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Connecting - August 07, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this the 7th day of August 2019,

The AP's introduction of the first digital camera for news coverage has been a topic of discussion in recent issues of Connecting.

Our colleague **Jim Gerberich** - AP's director of Internet Platforms & Business Operations - provides a fascinating back story on the NC2000 digital camera and some of the milestones after it was produced. "AP made some amazing, industry-changing bets during the period," he said. The 1992 cover of The New York Times above shows the image by AP photographer **Ron Edmonds** that was the catalyst to kick of the digital photo revolution.

Today's issue also brings you first responses to your aha moment as a journalist. I look forward to your own response - send it along today.

Have a great day!

Paul

'We had the need for speed'

How the AP kicked off the digital photo revolution



Standing on a muddy field in front of the stage, Kyle Keyser, 21, wraps his arms around Linda Latzlsberger, 18, as they listen to Traffic lead singer Steve Winwood sing their 1960's hit Dear Mr. Fantasy during Woodstock '94 in Saugerties, N.Y., August 14, 1994. Both Keyser and Latzlsberger are from Baltimore. (AP Photo/Stephan Savoia)

By Jim Gerberich ([Email](#))

Reading about the NC 2000 and Bob Daugherty's comment that "it's a damn fine paperweight" brought back some good memories. He's right, by the way.

Here's a look at the back story of today's paperweight and some milestones that led to a revolution in photography. Perhaps, not quite as exciting as Apollo 11, but AP led the charge that changed the way we operate today.

The NC2000 and subsequent versions of the camera came to pass because of the legendary Hal Buell's vision. By 1992 Buell's digital PhotoStream was in place, which was AP's new digital highway for delivering photos to clients.

With the digital highway in place, his mandate was to find a digital camera that we can use at the '92 political conventions. To be sure, there were plenty of skeptics. It was like the quote by Tom Cruise in Top Gun - just a little different: **We had the need for speed.**



Jim Gerberich

In the hunt for a camera, we witnessed some incredible demonstrations of the technology. We saw digital photos that nearly rivaled film. But there was one catch: the high-quality results came from cameras that were temperamental and would only allow the photographer one frame every 5 minutes, and the image would take 7-10 minutes to render on a computer. Cool, but a non-starter for our business.

Film giant Kodak had been shopping a Nikon camera tethered to a shoulder pack that contained a storage disk, battery, and some processing software but the color quality was rough at best. We looked at Sony, Leaf, and Polaroid, and in the end, we gambled and decided to use the Kodak camera. It too was temperamental. If the exposure was off or the scene was high contrast, the results were rough, especially in color.

At the time, few knew that Kodak engineer Steven Sasson had invented the first digital camera in 1975. Kodak patented the first digital camera in 1978 and by 1989 Sasson had developed the first modern digital SLR. The largest film company in the world had the early foothold on digital photography. But as you might imagine, Kodak executives were reluctant to disrupt the film business.

Digital photography meant CCD's instead of film, computers instead of film processors, and the very high risk of missing the critical moment. Many thought it was an exercise in futility, but Buell saw something else. Journalists are skeptics. Who was coming for the ride?

Ron Edmonds, Greg Gibson, Cliff Schiappa, Howard Gros, David Rocha, among many others teamed together to use some of the very first digital cameras at the '92 conventions and related events. It was this same group that became the early adopters and pushed the new medium into the mainstream.

In a meeting before the first night of the 1992 Democratic convention, Ron Edmonds told Vin Alabiso, V.P. of photos, that this was a gamble, "I might not make a picture." Edmonds was all in but wanted to make it clear our experiment might fail - sort of like, let's just get this out in the open now. Alabiso said I get it, go for it. Most people thought we were nuts. It's everything when your boss has your back.

A convention veteran, Edmonds was the chairman of the center podium position; nothing got by him, nothing. Leading up to the big night we practiced. Boring speeches but we need to get the hang of this new toy. On the third night of the convention, he kicked off the digital revolution with an image of Clinton, his wife and daughter when they appeared on stage just after Clinton was nominated. The color was so rough we could only use the black and white version. Speed was everything. Edmonds' photo beat everyone the next day, including the locals. There was an outburst of cheers (and beers) from the AP staff at Hurley's watering hole in Midtown (0200 ET) when the city edition of the NYT appeared, and Edmonds' owned Page One. Management was skeptical no more.

Next up was the GOP convention in Houston and we wanted to top NY. We went to the Astrodome and hardwired Edmonds center podium camera to a computer 35 feet below his position - well past the rated length for the serial cable. Howard Gros found a way to make it work and in the process, he used a few rolls of aluminum foil to create an additional RF shield for the extended cable.

Sitting below Edmonds' camera, with only a TV view of the convention, I was able to see his pictures in real-time and then share them to a computer outside the dome in the workroom that was connected by 1.5 miles of fiber optic cable. Ron and I had a voice link; in hindsight I wish I had a tape of our conversations. I had a separate voice link to the workroom - we had our own version of mission control.

Images started to flow, and BINGO! - eyes were wide open! Vin Alabiso, Tom Stathis, Bob Daugherty, David Rocha and the AP convention editors were all looking at Edmonds' photos a few seconds later than I was, outside the dome in a workroom a half-mile away. Put another way, the person Edmonds was shooting was still on TV when the team in the workroom saw his images. We delivered a photo of

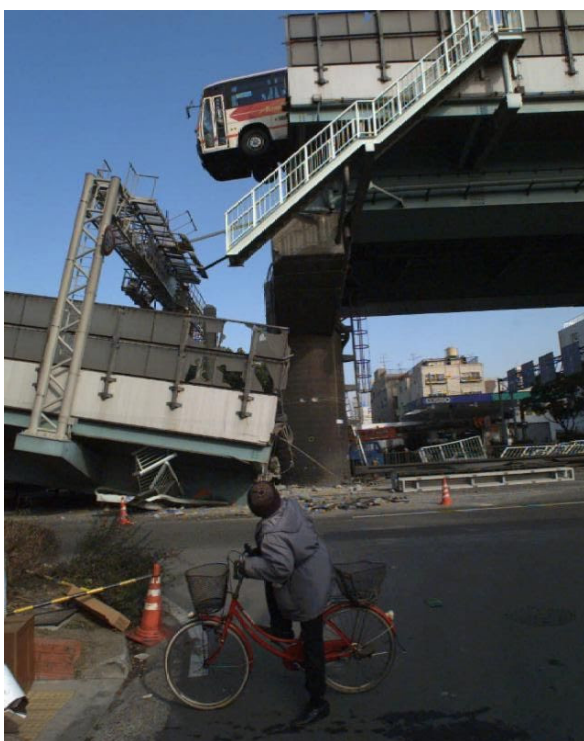


Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole speaks as the sun sets in Phoenix, Friday, Oct. 25, 1996. Dole pressed dual attacks Friday on the news media for trying to "steal" the election and President Clinton for violating the public trust. (AP Photo/Eric Draper)

President Bush to AP members a few minutes after his speech began. It was surreal - the future was here, it was staring us in the face.

While every other photographer's film was still in the Astrodome or a film envelope leaving the dome via a messenger, through walls of security, AP editors were looking at content in near real-time.

Separate from the center stand, Cliff Schiappa and Eric Gay were roaming the floor with hand-held digital prototypes from Kodak. They would bring their cameras to the center stand so we could download the images, edit and send to the workroom. Three photographers using digital cameras were killing the competition. They were ahead by an hour, sometimes more. Remember that a film photographer had to ship their film from the floor to the workroom, process the film, edit and scan it.



A man pauses to look at a bus hanging over edge of the shattered expressway in Kobe, Japan, Friday, Jan. 20, 1995. The quake destroyed most of the elevated highway. On Jan. 17, a half hour before dawn, a fault line under the port of Kobe snapped, and a sleeping city awoke to nightmare. The 7.2-magnitude quake was Japan's deadliest since 1923; more than 6,000 people lost their lives. (AP Photo/Eric Draper)

Houston was a big win. More skeptics converted. We started looking for more ways to use new tools. Greg Gibson scored a Newsweek cover from a presidential debate and scored again on election night with the first copy out of Little Rock after Bush conceded. By now AP President Lou Boccardi and the AP Board were interested in what was going on.

With Houston still fresh in everyone's mind, a few executives from Kodak's skunkworks visited AP with a proposition. They told us they could build a camera suited for our market, no shoulder pack, but they needed the backing of AP. They had plans to build a "commercial camera" that didn't need some of the features we needed, and they told us upfront; your audience won't buy our (Kodak) version. We agreed.

Long story short, a deal was done. AP's senior leadership team was all in. Kodak would build a camera for AP, complete with an AP Logo. Dave Tomlin's marketing and sales team would be the exclusive global sales channel for all markets. It would be

based on the then popular Nikon 8008 film camera, would have a removable disk, shoot 1.5 frames per 3 seconds (today's cameras shoot 20 frames per second), and have a voice recorder allowing a photographer to record notes, names, etc.

The technology was evolving pretty quickly at the time. In the summer of '93 Apple had released its first high-quality color laptop (\$5k +), the PowerBook 180c - just in time for the AP NC 2000 in early 1994.

The removable disk was a challenge - it was a second-generation PCMCIA disk - an interface type that was very lightly supported at the time but was the future. Fady Khairallah, AP's director of software development, found an engineering firm in Switzerland that had a product used in the defense industry. Off to Europe and we ended up with a deal where they would build a disk reader specifically for the AP camera and a custom circuit board to fit an AP designed and built docking station for the new Apple PowerBook.

As the saying goes, loose lips sink ships. The AP / Kodak deal was a pretty closely held secret leading up to the end of 1993. The plan was to use a few cameras at the Super Bowl and then a public launch in NYC shortly after that.

With a few days to spare, Kodak delivered 5 or 6 cameras for the 1994 Super Bowl. In Kodak's words - these are pre-production, that translates to "we're not sure how they will perform." Brian Horton, head of AP's sports photos, was a reluctant supporter. You can miss a lot of action at 1.5 frames every three seconds, especially when a film shooter could squeeze off nearly six frames per second. Every time he thought there was some stability in the photo operation, there was some new piece of technology introduced. The AP photographers charged with shooting digital kicked some a**. The cameras performed fine, and the AP team made some excellent images. A week later we formally launched the program in New York and put cameras at the '94 Winter Olympics among other high-profile venues.

In the early days, we struggled with production delays, software bugs, and a myriad of other things prone to a new product launch. You can't succeed without failing and to be sure there were plenty of times something failed. A battery died, a disk failed, or the color looked like something from another world. Nearly everything in use had just been developed and this amount of change was simply disruptive. Toward the end of '94 the startup issues were pretty well worked out. The buzz of digital photography was going through the industry, and sales were picking up.



A street urchin, name unknown, waits in line outside St. Thomas' church with a bouquet of flowers, to pay his respects to Mother Teresa in Calcutta, Tuesday, Sept. 9, 1997. Thousands of mourners continue to file past her glass-encased coffin inside the church. (AP Photo/David Longstreath)

During the initial period, Kodak struggled to ramp up its production to meet sales. Cameras slowly became available for AP staff, and the early adopters started setting new milestones.

Boston based Stephan Savoia covered the 25th anniversary of Woodstock (this year it's the 50th) with the NC 2000. He made a memorable image that stands today of a rain-soaked, mud-covered couple watching the concert.

Eric Draper (the now famous POTUS photographer) was dispatched to the earthquake in Kobe, Japan. He shot all digital and crushed it. Back in the states he was assigned to the '96 Presidential campaign and made some excellent photos.



An unidentified woman comforts an injured child following an explosion Wednesday, April 19, 1995, at the Alfred Murrah Federal Building in downtown Oklahoma City. A car bomb blast gouged a nine-story hole in the federal office building. (AP Photo/David Longstreath)

And there was AP's David Longstreath (retired), based in Oklahoma City who was thrust into the bombing of the federal building in early '95. He arrived, opened his trunk, and had the choice of film or digital. He chose digital and scored everywhere. Shortly thereafter Longstreath was posted to Bangkok and continued his use of the new digital medium.

In Longstreath's words: "The pushback from die-hard film users was just noise to me. All the camera's detractors were based mostly on quality or the lack of. My job back then was to get images to the world newspapers but a fair amount of my shooting brothers and sisters were locked in the mindset that sought the best possible quality of images that would be printed on newsprint. Newsprint was then and is now only a short step from toilet paper."

By mid 1995 the cameras were in heavy demand. To be sure, they had limits, but three crucial things had surfaced. 1) speed, 2) a photographer with a digital camera didn't need a portable darkroom or return to the office, 3) less film translated into operational savings.

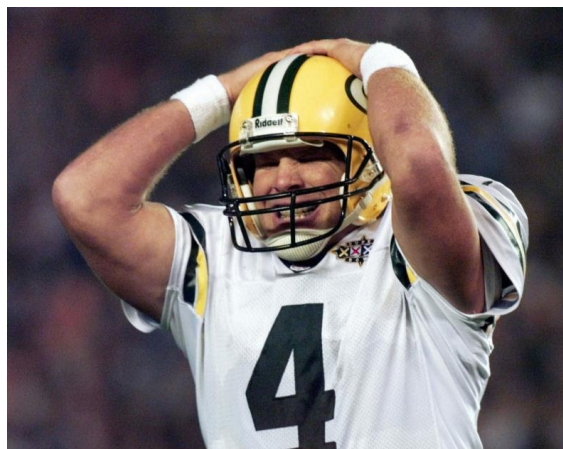
These and other milestones by AP members and customers pushed digital into the mainstream. While quality issues remained, everyone wanted to get into the game.

In late 1995 Kodak was able to improve the image quality with a modified circuit board that produced less noise (grain). And a third-party software provider found yet another way to further enhance image quality during post-processing. All of this was enough for AP to make a bold decision. We would cover the 1996 Super Bowl without film and with an upgraded version of the original camera.

Think about this. AP would put 18 or so photographers on the field in Pasadena, each with two digital cameras, some with three. That would be at least 50 digital cameras on the ground, (nearly \$1M). Oh, and that's before we built out the photo workroom to process digital photos. We dubbed it the \$1M trailer. 30 or so state of the art Apple computers, with as much memory as they could hold (128MB). Digital card readers, disks to store the content and truck-mounted generator in case there was an event where we lost power (think the Northridge earthquake, 1994). There was a second trailer set up, just in case. It was loaded with film processors, (warmed and ready), scanners, and rolls of film. Just in case something failed.

On the day before the game, we were getting a lot of visitors to the AP trailers. The word was out; AP was going all in and shooting digital. A few film reps from Fuji and Kodak stopped by and left stunned. No one was in the back-up film trailer; everyone was in the digital trailer. While film remained around for years to come, the writing was on the wall. The team from Kodak's skunkworks was ecstatic; their colleagues on the film side, not so much.

The 1996 Super Bowl was a success. Digital was here to stay.



Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre reacts to his intercepted pass during the fourth quarter of Super Bowl XXXII at Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego Sunday,

Name brands (Nikon, Canon) woke up and began their own programs to catch up. Canon and Nikon launched their version of digital cameras at a lower price, and by 2000 digital photography became a commodity.

Jan. 25, 1998. The Denver Broncos defeated the Packers 31-24. (AP Photo/Doug Mills)

Between '92-'98 Kodak owned the digital market. But they shortly began to fade as Nikon and Canon came out with their own products. The film giant was being disrupted while the professional market started converting to digital. Shortly after disruption began in the consumer market as Casio, Apple, and Minolta introduced early consumer models.

Between 1988 and 1996 AP placed some industry-changing bets. The transition to digital delivery, digital photo scanners and transmitters, AP Leaf Desks (electronic darkrooms) to members, digital distribution of photos and, the AP NC200E were all big bets.

They paid off and revolutionized the photo world.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: All the images illustrating this story are digital images.)

New Connecting series: **My 'aha' moments as a journalist**

Norm Abelson ([Email](#)) - Frank Murphy scared the hell out of me.

He was the day editor of The Associated Press Boston bureau. I was a green-as-grass 19-year-old copy boy.

Murphy was an old school newsman right out of "The Front Page," who had come down from the Portland, Maine, bureau to run the news desk. He had all the trimmings: Perpetually chewing on the end of an unlit cigar, booming four-letter and other invectives at me and other hapless copy boys. With a few words he could indeed make me feel like a "hopeless idiot."

And yet in more than one way he was my teacher. It was he who allowed me, after a year of experience, to start writing pieces for the wire. It was he who assigned me my first AP by-lined story. And it was Murphy who trusted me, a copy boy, to join the press crowd for an interview with TV star Arthur Godfrey, the number-one story of that day.

Here's the 'aha' moment. One day, as he looked over a piece I handed in, he began a growl that went something like this: "Is this what you call a lead sentence? This is boring crap! You want people to read your stuff, you have a responsibility to make it interesting as well as informative."

As he tossed the story back at me, he added: "If they don't read your damn first sentence, they sure as hell ain't gonna read your second."

-0-

Joni Beall (Email) - My a-ha moment came before my career got started. I graduated high school and was planning to major in print journalism in the fall. About a week after graduation, Tropical Storm Agnes flooded my hometown. Listening to a radio announcer continue to broadcast while the waters rose near the station and watching the TV reporters in boats and hip waders made me realize that's what I wanted. The immediacy of broadcast journalism sucked me in. I went to college, joined the radio station and set my career path.

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Repps Hudson (Email) - In 1982, Jim Scott, my editor of the Kansas City Star and Times' editorial page, asked me to pick up coverage of the Middle East. That's a vast area that included the conflict between the Israelis and the Palestinians and much of the Arab world.

I gladly took up the challenge by reading books and getting in touch with my Middle East history teacher from my undergraduate years. I had taken a year-long course from her 10 years earlier and was feeling pretty sure I know a lot about both the conflict and the history of the region. I even got my first overseas trip in June of 1982 to Israel, the West Bank and Egypt. And since the Israelis had just invaded Lebanon to kick out the Palestine Liberation Organization, I ended up in Lebanon for a few days. It was a pretty heady experience all round.

By 1985, I had moved to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch's editorial page, which took a much dimmer view of the Israelis and often favored the Palestinians. I adapted, somewhat, but managed to change the page's position on the conflict to a more nuanced stance, I thought. Another trip to the region and even an interview with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, as well as lots of Israeli and Palestinian officials, followed.

This is a subject littered with little and sometime big landmines. Some journalists know nothing about the conflict, and their reporting shows that. Others are so familiar with the subject and the players that they are cynical about everything and think they know all the answers. They look for people to interview who can confirm their biases.

In early 1989, as I was planning my third trip to Israel, the West Bank and Egypt, a group of Israeli Arab women visited the Post-Dispatch's editorial writers. We talked a long time, and I saw that they know a lot about their situation that I didn't know.

It began to dawn on me -- aha! -- that if I stopped trying to show everyone how smart I was and just let them talk, tell their stories, I would become a better reporter. I could sort out fact from fiction later.

That's what I did. I also ventured into the West Bank to interview Jewish settlers from St. Louis, and I lived in a dormitory at Haifa University for four weeks to try to understand the Israeli Arabs, their lives and the way in which they seemed to have developed tolerable working relationships with Israeli Jews.

I learned that if I asked thoughtful questions and regarded the people I was interviewing with respect and appreciation, that got better results, got way past stereotypes and therefore helped me write much better stories.

I continue to take this approach: Let the person be himself or herself and keep my mouth shut -- most of the time.

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John Kuglin ([Email](#)) - That's easy. My ``aha" moment was during my first journalism job at the daily Colorado Springs Free Press.

I returned one day to the newsroom after trying to interview Manitou Springs Mayor Earl Pitcock, who refused to talk to me about an unpopular project to raise taxes for a new water system.

I told Editor Harvey Gray that there would be no story. ``You go back there," Gray said, ``and ask the bastard what he's trying to hide." It was good advice.

The article in the CJR also brought back memories about using a tape recorder for interviews. I was a statehouse reporter for the Great Falls (Montana) Tribune a few years later and arrived to interview Montana Gov. Forrest Anderson at his private office in the Capitol. I had a tape recorder, which I turned on and put on the governor's desk. He reached into his desk, brought out his own tape recorder, put it next to my recorder and turned it on.

A few minutes into the interview, Anderson announced, "John, I have to take a leak." He left the door of his executive washroom open. While he was tinkling, he said: "Ask me another question. I'm a busy man." I continued the interview as the tape recorders continued to record everything. I still have the tape.

Journalism used to be fun.

Fred Frommer remembers his dad - author Harvey Frommer



Fred Frommer (left) and son Alex with his dad, and Alex's grandfather, Harvey Frommer.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Fred Frommer shares these memories of his father with his Connecting colleagues. Fred worked in the AP's Washington bureau from 2000 to 2015 as a reporter and editor with beats including the intersection of sports and politics, energy and the environment; and the U.S. Courthouse. Today, he is head of Sports Business Practice at WPP's Dewey Square Group and a sports author and environmental media consultant.)

Fred Frommer (Email) - My dad, Harvey Frommer, died (last) Thursday at 83 after battling metastatic lung cancer.

One of my earliest and fondest memories of him was putting my sister Jennifer and me into a duffel bag and sneaking us into the hospital to see my newborn brother Ian - back then the hospital didn't allow kids to visit. My dad was never one to follow rules, having grown up tough and battle-tested in Williamsburg, Brooklyn in the 1930s and 40s, back when it was a very rough neighborhood.

While working full-time as a high school teacher in New York City, he earned his Ph.D., focusing his mid-1970s dissertation on the intersection of sports and television, which he used to launch an amazingly prolific career writing more than 50 books, including the autobiographies of Nolan Ryan, Tony Dorsett and Red Holzman.

About 25 years ago, this quintessential New Yorker moved up to the woods of New Hampshire, to co-teach oral history with my mom, Myrna Katz Frommer, at Dartmouth College. He loved finally having land and seeing the deer, turkeys, and occasional bears on his property, and scooting around on his Mule ATV like a character out of "Green Acres." And he loved the many students he had over the years.

Dad was a passionate sports fan, especially of the St. Louis Cardinals, a team he started rooting for in the 1940s, because, as he put it, he didn't want to root for the NYC teams all his friends did. When Ian and I were boys, he would smash ground balls at us in our tiny backyard in Queens to hone our reflexes. Later, I had the pleasure of collaborating with him on a few baseball books. He was always looking for the next challenge, and even in his final months, started thinking about writing a double-biography of Joe DiMaggio and Ted Williams, before his illness made that impossible.

He was a one-of-a-kind personality and we miss him already.

Click [here](#) for a Washington Post story on Harvey Frommer's death. It was shared by Dennis Conrad, who wrote: "I have some of the baseball books they worked together on. Fred is mentioned in this obit as a source of some of the information. I remember well his many conversations about his father and baseball."

On newspapers playing down coverage of shootings

Malcolm Barr Sr. (Email) - I wonder if colleagues Bob Daugherty and Adolphe Bernotas recall, as I do, that often in the old (our) days of reporting, and I'm talking about the 1950s and 1960s, newspapers often played down the most macabre of murders - occasions like the Charles Manson murders would be an exception - fearing what is happening today: copycat killers would strike again.

I came across this first in Canada, and then in Honolulu when one of my first assignments for the Star-Bulletin, a nasty killing not far from Waikiki, was deemed to warrant inside the newspaper coverage. My recollection is that police departments may have been responsible for spreading this caution around, and caught the ear of at least some editors and publishers. In my opinion, that is certainly part of the cause of these strings of killings that are occurring with regularity today.

Stories of interest

Changing the channel on the bad rerun of shooting coverage

"All the News That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

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China Deploys Currency As Lever in Trade Feud, Jolting Global Markets

Lets Renminbi Weaken in Escalation — U.S. Calls Beijing a Manipulator

This article is by **Ann Swanson**, **Alexandra Stevenson** and **James O'Shaughnessy**.

WASHINGTON — The trade war between the United States and China entered a more dangerous phase on Monday as Beijing allowed its currency to weaken. Chinese enterprises stopped making new purchases of American farm goods and President Trump's Treasury Department formally labeled China a currency manipulator.

The escalation shook world markets as investors looked for safe places to park their money. Wall Street suffered its worst day of the year, with the S&P 500 closing down nearly 3 percent. Selling was especially heavy in the trade-sensitive technology, consumer discretionary and industrial sectors. Yields on United States Treasury bonds, which fell as prices rose, dropped as investors sought safety in government-backed bonds. Benchmark yields in Asia and Europe also fell.

On Sunday, the People's Bank of China, that country's central bank, took steps to limit the in-

fluence of Mr. Trump's most recent round of tariffs by letting its currency weaken just the psychologically important point of 7 cents to the American dollar for the first time in more than a decade. A weaker currency can make goods cheaper to sell abroad, allowing businesses and consumers to help offset the additional tariffs Mr. Trump plans to impose on Sept. 1. It also helps American exporters aiming to compete with China.

In an unusually blunt statement, the central bank put the blame for the currency fall on Mr. Trump's "unilateral and trade protectionist measures and the imposition of increased tariffs on China." Chinese enterprises halted new purchases of American agricultural goods in response to Mr. Trump's decision to impose more tariffs, according to China's state-run Xinhua News Agency, which called the president's move a "serious violation" of an agreement reached in June with President Xi Jinping.

Late Monday the Treasury took the unusual step of labeling China a currency manipulator — the first time it has done so since 2014. In a statement, the Treasury said that Steven Mnuchin, the Treas-

TRUMP URGES UNITY VS. RACISM



A memorial at the Walmart in El Paso where 22 people were killed in a mass shooting drew a procession of mourners on Monday.

A National Outcry Over Extremism

By **ALEXANDER BURNS**

El Paso, the political world hurried on Monday toward a more somber and inevitably more

mundane. Mr. Trump's usual methods of deflection surfaced on Monday.

Condemns 'Slaughters,' but Says Little of Gun Control

China Deploys Currency As Lever in Trade Feud, Jolting Global Markets

Lets Renminbi Weaken in Escalation — U.S. Calls Beijing a Manipulator

The article is by **Alex Berenson**, **Alexandra Stevenson** and **Jenna Stohs**.

WASHINGTON — The trade war between the United States and China entered a more dangerous phase on Monday as Beijing allowed its currency to weaken. Chinese exporters stopped making new purchases of American farm goods and President Trump's Treasury Department heavily rebuffed China's economy minister.

The escalation shook world markets as investors looked for safe places to park their money. Wall Street suffered its worst day of the year with the S&P 500 falling down nearly 3 percent, selling was especially heavy in the technology, consumer discretionary and industrial sectors. Yields on United States Treasury, which fell in previous days, dropped as investors sought safety in government-backed bonds. Benchmark indexes in Asia and Europe also fell.

On Monday, the People's Bank of China, the country's central bank, took steps to limit the in-

fluence of Mr. Trump's next round of tariffs by letting its currency weaken past the psychologically important point of 7 cents to the American dollar for the first time in more than a decade.

A weaker currency can make goods cheaper to sell abroad, allowing businesses and consumers to help offset the added tariffs. Mr. Trump plans to impose on Sept. 1 a 10 percent American export tax on goods trying to compete with China.

Chinese officials said the move came in response to market forces, which have reacted to Mr. Trump's tariff threats by pushing the value of the currency down, in an unusually blunt statement, the central bank put the blame for the currency fall on Mr. Trump's "unilateral and trade protectionist measures and the imposition of increased tariffs on China."

Chinese exporters halted new purchases of American agricultural goods in response to Mr. Trump's decision to impose those tariffs, according to China's state-run Xinhua News Agency, which called the president's move a "serious violation" of an agreement reached in January with President Xi



A girl at Horizon High School in El Paso for Justice Anita Rodriguez, a 12-year-old student who was fatally shot at a local Walmart.

ASSAILING HATE, BUT NOT GUNS



A girl at Horizon High School in El Paso for Justice Anita Rodriguez, a 12-year-old student who was fatally shot at a local Walmart.

Backlash to Extremism Pressures President

By ALEXANDER BERENSON

The politics of American gun violence follow a predictable pattern in most cases: outraged calls for action from the left, a number of gun-control measures proposed from the right, a stalled presidential administration dithered from a pro-gunward — and there, in a matter of days or even hours, a national turning of the page to other matters.

But after a white supremacist gunman massacred 22 people in

El Paso, the political world lurched Monday toward a more expansive, and potentially risky, battlefield, confrontation over gun-control measures. Though the possibility was again on the defensive, it was not about to waver: social media companies and watchdogs like Facebook that have become forces for toxic harassment and violent ideas that have increasingly leaked into real life, with fatal consequences.

For the most part, President Trump heard intense new calls about violence and scrutiny for the plain culture of his own language in the 113-page report's and trans-

form messages.

Mr. Trump's usual method of defiance appeared on Monday: the early-morning tweets attacking the news media and calling regularly the news background checks on gun purchases did little to ease the political pressure. A addressing lawmakers that he would not be removed from the White House — condemning "white supremacy" and warning of increased extremism, but declining to address the new gun-control bills — did nothing to quiet the storm of concern from the

Trump, in Speech, Says Little About Putting Curbs on Weapons

By MICHAEL CHOMSKY and MADIE HARRIS

WASHINGTON — President Trump on Monday denounced white supremacy in the wake of twin mass shootings over the weekend and called the threat of "hate hate" by condemning the nation's lawmakers whether called a link between the recent carnage and violent video games, mental illness and internet bigotry.

But he stopped well short of endorsing the kind of broad gun-control measures that activists, Democrats and some Republicans

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) - Revulsion over the weekend's twin mass shootings and the nagging sense that it's all an inconclusive rerun has frustrated the news media and those who rely on it - and triggered the stirrings of a new debate over how such tragedies should be covered.

"It's time for journalists to take sides," tweeted prominent Columbia University professor Bill Grueskin, and he's not just a voice in the wilderness.

News outlets have been dominated by coverage of the shootings that killed 31 people in El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio. Editors at The New York Times discovered the extent to which nerves are frayed when they put together the newspaper's Tuesday edition.

The first edition's lead headline, "TRUMP URGES UNITY VS. RACISM," provoked a social media backlash. Some tweeters said they canceled subscriptions in disgust.

"Let this front page serve as a reminder of how white supremacy is aided by - and often relies upon - the cowardice of mainstream institutions," New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez wrote in a tweet.

The newspaper called the headline flawed and changed it to, "ASSAILING HATE BUT NOT GUNS" in later editions and online.

Similarly, The Associated Press got online criticism for using the phrase "mass shootings" to refer to the carnage, with some readers suggesting "murder" was more appropriate. The news service's rules forbid using the word murder unless an assailant was convicted of a crime.

Read more [here](#).

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New York Times Changes Headline on Story About Trump's Gun Violence Speech After Backlash (The Wrap)

By ROSS A. LINCOLN

Following a severe backlash, the New York Times on Monday changed the headline on a story about the speech President Donald Trump made early Monday in response to the mass shootings in El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio.

On Monday evening, New York Times print editor Tom Jolly tweeted an image of the paper's Tuesday morning print edition, featuring a headline about the speech that read "Trump Urges Unity Vs. Racism." Later editions of the paper carried a new headline: "Assailing Hate But Not Guns."

The original headline sparked widespread condemnation for everything from eliding the actual content of the speech, not referring to Trump as racist, or failing to acknowledge additional context, such as Trump's long history of comments about immigrants.

On Tuesday, New York Times Executive Editor Dean Baquet admitted the paper had goofed. "It was written on deadline and when it was passed along for approval we all saw it was a bad headline and changed it pretty quickly," told The Daily Beast. "I understand the concern people have. Headlines matter. But I hope they read the coverage, which I will argue was strong."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Carl Robinson.

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Life in public-shooting-era America: 'You can't just not go'

By TED ANTHONY

Ohio: A bar district where friends gathered for drinks on a warm Saturday night.
Texas: A Walmart stocked with supplies for back-to-school shopping on an August morning. California: A family-focused festival that celebrates garlic, the local cash crop.

Two consecutive summer weekends. Less than seven days. More than 30 fellow human beings gone in moments, in public places exactly like those where huge swaths of the American population go without a second thought.

Or perhaps not. Perhaps no longer. Have we crossed into an era of second, third, even fourth thoughts?

"I don't like to go out, especially without my husband. It's really scary being out by myself," preschool teacher Courtney Grier, 21, said Sunday outside a grocery store in Virginia Beach, Virginia, where a gunman killed 12 in a city building in late May.

But, Grier says, "You still have to go to the grocery store to get dinner. You can't just not go."

That might be an apt slogan for America, circa 2019: You can't just not go.

Read more [here](#).

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America's two largest newspaper chains are joining forces. Will it save either? (Washington Post)

By Jonathan O'Connell and Rachel Siegel

America's two largest newspaper publishers will merge in an effort to combat declining circulation and plunging advertising revenue, but will still face pressure to cut costs at hundreds of already cash-strapped publications around the country.

The \$1.4 billion purchase of McLean-based Gannett by GateHouse Media, based in Pittsford, N.Y., will create a conglomerate that will own more than 250 daily newspapers and hundreds of weekly and community papers. The new company will retain the Gannett name and will have publications in 47 states, reaching more than 145 million unique visitors each month.

Executives from both companies extolled the deal in a news release as an opportunity to slash up to \$300 million in annual overhead costs within 24 months while "continuing to invest in newsrooms" - creating journalism they hope can attract more digital subscribers and advertisers at a time when America employs thousands of fewer journalists than it did a decade ago.

But the efficiencies wrought by the merger may also result in publications that rely less on local reporters and more on USA Today-type stories produced or edited remotely and published in dozens of the company's publications. Journalists across the country fretted over whether the deal would mean a wave of layoffs.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - August 7, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Aug. 7, the 219th day of 2019. There are 146 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 7, 1998, terrorist bombs at U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania killed 224 people, including 12 Americans.

On this date:

In 1782, Gen. George Washington created the Order of the Purple Heart, a decoration to recognize merit in enlisted men and noncommissioned officers.

In 1789, the U.S. Department of War was established by Congress.

In 1942, U.S. and other allied forces landed at Guadalcanal, marking the start of the first major allied offensive in the Pacific during World War II. (Japanese forces abandoned the island the following February.)

In 1959, the United States launched the Explorer 6 satellite, which sent back images of Earth.

In 1961, Yale psychology professor Stanley Milgram began conducting his controversial human behavior experiments concerning obedience toward authority figures.

In 1964, Congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin resolution, giving President Lyndon B. Johnson broad powers in dealing with reported North Vietnamese attacks on U.S. forces.

In 1971, the Apollo 15 moon mission ended successfully as its command module splashed down in the Pacific Ocean.

In 1989, a plane carrying U.S. Rep. Mickey Leland, D-Texas, and 14 others disappeared over Ethiopia. (The wreckage of the plane was found six days later; there were no survivors.)

In 2000, Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate Al Gore selected Connecticut Sen. Joseph Lieberman as his running mate; Lieberman became the first Jew on a major party's presidential ticket.

In 2005, ABC News anchorman Peter Jennings died in New York at age 67.

In 2010, Elena Kagan was sworn in as the 112th justice and fourth woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 2017, medical examiners said the remains of a man who'd been killed at the World Trade Center on 9/11 had been identified, nearly 16 years after the attacks.

Ten years ago: Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, on a tour of Africa, urged South Africans to press for political and economic reforms in neighboring Zimbabwe.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama authorized U.S. airstrikes in northern Iraq, warning they would be launched if needed to defend Americans from advancing Islamic militants and protect civilians under siege. President Obama signed a \$16.3 billion measure aimed at helping veterans avoid long waits for health care. A jury convicted a suburban Detroit homeowner of second-degree murder and manslaughter in the killing of an unarmed woman on his porch, rejecting Theodore Wafer's claim that he was afraid for his life when he heard Renisha McBride pounding on his door in the middle of the night and had acted in self-defense. (Wafer was sentenced to at least 17 years in prison.)

One year ago: Sharice Davids won a Democratic congressional primary in Kansas, becoming the state's first Native American and gay nominee for Congress. (Davids went on to become one of the first two Native American women elected to the House.) The fourth suspect in the shooting death of emerging South Florida rap star XXXTentacion turned himself in to authorities. Chicago police said they would deploy hundreds of additional officers to neighborhoods where a burst of gun violence over the weekend left at least 11 people dead and 70 wounded. Hall of Fame hockey forward Stan Mikita, who helped the Chicago Black Hawks win the 1961 Stanley Cup, died at the age of 78.

Today's Birthdays: Magician, author and lecturer James Randi is 91. Former MLB pitcher Don Larsen is 90. Humorist Garrison Keillor is 77. Singer B.J. Thomas is 77. Singer Lana Cantrell is 76. Former FBI Director Robert Mueller is 75. Actor John Glover is 75. Actor David Rasche is 75. Former diplomat, talk show host and activist Alan Keyes is 69. Country singer Rodney Crowell is 69. Actress Caroline Aaron is 67. Comedian Alexei Sayle is 67. Actor Wayne Knight is 64. Rock singer Bruce Dickinson is 61. Marathon runner Alberto Salazar is 61. Actor David Duchovny is 59. Country musician Michael Mahler (Wild Horses) is 58.

Actress Delane Matthews is 58. Actor Harold Perrineau is 56. Jazz musician Marcus Roberts is 56. Country singer Raul Malo is 54. Actor David Mann is 53. Actress Charlotte Lewis is 52. Actress Sydney Penny is 48. Actor Greg Serano is 47. Actor Michael Shannon is 45. Actress Charlize Theron (shar-LEES' THEHR'-en) is 44. Rock musician Barry Kerch (Shinedown) is 43. Actor Eric Johnson is 40. Actor Randy Wayne is 38. Actor-writer Brit Marling is 37. NHL center Sidney Crosby is 32. MLB All-Star Mike Trout is 28. Actor Liam James is 23.

Thought for Today: "There are a lot of people who think our job is to reassure the public every night that their home, their community and their nation is safe. I don't subscribe to that at all. I subscribe to leaving people with essentially - sorry it's a cliché - a rough draft of history. Some days it's reassuring, some days it's absolutely destructive." - Peter Jennings (1938-2005).

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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