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# Connecting - November 28, 2018

1 message

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# Connecting

November 28, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning!

First responses arrived in the Connecting mailbox for your memories of the worst shift you ever worked for the AP.

And I suspect more will be on their way. They will be welcomed. Remember, worst shifts are not confined to the AP so send along yours if you did not work for the coop.

### How about doing some judging?

Stay connected with some of the best journalism produced by AP members by volunteering to judge 2018 state APME contests. Contest coordinators are looking for volunteers to judge newswriting, broadcast, internet, photo and video contest categories beginning in just a few weeks. Connecting readers, in addition to helping out staff-strapped newsrooms, have found judging rewarding, and contestants have appreciated their comments. Plus, volunteer judges get a free, one-year subscription to the online AP Stylebook.

If you're interested, please contact the main APME contest coordinator **Barb Stauffer**: [bstaufer\\_news@ap.org](mailto:bstaufer_news@ap.org) with your name, email address and current/former news position.

Have a great day!

Paul

## Worst shift ever - here are the first of your stories

**Amir Bibawy (Email)** - The worst possible shift I think is when you are working overnight in the fall and the clock shifts backwards and you end up working an extra hour instead of sleeping an extra hour. I did those twice---two years in a row. And no, I didn't get to work the spring overnight shifts when you sprung forward and worked an hour less.

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**Joe Golden (Email)** - I was on a conference call from home for 16 hours working on a problem with the desk systems. Went through three rechargeable phones. Had everyone and their brother on the phone including John Reid!

It is a toss-up between that and being stuck in CTC for 51 hours with no food during the Blizzard of 93. We had to take the uplink offline due to too much snow in the seven-meter dish and the heaters couldn't keep up. Ended up switching out to KTC for the weekend.

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**Beth Harpaz (Email)** - I can't think of a one-time shift that stands out as terrible (9/11 was a terrible day but it had nothing to do with the shift...). But for years I worked nights and weekends, and tho I could never socialize with people who worked regular jobs, I found ways to try to make the best of it. For years I had tues/wed off and worked nights the other days. Tried to look on the bright side of a 'weekend' midweek: I got to sleep late in the AM; no lines at the post office midday; and I had a family member who was ailing and got to spend a lot of time with her on those odd weekdays off. Then when my kids were born, childcare was so expensive I requested the following schedule so that my husband and I could just hand off the kids to each other: I worked three weeknights and both weekend day shifts. It was pretty exhausting, turning around from day to night within each week, but it was nice to be able spend more time with my kids and we saved a lot on childcare. Honestly I felt worse for the folks who did the overnight for years. I somehow managed to avoid that one. Probably this isn't really what you're looking for, but journalism is one of those fields where people work odd hours, and you are out of sync with the rest of the world.

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**Carl P. Leubsdorf (Email)** - The worst shift? That's easy. The 1 am-9 am Saturday night shift in the Washington bureau. I had it for more than a year, from October 1963 to January 1965. I mean nothing ever happened during those hours. And while it enabled me to go out with my wife on Saturday night, it limited what I could do because I had to go to work at 1 am! And being up all night made it difficult to do things with my kids on Sunday. Of course, I often wasn't up all night, though sleeping with one's head down on the desk is a pretty poor substitute. In January 1965, the late Don Carson arrived in the bureau, and I moved up to a shift where I worked from 7 pm to 3:30 a.n. Not great, but no Saturday nights!

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**Robert Reid (Email)** - It may not have been the worst shift but it was one of the more memorable. It occurred in 1983 when I was on a fireman assignment in Beirut during a flareup of fighting between Christian and Muslim militias. Beirut was at the top of the digest that day, and New York expedited nearly everything we filed. However, the AP being the AP, we also had to send - some may say invent - a daily contribution to the world weather report - high, low and sky conditions for Beirut.

When weather report time rolled around, the Christian militia started firing mortar shells on the Muslim sector, which included AP's bureau. As the shelling grew more intense, someone transmitted a quick urgent on the fighting, then we all fled into the bathroom, the safest part of the office. After a few minutes, someone suggested we should check the message wire. After all, New York might be holding our urgent for more details. The message printer was next to the sliding glass window, the most dangerous part of the bureau. No one was keen on venturing out. Finally, longtime photo editor Harry Koundakjian, among the most experienced hands, volunteered. Mortars tended to come in groups of three so after the third blast, Harry ran from the room, ripped off couple of yards of message paper and scampered back just before the next round. There was only one message for us: Beirut, Weather please. APW

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**Hal Spencer (Email)** - My toughest shift (or string thereof) was during the first Claus Von Bulow trial in Newport, RI. I held down the bureau in Providence from 4:30 am to 10 pm for days while Correspondent Larry Laughlin and staffer Jeff Barnard covered the trial and sidebars of this big, splashy story. They phoned in lede after lede, which I filed to Mike Silverman, (then scrambled to fill the hole or two he inevitably and expertly spotted.) Meanwhile, the world didn't stop to accommodate Sunny and Claus. The RI Legislature was in session, newspaper pickups and member requests demanded my constant attention, and so, of course, did the broadcast report. We had two able interns from Brown University covering the Legislature (Will Bunch and Mitch Zuckerberg, who both went on to big careers.) Each evening, I'd sit them down with their notes, and amid everything else, interview them as I pounded the keyboard with roundups and separates. It was an awful time and a great time. And it was a whole lot of overtime.

## Happy birthday to Jonathan Lemire, from Politico Playbook (and his colleagues...)

The guy behind the familiar AP byline and analyst face on network television is celebrated in today's Politico Playbook Birthday of the Day:

**BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: Jonathan Lemire**, WH reporter for the AP and political analyst at MSNBC and NBC News, is 39.

**A fun fact about Jonathan:** "I have a long history with Donald Trump that began well before I covered his campaign and presidency. In 2001, while reporting at an event he held, he offered to set me up with another red-headed reporter. She was, I think, an intern at a local TV station and, mercifully, walked away before Trump could put



his plan in motion. And later that year I saw him sneak snacks into a showing of the Tom Cruise movie 'Vanilla Sky.' He and his companion - I believe it was Melania - ducked in after the lights went down but I could see her pull out candy from her bag." [Playbook Plus Q&A](#)

## Connecting mailbox

### *A reminder that reports of death of real media are greatly exaggerated*

**John Wylie** ([Email](#)) - Somewhere Tom Eblen is smiling and letting out a buoyant laugh at Jeannie's picture (see Tuesday's Connecting). So perfect--a shirt promoting his profession and his school in two words and Jayhawk blue and a seat filled with newspapers and books. Can't believe it has been more than a year, but he's still reminding us that reports of the real media's death, to paraphrase Mark Twain, have been greatly exaggerated.

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### *Favoritism can be seen daily throughout the media*

**Mike Rouse** ([Email](#)) - A hearty Amen to John Solomon's piece from The Hill on journalism's failures (Connecting, Nov. 26). Examples of favoritism can be seen daily throughout the media. I see it even in some contributions to Connecting. Thank you, Paul, for running John Solomon's article.

Sometimes favoritism is subtle, shown by the way a story is played, whether all persons in the news are treated alike, or in other ways. Many people besides us are not fooled.

I know this sound like a prehistoric curmudgeon but when I was an AP editor we took pride in the ability to produce stories in which our personal opinions could not be discerned. One reason was that we had members on all sides of every issue.

Also, by golly, we knew that our own views just might not be right. And we knew the importance of integrity and credibility.

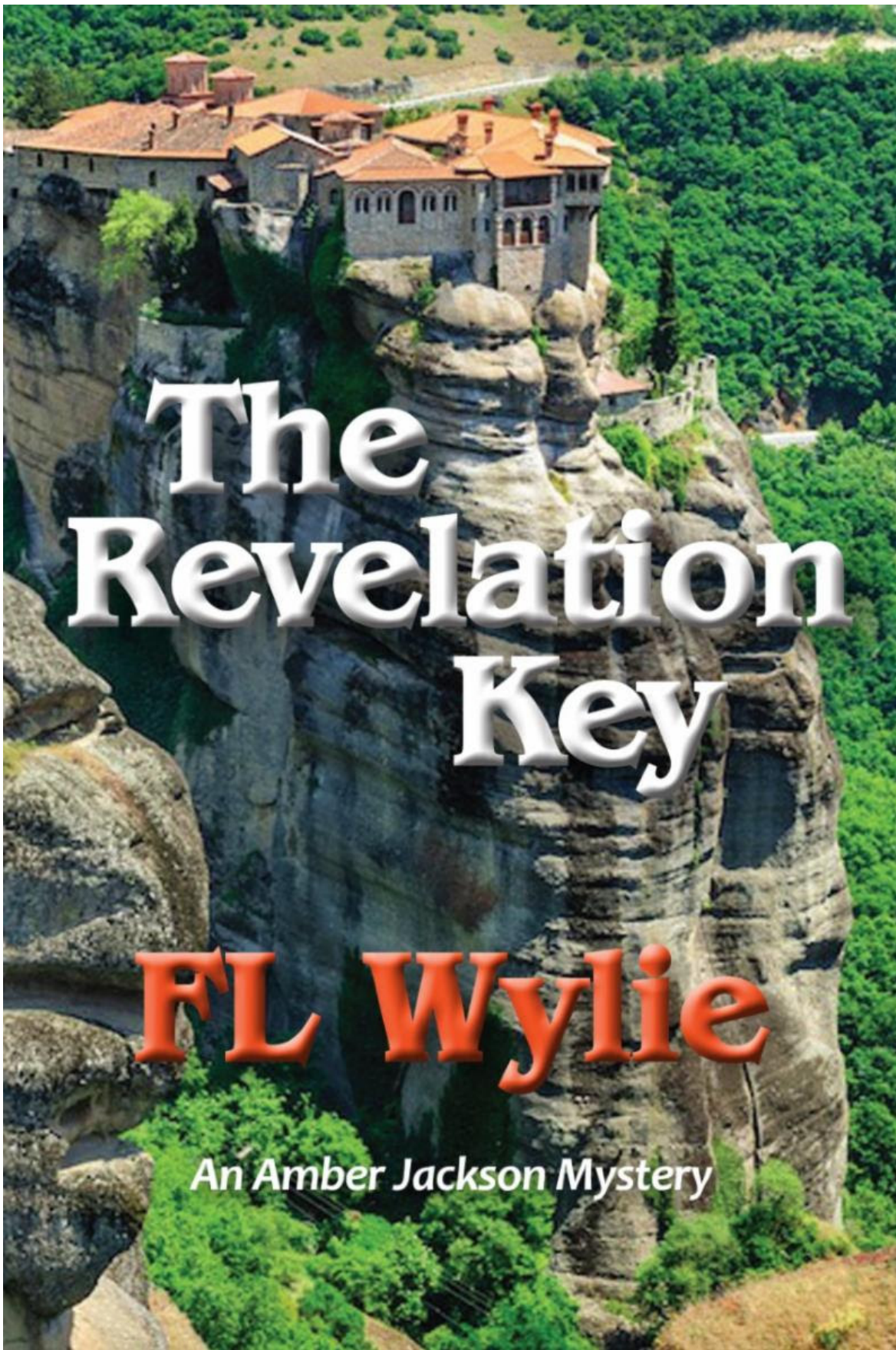
There seems to be little of that sort of restraint now, and the effect diminishes our profession and our effectiveness.

Now is the time to listen to Pogo: We have met the enemy and he is us.

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***More Connecting member books:***

**Byzantine monastery inspires mystery novel**



**Faith Wylie** ([Email](#)) - Medieval monasteries perched atop needles of stone at Meteora, Greece amazed me. But passing through horrifying images of the Last

Judgment at the chapel entrance was chilling. Why the incongruity? That question sent me on a quest into history and into writing "The Revelation Key."

Amber Jackson, a quirky art history student, joins a team of scholars in Greece as they dig into a Byzantine maze of dusty Biblical manuscripts, fading art and prophecies of the End Times.

A message from beyond the grave pulls her into a web of conspiracy and murder.

She must learn Greek, but her synesthesia (which makes letters into a rainbow of colors) must be overcome. Her breakthrough unlocks the wonders and insights of the Macedonian Renaissance.

But why was she pushed off the ledge of the mountaintop monastery at Meteora? Which artifacts are real and which are forgeries? Will the unearthed manuscript fragment change the course of Christianity? Does the chalice left by her deceased uncle mean anything?

Who on the team can she trust—the Biblical scholar, sexy graduate assistant, judgmental professor, corrupt officials, solemn monks or a fellow student?

Will she find the key before she is silenced? The stunning ending may give insight into the future.

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## ***No tears for demise of handling various ag-related fixtures***

**Dave Zelio** ([Email](#)) - As an AP veteran with a Midwest background, no doubt you remember various ag-related fixtures relayed to the wire from the USDA or state agriculture departments. Some came by fax, some you had to call for, still others were in 'the vax' for cleaning up and filing with various coding tweaks and adjustments, not to mention the correct headers.

It was an education. Barrows and gilts and red winter wheat acreage and daily Lake Oahe levels (and Sakakawea, too, for that matter). Plenty of "what on earth is this"



items during various shifts in bureaus between, say, Colorado and Ohio and south to the Gulf Coast? I do remember hearing them on midday radio broadcasts in farm country. Like taking high school scores via dictation, these fixtures once were a part of the daily routine in a lot of places.

Looks like many are going away on the wire, including the gems below. Suspect the overall appetite for them has faded across the industry and of course much of the material is available via different means vs the wire.

Thought you'd get a kick out of the memory lane.

USDA-Calif Eggs

USDA-Calif Fruit

USDA-Calif Veggies

USDA-Catl Actn

USDA-Eastern Cornbelt Hog Report

USDA-Fdr Catl

USDA-Iowa Elev Grain Prcs

USDA-Iowa-Daily Hogs

USDA-Kingsport Catl Actn

USDA-Mdwst Dly Carlot

USDA-Memphis Cotton

USDA-Midwest Regional Eggs

USDA-Natl Sheep

USDA-Okla City Catl Actn

USDA-Onion and Pots

USDA-Opening Bids KY Grain Elevs

USDA-Portland Grain

USDA-SC Clsng Grain Bids

USDA-SD Direct Fdr Catl

USDA-Slghtr Catl

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## ***Memorable quotes: This from Mario Andretti***

**Hal Bock (Email)** - The contributions by Bruce Lowitt and Mike Harris about Indy 500 quotes reminded me of one of the best I ever had, like Mike, from Mario Andretti.

Mike arranged a pace car ride around the Indy track for me during the George Plimpton stage of my career. The track is always vacant the day before the race and it was the perfect first-person adventure.

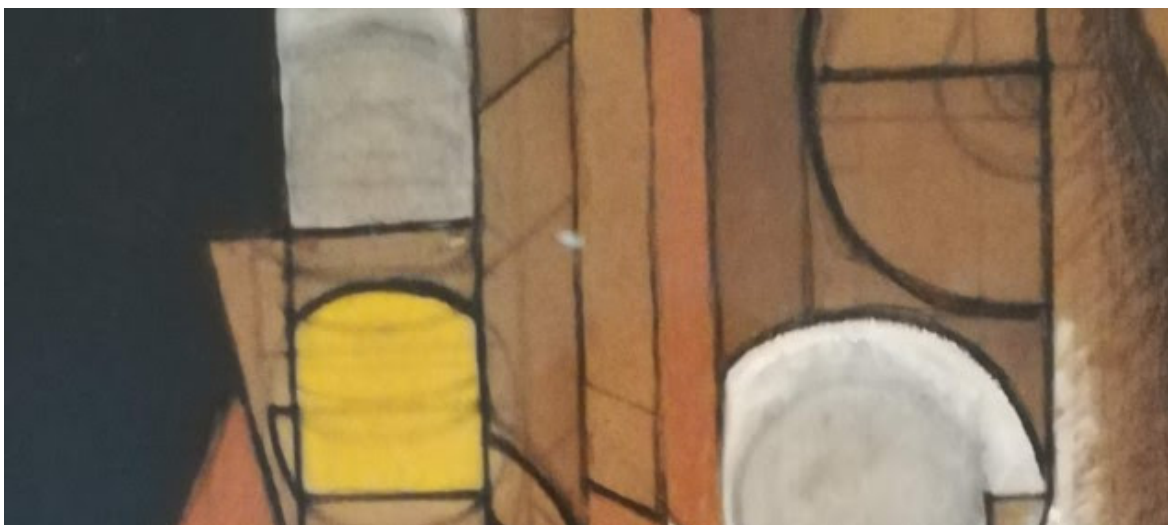
I jumped into the pace car with Andretti, neglecting the seatbelt and turning on my tape recorder. Off we went at a reasonable speed for a while and slowly increasing to the point where this reporter was becoming just a bit wary. The next thing you hear on the tape is the roar of the engine and then after a few seconds there is Andretti's voice.

``That was 100 miles per hour," he said. ``On Sunday, we'll be going twice as fast."

I put on my seatbelt every time I got in a car after that.

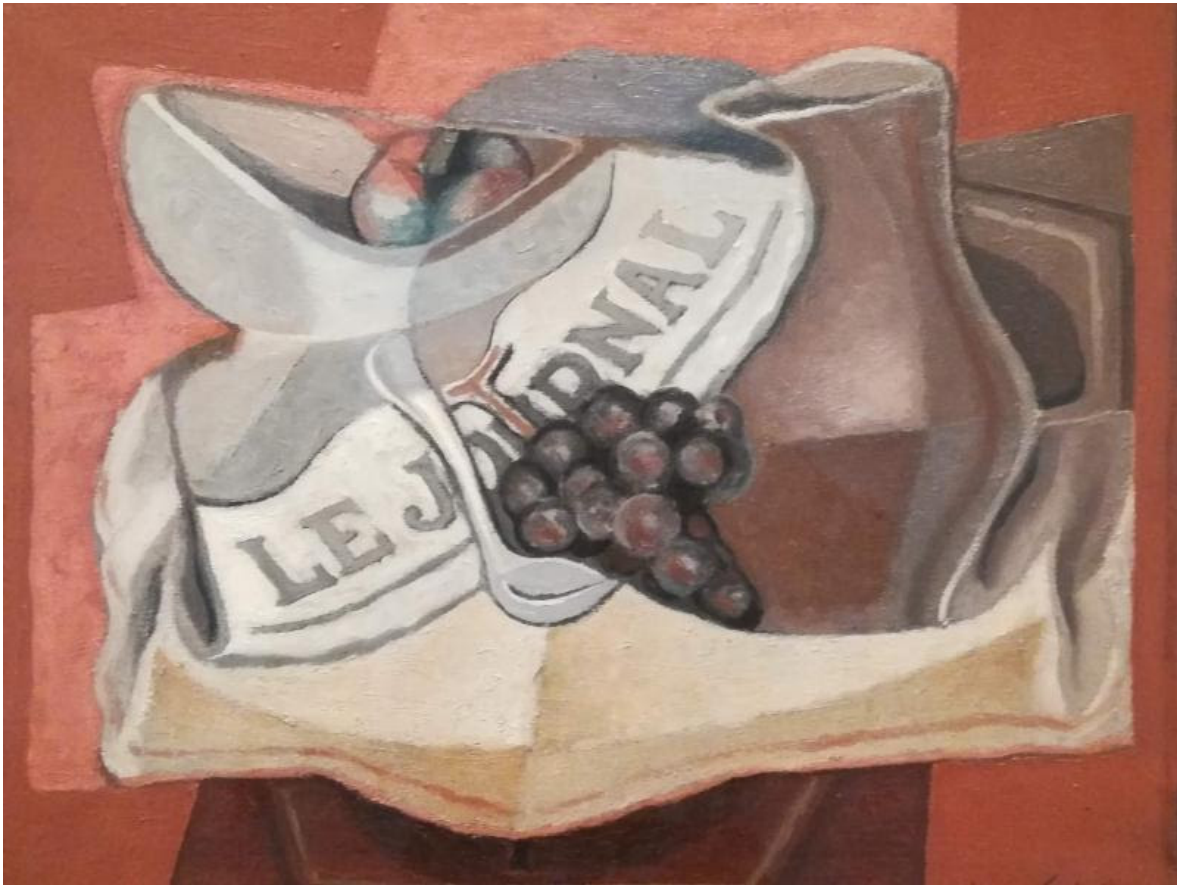
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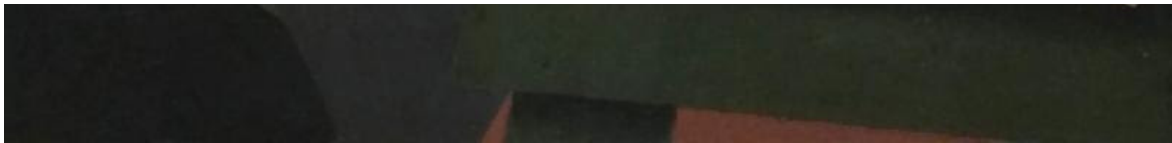
## ***Newspapers in art - from Spain***









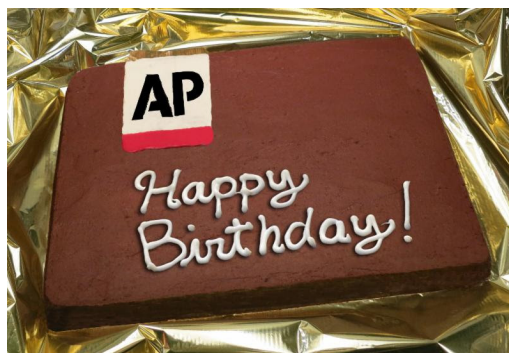


**Kevin Walsh (Email)** - Juan Gris, a Spanish painter and early pioneer of Cubism, often included newspapers in his art work. Among his paintings were "Guitar and Newspaper," "Bottle of Rum and Newspaper" and "Glasses, Newspaper and Bottle of Wine."

A contemporary of Picasso, his paintings now sell for prices far in excess of some metro newspapers and groups.

Here are three examples of his use of newspapers in his paintings that I spotted at the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia in Madrid, Spain.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Joyce Dehli - [jldehli@gmail.com](mailto:jldehli@gmail.com)

## Stories of interest

***A Journalist Was Killed in Mexico. Then His Colleagues Were Hacked.*** (New York Times)



**Friends and relatives during the funeral Mass of the slain journalist Javier Valdez last year, in Culiacán, Mexico. Photo by Rashide Frias/Associated Press**

**By Azam Ahmed**

MEXICO CITY - The messages arrived at a familiar moment of crisis for Mexico's fragile journalist community - another reporter killed in the line of duty.

Javier Valdez, a prominent investigative reporter, had been shot dead only a day earlier. Then came a sudden breakthrough: According to a text message received by his colleagues, his killers had been detained.

Despite the tragedy, his co-workers were suspicious. More than 90 percent of murders go unsolved in Mexico. How did the authorities solve the case so soon?

More likely, they worried, the text messages were an attempt to infiltrate their smartphones - part of a pattern of hacking attempts involving sophisticated spying technology bought by the Mexican government.

They were right.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***'If I could ask a follow-up': Acosta, Sanders make polite return to White House briefing room*** (Politico)



**Press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders did not bash the press or criticize specific journalists during Tuesday's White House press briefing. | Manuel Balce Ceneta/AP Photo**

**By JASON SCHWARTZ**

The White House on Tuesday held its first press briefing since attempting to revoke CNN reporter Jim Acosta's press pass - and it was almost like the entire drama, which led to the creation of new White House rules governing reporters' behavior, never happened.

The briefing was a calm affair by the standards of President Donald Trump's administration. Unlike many before it, press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders did



not bash the press or criticize specific journalists.

And despite new rules barring follow-up questions at press conferences - the White House has not specified whether those apply to briefings and other less-formal media events - several reporters asked them without incident. In fact, there was no mention of the rules or the dust-up that led CNN to sue Trump earlier this month, leaving unanswered how the White House plans to enforce its efforts to police journalists' etiquette.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Fox disciplines employees who set up Trump aide appearance***

By **DAVID BAUDER**

NEW YORK (AP) - Fox News Channel said Tuesday that it is disciplining employees involved in an email exchange with an aide to President Trump's former EPA administrator Scott Pruitt to craft a "Fox & Friends" interview with the environmental chief last year.

The emails showed one of Pruitt's aides suggesting the interview, passing along "talking points" and given the chance by a Fox producer to approve a script written to introduce Pruitt.

The messages were uncovered through a Freedom of Information Act request by the Sierra Club and first reported by The Daily Beast. It's another example of closeness between Fox News and the Trump administration, where the president's communications director is a former Fox executive. Fox's most popular personality, Sean Hannity, appeared onstage at a Trump rally shortly before the midterm election.

Fox would not say who was being disciplined, noting that it was a personnel matter, and what that discipline involved. Earlier, the network had said that "this is not standard practice whatsoever and the matter is being addressed internally with those involved."

Read more [here](#).

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## ***J-School Leaders Say It's Time to Speak Out*** (Inside Higher Ed)

**By Emma Whitford**

President Trump's attacks on journalists and the media have become routine, and for the most part, journalism schools have stayed quiet.

The president is notorious for his "fake news" remarks during rallies and on Twitter. In October, he praised Greg Gianforte, U.S. representative from Montana, for body-slaming a reporter. Most recently, the White House engaged in a legal battle with CNN after the Trump administration revoked the press pass of Jim Acosta, one of the network's senior White House correspondents, and accused him of "putting his hands" on a White House staffer during a contentious press conference. Acosta has denied the accusation and believes that his press credentials were revoked because he was asking the president tough questions.

Trump's disparagement of the press has posed a difficult question for reporters and journalism schools: Should journalists, and the colleges that train them, publicly condemn the president's attitudes toward media, or should they stay neutral in an effort to focus on reporting the news instead of becoming the news?

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

## **Today in History - November 28, 2018**



## By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Nov. 28, the 332nd day of 2018. There are 33 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 28, 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet leader Josef Stalin began conferring in Tehran during World War II.

### On this date:

In 1520, Portuguese navigator Ferdinand Magellan reached the Pacific Ocean after passing through the South American strait that now bears his name.

In 1861, the Confederate Congress admitted Missouri as the 12th state of the Confederacy after Missouri's disputed secession from the Union.

In 1905, Sinn Fein (shin fayn) was founded in Dublin.

In 1907, future movie producer Louis B. Mayer opened his first movie theater, in Haverhill, Massachusetts.

In 1909, Sergei Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3 in D minor, Op. 30 had its world premiere in New York, with Rachmaninoff at the piano.

In 1942, fire engulfed the Cocoanut Grove nightclub in Boston, killing 492 people in the deadliest nightclub blaze ever. (The cause of the rapidly-spreading fire, which began in the basement, is in dispute; one theory is that a busboy accidentally ignited an artificial palm tree while using a lighted match to fix a light bulb.)

In 1961, Ernie Davis of Syracuse University became the first African-American to be named winner of the Heisman Trophy.

In 1964, the United States launched the space probe Mariner 4 on a course toward Mars, which it flew past in July 1965, sending back pictures of the red planet.

In 1975, President Ford nominated Federal Judge John Paul Stevens to the U-S Supreme Court seat vacated by William O. Douglas.

In 1979, an Air New Zealand DC-10 en route to the South Pole crashed into a mountain in Antarctica, killing all 257 people aboard.

In 1990, Margaret Thatcher resigned as British prime minister during an audience with Queen Elizabeth II, who then conferred the premiership on John Major.

In 2001, Enron Corp., once the world's largest energy trader, collapsed after would-be rescuer Dynegy Inc. backed out of an \$8.4 billion takeover deal. (Enron filed for bankruptcy protection four days later.)

Ten years ago: Indian forces fired grenades at the landmark Taj Mahal hotel, the last stand of suspected Muslim militants, just hours after elite commandos stormed a Jewish outreach center and found six hostages dead. (The 60-hour rampage in Mumbai came to an end the following day.) Super Bowl hero Plaxico Burress (PLEK'-sih-koh BUR'-ihs) accidentally shot himself in the right thigh with a gun tucked into his waistband at a New York nightclub (Burress was later sentenced to two years in prison for a weapons conviction).

Five years ago: China said it had sent warplanes into its newly declared maritime air defense zone, days after the U.S., South Korea and Japan all sent flights through the airspace in defiance of rules Beijing said it had imposed in the East China Sea.

One year ago: A Libyan militant was convicted in federal court in Washington of terrorism charges stemming from the 2012 Benghazi attacks that killed the U.S. ambassador and three other Americans, but the jury found Ahmed Abu Khattala not guilty of murder. (Khattala was sentenced the following June to 22 years in prison.) Jay-Z led the 2018 Grammy Award nominations as the top four categories were heavily dominated by rap and R&B artists.

Today's Birthdays: Recording executive Berry Gordy Jr. is 89. Former Sen. Gary Hart, D-Colo., is 82. U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross is 81. Singer-songwriter Bruce Channel is 78. Singer Randy Newman is 75. CBS News correspondent Susan Spencer is 72. Movie director Joe Dante is 71. Former "Late Show" orchestra leader Paul Shaffer is 69. Actor Ed Harris is 68. Former NASA astronaut Barbara Morgan is 67. Actress S. Epatha (eh-PAY'-thah) Merckerson is 66. Former Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff is 65. Country singer Kristine Arnold (Sweethearts of the Rodeo) is 62. Actor Judd Nelson is 59. Movie director Alfonso Cuarón (kwahr-OHN') is 57. Rock musician Matt Cameron is 56. Actress Jane Sibbett is 56. Comedian Jon Stewart is 56. Actress Garcelle Beauvais (gar-SEHL' boh-VAY') is 52. Actor/comedian Stephnie (cq) Weir is 51. Rhythm-and-blues singer Dawn Robinson is 50. Actress Gina Tognoni is 45. Hip-hop musician apl.de.ap (Black Eyed Peas) is 44. Actor Malcolm Goodwin is 43. Actor Ryan Kwanten is 42. Actress Aimee Garcia is 40. Rapper Chamillionaire is 39. Actor Daniel Henney is 39. Rock musician Rostam Batmanglij (bot-man-GLEESH') is 35. Rock singer-keyboardist Tyler Glenn (Neon Trees) is 35. Actress Mary Elizabeth Winstead is 34. R&B singer Trey Songz is 34. Actress Scarlett Pomers is 30. Actor-rapper Bryshere Gray is 25.

**Thought for Today: "Happiness is a sort of atmosphere you can live in sometimes when you're lucky. Joy is a light that fills you with hope and faith and love." - Adela Rogers St. Johns, American journalist (1894-1988).**

## 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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