came down to Sports looking for Oc, because she wanted to meet the man who went to Maui and ate every meal at Denny's. And the organizers knew that most Americans didn't watch the games, especially when they used to be on early in the morning in the U.S. They knew most people were relying on Oc to tell them what happened halfway across the globe. He helped make the tournament what it has become."



Jim O'Connell

We include in today's edition a newly arrived addition to the Connecting Book Issue that was published on Wednesday - Connecting colleague **Richard Olive** ([Email](#)) is one of the three authors of "...but few are chosen."

And In Los Angeles, staffers and former staffers gathered to celebrate Thanksgiving and one another - a respite from the long hours they have spent covering the California wildfires and the Thousand Oaks shooting. **Linda Deutsch** brings us a report.

Have a great weekend!

Paul

LA's Thanksgiving gathering brings together staff - a brief respite from wildfire coverage



Linda Deutsch (Email) - The AP/LA annual Thanksgiving feast is a unique tradition long overseen by our dear departed Sue Manning. This is the first year she

wasn't here to organize and Amanda Myers, who benefited from Sue's mentorship when she joined AP, took over the job.

For the current and former staffers who participated Wednesday, it was a smashing success. Recently retired tech COB Dave Sloan came back with his inimitable deep-fried turkeys and ham and many others brought signature dishes. It wouldn't be AP Thanksgiving without Brian Melley's persimmon salad and Justin Pritchard's chicken curry. And some give high marks to my corn bread soufflé. Jeff Wilson trekked in from Ventura County with two enormous pumpkin pies. The food went on and on. And so did the convivial gathering with stories told of AP's unique history and our roles in it. All that was missing was a chorus of the song: "We Are Family" because that was the feeling.

The effort this year was particularly amazing since most of the staff had been deep into coverage of the Thousand Oaks shooting and fires destroying so much of our state. Amanda was concerned that this might interfere with Thanksgiving. But it didn't. Everyone needed the hugs and camaraderie that make AP such a special organization.

...but few are chosen: A different path to coming of age

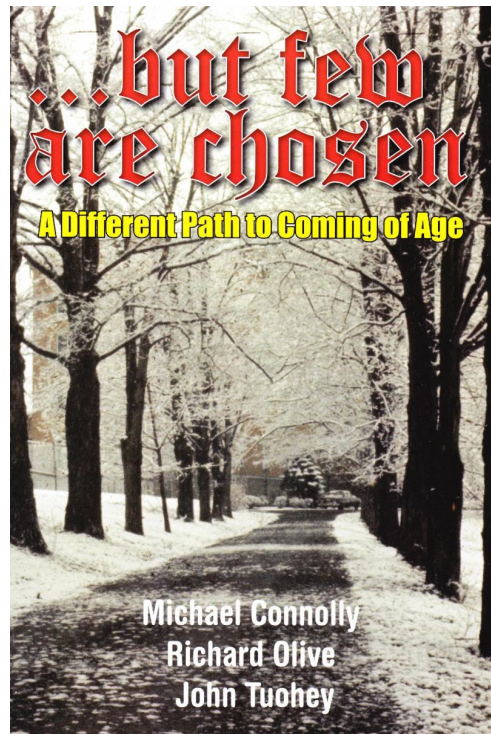
By Michael Connolly, Richard Olive, John Tuohey

...but few are chosen is the story of three boys coming of age in the mid-1950's. Growing up in working class Irish Catholic neighborhoods in the Northeastern United States, they are desperate to escape lives of loneliness, petty crime, and violence. At ages thirteen and fourteen, ready to enter high school, they each come to the same life changing, and possibly life-saving decision-to enter a seminary and begin their journeys toward the priesthood.

The book chronicles Mike's, John's, and Ollie's fears, frustrations, hopes, and dreams while they proceed on their very unique path to adulthood via St. John's Atonement Seminary in Montour Falls, New York. There, the three meet, eventually become lifelong friends, and begin the transition to being successful and contributing members of society. Lives that would undoubtedly have ended poorly are turned around in the structured, orderly, caring, and predictable life of the seminary. For the first time the boys come to realize that life is more than just raised voices and clenched fists. Led by priests on the faculty they learn responsibility, restraint, patience, and concern for others. They develop determination without aggression, and apply their new-found abilities to study, sports, and relationships.

Mark Huffman book's a reminder of interview with JFK's advance man

On Glenn Adams ([Email](#)) - Connecting's mention of Mark Huffman's book "Kennedy in '64" (in Wednesday's book issue) reminded me of the AP story on Nov. 22, 1988 (25 years after the assassination) in which I interviewed Jerry Bruno, Kennedy's advance man who planned the fateful trip to Dallas. Bruno, who later shared his memoirs in a book "The Advance Man," was living in Camden, Maine, at the time I interviewed him. He walked me to the attic in his modest house and picked through cartons of Kennedy memorabilia the campaign had amassed, "stopping to gaze at a faded photo, brush the dust off an autographed book or pull out a campaign button."



"I very seldom come up here and look ... I just try to put it behind me," Bruno was quoted in the story. He said he used to feel guilty for arranging the Dallas political fence-mending visit, but eventually concluded that Kennedy's death was a matter of fate.

"I look back and say, 'How many times did we avoid something like that?'" he said.

Memories of that terrible day 55 years ago

Ed Williams ([Email](#)) - The assassination of President Kennedy.

Nov. 22, 1963

Memories of this day, 55 years ago. Yes, I remember where I was when I heard the

news. I was 10 years old, a fifth grader at Evergreen City School, Evergreen, Alabama, Mrs. Iva Kendall's class. Strictest teacher I ever had, college included.

We were getting ready to attend a Thanksgiving assembly in the school auditorium.

Mr. Marcus O'Gwynn, our principal, came to the door and said, "Have you heard the news? The president is dead." One classmate spoke up, "I'm glad the xxxxxx-lover is dead." Yes, I remember who said it. Mrs. Kendall ordered him, and all of us, to sit down. She told us that God loves everybody. She said that our country may be under attack, if not now, soon. No telling what was going to happen next. I was frightened.

Then we lined up and went to the Thanksgiving assembly.

"My fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

President John F. Kennedy, Died, Nov. 22, 1963
(age 46)

He was the limo driver for WKRP's Les Nessman

Ben Brown ([Email](#)) - I enjoyed reading in Monday's Connecting about Rachel Ambrose and the wonderful work she did as broadcast editor in Los Angeles. Wednesday's piece in Connecting about the WKRP turkey drop also brought back memories of Rachel and Les Nessman and a Fresno AP meeting.

I'm not sure just when this happened other than it was while I was in Los Angeles as COB. Rachel arranged for "newsman" Les Nessman to speak to a CAPTRA broadcast meeting. A couple of days before the meeting she learned Nessman's contract had a clause that he be provided a limousine to get from the airport to the site of event and back to the airport. However, there was no limousines available in Fresno on the day of the meeting. I had just received a new company car -- a Chrysler. It wasn't a limo, but it was a Chrysler. So it was decided I would sub for the limo driver and pick Les and his manager up at the airport. Our daughter Betsy, a teenager, had come to Fresno with us and wanted to go with me to the airport to meet the TV star. So Betsy and I completed the pickup and another successful Rachel production was in the books.

And - The Mark Twain trophy also was a great idea that originated with Rachel and staffer Cal Warner (an artist in his own right). Word about it quickly spread among bureaus and we recovered the startup costs. I took one to a chiefs of bureau meeting in New York generating more orders. KSBY-TV, a television station in San Luis Obispo, used the Mark Twain award in a station commercial until about 10 years ago.

On the AP's role in Lincoln's Gettysburg address

Sister Donalda Kehoe (Email) - I thoroughly enjoyed the stories connected with Lincoln's address (see Tuesday's Connecting), and even pictures of it. The eighth-grade teacher at St. Mary's in Waterloo (Iowa) where I went to school, had every student of hers memorize the Gettysburg address. One classmate with whom I kept in touch with over the years, was a frisky Donald Green. He had a hard time, if indeed, he ever did memorize it satisfactorily. Well, our teacher, Sister Dolorita Thome, lived to be 106 years old and kept a sharp memory. One time, when Donnie Green came from San Diego to visit classmates in Dubuque, he also insisted on visiting Sister Dolorita in the then care center. Now, it is good to know that this Donnie Green (after he was kicked out of school) went into the Navy, went to college and became a successful businessman and wonderful person, with all his street smarts put to good use. He walked into Sister Dolorita's room and in place of a Hello, started reciting the Gettysburg address - and Sister responded, "Donnie Green". In our correspondence over the years, we kept this incident in the foreground. - Thanks for posting that story for us SUBSCRIBERS to enjoy.

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Bob Burdick (Email) - You probably remember reading about the local paper's infamous comments on Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, published Tuesday, Nov. 24, 1863. It said: "We pass over the silly remarks of the President. For the credit of the nation we are willing that the veil of oblivion shall be dropped over them, and that they shall be no more repeated or thought of."

The Patriot & Union successor paper, The Patriot News, retracted the earlier assessment in 2013 (I think that was when), noting in part that staff members in 1863 might have been under the influence of strong drink. [Here](#) is a link to the retraction.

Memorable quote: 'What's a guy got to do to get fired around here?' Then he found out

Harry Atkins ([Email](#)) - Darryl Rogers, who died at age 84 earlier this year, was a coach with a good sense of humor, sometimes a rarity in the NFL. Late in the 1987 season during which the Detroit Lions would finish 4-11, late owner William Clay Ford came out to practice and told reporters that Rogers would be back as coach in 1988. When told this after practice, Rogers laughed and said, "What's a guy got to do to get fired around here?" He found out the following season after the Lions got off to a 2-9 start and he was replaced by Wayne Fontes.

Jonestown, a Personal Recollection



Photo by David Kennerly

David Kennerly ([Email](#)) - Some anniversaries should be remembered, others you would rather forget. This one cuts both ways. Forty years ago on November 18, 1978, in a place carved out of a remote jungle in Guyana, over 900 people were murdered or committed suicide. Jonestown. A name that will live in infamy.

Time Magazine's New York bureau chief Don Neff and I were in Miami, working on a Colombia-related drug story for the magazine that day, and word hadn't yet reached the outside world about what happened in Guyana. Sunday morning's edition of the Miami Herald changed all of that. The headline said that a U.S. Congressman had been shot in Guyana. Details were sketchy, but it appeared that Rep. Leo Ryan of California, some aides of his, and members of the press, had been attacked during a visit to the Peoples Temple Agricultural Project in Jonestown, (better known as Jonestown). The congressman was there to investigate claims that some of his constituents were being held in Jonestown against their will, and he had gone to get them out.



Neff and I immediately decided to head down there. Having an American Express card proved valuable, we chartered a jet, put the charge on my card, and off we went to Georgetown, Guyana, a place 2,000 miles away in South America.

Read more [here](#).

Celebrating Local Journalism

By DAVID LEONHART

The New York Times

"Community journalism is the lifeblood of democracy," Diane McFarlin, the dean of the journalism school at the University of Florida, told me this week, "and very much at risk these days."

She's right. The number of reporters covering statehouses has dropped by more than one-third since 2000, for example. And academic studies have found a raft of problems to be associated with a decline of local journalism, as The Columbia Journalism Review has detailed. The problems include less informed voters, lower voter turnout and higher borrowing costs for local governments - because, without anyone to hold them accountable, those governments become less responsible.

It is something of a Thanksgiving tradition for this newsletter to celebrate some of the fantastic local journalism that is still being done. This week, I asked people on Twitter and the deans of several journalism schools to recommend great local work from 2018. Much of it involves what David Kurpius, the University of Missouri's journalism dean, calls "the watchdog function." The list is not comprehensive, of course, and I invite you to send me other examples, at leonhardt@nytimes.com. I'll mention a few more in Friday's newsletter.

Read more [here](#).

George Stanley: We cover Wisconsin like it's the center of the world because for us, it is

By GEORGE STANLEY

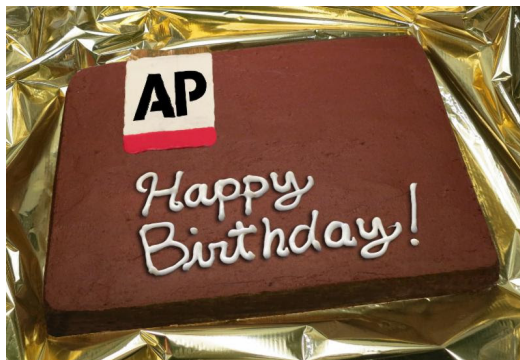
Editor, Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel

Our job as Wisconsin's top source of news and information ranges far beyond reporting news events, acting as government watchdog and investigating problems while searching for solutions. Thanksgiving week offers a good look at some of the other fine storytelling we do.

In his Better Angels series, Crocker Stephenson looks for unsung heroes among us, such as Bill Gaynor's third-grade class at Rawson Elementary in South Milwaukee. The children learn about five components of character - kindness, responsibility, respect, honesty and perseverance - as they send gift boxes to cancer patients. This year, one of those very sick patients, Paula Pauley, climbed the steps to their classroom to thank them. From Paula they learned about gratitude.

Read more [here](#). George is a Connecting colleague.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Sally Stapleton - sallystapleton@gmail.com

John Willis - jmwillis32@aol.com

On Saturday to...

Linda Stevens - stevenspl@live.com

Harold Waters - htandjoew12@gmail.com

On Sunday to...

Joe Frazier - joebfrazier@yahoo.com

Stories of interest

Reuters accelerates news pictures/video merger (The Baron)

Reuters is hastening the merger of news pictures and video news into a single team of visual journalists, with an unspecified implication that jobs across the combined operation will be cut.

The accelerated changes follow last month's spin-off of a majority stake in Thomson Reuters financial and risk business, now controlled by private equity investors and rebranded Refinitiv.

Reuters remains part of Thomson Reuters but is being re-organised as a stand-alone business. Its largest client is Refinitiv, which has agreed to pay Reuters at least \$325 million a year for news coverage over the next 30 years.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Pizac,

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ASNE diversity survey: meager participation but progress among those reporting (Poynter)

By RICK EDMONDS

After a month's delay in hopes of getting better response, the American Society of News Editors has released its annual diversity survey, which looks at the demographic makeup of America's newspaper and digital-only newsrooms. There's good news if you look at some modest diversity gains among participants, but bad as an indicator that many editors seem not to have the time to provide results or don't care.

Extending the deadline helped a little with responses among 1,700 organizations surveyed, rising from 234 to 293. That still is a rate of only 17.2 percent, and far below the 661 organizations returning surveys last year. As the ASNE concedes in its press release, the number is too low for the results to have much statistical validity, especially if you assume those with better results and commitment self-selected to respond.

More digital-only organizations participated 2018 than 2017. And their percentages of minorities and women were better than those from legacy newspapers who have been the core members of ASNE for the 40 years the survey has been conducted.

Read more [here](#).

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University staff told not to use 'don't' or 'frightening' capital letters (Fox News)

Journalism professors at Leeds Trinity University in the UK have been instructed not to use certain words - in case they frighten sensitive students.

According to UK media reports, the use of capital letters has been banned as well as the "overuse" of the words "do" and "don't".

In an internal staff memo obtained by the Express, staff are told students' "anxiety" can lead to academic failure.

"Despite our best attempts to explain assessment tasks, any lack of clarity can generate anxiety and even discourage students from attempting the assessment at all," it reads.

"Generally, avoid using capital letters for emphasis and the overuse of 'do', and, especially, 'DON'T'.

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

The Final Word





Gene Herrick ([Email](#)) - In this picture combo, top: 6-month-old Cindy Chevalier, left, has a huge turkey leg taken from her by her two-year-old brother, Greg, in this 1958 Thanksgiving feature in Minneapolis. Their daddy is William Chevalier, a Connecting colleague and a former AP writer in Minneapolis. However, Cindy got the turkey leg back and shows her pleasure.

Today in History - November 23, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Nov. 23, the 327th day of 2018. There are 38 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On November 23rd, 1963, President Lyndon B. Johnson proclaimed Nov. 25 a day of national mourning following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

On this date:

In 1765, Frederick County, Maryland, became the first colonial American entity to repudiate the British Stamp Act.

In 1804, the 14th president of the United States, Franklin Pierce (puhrs), was born in Hillsboro, New Hampshire.

In 1889, the first jukebox made its debut in San Francisco, at the Palais Royale Saloon. (The coin-operated device consisted of four listening tubes attached to an Edison phonograph.)

In 1903, Enrico Caruso made his American debut at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York, appearing in "Rigoletto."

In 1936, *Life*, the photojournalism magazine created by Henry R. Luce (loos), was first published.

In 1959, the musical "Fiorello!," starring Tom Bosley as legendary New York Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, opened on Broadway.

In 1971, the People's Republic of China was seated in the U.N. Security Council.

In 1980, some 2,600 people were killed by a series of earthquakes that devastated southern Italy.

In 1996, a commandeered Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 767 crashed into the water off the Comoros Islands, killing 125 of the 175 people on board, including all three hijackers.

In 2000, in a setback for Al Gore, the Florida Supreme Court refused to order Miami-Dade County officials to resume hand-counting its election-day ballots. Meanwhile, Gore's lawyers argued in a brief filed with the U.S. Supreme Court that the high court should stay out of the Florida election controversy.

In 2004, Dan Rather announced he would step down as principal anchorman of "The C-B-S Evening News" in March 2005.

In 2006, former KGB spy Alexander Litvinenko (leet-vee-NYEN'-koh) died in London from radiation poisoning after making a deathbed statement blaming Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Ten years ago: The government unveiled a bold plan to rescue Citigroup, injecting a fresh \$20 billion into the troubled firm as well as guaranteeing hundreds of billions of dollars in risky assets. Spain clinched an improbable, come-from-behind Davis Cup victory over Argentina.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama said a nuclear deal reached with Iran during talks in Geneva was an "important first step" toward addressing the world's concerns over the Islamic republic's disputed nuclear program.

One year ago: The holiday shopping season kicked off with some major retailers opening on Thanksgiving afternoon or evening, hoping for a lift from a better economy.

Today's Birthdays: Former Labor Secretary William E. Brock is 88. Actor Franco Nero is 77. Screenwriter Joe Eszterhas is 74. Actor-comedy writer Bruce Vilanch is 71. Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., is 68. Singer Bruce Hornsby is 64. Former Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., is 63. Actor Maxwell Caulfield is 59. Actor John Henton is 58. TV personality Robin Roberts ("Good Morning America") is 58. Rock singer-musician Ken Block (Sister Hazel) is 52. Rock musician Charlie Grover is 52. Actress Salli Richardson-Whitfield is 51. Actor Oded Fehr (OH'-dehd fayr) is 48. Rapper-actor Kurupt (Tha Dogg Pound) is 46. Actor Page Kennedy is 42. Actress Kelly Brook is 39. Actor Lucas Grabeel (GRAY'-beel) is 34. TV personality Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi is 31. Actress-singer Miley Cyrus is 26. Actor Austin Majors is 23. Actress Olivia Keville (TV: "Splitting Up Together") is 16.

Thought for Today: "Music expresses that which cannot be said and which cannot remain silent." - Victor Hugo, French author (1802-1885).

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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