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Connecting - February 06, 2019

1 message

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Wed, Feb 6, 2019 at 9:17 AM

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Connecting

February 06, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning!

Our congratulations go out to Connecting colleague **Jesse J. Holland**, a race and ethnicity reporter for the AP based in Washington and a noted author, who recently was honored in his home state of Mississippi.

The Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi's 19th annual Crystal Ball awarded its Star of Hope honor to Holland, according to a story in BlackPressUSA.



He is the author of the first novel commissioned by Marvel Entertainment and featuring the popular superhero, The Black Panther, and the award-winning books, "The Invisibles: The Untold Story of African American Slavery Inside the White House," "Black Men Built the Capitol: Discovering African American History in and Around Washington, D.C.," and the author of the upcoming "Star Wars: The Force Awakens - Finn's Story."

His nearly 25-year career with the AP began in Columbia, South Carolina, as an intern before joining the Albany statehouse bureau where he helped cover the first Senate campaign of Hillary Clinton. He moved to Washington in 2000 where his assignments included Congress, the White House, Labor and the Supreme Court. In 2014, he became one of the original members of the AP Race & Ethnicity Team.

Holland ([Email](#)) is a native of Holly Springs and was editor of the Daily Mississippian as a student at the University of Mississippi. Click [here](#) for a link to the story.

"Photojournalist is remembered as innovator, problem-solver" is the headline for an AP wire story Tuesday by Atlanta's **Jeff Martin** on the death of **Jim Dietz**. It led: "ATLANTA (AP) - Jim Dietz, who helped photojournalists to document history on the world's biggest stages, died while on assignment to cover the Super Bowl in Atlanta. He was 53."



In this 2011 photo provided by Andy Dunaway, Jim Dietz works on a computer at the Eddie Adams Workshop in Jeffersonville, N.Y.

The story noted that a memorial ceremony is planned for Feb. 16 in Ottawa, Kansas, where Dietz grew up. Click [here](#) for a link to the story.

Today's issue brings more of your stories on your high school journalism experiences and how they impacted your career. Send yours along today.

Have a great day!

Paul

Connecting series

Lessons learned in high school journalism, how they impacted your career

Bob Egelko ([Email](#)) - Our school paper, the Hunters' Call at Canoga Park High in San Fernando Valley, was a big part of my education and growing-up process for three years. Writing about campus news, sports columns and even editorials under the guidance of two wonderful faculty advisers, Bob Scheibel and the late Mario Suarez. And becoming part of a journalistic community, with kids I'm still in touch with 55 years later. It was something we produced together, from the notepads and typewriters to the print shop, and learned as we did it. Pretty much the same atmosphere I found in the AP Sacramento bureau from 1974 to 1984 under Bill Stall, Doug Willis, Susan Sward and others. We didn't just work on individual stories or projects but on the cumulative "report" we put out each day, writing our own and editing each other's, for the members and for ourselves.

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Bill Hancock ([Email](#)) - Our daily newspaper in Hobart, Oklahoma, which my father owned and published, gave us a full page every other Friday for the "Bear Facts" school paper. at Hobart High School. (Our teams were the Bearcats.) While working on the page one day, I asked shop foreman A.C. Aker for help with a headline. He said, "It's time you learned to set your own headlines." And he taught me how to operate the Ludlow machine. (I'm not sure why he trusted me with that hot lead when I was 15 years old!) At any rate, partly because I knew how to set heads on the Ludlow, in college I got a job in the back shop of the University of Oklahoma student paper. That led to an editor's position, which led to the university's sports information office, which led to the Final Four and now the College Football Playoff. I owe a lot to that high school newspaper.

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Jill Jess - High school was the last time I read all the way through the AP Stylebook, front to back. I'm sure I've read the entire thing, one entry at a time, many times over throughout my career. But that first reading gave me a foundation for how to use the Stylebook, where to find certain entries, what was actually in there ... (I

also learned that if you miss deadlines, you won't get to be editor-in-chief. Hard lesson, but one that has stuck with me!)

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Ray Newton (Email) - Biggest lesson from high school journalism at Fowler High School in Fowler, Kansas: Ms. Gillespie pounded into us, "If nothing else, spell the person's name right. That's the one thing folks always look for first in the paper-to see if their name is right."

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Ed Williams (Email) - When I was 14 years old, a traumatic event occurred in my young life. What happened was, I failed algebra in the ninth grade. I remember my high school guidance counselor warning me that I might not be able to get into college.

Well another thing happened that same year, and I didn't even see the connection. I got on the staff of the Evergreen High School newspaper.

My first assignment was to cover an eclipse of the sun. Our science teacher set up the telescope in a cow pasture outside Evergreen, Alabama, where we could view the eclipse. By the way, the eclipse did not occur that day in south Alabama, or if it did, we didn't see it.

I managed to write a story though, about the eclipse that didn't happen. My first byline.

So were my humble beginnings.

God must have been telling me at an early age: Young man, pursue a career in journalism and not in anything math-related.

And as for not getting into college, I spent 30 years teaching journalism at Auburn University after a newspaper career that took me to four Alabama newspapers.

I wish that my high school guidance counselor Mrs. Mamilu White had lived to see the fruition of her encouragement in my life. She died when I was a freshman in college before I ever took my first journalism class.

I visited Mrs. White at her home just before she died and told her that I was interested in law school.

She said with a sternness in her voice: "You really ought to go into journalism."

More on those old tools of journalism

Ruth Gersh ([Email](#)) - I'll see you one pica pole and raise one with my father's name scratched on to the back. Well, it's my name too, but it was his pica pole. I believe it's from his days on the Philadelphia Record, which went out of business in 1947. Also a soft-lead editing pencil that says in full "Most of the Best Newspapermen Are Guild Members."

Speaking of Pica, at one point my two resident cats were Agate and Pica. Pica never did grow larger than Agate.

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Barbara Wallace Hughes ([Email](#)) - I loved the Ed Williams photo of the wheel and pica pole (in Tuesday's Connecting). When I left The Messenger, I kept my wheel -- which I hadn't used in years, of course.

A few years ago, I was cleaning the staircase in my century-old farm house, and something metallic caught my eye. As I pried it out of a crack along the edge of the stairs, I discovered a pica pole. I have no idea how many years it lingered, hidden there. But, clearly, this farm house wanted me to know I wasn't the first journalist to live here.

Connecting mailbox

Pulitzer-winner Patrick Sloyan dies at 82

Jack Limpert ([Email](#)) - Patrick J. Sloyan, a longtime Gridiron member who was Washington bureau chief of Newsday and won numerous journalism awards including the Pulitzer Prize, died of cancer Feb. 4 at his home in Paeonian Springs, Va. He was 82.

A native of Stamford, Ct., and a graduate of the University of Maryland, Sloyan came to Washington in 1960 with United Press International, where he wrote some of the early stories on the auto safety issues raised by consumer crusader Ralph Nader. He later worked for Hearst News Service before joining Newsday in 1974. While he was the Long Island daily's Europe-Mideast bureau chief, he won the ASNE award for deadline writing for his coverage of the October 1981 assassination of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.



He won the Pulitzer Prize for international reporting and the George Polk Award for his coverage of the 1991 Persian Gulf War, including disclosures of the extent of US friendly fire deaths. In 1997, he was part of a Newsday team that won the Pulitzer for Spot News Reporting for its coverage of the TWA 800 crash off Long Island.

In 2015, St. Martin's Press published his book, "The Politics of Deception: JFK's Secret Decisions on Vietnam, Civil Rights and Cuba," based in part on 269 hours of secret Kennedy tape recordings. The book challenged earlier more positive versions of Kennedy's presidency and contended he made the crucial decisions involving the United States in Vietnam.

Sloyan was Newsday's Washington bureau chief from 1986-88 when he became senior correspondent. He was elected to the Gridiron Club on March 30, 1996. He retired from the paper in 2001, continuing to write for other publications.

Sloyan is survived by his wife, the former Phyllis Hampton, three children and 12 grandchildren. A later memorial service is planned.

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Rare snow storm in Seattle has this squirrel perplexed



Ken Fields ([Email](#)) - An unusual winter storm brought the Seattle area almost a foot of snow. I caught a photo of a squirrel who seemed perplexed about which way to go next!

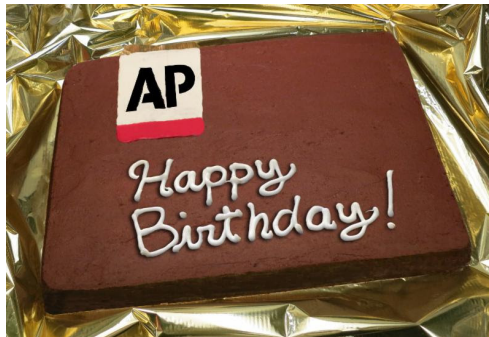
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Connecting sky shot - Barnegat Bay



A photographer makes pictures of the sunset over Barnegat Bay from the boat ramp in Ship Bottom, N.J., on Long Beach Island Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2019. (Photo by Brian Horton)

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Art Loomis - artloomis37@gmail.com

Welcome to Connecting



Robert Kuesterman - robertk@xmission.com

Stories of interest

(AP an early adopter)

The Rise of the Robot Reporter (New York Times)

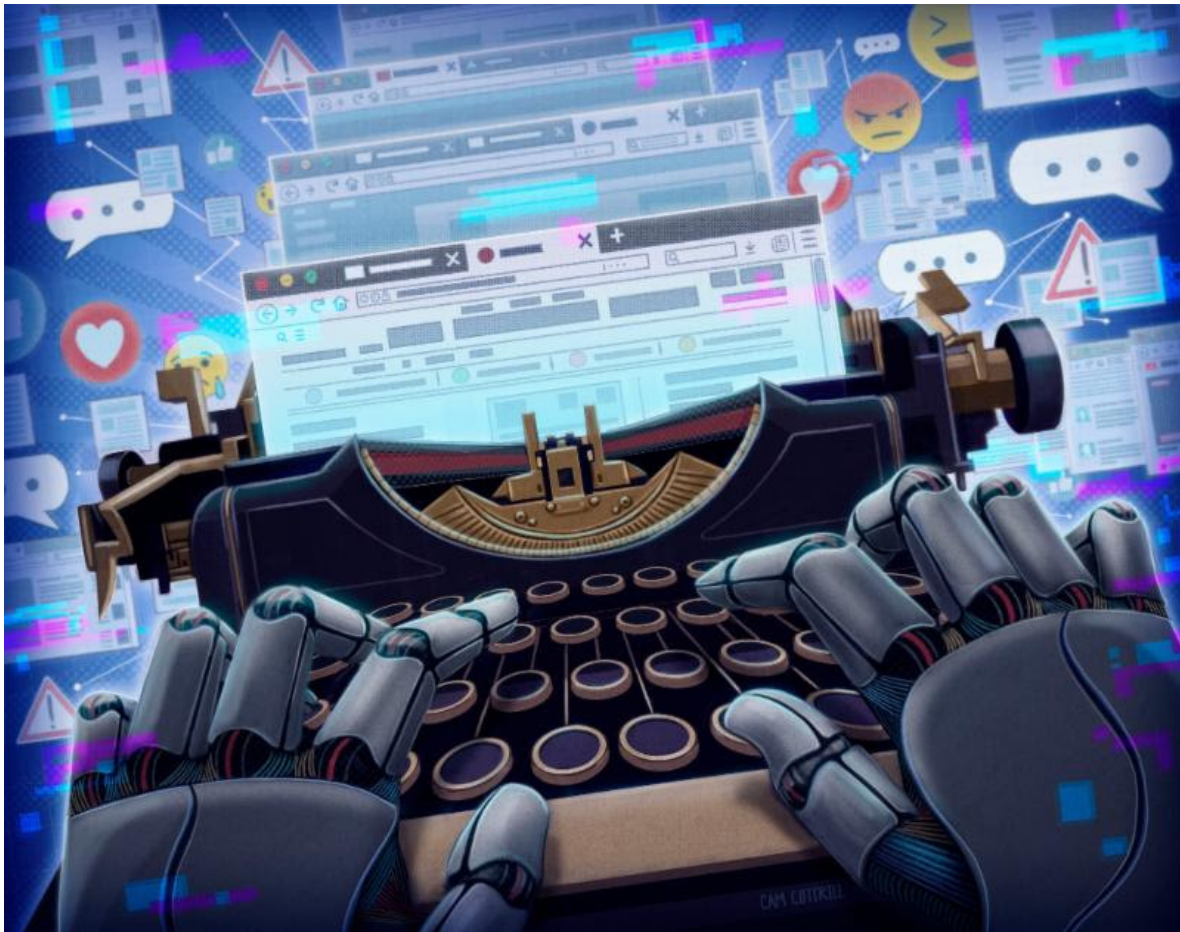


Image by Cam Cottrill

By Jaclyn Peiser

As reporters and editors find themselves the victims of layoffs at digital publishers and traditional newspaper chains alike, journalism generated by machine is on the rise.

Roughly a third of the content published by Bloomberg News uses some form of automated technology. The system used by the company, Cyborg, is able to assist reporters in churning out thousands of articles on company earnings reports each quarter.

The program can dissect a financial report the moment it appears and spit out an immediate news story that includes the most pertinent facts and figures. And unlike business reporters, who find working on that kind of thing a snooze, it does so without complaint.

Untiring and accurate, Cyborg helps Bloomberg in its race against Reuters, its main rival in the field of quick-twitch business financial journalism, as well as giving it a

fighting chance against a more recent player in the information race, hedge funds, which use artificial intelligence to serve their clients fresh facts.

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

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What Will Your Future Look Like Without Local News? (Rolling Stone)

By JIM RICH

It's not easy to witness the watchdog of our democracy being sadistically euthanized.

Another week, another wave of massive journalism layoffs. And with it, another round of hand-wringing and legitimate cries about what we stand to lose when newspapers - especially local newsrooms - are gutted.

As many have pointed out, it is hard to predict what exact corruption, injustice or malfeasance will go unchecked as a result of historically fewer journalists (as many as 45 percent fewer in newspaper newsrooms) covering our cities' and states' centers of power.

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo once described the relationship between newspapers and government this way to me: "You guys uncover what's wrong or broken, and then it's our job to fix it."

It seems simplistic, but it's true. And it's not always easy, as a reader or citizen, to discern when that dynamic is at play - or to understand how close we are to losing it.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Ed Williams.

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Opinion: A Bill Comes Due for Marie Colvin's Death (New York Times)

By The Editorial Board

The editorial board represents the opinions of the board, its editor and the publisher. It is separate from the newsroom and the Op-Ed section.

A war correspondent of extraordinary courage, Marie Colvin knew the danger she faced. She had reported from such places as Iraq, Chechnya, East Timor, Sierra Leone and Sri Lanka, where she lost an eye to a government-fired rocket-propelled grenade. Her last war, the Syrian Army's bombardment of rebels in Homs, she told a friend, was "the worst we've ever seen." But it was not a stray round that killed her and a French photojournalist, Rémi Ochlik, there in February 2012.

"Officials at the highest level of the Syrian government carefully planned and executed the artillery assault on the Baba Amr media center for the specific purpose of killing the journalists inside," wrote Judge Amy Berman Jackson of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia last week in awarding Ms. Colvin's relatives \$302.5 million, including \$300 million in punitive damages against the Syrian strongman, Bashar al-Assad, and his associates. "She was specifically targeted because of her profession, for the purpose of silencing those reporting on the growing opposition movement in the country," Judge Jackson wrote.

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

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Did a quarter-million Tucson Citizen newspaper stories go up in digital smoke?

(Tucson Sentinel)

By Dylan Smith, TucsonSentinel.com

The bare-bones remnants of the Tucson Citizen's online archive vanished from public view weeks ago, and corporate staff have given conflicting accounts about whether hundreds of thousands of news stories will ever be accessible again.

More than 200,000 reports, mostly local news and sports stories dating from 1993 until the Citizen laid off nearly its entire staff and ceased printing in 2009, had been included in a basic Wordpress website set up by the Citizen's corporate owners in 2014. That website disappeared from the Internet sometime before January 17.

Staff at the Arizona Daily Star said that all of the data for the website was gone, but the newspaper's publisher said "we're trying to get it back up."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Valerie Komor.

The Final Word

Charles Schwab CEO reveals how he tests job candidates by taking them to breakfast, having restaurant mess up their order (The Blaze)

By CARLY HOILMAN

A person's character is revealed during times of great pressure and distress. A great way to test out someone's character is to observe how they react when things don't go according to plan.



What if there were a way for employers to test out job candidates and compare how each reacts to unpleasant curveballs?

Charles Schwab Corporation CEO Walt Bettinger has created such a system. Earlier this month, he [shared his secret](#) with the New York Times.

Before every new hire, Bettinger takes candidates out for a breakfast interview. But what the potential employees don't know is that every time, Bettinger shows up early

and asks the restaurant to purposefully mess up the order in exchange for a handsome tip.

For an employer like Bettinger, character is everything. He told the Times that his "wrong order" test is meant to gauge how prospective hires deal with adversity.

"Are they upset, are they frustrated, or are they understanding? Life is like that, and business is like that," he said.

"It's just another way to look inside their heart rather than their head," he explained.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - February 6, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Feb. 6, the 37th day of 2019. There are 328 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 6, 1911, Ronald Wilson Reagan, the 40th president of the United States, was born in Tampico, Illinois.

On this date:

In 1778, during the American Revolutionary War, the United States won official recognition and military support from France with the signing of a Treaty of Alliance in Paris.

In 1788, Massachusetts became the sixth state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1933, the 20th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the so-called "lame duck" amendment, was proclaimed in effect by Secretary of State Henry Stimson.

In 1952, Britain's King George VI, 56, died at Sandringham House in Norfolk, England; he was succeeded as monarch by his 25-year-old elder daughter, who became Queen Elizabeth II.

In 1968, the Winter Olympic Games were opened in Grenoble, France, by French President Charles de Gaulle.

In 1987, Wall Street Journal reporter Gerald Seib (syb) was released after being detained six days by Iran, accused of being a spy for Israel; Iran said the detention was a result of misunderstandings.

In 1991, comedian and television performer Danny Thomas died in Los Angeles at age 79.

In 1993, tennis Hall of Famer and human rights advocate Arthur Ashe died in New York at age 49.

In 1998, President Bill Clinton signed a bill changing the name of Washington National Airport to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. Pop music star Falco, who had a 1986 hit with "Rock Me Amadeus," died in a traffic accident in the Dominican Republic; he was 40. Carl Wilson, a founding member of The Beach Boys, died in Los Angeles at age 51.

In 2000, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton launched her successful candidacy for the U.S. Senate.

In 2003, Edging closer to war, President George W. Bush declared "the game is over" for Saddam Hussein and urged skeptical allies to join in disarming Iraq. ABC's "20/20" aired a British documentary, "Living With Michael Jackson," in which the King of Pop revealed he sometimes let children sleep in his bed.

In 2008, the Bush White House defended the use of the interrogation technique known as waterboarding, saying it was legal - not torture as critics argued - and had saved American lives. The Phoenix Suns acquired Shaquille O'Neal in a stunning blockbuster deal that sent four-time All-Star Shawn Marion and Marcus Banks to the Miami Heat.

Ten years ago: Key senators and the White House reached tentative agreement on an economic stimulus measure at the heart of President Barack Obama's recovery plan. Federal health officials said Peanut Corp. of America, a Georgia peanut processor, had knowingly shipped salmonella-laced products as far back as 2007. Death claimed actors James Whitmore at age 87 and Philip Carey at age 83.

Five years ago: House Speaker John Boehner all but ruled out passage of immigration legislation before the fall elections. A suicide bomber blew himself up at the gates of a Syrian prison and rebels stormed in behind him, freeing hundreds of inmates. Jay Leno said goodbye to NBC's "The Tonight Show" for the second time, making way for Jimmy Fallon to take over as host. Baseball Hall of Famer Ralph Kiner, 91, died in Rancho Mirage, California. Former U.S. poet laureate Maxine Kumin died in Warner, New Hampshire, at age 88.

One year ago: Casino mogul Steve Wynn resigned as chairman and CEO of Wynn Resorts amid sexual misconduct allegations. SpaceX's big new rocket blasted off from the Kennedy Space Center on its first test flight, carrying a red sports car on a route that would take it to the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter. Poland's president signed legislation making it a crime to blame Poland for Holocaust crimes committed by Nazi Germany.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Rip Torn is 88. Actress Mamie Van Doren is 88. Actor Mike Farrell is 80. Former NBC News anchorman Tom Brokaw is 79. Singer Fabian is 76. Actress Gayle Hunnicutt is 76. Actor Michael Tucker is 75. Producer-director-writer Jim Sheridan is 70. Actor Jon Walmsley is 63. Actress Kathy Najimy is 62. Rock musician Simon Phillips (Toto) is 62. Actor-director Robert Townsend is 62. Actor Barry Miller is 61. Actress Megan Gallagher is 59. Rock singer Axl Rose (Guns N' Roses) is 57. Country singer Richie McDonald is 57. Singer Rick Astley is 53. Rock musician Tim Brown (Boo Radleys) is 50. "Good Morning America" co-host Amy Robach is 46. Actor Josh Stewart is 42. Actor Ben Lawson is 39. Actor Brandon Hammond is 35. Actress Crystal Reed (TV: "Teen Wolf") is 34. Actress Alice Greczyn (GREH'-chihn) is 33. Actress Anna Diop is 31. Rhythm and blues singer/actress Tinashe is 26.

Thought for Today: "Cherish your wilderness." - Maxine Kumin (1925-2014).

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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