

#### Connecting - June 26, 2019

1 message

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Wed, Jun 26, 2019 at 8:54 AM



Connecting

June 26, 2019



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<u>AP books</u> <u>Connecting Archive</u> <u>The AP Emergency Relief Fund</u>

Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this the 26<sup>th</sup> day of June 2019,

Today's newsletter brings you comments from your colleagues on longtime AP sports writer **Ed Shearer**, who died Monday at the age of 82. For those who would like to send condolences to his family, here is the address: The Shearer Family, 130 Kimberly Rd., Canton, GA 30115

There's a first response on our call for your stories of facing a dangerous situation from our colleague **Gene Herrick**.

And our lead story on the tragic deaths of a father and daughter who were Central American migrants trying to cross the Rio Grande River is accompanied by what will no doubt be an iconic photo related to the ongoing story of migrants along the U.S.-Mexico border trying to enter the United States.

May you have a good day.

Paul

# Father-daughter border drowning highlights migrants' perils



The bodies of Salvadoran migrant Oscar Alberto Martínez Ramírez and his nearly 2-yearold daughter Valeria lie on the bank of the Rio Grande in Matamoros, Mexico, Monday, June 24, 2019, after they drowned trying to cross the river to Brownsville, Texas. Martinez' wife, Tania told Mexican authorities she watched her husband and child disappear in the strong current. This photograph was first published in the Mexican newspaper La Jornada. (AP Photo/Julia Le Duc)

#### By PETER ORSI and AMY GUTHRIE

MEXICO CITY (AP) - The man and his 23-month-old daughter lay face down in shallow water along the bank of the Rio Grande, his black shirt hiked up to his chest with the girl tucked inside. Her arm was draped around his neck suggesting she clung to him in her final moments.

The searing photograph of the sad discovery of their bodies on Monday, captured by journalist Julia Le Duc and published by Mexican newspaper La Jornada, highlights the perils faced by mostly Central American migrants fleeing violence and poverty and hoping for asylum in the United States.

According to Le Duc's reporting for La Jornada, Óscar Alberto Martínez Ramírez, frustrated because the family from El Salvador was unable to present themselves to U.S. authorities and request asylum, swam across the river on Sunday with his daughter, Valeria.

He set her on the U.S. bank of the river and started back for his wife, Tania Vanessa Ávalos, but seeing him move away the girl threw herself into the waters. Martínez returned and was able to grab Valeria, but the current swept them both away.

The account was based on remarks by Ávalos to police at the scene - "amid tears" and "screams" - Le Duc told The Associated Press.

Details of the incident were confirmed Tuesday by a Tamaulipas government official who wasn't authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity, and by Martínez's mother back in El Salvador, Rosa Ramírez, who spoke with her daughter-in-law by phone afterward.

"When the girl jumped in is when he tried to reach her, but when he tried to grab the girl, he went in further ... and he couldn't get out," Ramírez told AP. "He put her in his shirt, and I imagine he told himself, 'I've come this far' and decided to go with her."

Read more here.

# Facing danger - sometimes part of a journalist's job

**Gene Herrick** (Email) - Life is full of encounters - good and bad - but a journalist has them, and some of them are doozies.

Mine were not deadly, but could have been, but mostly interesting.

My first, not very long after I because an AP staff photographer in Indianapolis, was with an Indiana congressman named Andrew Jacobs, who was elected in 1948. He only lasted one term, but was followed years later by his son with the same name, who lasted in Congress for some time. Old Andy had just finished an appearance in federal court (can't remember the charge), and was out in the federal building hall, and when I took his picture, he got very angry, towered over me threateningly, and verbally chastised me. I responded by holding the camera and flashgun in a defensive way. The Indianapolis Star ran a picture of the two of us and used it on Page One. Jacobs would not accept my comments that it was okay for me to shoot a picture in a federal building hallway, but not in the court. Moments later the judge, in private meeting with me, agreed and said he had no idea he had jurisdiction over everything in the federal building!

In Memphis, I took a picture of Lloyd Binford, who then was one of the maybe three movie picture censors in the country. Binford was a curmudgeon if there ever was one. An AP reporter with me gave witness to Binford threatening me, and saying he was going to have me arrested. The Memphis Commercial Appeal ran the story. Nothing further happened.

Korea - The War in 1950 - had its many physically threatening encounters. All wars do. I knew the first day that the North Korean soldiers didn't love me. Bullets flew at my feet, head, and elsewhere. As former AP photographer Jim Pringle once said of the enemy - "They was shootin' at me arse."

Golf was a Gentleman's sport, with greats like Ben Hogan, Patty Berg, Jack Nicklaus, and many others. While covering a PGA event in Ardmore, Oklahoma in the middle 1950's, one of the UN-great, a fellow named Jerry Springer, tried an impossible shot from behind a big tree, and aiming for a nearby green. I took a picture of the ball in the air, and standing three-quarters to his right. Just after he shot the ball, he turned, raised his club in a most threatening way, and angrily threw it at me. I turned and the club hit me at the back of my knees. He raced over to me. Of course, I had "caused him to miss the shot." I thought I'd get the you-know-what knocked out of me. Suddenly, two young well-built young men raced at me too. However, they came as my defenders! Was I surprised. Of course, I processed the picture at the clubhouse and put it on the Wirephoto network. A PGA office immediately showed up to verify the ball was in the air and that I had not hindered the shot. The AP reporter put a story on the wires, and New York photos called to congratulate me, but to remind to always not interfere in a shot. No kidding!

And then there was Mickey Mantle, the New York Yankees homerun star, who was in Minneapolis for a series with the Twins in the late 60's. I approached him for a picture; he held out his hand palm, as if to ask for money, and I gave him a short lecture that AP helped make him a hot item, and left him with a few choice words that my mother did not teach me.

The bricks sailing within inches of my head during a Snuff Company riot in Memphis; the rioters with squirrel guns, defying the National Guard, and chasing photographers for taking pictures in the moonlight at Oliver Springs, Tennessee during the Clinton, Tennessee riots over segregation; and lastly, at Big Stone Gap, Tennessee, in the late 50's. I was there to cover before-arrival of Cpl. Dickinson, who was an American turncoat during the Korean war. I was talking to an old-timer sitting on a nearby tree stump, and had been trying to get "Accepted" by asking him if he knew Don Whitehead, a famous AP star in hopes of making my job easier. Whitehead was visiting in nearby Harlan County, Kentucky. He said he did. Then two young men screeched to a dusty halt at the tiny grocery near us. The men in the pickup exchanged "Howdy's" When the two men came out minutes later, and both now carrying squirrel guns, the old-timer asked "Whatcha going hunt?" Both looked me in the eyes and said, "We ain't tickler." Minutes later, I was climbing a steep wooded path to Cpl. Dickinson's house, when a man jumped out from behind a tree, and put the shooting end of a rifle right in the middle of my chest. He said: "Where you going, boy?"

I'm certain there were more, but these are highlights.

## **Remembering Ed Shearer**

Hal Bock (Email) - I was saddened by the news of Ed Shearer's death.

We covered basketball together at the 1976 Olympics in Montreal and we were fired up for the assignment. I decided to keep a play-by-play and that lasted for a half of the first game between Mexico and Japan. Sage Ed suggested that we might be able to skip that and still do a complete job.

The early rounds of the tournament were played in a gym on the outskirts of Montreal with games scheduled from 9 a.m to 9 p.m. We started out working side by

side but pretty soon realized that we would be worn out that way. So we alternated games and got through the grind that way. Security was tight and we were searched going into the building in the morning and leaving at night even though neither of us had left the place all day.

It was the first of my 11 Olympics and I will always remember it and my partner on the assignment warmly.

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**Joe Edwards** (Email) - I was assigned to cover some sports stories with Ed Shearer in 1970 in my first year with AP. He was something of a veteran.

I was amazed how he could dictate a game story "off the top of his head."

He was flawless and I admired him.

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**Peggy Walsh** (Email) - Ed Shearer touched so many lives and careers. He was one reason I survived the probationary period when I started in Atlanta. The acid test was sports, first with the tsunami of several hundred high school football games in one night.

Ed explained how to wrangle the scores that weren't called in. Call small town or county police or sheriffs. NEVER say you were calling from Atlanta and always know the team's name (a favorite was the Cairo Syrupmakers) so you could ask in a drawl how they'd done.

The trick was finding several hundred ways to say won or lost. I made a list of every synonym I could think of and made sure my roundup mixed them up. I still remember how much it meant when Ed said "Way to go Walsh."

I never heard Ed raise his voice. He was always helping, plugging away at the CRT. He did, however, have a great sense of humor, especially about his beloved peppers. One night he and one of the teletype operators were arguing about who could eat a hotter pepper. (Many will understand but for those who are post computer, I joined AP when reporters used typewriters to type stories on carbon books. That was converted by the operators to paper tapes with holes (a very simplistic explanation) and fed to the wire. Shortly after that, AP went to the first computers.)

The teletype guy, Cuban if I remember correctly, was absolutely sure he could outhot pepper Ed. Ed smiled, handed him a pepper and a can of good old local Coca Cola to wash it down.

I've never seen anyone's eyes that wide! Lesson: never try to out pepper Ed and never drink carbonated drinks with spicy food.

As always, Ed made sure the guy was okay, didn't rub it in and laughed at himself.

I hope the many wonderful memories of Ed comfort his family and many, many friends. He was one of a kind.

## **Connecting mailbox**

## Arbogast joined AP on the same day Chicago photo/video intern was born



On October 23, 1989, Chicago photographer Charles Rex Arbogast, left in the photo above, realized his dream of becoming an AP staff photographer when he joined the company's Trenton, New Jersey, bureau. On that same day, halfway around the world in Kuwait, AP photo/video intern Amr Alfiky, right, was born to Egyptian parents. Improbably, the pair pose for a photo as Arbogast now mentors Alfiky in the Chicago bureau June 7, 2019. (AP Photo/Kii Sato)

Amr Alfiky was on the front line of the 2011 Egyptian Revolution not as a journalist, but as a field medic helping injured protesters during clashes while studying as a medical student at Alexandria University. Having been in the chaos and having seen the conflict firsthand, Amr realized the importance of covering stories in real time, especially through visual storytelling. That's when his interest in photography was born.

In 2013, Amr co-founded Janaklees for Visual Arts in Alexandria, Egypt, to develop a visual archive that documented the political, socioeconomic and cultural changes in the city during the revolution. Amr has been attending the Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at CUNY and working as a freelancer for The New York Times and Reuters.

Many of you know Charlie. He has been around The AP since high school where he credits the late Barry Thumma for "lighting the flame" to become an AP photographer. A three-year stint in the US Army had him in a small freelancing situation with then Seattle photographer Barry Sweet, but when he returned home to Columbus, Ohio to attend The Ohio State University, two men changed his life, Harry Cabluck and Brian Horton. After graduation from OSU he spent time at the Greenville, S.C., News-Piedmont then to the Newport News, Va., Daily Press. The

AP staff job in Trenton, N.J., came in 1989, then a four-year assignment based in St. Louis, eventually landing in the Chicago bureau where he is currently a staff photographer.

Shared by Charlie Arbogast (Email)

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## The Stylebook and spelling out names of states

**Tom Kent** (Email) - My question about "Connecting" readers respecting the Stylebook is this: are you still spelling "doughnut" as Webster's and the AP say? I will to my dying day, but I suspect I will be increasingly lonely ...

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**Doug Pizac** (Email) - As to spelling out state names vs abbreviating them how about including the state name in online story datelines? Everyone who lives in the circulation area of a paper knows which state they live in. But websites are global by default where 99.99% of the world who read a story online may have no clue whatsoever where the story is taking place.

Case in point: in Tuesday's Connecting is a story about a high-school paper folding. The headline says Greentown as does the dateline. Greentown where? I went to the paper's website link where the banner says Kokomo Tribune. Kokomo where? Nowhere at the top of the page or within the story does it say which state they're in. I had to search and finally found they are in Indiana via the page's contact information. With this paper that info is at the bottom of the webpage. But with most papers one has to click on a "contact" link to find where they're located; and I've found some that don't even list their street addresses, just phone numbers and email addresses.

Why does one have to hunt for where a story takes place or where the paper exists? A lot of papers like the NYT, Washington Post, Seattle Times, Denver Post, Miami Herald, etc. are no brainers. But until today I never heard of the Kokomo Tribune. And this lack of location identification is far more prevalent than one would imagine. Papers may believe everyone knows of them and that may be true in their town or recognizes the city in their name, but they are doing a huge disservice to themselves by not letting everyone else in the world know where they are and maybe lost revenue opportunities. With Kokomo I found out only because I took the time to look. What are the chances the national and global masses would do that? Probably close to nil.

And speaking of contact info, it used to be that papers routinely listed who worked at the paper, their title, what their beat is, phone number, email address, etc. in a Newsroom Directory. And many of those divided the people up by their departments -- news, features, photos, sports, etc. For companies in the communications business it is a no brainer because if a person had a story tip for a particular beat they could find that person easily. Nowadays that wealth of contact info is disappearing, especially at papers that are being gobbled up by chains, hedge funds, etc.

The Chicago Tribune used to have a robust directory. Today their page lists department phone numbers and their social media accounts; you have no idea who works in the newsroom, photos, sports, etc. and no means to "write" staff via email directly. The Boston Herald's page has just phone numbers for circulation, advertising and classified plus four executive email addresses -- no newsroom. Even the Dallas Morning News has drastically cut back on finding newsroom staff. And when it comes to being reached by the community, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram's contact page and the Philly Inquirer's page are close to the bottom with a cold, sterile form to fill out.

Our beloved newspaper industry is crying over lost ad revenues, declining circulations, etc. and coping by laying off staff. But how much of that is their own fault by eliminating the ability to connect between them and their audiences? How can they find out about important stories or even quirky human interest pieces when papers make it so difficult to be reached? How many whistle blowers stay silent because instead of creating a relationship with a particular reporter whose work they like/trust the only reach out option is a blank form where you have no idea who is on the other end reading it?

Would the famed Watergate story ever happen if the only way to reach Woodward and Bernstein was via a form? I think not. It doesn't take rocket science to realize that to reach your readers and build circulation you have to be reached yourself.

Your thoughts?

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**Al Cross** (**Email**) - We're abbreviating states when it helps. From an item on The Rural Blog today (which also might be of interest: Click **here**.

... Most newspapers aren't in places like New York City or even Newark, N.J. They're in towns like McKenzie, Tenn., Fergus, Ont., Worcester, Va., Jackson Hole, Wyo., and Winona, Texas. These are all places I've visited recently with newspapers that won't be closing in the next five years."

In the original, the states were spelled out. I abbreviated them for clarity and concision.

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## Wishing The Bakersfield Californian well

**Bill Schiffmann** (Email) - Seeing the piece about The Bakersfield Californian in Tuesday's Connecting brought back some fond memories.

I first started with the AP in the early '70s at the Fresno, Calif., bureau under Correspondent Joe Bigham. When I opened the bureau at 0-dark-30, my first job was to compile a package of briefs for print and radio members, using a ragtag band of stringers at members up and down the San Joaquin Valley. Call No. 1 was always to Joe Stevenson, the voice of reason on the desk at the Californian.

He always had news for me from his post at the southern end of the valley. We were telephone friends for several years before I met him at a state member meeting. He was as good in real life as on the phone.

I wish the Californian well under new ownership.

## **Connecting wishes Happy Birthday**



to

Joe Coleman - josecole@indiana.edu

Yvette Walker - yvettebwalker@gmail.com

## **Stories of interest**

### Migrant children are suffering at the border. But reporters are kept away from the story.

(Washington Post)



The entrance of a Border Patrol station in Clint, Tex. (Cedar Attanasio/AP)

#### By Paul Farhi

Overcrowded facilities. Sick, filthy and hungry children sleeping on concrete floors. Young children taking care of infants and toddlers in the enforced absence of their parents. News stories emerged last week about squalid conditions at a Border Patrol detention facility housing about 300 migrant children on the U.S.-Mexico border. The media accounts described the facility in Clint, Tex., near El Paso, that houses children separated from their parents by order of the Trump administration.

Apart from their appalling specifics, the stories were notable for one element: They were all based on secondhand accounts. Reporters were unable to see the facilities themselves or speak to any of the children. Instead, they relied on descriptions provided by lawyers and advocates who were granted access under a legal settlement with the Border Patrol.

Read more here. Shared by Sibby Christensen.

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### Can you spot a fake photo online? Your level of experience online matters a lot more than contextual clues (Nieman)

#### By MONA KASRA

It can be hard to tell whether a picture is real. Consider, as the participants in our recent research did, these two images and see whether you think neither, either, or both of them has been doctored.

(View photos)

You might have based your assessment of the images on the visual information alone. Or perhaps you factored in your evaluation of how reputable the source is, or the number of people who liked and shared the images.

My collaborators and I recently studied how people evaluate the credibility of images that accompany online stories and what elements figure into that evaluation. We found that you're far less likely to fall for fake images if you're more experienced with the internet, digital photography, and online media platforms - if you have what scholars call "digital media literacy."

Read more here.

## Today in History - June 26, 2019



#### By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, June 26, the 177th day of 2019. There are 188 days left in the year.

#### Today's Highlight in History:

On June 26, 1963, President John F. Kennedy visited West Berlin, where he delivered his famous speech expressing solidarity with the city's residents, declaring: "Ich bin ein Berliner" (I am a Berliner).

#### On this date:

In 1870, the first section of Atlantic City, New Jersey's Boardwalk was opened to the public.

In 1917, the first troops of the American Expeditionary Force deployed to France during World War I landed in St. Nazaire.

In 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt was nominated for a second term of office by delegates to the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia.

In 1948, the Berlin Airlift began in earnest after the Soviet Union cut off land and water routes to the isolated western sector of Berlin.

In 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson announced his choice of Abe Fortas to succeed the retiring Earl Warren as chief justice of the United States (however, Fortas later withdrew in the face of stiff Senate opposition).

In 1977, 42 people were killed when a fire sent toxic smoke pouring through the Maury County Jail in Columbia, Tennessee. Elvis Presley performed his last concert at Market Square Arena in Indianapolis.

In 1988, three people were killed when a new Airbus A320 jetliner carrying more than 130 people crashed into a forest during a demonstration at an air show in Mulhouse (muh-LOOZ'), France.

In 1990, President George H.W. Bush went back on his "no-new-taxes" campaign pledge, conceding that tax increases would have to be included in any deficit-reduction package worked out with congressional negotiators.

In 1993, President Bill Clinton announced the U.S. had launched missiles against Iraqi targets because of "compelling evidence" Iraq had plotted to assassinate former President George H.W. Bush.

In 1997, the first Harry Potter novel, "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" by J.K. Rowling (ROHL'-ing), was published in the United Kingdom (it was later released in the United States under the title "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone").

In 2008, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a handgun ban in the District of Columbia as it affirmed, 5-4, that an individual right to gun ownership existed. Juan Alvarez, who triggered a 2005 rail disaster in Glendale, California, by parking a sport-utility vehicle on the tracks, was convicted of 11 counts of first-degree murder. (Alvarez was later sentenced to 11 consecutive life terms.)

In 2013, in deciding its first cases on the issue, the U.S. Supreme Court gave the nation's legally married gay couples equal federal footing with all other married Americans and also cleared the way for same-sex marriages to resume in California. New England Patriots tight end Aaron Hernandez was arrested in the

shooting death of Odin Lloyd. (Hernandez was convicted of first-degree murder; he killed himself in his prison cell in 2017.)

Ten years ago: Los Angeles County medical examiners performed an autopsy on the remains of pop star Michael Jackson a day after his death at age 50. The Democratic-controlled House passed a global warming measure 219-212 following intense lobbying by President Barack Obama. A federal judge in New York ordered disgraced financier Bernard Madoff stripped of all his possessions under a \$171 billion forfeiture order.

Five years ago: The U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled that President Barack Obama had exceeded his executive authority in 2012 when he appointed members to the National Labor Relations Board without Senate confirmation. The nation's highest court also unanimously struck down the 35-foot protest-free zone outside abortion clinics in Massachusetts, declaring it an unconstitutional restraint on the free-speech rights of protesters. Former Senate majority leader and White House chief of staff Howard Baker, 88, died at his Tennessee home.

One year ago: A sharply divided Supreme Court upheld President Donald Trump's ban on travel from several mostly Muslim countries; dissenting Justice Sonia Sotomayor (SOHN'-ya soh-toh-my-YOR') said the court was making a historic mistake by refusing to recognize that the ban discriminates against Muslims. Joe Crowley of New York, the fourth-ranking House Democrat, lost a primary to 28-yearold liberal activist Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. General Electric Co. was removed from the Dow Jones industrial average, where it had been an original component in 1896; it was replaced by the Walgreens drugstore chain.

Today's Birthdays: Jazz musician-film composer Dave Grusin is 85. Actor Josef Sommer is 85. Singer Billy Davis Jr. is 81. Rock singer Georgie Fame is 76. Actor Clive Francis is 73. Rhythm and blues singer Brenda Holloway is 73. Actor Michael Paul Chan is 69. Actor Robert Davi is 68. Singer-musician Mick Jones is 64. Actor Gedde Watanabe (GEH'-dee wah-tah-NAH'-bee) is 64. Rock singer Chris Isaak is 63. Rock singer Patty Smyth is 62. Singer Terri Nunn (Berlin) is 60. U.S. Bicycling Hall of Famer Greg LeMond is 58. Rock singer Harriet Wheeler (The Sundays) is 56. Country musician Eddie Perez (The Mavericks) is 51. Rock musician Colin Greenwood (Radiohead) is 50. Writer-director Paul Thomas Anderson is 49. Actor Sean Hayes is 49. Actor Matt Letscher is 49. Actor Chris O'Donnell is 49. Actor Nick Offerman is 49. Actress Rebecca Budig is 46. Retired MLB All-Star Derek Jeter is 45. Contemporary Christian musician Jeff Frankenstein (Newsboys) is 45. Country singer Gretchen Wilson is 45. Rock musician Nathan Followill (Kings of Leon) is 40. Pop-rock singer-musician Ryan Tedder (OneRepublic) is 40. Actor-musician Jason Schwartzman is 39. Actress Aubrey Plaza is 35. Actress-singer Jennette McCurdy is 27. Actress-singer Ariana Grande is 26.

## Thought for Today: "The formula for success is simple: practice and concentration then more practice and more concentration." - Babe Didrikson

Zaharias, American athlete and golfing Hall of Famer (born this date in 1911, died in 1956).

## **Connecting calendar**



**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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