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Connecting - May 13, 2019

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Connecting

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this the 13th day of May 2019,

Our Monday Spotlight shines on colleague **Shirley Christian** and her distinguished career as a foreign correspondent in a career that started with The Associated Press, then moved on to the Miami Herald and The New York Times.

It was at the Herald that she won the 1991 Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting for her dispatches from Central America.

Today, from Kansas City where she started her AP career, Shirley is working on her memoir and was kind enough to take time from that work to file this fascinating dispatch for Connecting.

My latest Spotlight column in my hometown newspaper, The Messenger of Fort Dodge, Iowa, focused on Fort Dodge native **Phyllis Bush**, a high school English teacher in Fort Wayne, Indiana, who provided many "teaching moments" from the time she began her career as a 22-year-old until she drew her last breath in March at the age of 75. When faced with colon cancer that could not be contained, she taught perhaps her most important lesson: how to die with courage, grace and dignity while maintaining a strong will to live. She was a teacher to the very end. Click [here](#) to read the story.



CORRECTION: Our colleague **Dick Lipsey** spotted an error in the caption of a Friday Connecting story, an AP story on the upcoming 75th anniversary of the D-Day invasion. The caption called it "history's largest amphibian invasion." Of course, Dick noted, it should be "amphibious" invasion (not a cold-blooded vertebrate) "executed by coordinated action of land, sea, and air forces organized for invasion."

I look forward to your contributions - even the amphibians among us! - as we begin a new week.

Paul

Connecting profile

Shirley Christian



My So-Called Career: Slow Start, Great Finish

In the spring of 1966, when I was just a thesis short of finishing my M.A. in international journalism at Ohio State University, I sat for interviews with a number of recruiters visiting the J-School. I told each of them I aspired to a career covering Latin America, and they responded with tales of journalism reality.

The AP recruiter, with cigarette in hand, told me I probably would not like the world's largest news organization. I would have to do all my reporting by phone and if I wanted to be promoted would have to accept any transfer offered, which meant - he said - that I could not marry.

The Chicago bureau chief of *The Wall Street Journal* asked if I knew anything about commodities, which was the only beat where, it seemed to him, a woman might work out at *The Journal*. Noting that I was from Kansas City, he assumed I might have some expertise in pork bellies and wheat futures.

An editor from *The Cleveland Plain Dealer* smiled benignly when I described my foreign correspondent dreams. They already had a "sort of" Latin American correspondent, he said. The publisher's secretary liked to vacation in Argentina and had once "had her hand kissed by Peron."

Such were my dismal prospects when I drove off to Upstate New York and a summer in Albany on a suburban beat for *The Knickerbocker News*.

If I were ever to work abroad, I knew that The AP and UPI represented the best possibilities; they not only employed most of the people covering the world for America but were also stepping-stones to the handful of big newspapers that made it their mission to report on the broader world. So, in late August, I rode the bus to New York City and found my way to 50 Rockefeller Plaza.

Braving 50 Rock

What an awesome sight it was - the Art Deco architecture, the sunken plaza in front of the AP and NBC buildings, the flags around the plaza waving in the sunshine, and across Fifth Avenue stood St. Patrick's Cathedral and Saks Fifth Avenue. It looked like a great spot to work.



Upstairs in the AP building, I was given the editing and knowledge tests and sent to the New York Bureau for a writing test. Afterward, Watson Sims, then Keith Fuller's deputy in handling personnel, interviewed me. I may have been a little pushy, and he may have been a little defensive, but he basically told me that the path to a foreign assignment began in a domestic bureau, followed by time on one of the international desks in New York. He said my name and credentials would be circulated to the bureaus in case anyone wanted to hire me.

In the fall, back at Ohio State for my final quarter, a welcome offer came from Frank Gorrie, the Kansas City bureau chief, and when I finished school in December I drove home to go to work.

The Last Pony Wire

The Kansas City bureau, on the top floor of the *Star* building, was big and noisy. It served as the filing point for the A-wire west, but my first job was filing the last surviving Pony Wire in the country. The Pony Wire served a handful of very small dailies in Missouri and Kansas that received about an hour and a half's worth of carefully culled and shortened news in late morning. Harry Rosenthal, who taught me how to do it, warned that the last person hired to do it had failed to make the six-month cut.

I made it through the six months, and after nine months in Kansas City and six in New Orleans I moved to Chile for a nine-month fellowship from the Inter-American Press Assn. Jim Mangan, the New Orleans CoB, promised that I would be rehired on my return. Instead, as I was finishing my research time in Chile, a telex arrived from New York asking if I wanted to join the World Services desk at 50 Rock.



Yes, I did!

I arrived in New York in time for the office Christmas party in 1968 and the Guild strike that followed in January. I walked a picket line for about eight miserably cold days in mini-skirts and a coat not much longer.

Gallagher Rules

Once we were back in the warm offices, my male colleagues on the World Desk were welcoming, but it soon became apparent that my being brought to World Services did not assure me of an eventual foreign post. Webb McKinley and Sam Summerlin, my bosses, let me know that Wes Gallagher, who made choices for foreign posts from recommendations by them and Ben Bassett, the foreign editor, did not want to send a woman abroad, even though Webb would recommend me many times in the coming years.

New York was my home from the end of 1968 to the beginning of 1977, including two years in World Services, three years in the United Nations bureau, and three years on the Foreign Desk (Cables). I sat by while my colleagues went out to New Delhi, Saigon, London, Paris, Rome, Madrid, Moscow, Buenos Aires, Santiago, Rio, Mexico City, and elsewhere. They knew I was being treated unfairly; one even offered to introduce me to an attorney friend to talk about a discrimination suit. But such suits were still rare, and I - in my early thirties - was timid about the damage it might do to my future.

Suing the Place that Fed Me

That changed in the summer of 1973, as I prepared to leave for a Nieman fellowship at Harvard, when a Guild representative sought me out on the Foreign Desk and said he had heard I had an interesting story to tell. The Guild, he said, was preparing a class-action complaint to the EEOC. That gave me a sense of security about going public, and I became one of the original named plaintiffs in a suit that was settled a full decade later with The AP committing to vastly expanded opportunities for women and minorities.

In fairness, it must be said that The AP began to change its policies almost from the day the complaint was made public. Several women were sent abroad during the year I was at Harvard. Wes Gallagher retired, and eventually they even got around to me. In early 1977 I was named bureau chief in Santiago, Chile, a job that could not have delighted me more. I had fallen in love with Chile during my fellowship there, and going back felt like going home. Most of the staff in the Santiago bureau had also been there nine years earlier.



Goodbye party in the AP's Santiago bureau July 1979. From left: Maggie Cueto, administrative aide; Ellie Fenton, Tom Fenton, darkroom tech, Shirley Christian, contract engineer, newsman Carlos Cisternas, and photographer Santiago Llanquin Caceres.

Two and a half years later, The AP offered me the post in Brussels covering NATO and the Common Market headquarters, and I initially accepted. But almost at the same time I heard from one of my old friends from the Foreign Desk, Bill Long, who had preceded me in Santiago, then gone to *The Miami Herald* as one of its staff covering Latin America.

First Sight of Biscayne Bay

The *Herald* was rolling in money in those days, and with Central America a big and growing story, it wanted to expand coverage of the region. They flew me to Miami for interviews, and I was sold from the minute I walked into the sprawling newsroom and looked through a wall of glass to shimmering Biscayne Bay and the Miami Beach skyline. The postcard-perfect scene gave me the same sense of awe I had felt on first seeing Rockefeller Plaza.

In my heart, I knew that I would rather continue covering Latin America than go to Europe. I resigned from The AP, turned the bureau over to my successor, Tom

Fenton, and flew away.

Looking back, I am amazed at all the things that found their way into my life over the next year and a half. Before officially starting to work at *the Herald* I bought my first house, had surgery, and survived Hurricane Andrew in a borrowed condo overlooking the Coconut Grove boat basin. On my actual starting day my new editor called before I left the house and asked me to stop and interview a yacht captain who was just back from taking the ousted Nicaraguan ruler Anastasio Somoza and his entourage to the Bahamas.

Somoza had paid the man several tens of thousands of dollars in cash to keep quiet about his passengers, so, naturally, the first thing the captain did on returning to Miami was to call the *Herald*. Those, I learned, were Miami rules.

My new colleagues on the Latin staff of the *Herald* - Don Bohning, Bill Montalbano, Bill Long, and Guy Gugliotta - made clear that after a year of intense coverage of the rebellion in Nicaragua they were tired of travel, and a little tired of Central America. The story was now mine, they said.

Down to the Banana Republics

In a couple of weeks, I was on the last Pan-Am flight into El Salvador before that tiny country became a revolutionary flashpoint. I interviewed my seatmate, a frightened man from Wisconsin who was managing an export clothing plant in San Salvador and in constant fear of being kidnapped.

Thus began a routine of spending several weeks at a time in Central America - making the rounds to El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, and Panama - then returning to Miami for a few weeks. My graduate studies had prepared me for life and politics in the big South American countries, but the tiny countries of the tropics were a new world.

The entire isthmus was caught up in some way in the war that had just ended in Nicaragua, the one brewing in El Salvador, and the brutal repression in Guatemala. Costa Rica and Panama were safe havens and places of intrigue. Honduras still slumbered but would eventually become the launching pad for the Contra war against Sandinista rule in Nicaragua.



With General Pinochet in Chile after attempted assassination 1988.

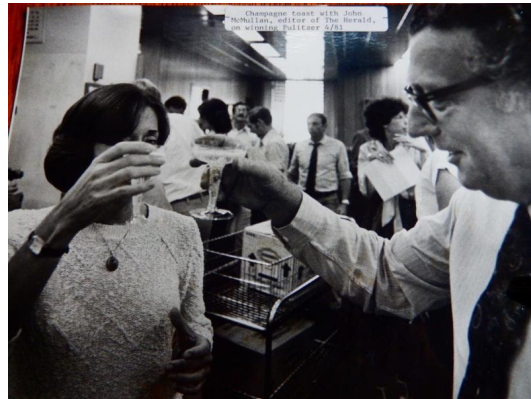
By the end of 1980, I had covered the murder of the archbishop, three American nuns and a Catholic lay worker in El Salvador, a military coup there and the formation of a joint civilian-military government, the collapse of the Sandinista-moderate coalition in Nicaragua and murder of an opposition leader, the battles of *La Prensa* newspaper to stay alive in Managua, and the murders of a university rector and a human rights leader in Guatemala. Not to mention the defection of a military officer to the guerrilla forces in El Salvador and the nameless bodies appearing along roadsides and in lava beds.

Miami itself was in trauma in 1980 as it absorbed more than a hundred thousand new Cuban refugees from the Mariel Boatlift. The Florida Straits filled with boats, and *Herald* reporters rode into Cuban harbors on the small boats and cabin cruisers that Cuban Americans in Miami used to collect family members after Fidel Castro angrily declared that anyone who wanted to leave was free to go. He forced many of the boats to carry common criminals as well. The mayor of Miami boasted that he felt like the Statue of Liberty.

Pulitzer Time

When I returned to Miami for Christmas in December 1980, editors at the *Herald* had decided to nominate me for the Pulitzer in International Reporting and the city staff for the Public Service medal. I was astounded. It had been a dizzying ride from struggle to acclaim, but I tried not to hope.

In January, I was in Panama when a call came from Long Island University telling me I had won the George Polk Award for foreign reporting in dangerous circumstances. And rumors began to circulate that I was a serious contender for the Pulitzer. An editor at the *Herald* soon learned that I was one of the three finalists being recommended to the Pulitzer board.



Toasting the Pulitzer with Herald editor John McMullan 1981

In early March, I was in the newsroom on a Saturday when a friend at *The Washington Post* called and blurted out: "Shirley, Ben Bradlee says the *Herald* is getting the Pulitzer for foreign news!" Bradlee, then on the Pulitzer board, had stopped by the *Post*'s foreign desk with the news after the board's meeting.

Bradlee hadn't mentioned my name, so I didn't do any celebrating until the actual announcement came via The AP and UPI on Monday, and the champagne was rolled out in the newsroom.

Life After a Pulitzer

For the next two years I continued to cover Central America for the *Herald* and did a number of magazine articles on the region. I was also juggling more job offers than I could ever have dreamed. But I felt a great need to tell the story of Nicaragua in full, so I took a leave from the *Herald* and spent nearly two years working on my book, *Nicaragua: Revolution in the Family*, published by Random House in July 1985.

After that, and with a somewhat heavy heart, I resigned from the *Herald* and accepted Abe Rosenthal's three-year-old offer to join *The New York Times*. Over the next 10 years I spent a year in the Times' Washington bureau, then became bureau chief in Buenos Aires, which included responsibility for Bolivia, Uruguay, and my beloved Chile. For five years I jetted back and forth over the Andes, with occasional forays as far afield as Peru and Colombia. It was deeply satisfying to witness Chile's successful transition to elected government after 16 years under General Pinochet.

At the beginning 1991 I returned to Central America just after elections in Nicaragua and in time to cover the peace negotiations in El Salvador.

In 1994, feeling the call of family obligations back in Kansas City, I left the *Times* and for a while divided my time between Kansas City and Miami, but eventually sold my house in Miami.

I tried - and failed - to launch a small publishing house devoted to business books on Latin America. I taught for a year in the journalism school at the University of Kansas, reported from the region for the *Times* for three years, spent five years working for a multi-billionaire who launched the Stowers Institute for Medical Research here in Kansas City, and wrote another book, this one with the unwieldy title: *Before Lewis and Clark: The Story of the Chouteaus, French Dynasty on the American Frontier*, published by Farrar, Straus & Giroux in 2004.



Miami Herald internal magazine article

Now, I am trying to write a memoir while also caring for a house too big for me on a suburban half-acre not far from our *Connecting* editor. In the immediate future I have to deal with the 200 or so bricks stacked on my patio waiting for me to lay them. Masonry is surprisingly satisfying work.

Shirley Christian's email is - scribe@twc.com

AP Photo of the Day



Pro-democracy lawmaker Wu Chi-wai scuffles with security guards at the Legislative Council in Hong Kong on Saturday. Hong Kong's legislative assembly descended into chaos as lawmakers for and against controversial amendments to the territory's extradition law clashed over access to the chamber. | Vincent Yu/AP Photo

Thirty years on, the Tiananmen Square image that shocked the world



Jeff Widener found himself caught up in the security clampdown in Beijing when he took the picture of Tank Man in Tiananmen Square 30 years ago. Photograph: Jeff Widener

(Connecting editor's note: Jeff Widener worked for the AP from 1987 to 1995 Associated Press and was Southeast Asia Picture Editor based in Bangkok, Thailand, when he took the Tank Man photo on June 5, 1989. Click [here](#) for his description of the circumstances.)

By PETER BEAUMONT

Manchester Guardian

A solitary figure in a white shirt and black trousers clutches a bag and stands in front of a column of halted tanks, a cluster of street lights floating to one side like balloons. The man's shoulders are rounded, almost passive in front of the four tanks whose gun barrels are raised as if in an ironic salute.

Thirty years on from the violent crushing of pro-democracy protests in Tiananmen Square, the man's identity remains unknown; it is by no means certain he is still alive. But the photograph that captured his solitary moment of dissent in June 1989 remains one of the most memorable images of the last century, known universally as Tank Man.

Jeff Widener was not the only photographer to capture the scene, but it is his image - listed as one of Time magazine's 100 most influential of all time - that has become the most famous. "Every Tank Man photo has a different flavour. I think I was lucky I was using such a fine-grained film. It allowed it to be blown up larger. I think mine also has a more 'Gandhi' feel. He looks more vulnerable: a common man asking a

question, like: why are you doing this? My feeling is that this guy had no concern for his safety. He was fed up and just didn't care. He just wanted answers."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Scott Dine.

Best of the Week

Source development, persistence land AP scoop with clues to failed Venezuelan uprising



Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro, left, speaks in Caracas, April 13, 2019, flanked by Defense Minister Vladimir Padrino Lopez, far right, and Gen. Ivan Hernández, second from right, head of both the presidential guard and military counterintelligence. The AP learned that at least twice since 2016, the U.S. government missed chances to cultivate relations with regime insiders, including Padrino and Hernández, both of whom backed out of a plan to topple Maduro according to U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton. AP Photo / Ariana Cubillos

The plot was bold: Fuel a military uprising in Venezuela by shifting the loyalty of key leaders, putting them in opposition to President Nicolas Maduro. But the plan to help

the U.S.-backed opposition leader backfired at the moment of truth, prompting an understandable reaction from press to find out what went wrong.

While most other media speculated, AP Andean News Director Joshua Goodman used dogged reporting to break the untold story of how the Obama and Trump administrations missed golden opportunities to woo two generals that the White House said were central to the plan. His AP exclusive detailed how the Trump administration balked at helping the head of Venezuela's military intelligence and presidential guard get visas for his 3-year-old son to be treated for a brain tumor in Boston. It also revealed that under Obama, the American government cut off a potential line of communication with Venezuela's defense minister after he expressed interest in opening a communication channel between Maduro's opponents and the U.S.

Goodman's scoops were built on aggressive reporting and years of source development:

Using a key tip from a Venezuelan exile, Goodman pressured a reluctant former U.S. official to reveal how the White House in 2017 turned down the humanitarian visa request. Another source involved in those talks produced a document from the hospital backing up the claim. In addition, Goodman was able to show how Venezuela's defense minister was also turned away when he sent an emissary to speak to U.S. intelligence agents in 2016 - a lapse that some say in hindsight cost the Americans dearly.

The story garnered major play both among customers and APNews users, generating seven times the normal engagement time for stories on social media, and nearly 11 times the traffic from visitors who actively searched for the story. It also was used online by more than 230 news outlets. Goodman was interviewed on air about the scoop by Colombia's largest radio network, and the story also earned the attention of U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, a driver of U.S. policy toward Venezuela, who praised Goodman on Twitter as a "very good" reporter and called the story "enlightening."

For his work unearthing pivotal clues around a shadowy turn of international events, Goodman wins AP's Best of the Week.

Best of the States

AP Exclusive: California synagogue hadn't used security funds received

shortly before shooting



A San Diego county sheriff's deputy stands in front of the Chabad of Poway synagogue in Poway, Calif., April 28, 2019, one day after a gunman killed one Passover worshipper and wounded three others. The man fired after walking through the front entrance, identified by synagogue leaders last year as needing improved security. In late March 2019 the synagogue received a federal grant to protect that area, but had not yet used the funds. AP Photo / Denis Poroy

After a gunman opened fire in a Southern California synagogue on Passover, killing a woman and wounding a man, his 8-year-old niece and the rabbi leading the service, the inevitable question was asked: Could anything have been done to stop the violence?

Reporters Don Thompson and Adam Beam in Sacramento and Julie Watson in San Diego combined to report exclusively that the synagogue itself had recognized security deficiencies and even gotten a state grant to address them.

But it hadn't spent the money.

Their reporting started two days after the violence at the Poway synagogue, when the California Legislative Jewish Caucus announced it was seeking \$15 million to bolster security at religious and other nonprofit institutions. Beam decided to search the state Office of Emergency Services (OES) database to see if it had awarded any such grants to Poway. He found one in 2010 and another in 2018 but no details.

Thompson pursued that thread with officials who administer the grants while Watson went to synagogue leaders. An OES spokesman acknowledged that while the synagogue was approved for a \$150,000 grant it hadn't used the money.

Thompson requested copies of the grant application to get details on the specifics of the security needs and he and Watson also sought to determine why the money sat unspent. Thompson was told he would get the documents the next day but then department lawyers intervened and said the documents required a public records request and that it would be a week before an initial response was provided.

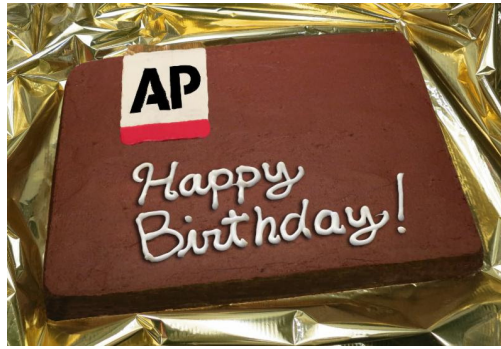
Thompson worked his contacts in OES while Watson reached out to the rabbi who oversees security grants for the Poway synagogue and more than 200 other Chabad organizations in California. Together, they were able to determine the 2018 request included money to increase security around the front door the shooter used to enter the building. The grant for fencing, doors and cameras was awarded in September but bureaucratic back-and-forth delayed the money being disbursed until late March. The rabbi told Watson there simply wasn't time to use the money before the shooting occurred.

The security funding was approved in September but the money was delayed until late March - there simply wasn't time to use the money before the shooting, Rabbi Simcha Backman told the AP.

Thompson interviewed lawmakers who said as legislators consider increasing funding for the security programs they also must ensure the money is awarded expeditiously. Thompson also analyzed seven years of grants and determined nearly 80% went to Jewish-affiliated organizations. The legislative Jewish caucus' vice chairman provided assurance that if approved the \$15 million will be intended for institutions of all faiths.

For giving AP an exclusive follow-up to a crime that generated global attention, Thompson, Watson and Beam win this week's Best of the States.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Tricia English - triciaenglish3@yahoo.com

Stories of interest

California reporter vows to protect source after police raid

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - A freelance journalist is vowing to protect his source after San Francisco police raided his home and office while keeping him handcuffed for several hours as part of a criminal investigation, according to a newspaper report.

Bryan Carmody told the Los Angeles Times that officers banged on his door Friday and confiscated dozens of personal items including notebooks, his cellphone, computer, hard drives and cameras. A judge signed off on search warrants, which stated officers were investigating "stolen or embezzled" property, the newspaper reported Saturday

Authorities said the raid came during an ongoing probe into who leaked a confidential police report about the Feb. 22 death of San Francisco Public Defender Jeff Adachi.

Carmody said investigators had asked him a few weeks earlier to identify the source that provided him with the report. The reporter said he politely declined.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

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Teaching Journalism in the Age of Trump (Inside Higher Ed)

By Meredith O'Brien

It's not uncommon for students taking journalism classes to ask a lot of questions. They ask how reporters are able to keep their opinions out of their work when they're writing stories about someone who's accused of viciously murdering others. They ask how someone could, without regard for personal safety, run into the middle of a violent uprising in order to interview people or capture historic images.

But there's an unusual question my students have been asking with increasing frequency over the past two years: "Is this normal?"

The "this" refers to the interaction between President Donald Trump and the news media. Typically, I am someone who tries to keep her political opinions under wraps when standing in front of a classroom. But I answer this loaded question quickly.

"No," I say, "this is not normal. At. All."

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

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Russian journalist Sergei Dorenko, Putin critic, dies at 59

MOSCOW (AP) - A prominent Russian journalist whose TV reports changed between acclaiming President Vladimir Putin to scathing criticism has died. He was 59.

The Govorit Moskva radio station said on Friday that its editor-in-chief, Sergei Dorenko, died of internal bleeding after an aorta rupture. Earlier, media reports said

Dorenko lost consciousness while riding his motorbike in Moscow.

Dorenko, who was often referred to as "TV killer" for his ability to take down the most popular politicians, was one of the central figures behind Putin's rise to power. The TV reporter rose to prominence in the late 1990s with his muck-raking TV show against the then-Moscow mayor, Yuri Luzhkov, and former prime minister Yevgeny Primakov. Both were considered to be strong contenders for the Russian presidency and were more popular at the time than Putin.

Putin was appointed prime minister less than six months before Boris Yeltsin stepped down, paving the way for the former chief of the intelligence agency FSB to succeed him in the Kremlin.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

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Turkish opposition journalist hospitalized following attack



Yavuz Selim Demirag, a Turkish journalist critical of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's

government and its nationalist allies, rests in a hospital bed in Ankara, Turkey, Saturday, May 11, 2019. Yenicag newspaper says Saturday columnist Demirag was beaten by a group of about five or six people with baseball bats outside his home after appearing on a TV show late Friday.(AP Photo/Burhan Ozbilici)

By SUZAN FRASER

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) - A journalist critical of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government and its nationalist allies was hospitalized after being attacked outside his home, his newspaper said Saturday.

The Yenicag newspaper said columnist Yavuz Selim Demirag was beaten up by about five or six people with baseball bats after appearing on a TV show Friday. The assailants escaped the scene in a vehicle.

The reason for the attack was not known but it comes amid tensions over the top electoral authority's decision to cancel the results of the March 31 mayoral race for Istanbul, which was won by the opposition. It ordered a revote June 23.

Erdogan's party says the Istanbul vote was marred by fraud but the opposition says the electoral board was pressured by the government, which desperately wants to hold on to power in Turkey's largest city.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

Today in History - May 13, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, May 13, the 133rd day of 2019. There are 232 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 13, 1981, Pope John Paul II was shot and seriously wounded in St. Peter's Square by Turkish assailant Mehmet Ali Agca (MEH'-met AH'-lee AH'-juh).

On this date:

In 1568, forces loyal to Mary, Queen of Scots were defeated by troops under her half-brother and Regent of Scotland, the Earl of Moray, in the Battle of Langside, thwarting Mary's attempt to regain power almost a year after she was forced to abdicate.

In 1607, English colonists arrived by ship at the site of what became the Jamestown settlement in Virginia (the colonists went ashore the next day).

In 1917, three shepherd children reported seeing a vision of the Virgin Mary near Fatima, Portugal; it was the first of six such apparitions that the children claimed to have witnessed.

In 1918, the first U.S. airmail stamp, costing 24 cents and featuring a picture of a Curtiss JN-4 biplane, was publicly issued. (On some of the stamps, the "Jenny" was printed upside-down, making them collector's items.)

In 1940, in his first speech as British prime minister, Winston Churchill told Parliament, "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat."

In 1958, Vice President Richard Nixon and his wife, Pat, were spat upon and their limousine battered by rocks thrown by anti-U.S. demonstrators in Caracas, Venezuela.

In 1972, 118 people died after fire broke out at the Sennichi Department Store in Osaka, Japan.

In 1973, in tennis' first so-called "Battle of the Sexes," Bobby Riggs defeated Margaret Court 6-2, 6-1 in Ramona, California. (Billie Jean King soundly defeated Riggs at the Houston Astrodome in September.)

In 1985, a confrontation between Philadelphia authorities and the radical group MOVE ended as police dropped a bomb onto the group's row house, igniting a fire that killed 11 people and destroyed 61 homes.

In 1994, President Bill Clinton nominated federal appeals Judge Stephen G. Breyer to the U.S. Supreme Court to replace retiring Justice Harry A. Blackmun; Breyer went on to win Senate confirmation.

In 2002, President George W. Bush announced that he and Russian President Vladimir Putin (POO'-tihn) would sign a treaty to shrink their countries' nuclear arsenals by two-thirds.

In 2004, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld visited the Abu Ghraib (grayb) prison camp in Iraq, where he insisted the Pentagon did not try to cover up abuses there. During a campaign swing in West Virginia, President George W. Bush said he felt "disgraced" by the images of U.S. soldiers abusing Iraqi prisoners but told his listeners that actions of a handful of Americans should not sully the nation's military.

Ten years ago: A judge in West Palm Beach sentenced two men to death for the drug-debt slaying of a family of four on the side of a Florida highway, including two young boys who died in their mother's arms. Atlantis' astronauts captured the orbiting Hubble Space Telescope for five days of repair work. Pittsburgh's Adam LaRoche and Florida's Ross Gload became the first baseball players to have home runs taken away following a video replay review.

Five years ago: A mine fire in Soma, Turkey, killed 301 workers. A European court, in an important test of the "right to be forgotten," ruled that Google had to amend some of its search results at the request of ordinary people when they showed links to outdated, irrelevant information.

One year ago: President Donald Trump said he would help the Chinese telecommunications company ZTE get "back into business"; the Commerce Department had earlier moved to block the company from importing American components. Officials in Hawaii called for more evacuations near the Kilauea volcano amid signs of an imminent eruption at the volcano's summit. (The eruption came four days later.) The body of 69-year-old "Superman" actress

Margot Kidder was found by a friend near her Montana home in what was later ruled a suicide from a drug and alcohol overdose.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Buck Taylor is 81. Actor Harvey Keitel is 80. Author Charles Baxter is 72. Actress Zoe Wanamaker is 71. Actor Franklyn Ajaye is 70. Singer Stevie Wonder is 69. Former Ohio Gov. John Kasich (KAY'-sihk) is 67. Actress Leslie Winston is 63. Producer-writer Alan Ball is 62. Basketball Hall of Famer Dennis Rodman is 58. "Late Show" host Stephen Colbert (kohl-BEHR') is 55. Rock musician John Richardson (The Gin Blossoms) is 55. Actor Tom Verica is 55. Singer Darius Rucker (Hootie and the Blowfish) is 53. Actress Susan Floyd is 51. Contemporary Christian musician Andy Williams (Casting Crowns) is 47. Actor Brian Geraghty is 44. Actress Samantha Morton is 42. Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., is 42. Former NBA player Mike Bibby is 41. Rock musician Mickey Madden (Maroon 5) is 40. Actor Iwan Rheon is 34. Actress-writer-director Lena Dunham is 33. Actor Robert Pattinson is 33. Actress Candice Accola King is 32. Actor Hunter Parrish is 32. Folk-rock musician Wylie Gelber (Dawes) is 31. NHL defenseman P.K. Subban is 31. Actress Debby Ryan is 26.

Thought for Today: "What this country needs is a good five-cent cigar." - Thomas R. Marshall, U.S. vice president (1854-1925). (To which American humorist Franklin P. Adams replied, "What this country really needs is a good five-cent nickel.")

Connecting calendar



May 15 - New Hampshire-Maine and environs AP-UPI-Journo lunch, Wednesday, May 15, noon, Longhorn restaurant, Concord, N.H. Contact: Adolphe Bernotas ([Email](#)).

June 20 - 25-Year Club Celebration, 5:30 - 8 p.m., AP headquarters, [200 Liberty Street, New York, NY](#). RSVP by May 10. RSVP online [here](#). Any questions may be directed to recognition@ap.org

August 17 - Albany AP bureau reunion (including other upstate bureaus), 1-5 p.m., Marc and Carla Humbert residence on Tsatsawassa Lake, [68 Marginal Way, East Nassau, NY](#).
Contact: Chris McKnight ([Email](#)).

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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