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Connecting - June 17, 2019

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Mon, Jun 17, 2019 at 8:55 AM

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Connecting

June 17, 2019

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AP Photo/Ron Edmonds

Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this the 17th day of June 2019,

Ron Edmonds wasn't exactly a rookie when he joined The Associated Press in Washington in 1981 on a six-month probationary status that was common at the time for new AP hires. He had worked as a photographer for the Honolulu Star-Bulletin for five years and United Press International for four years.

On his second day of covering the White House for the AP, he won a Pulitzer Prize - for his photographic coverage of the shooting of President Ronald Reagan and three others on March 30, 1981, as they were leaving a speaking engagement at the Washington Hilton Hotel.

Edmonds' career is featured as our Monday Profile in today's issue of Connecting. He retired as AP's Senior White House Photographer in 2009 after a 28-year AP career.

Just for the fun of it: Here's a Thought Experiment posed to you by our colleague **Richard Weiss**:

"On the way home from Minnesota with my dog, Chloe riding shotgun. I stop at DQ for a Brownie Blizzard. I put it in the cup holder between us and shockingly, Chloe has stuck her tongue into my Blizzard. Shocking because you could put a ribeye in front of her and she wouldn't touch it. She knows better. I give her a scolding and believe that will be sufficient. But she does it again. Now the Blizzard has been tongued twice."

What would you have done:

- A: Eat the Blizzard because Chloe, is after all, family.
- B: Eat the Blizzard because, as everyone knows, dog tongues are antiseptic.
- C: Toss the Blizzard
- D: Toss Chloe.



Chloe with Richard

Drop a note to Connecting on what you would do. (And if you have an idea for another summer-fun question, send it along.)

Have a great day - and week ahead!

Paul

Connecting profile
Ron Edmonds



Ron Edmonds and his wife Grace

How did you get your first job with the AP? Who hired you? What were your first days like?

While covering the 1980 Reagan presidential campaign for United Press International, I was approached by AP Washington Chief Photographer Bob Daugherty. Bob asked if I would jump ship and come to work for the AP. After conversations with Washington ACOB for photos, Toby Massey, and (AP photo director) Hal Buell, I agreed to take the job but told them I wouldn't leave UPI until the Reagan campaign ended. UPI had been very good to me and I felt I owed them that. Hal thought that was very honorable and agreed to the condition. Just like President-elect Reagan, I moved from Sacramento to Washington, DC in the winter of 1981.

I guess you could say my first days with the AP were a little exciting. I won a Pulitzer Prize on my second day covering the White House and was given a pass by AP president Keith Fuller and Hal Buell on the six-month probation period.

What were your different past jobs in the AP, in order? Describe briefly what you did with each?

I worked as a staff photographer in the same bureau for 28 years covering the White House and Washington, D.C. and stories around the country and the world. I was appointed Senior White House Photographer in 2005 and held that position until I retired in 2009.

Who played the most significant role in your career and how?

Professor Dick Fleming, a former photojournalist, started me down this path more than 40 years ago. Dick worked with me in college, and without his mentoring, I probably would not have taken this journey which has allowed me to photograph sunrises and sunsets around the world. I have been an eyewitness to what most have only seen on front pages and in magazines. I have photographed every President from Richard Nixon to Barack Obama. My job has allowed me to cover summits of world leaders, Presidential inaugurations, shuttle launches, Super Bowls, Summer & Winter Olympics, Cal Ripken's record-breaking game, NBA playoffs, national political campaigns, key marches on Washington and almost all the Republican and Democratic National Conventions since 1980.



I've traveled to more than 40 countries around the world to cover international events including the turmoil in the Middle East and the sadness of war. My images of the 1981 attack on President Ronald Reagan earned me the Pulitzer Prize for Spot News Photography. My work has appeared in Life, Time, Newsweek, Paris Match, NY Times, Sports Illustrated, Rolling Stone, People, National Geographic, US News, Washington Post, LA Times, and the Wall Street Journal among others.

What's your favorite hobby or activity?

My favorite hobby is fishing. I was a tournament bass fisherman for many years and still travel annually for a Canadian fly-in fishing trip to Ontario's bush with a group of friends. I have been documenting our fly-trips and put together videos for the group to enjoy. Click [here](#). I also spend time restoring my 1970 Corvette.



What's the best vacation trip you've ever made?

I'd sailed all my life and would go out on my catamaran daily before going to my staff photographer job in Honolulu for the then Star-Bulletin in the '70s. For my 70th birthday, my wife arranged a sailing trip out of Newport, RI. We sailed up the Rhode Island coast, eating lobster rolls and drinking fine wine as we headed to the Newport Jazz Festival on a friend's 60-foot sailboat.

Names of your family members and what they do?

I'm married to a wonderful former journalist and former NY book editor, Grace, whom I met in Honolulu. We are very proud of our daughter, Ashley, who graduated with honors from UVA and UNC Law, and is currently an attorney with a DC firm. Grace is currently a translator for the Fairfax School District. We have been married for 40 years.



President Obama with Edmonds, his wife Grace and their daughter Ashley

Would you do it all over again- or what would you change?

Of course, I would do it all over again. I have had a dream career being the eyes of millions of readers every day for almost 30 years. It was a responsibility I took very seriously. The AP gave me one of the broadest frameworks to show off my images around the world. I worked with and became friends with some of the best photojournalists in the world. This adventure started with me heading off to Hawaii with two-foot lockers and my cameras on my first airplane ride and ended with me standing in the Oval Office with the President of the United States giving me kudos for "a great career"!

There is not much I would change. Well, I guess I shouldn't have sold my Apple stock. I bought it for 25 and sold for 50 thinking I was so smart.

Awards



The White House News Photographers Association (WHNPA) awarded retired Associated Press photographer Ron Edmonds with the Lifetime Achievement Award:

"Ron Edmonds is the quintessential Washington photojournalist. He's been a fixture in the White House pressroom from the Reagan presidency through President Barack Obama's first term, said J. David Ake, Assistant Chief of Bureau for Photography in The Associated Press, Washington Bureau (and now Director of Photography for the AP). "Many of his images have stood the test of time and are now icons in our collective memory. He was arguably during his Washington tenure, the AP's most published photographer."

Awarded the Pulitzer Prize for news photography, Associated Press Managing Editors Award, Grand Diploma from the World Press Awards, Distinguished Service Award of Society of Professional Journalists, National Headliners Award for Spot News Photography, various awards from White House News Photographers Association and the National Press Photographers Association.

Ron Edmonds' email is - redmonds3@cox.net

More on Connecting series:

How I got into journalism

Al Cross ([Email](#)) - How did I get into journalism?

When I was about 10, I discovered a book at the library, "How to Score Baseball Games." It intrigued me because I was a regular watcher of the TV Game of the Week - on which Pee Wee Reese, a family friend, was one of the announcers, along with the entertaining Dizzy Dean - and every now and then they would say that a mysterious person known as the official scorer had ruled that a play has resulted in a base hit or an error. So I borrowed the book, bought a scorebook, and started keeping score of the TV games. One day when I was 11 my father, Perry Cross, said "Let's go to the ballpark," and when we arrived James Cooksey was waiting for us. James was the commissioner of the Little League and Babe Ruth League in Albany, Ky., pop. 2,000, and he needed a scorekeeper. When I accepted the job, he said I could also write up the games for the Clinton County News, so I got my first front-page byline in July 1965. And the paper paid me \$5 a week.

This work also led me into broadcasting, because WANY Radio broadcast many of the games and I realized early on that the best place to keep score was the broadcast platform above the stands. As I told the announcers the names of new pitchers, pinch hitters, etc., they gradually let me add some comments, and by the age of 12 I was a color commentator. One day announcer Cecil Pryor said, "You're pretty good at this. You ought to get your license and become a disc jockey." So I did, and at the age of 13 signed my first log as operator of the station.

I went back into print and eventually became political writer for the Louisville Courier Journal (then The Courier-Journal), and an event early in my scorekeeping career helped me. Players, most of them older, thought I was calling too many errors. (As any scorer knows, it's more popular to call a hit, which helps batting and fielding averages.) I mentioned the grumbling to Joe Talbott, who helped coach a team in each league, and he told me something that stuck with me: "You call 'em like you see 'em." Good advice for writing a political column, which I still do for the Kentucky Center for Public Service Journalism, the CJ and other Kentucky papers.

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Mike Harris ([Email](#)) - It's kind of embarrassing, but I got into journalism because of TV.

Not that I wanted to be an actor or work on television shows. I was about seven or eight years old when I became attracted to the business by a trenchcoat and fedora worn by actor Brian Donlevy in a show called ``Dangerous Assignment." Donlevy, a

prolific actor from the 20s through the 70s, was the embodiment of glamour and excitement in that TV show, in which he played a foreign correspondent. And they actually had scenes with him at a typewriter banging out stories.

Once I was attracted to the world of journalism by Donlevy's adventures, I got caught up in another show about journalism called, ``Big Town," It was about a big city newsroom and it totally grabbed me.

From that time on, when people would ask, ``What are you going to be when you grow up?" My answer was always, ``A newspaper writer."

Other than delivering newspapers and working in a grocery store in my early teens, my first job was writing a daily story on the city leagues in softball and basketball for the two Madison, WI., newspapers, the Wisconsin State Journal and the Capital Times. Six days a week, I would drive to the newspaper building at around 9 p.m. and pick up the scorecards from a cardboard box in the lobby. I would then attempt to decipher those often beer-soaked cards and write a coherent story about the games. That story would appear, unbylined, in both papers the next day. I could hardly wait to see those stories in print each day.

That job with the city recreation department led to my being hired as a part-timer by the State Journal during the summer between high school and college. And that led, eventually, to a career that lasted 44 years.

My mom often said I watched too much TV as a kid. But, in the end, it served me well.

Connecting mailbox

Finding credit where credit is due



Thanks to sleuthing by colleague Sean Thompson ([Email](#)), retoucher/photo manager at the AP Photo Library in New York, a photo byline is now attached to an AP photo that appeared recently in The New York Times.

The photo above accompanied a [Times' story](#) that began:

It was one of the most memorable images of American defeat in Southeast Asia - John Gunther Dean, ambassador to Cambodia, clutching an American flag under his arm while being evacuated from Phnom Penh.

Mr. Dean would later call that day, April 12, 1975, one of the most tragic of his life, the day the United States "abandoned Cambodia," he said, "and handed it over to the butcher."

The butcher was the Khmer Rouge regime, led by the Marxist dictator Pol Pot, which ousted the pro-American government and would in the end be responsible for the genocide of two million people, one quarter of the Cambodian population.

"We'd accepted responsibility for Cambodia and then walked out without fulfilling our promise," Mr. Dean told The Associated Press in 2015, 40 years after the fall of Phnom Penh to the Khmer Rouge. "That's the worst thing a country can do."

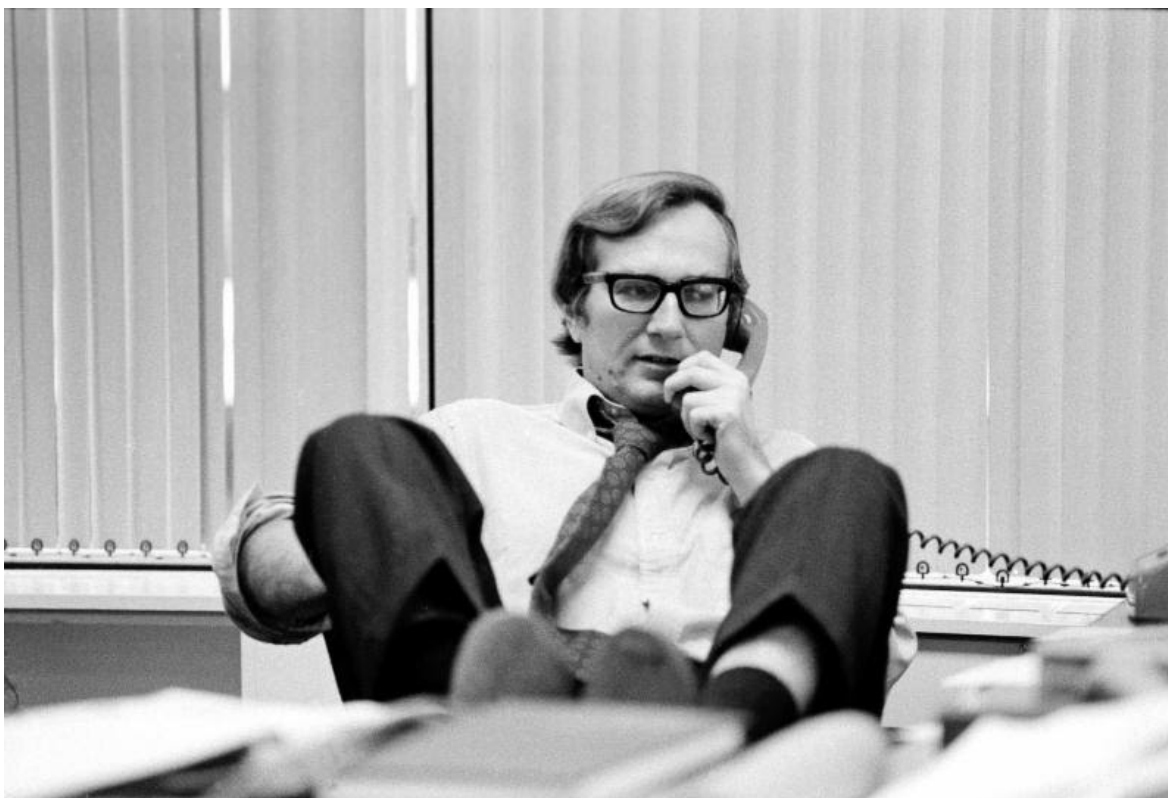
Mr. Dean, a career foreign service officer who favored diplomacy over military action, died on June 6 at his home in Paris, his family said. He was 93.

The photo in the Times carried the credit - Associated Press, with no photographer name - so Connecting asked if we could find out who took it. That assignment went to Thompson, who made a first call to retired AP photographer Sal Veder. "He shot some of the other pics of Gunther carrying the flag. The image in question is also a crop," Thompson said. After confirming it with Sal, the photo archive was updated to credit him as the photographer:

U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia John Gunther Dean carries the American flag from the U.S. Embassy in Cambodia as he leaves a U.S. Marine helicopter at Utapao Air Force Base in Thailand following evacuation from Phnom Penh, April 12, 1975. (AP Photo/Sal Veder)

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A review of Hersh's Reporter memoir



Charles Hanley ([Email](#)) - A belated but very interesting review of Sy Hersh's Reporter memoir, with a critical eye on the old bloodhound's techniques, Click [here](#).

An APer's aside: The reviewer accepts the tale that Hersh got a "tip" about the My Lai massacre, when in fact what tipped him was an AP brief in the NYT, drawn from a Columbus (Ga.) Ledger-Enquirer story. Hersh followed up. Others didn't. Also, I'll

personally dispute that Hersh (in May 2004) "brought to light the abuses at Abu Ghraib prison." See AP of November 1, 2003.

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Be wary of using words that end in 'st'

Bob Greene ([Email](#)) - The NY Times story popped up on my cell phone:

Augustine Tolton was born into slavery in Missouri in 1854, escaped to freedom as a child during the chaos of the Civil War, and later became the first African-American priest in the Roman Catholic Church.

That's interesting, so I turned to The AP. John O'Connor's story was slightly different.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) - Pope Francis on Wednesday deemed the first known black Roman Catholic priest in the United States to be "venerable," positioning the former slave for possible sainthood.

I live in South Portland, Maine, and teach a course at the University of Southern Maine's senior college "Black History of Maine." I teach about James Augustine Healy, who was the first Black Roman Catholic bishop in America when he became the second bishop of Portland, Maine, the Maine diocese in 1875. Healy was ordained in 1854, 31 years before Tolton was ordained.

Admittedly, only the church knew of Healy's "African ancestry," he was the son of an Irish planter and his Black slave who lived as man and wife. So I have no problem with saying Tolton was America's first Black Roman Catholic priest when he was ordained in 1885. But Healy's racial identity has been known for a long, long time now, so Tolton's "first" was known to be untrue years ago.

When I joined The AP in Kansas City in 1965, one of the first things I learned was to beware of words that ended in "st," like first, last, best, etc. We got caught in that trap once again.

BTW, James Augustine Healy wasn't the only member of his family to become well known. His brother Patrick became president of Georgetown University in 1874. Bet

you didn't know Georgetown had a Black president

A sister, Eliza, became the first Black Mother Superior in St. Albans, VT, while another brother, Michael, was commissioned by President Abraham Lincoln as a third lieutenant in the Revenue Cutter Service, the predecessor of the Coast Guard. Michael Healy commanded a US government ship and was the federal government's law enforcement presence in the Alaska Territory for nearly two decades. In 1999 the Coast Guard commissioned the USGOC Healy, a research icebreaker, named for Michael Healy.

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A true fish story



Neal Ulevich ([Email](#)) - Out for a morning stroll I was ... (as was this catfish at my local pond)

Best of the Week

AP investigation: Top US cardinal accused of mishandling abuse allegations against deputy



Laura Pontikes pauses during an interview in the prayer section of her Houston apartment, April 13, 2019. The 55-year-old Texas construction company executive and mother of three said Monsignor Frank Rossi, the longtime No. 2 official in the Galveston-Houston archdiocese, preyed on her emotional vulnerability, drawing her into a physical relationship when she sought spiritual counseling. The cardinal responsible for the Catholic Church's handling of U.S. sexual misconduct approved Rossi's transfer to a church about two hours away, but in response to an AP investigation, church officials suspended Rossi and reopened the inquiry into the case. AP Photo / Wong Maye-E

Vatican correspondent Nicole Winfield's five-month investigation revealed the stunning allegations: A high-ranking Catholic priest had a sexual relationship with a Houston woman for more than a year, counseled her husband on their marital problems, solicited and obtained hundreds of thousands of dollars in donations from the couple and continued to hear her confession, telling her she was absolved of her sins for their relationship.

The church's response was equally surprising: despite telling the woman and her husband the priest would never counsel women again, he was transferred to an East Texas church two hours away after a few months of therapy. The transfer was

approved by Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, who is overseeing the church's response to sexual abuse allegations in the United States.

The fallout from Winfield's revelations was swift: Before publication the accused priest was suspended, and after the story moved church officials reopened their inquiry into the handling of Laura Pontikes' allegations. DiNardo cited details in the AP story - namely Monsignor Frank Rossi's alleged absolution of sins related to his intimate relationship with Pontikes - as a "new development" that merited further inquiry. Winfield knew from experience: not only is absolving an accomplice one of the most serious crimes in church law, and one that can lead to excommunication, but that the relationship need not have been consummated for there to have been a possible canonical crime. The story moved days before DiNardo began a meeting of U.S. bishops to approve new measures for accountability over sexual abuse, including trying to restore the faith of rank-and-file Catholics after a new wave of abuse and cover-up allegations.

Winfield realized the Pontikes case marked a new frontier in the abuse scandal because it blended issues of sex, money and faith - and how the hierarchy dealt with exploitive relationships involving adults and priests, and in this case, the longtime No. 2 monsignor in the Houston church.

To tell the story, Winfield relied on emails Pontikes exchanged with Rossi and her therapists, interviews with the woman, her husband, as well her knowledge of church law and its response to abuse allegations in the U.S. Pontikes had initially wanted to remain anonymous, but eventually agreed to go on the record. Winfield - and a team that included national writer/video journalist Allen Breed, global enterprise photographer Wong Maye-E and correspondent Nomaan Merchant with his Houston colleagues, photographer David J. Phillip and video journalist John Mone - meticulously planned how to tell the story for each format, including on-camera interviews with Pontikes and her husband, photos and video of DiNardo and Rossi at church events and even the guest home the Pontikeses built for Rossi at their weekend home.

The tapestry of words, photos and video laid out the allegations and their importance at a time when the church is grappling with its response to sexual abuse of children and adults and increased scrutiny by prosecutors. It also showed the personal side of the story, including Pontikes' continued devotion to the church. The package played prominently in "The Reckoning," AP's ongoing coverage of the U.S. Catholic Church's crisis of sexual abuse and cover-up, and its failure to hold church leaders accountable.

For breaking new ground with an investigation that cast doubt on a top church official's handling of a case involving startling allegations of abuse, Winfield, Breed, Wong and Merchant wins AP's Best of the Week award.

Best of the States

APNewsBreak: Navy reassigns unconventional war college head after AP reveals probe



Adm. John Richardson, left, chief of naval operations, greets Rear Adm. Jeffrey Harley, president of the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, R.I., June 12, 2018. Harley was reassigned after AP revealed he was he was under investigation amid allegations of mismanagement. Richardson told the AP that there was "enough actionable information" to reassign Harley. He called the AP report "responsible and balanced." AP Photo / Jennifer McDermott

"Team - this will be my last email to you. Due to the distractions caused by the unfounded AP article last week, I am stepping down as President of YOUR college effective immediately."

Rear Admiral Jeffrey Harley pushed the button on that all-staff missive Monday after the Navy announced it was reassigning him in the wake of exclusive reporting by Jennifer McDermott and Michelle R. Smith - reporting that produced two APNewsBreaks in 72 hours.

From 2016 until this week, Harley was the head of the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, an elite school that grooms future admirals and generals. He was unconventional and quirky, and it was his odd campus-wide emails - forwarded independently to McDermott and Smith by concerned college employees - that first got the AP Providence team's attention. In the emails, Harley invited people to his office for a game of Twister, offered free hugs and boasted he had a portrait of himself painted on velvet.

" ... Due to the distractions caused by the unfounded AP article last week, I am stepping down as President ... "

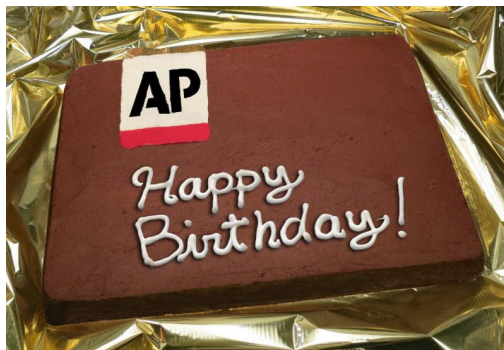
- Rear Adm. Jeffrey Harley, president of the U.S. Naval War College

But there was more to the story, and they dug deeper after the staffers who shared the emails also spoke of financial problems and poor morale at the college, eventually obtaining documents that showed the prestigious school struggled to make payroll under Harley's leadership and spent about \$725,000 annually on raises while facing an annual shortfall of \$5 million or more.

Their first NewsBreak moved Friday, confirming the military was investigating allegations that Harley spent excessively, abused his hiring authority and otherwise behaved inappropriately, including keeping a margarita machine in his office. The story could not be matched and was widely and prominently played by members, including the hometown Providence Journal and The Boston Globe. Within hours of that first report, a college staffer who hadn't previously spoken to McDermott or Smith reached out to credit them with forcing the Navy to confront the issues, writing: "You have accomplished what we have not been able to."

Three days later, the AP team was first again with word that the Navy was removing Harley from his post pending the outcome of its probe. That story, too, gained huge traction with customers and on social media, where the Military Times pointed to the "powerful AP reporting" that led to the admiral's fall. The college, meanwhile, hosted Adm. John Richardson, the Navy's top admiral, who said he felt there was "enough actionable information" to reassign Harley. He called the AP report "responsible and balanced."

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Daniel Haney - dqhaney@earthlink.net

Stories of interest

Booktalk by pioneering black woman journalist (CSPAN)

Dorothy Butler Gilliam, who in 1961 became the first Washington Post African-American reporter, talked about the hurdles she overcame during her career.

View [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady.

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Opinion: Editorial cartoons are democracy's canary in a coal mine (Washington Post)

By Ann Telnaes

Editorial cartoonist

The New York Times's decision to drop all editorial cartoons after publishing a controversial cartoon is another body blow to the profession of editorial cartooning.

While several of my colleagues from around the world have been imprisoned by autocratic leaders over their work, American editorial cartoonists are protected by our First Amendment from governments looking to silence uncomfortable truths. Unfortunately, that protection doesn't extend to publications that don't understand the historical significance of editorial cartoons and their essential role in a free press.

It's easy to casually dismiss these "cartoons." After all, just the word cartoon brings up images of reading the comics pages or watching Saturday morning television. But an editorial cartoon is much more than a humorous image. Cartoonists have been threatened, imprisoned and even killed for drawing cartoons criticizing powerful people and institutions. Daumier, Gillray, Nast, Herblock, Mauldin, Conrad and Oliphant all created powerful visuals that were part of the political debate of their times.

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

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Trump finds sunlight really does reveal government secrets (Washington Times)



President Donald Trump speaks to reporters before departing for a trip to Iowa, on the South Lawn of White House, Tuesday, June 11, 2019, in Washington. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

By **DAVE BOYER**

President Trump admitted Wednesday that some news photographers got the better of him by deciphering the text of his secret agreement with Mexico on a piece of paper that he'd waved at journalists.

"You were able to read it through the sunlight," Mr. Trump told reporters at a press conference a bit sheepishly. "That was not anticipated."

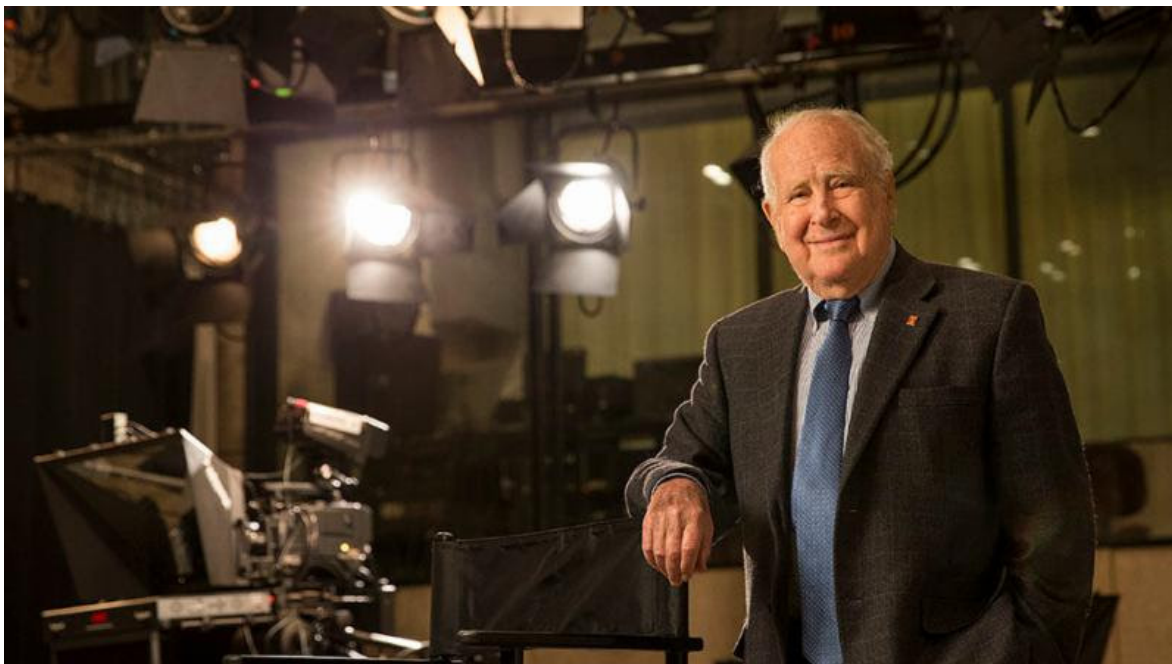
On Tuesday, addressing criticism that his deal with Mexico on border security and tariffs was meaningless, the president had pulled out a folded one-page sheet of paper from his jacket and waved it several times in front of a pack of journalists.

"I just give you my word, inside here ... is the agreement," he said at the time. "That's the agreement that everybody says I don't have."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mike Holmes.

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Broadcast pioneer Lew Klein, 91, namesake of Temple's Klein College of Media and Communication (Temple University)



Photography By: Joseph V. Labolito

Lew Klein forged an extraordinary career in the broadcast industry and gave back, donating generously and teaching several generations of students at Temple University.

Lew Klein, the television pioneer who spent more than six decades teaching at Temple University and mentored innumerable broadcast professionals throughout his career, died Wednesday, June 12. He was 91.

Klein was honored several times at Temple for his service to the university, his support of education in media and communication, and his extraordinary career, culminating with the university's School of Media and Communication being renamed the Lew Klein College of Media and Communication in March 2017.

"Lew Klein has left an indelible imprint on the lives of countless Temple students who have gone on to build successful careers in media, communication and related fields. Those graduates are Lew's true gift to journalism. His influence will be felt for generations to come," said Temple President Richard M. Englert.

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

Today in History - June 17, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, June 17, the 168th day of 2019. There are 197 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 17, 1994, after leading police on a slow-speed chase on Southern California freeways, O.J. Simpson was arrested and charged with murder in the slayings of his ex-wife, Nicole, and her friend, Ronald Goldman. (Simpson was later acquitted in a criminal trial, but held liable in a civil trial.)

On this date:

In 1579, Sir Francis Drake arrived in present-day northern California, naming it New Albion and claiming English sovereignty.

In 1775, the Revolutionary War Battle of Bunker Hill resulted in a costly victory for the British, who suffered heavy losses.

In 1928, Amelia Earhart embarked on a trans-Atlantic flight from Newfoundland to Wales with pilots Wilmer Stultz and Louis Gordon, becoming the first woman to make the trip as a passenger.

In 1930, President Herbert Hoover signed the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act, which boosted U.S. tariffs to historically high levels, prompting foreign retaliation.

In 1953, U.S. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas stayed the execution of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, originally set for the next day, the couple's 14th wedding anniversary. (They were put to death June 19.)

In 1963, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Abington (Pa.) School District v. Schempp*, struck down, 8-1, rules requiring the recitation of the Lord's Prayer or reading of Biblical verses in public schools.

In 1967, China successfully tested its first thermonuclear (hydrogen) bomb.

In 1972, President Richard Nixon's eventual downfall began with the arrest of five burglars inside the Democratic headquarters in Washington, D.C.'s Watergate complex.

In 2002, A judge in San Francisco tossed out the second-degree murder conviction of Marjorie Knoller for the dog-mauling death of neighbor Diane Whipple, but let stand Knoller's conviction for involuntary manslaughter. (However, Knoller's murder conviction was reinstated in 2008.)

In 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 7-2 that states can't demand proof of citizenship from people registering to vote in federal elections unless they get federal or court approval to do so.

In 2015, nine people were shot to death in a historic African-American church in Charleston, South Carolina; suspect Dylann Roof was arrested the following morning. (Roof has since been convicted of federal hate crimes and sentenced to death; he later pleaded guilty to state murder charges and was sentenced to life in prison without parole.)

In 2017, the jury in Bill Cosby's sexual assault case was declared hopelessly deadlocked, resulting in a mistrial for the 79-year-old TV star charged with drugging and groping a woman more than a decade earlier; prosecutors immediately announced they would pursue a second trial, which resulted in Cosby's conviction. The Navy destroyer USS Fitzgerald was damaged in a collision with a Philippine-flagged container ship off Japan that killed seven sailors.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama extended some benefits to same-sex partners of federal employees. Nevada Sen. John Ensign resigned from the GOP leadership a day after admitting an affair with a former campaign staffer.

Five years ago: The Obama administration announced that U.S. special forces had seized Ahmed Abu Khattala, described as a "key leader" in the deadly Benghazi, Libya, attack, and that he was on his way to face trial in the U.S. for the fiery assault that killed the U.S. ambassador and three other Americans. (Abu Khattala was convicted in 2017 of terrorism-related counts but acquitted of murder; he was sentenced to 22 years in prison.) Johann "Hans" Breyer, an 89-year-old retired toolmaker, was arrested in Philadelphia on a German arrest warrant charging him with aiding and abetting the killing of 216,000 Jewish men, women and children while serving as a guard at the Auschwitz death camp. (Breyer died just over a month later before he could be extradited.)

One year ago: Former first lady Laura Bush, writing in the Washington Post, said the policy of separating immigrant parents and children along the nation's southern border was "cruel" and "immoral." Conservative Ivan Duque was elected Colombia's next president, after promising to change parts of a peace accord with leftist rebels. Brooks Koepka (KEHP'-kuh) won the U.S. Open for the second straight year, becoming the seventh golfer to win the event back-to-back.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Peter Lupus is 87. Movie director Ken Loach is 83. Actor William Lucking is 78. Singer Barry Manilow is 76. Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich is 76. Comedian Joe Piscopo is 68. Actor Mark Linn-Baker is 65. Actor Jon Gries (gryz) is 62. Rock singer Jello Biafra is 61. Movie producer-director-writer Bobby Farrelly is 61. Actor Thomas Haden Church is 59. Actor Greg Kinnear is 56. Actress Kami Cotler is 54. Olympic gold medal speed skater Dan Jansen is 54. Actor Jason Patric is 53. Rhythm and blues singer Kevin Thornton is 50. Actor-comedian Will Forte is 49. Latin pop singer Paulina Rubio is 48. Tennis player Venus Williams is 39. Actor Arthur Darvill is 37. Actress Jodie Whittaker is 37. Actor Manish Dayal is 36. Country singer Mickey Guyton is 36. Actor-rapper Herculeez (AKA Jamal Mixon) is 36. Actress Marie Avgeropoulos is 33. Rapper Kendrick Lamar is 32. NHL forward Nikita Kucherov is 26. Actor Damani Roberts is 23. Actor KJ Apa is 22.

Thought for Today: "When all men think alike, no one thinks very much." - Walter Lippmann, American journalist (1889-1974).

Connecting calendar



June 20 - 25-Year Club Celebration, 5:30 - 8 p.m., AP headquarters, 200 Liberty Street, New York, NY. 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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6/17/2019

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