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# Connecting - September 19, 2019

1 message

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Thu, Sep 19, 2019 at 9:14 AM

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# Connecting

September 19, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this the 19<sup>th</sup> day of August 2019,

Sixteen years ago, **Andrew Meldrum** was a reporter for the British newspaper The Guardian when he was manhandled by police and pushed into a car after being issued with a "prohibited immigrant" order by immigration officials at their offices in Harare, Zimbabwe.

The exile ended when Meldrum, now with The Associated Press, returned to Zimbabwe to report on the mourning period for former president Robert Mugabe, whose government expelled him.

Meldrum ([Email](#)) joined the AP in August 2012 and is the AP's Africa News Editor, based in Johannesburg. He has reported on southern Africa for 34 years, including 23 years in Zimbabwe.

His story that moved on AP wires Wednesday leads today's issue.

I hope you got the chance to read Wednesday's story by **Carl Robinson** on the 90cc motorcycle he used when covering the Vietnam War as a combat photographer.

**You ever own a cycle that you used on the job?** My contribution - a bit lame by war coverage standards set by Carl - involves my once-beloved Honda 90cc trail bike that I used while attending the University of Iowa in the late 1960s. I had several part-time jobs including coverage of high school football and basketball for the Iowa City Press-Citizen - and whether rain or snow (and there was plenty of that in Iowa City!), that Honda carried me to scores of games. Got a story to share?

Have a good day!

Paul

## 'Welcome back' - a reporter's fraught re-entry to Zimbabwe



**In this photo taken Sept. 13, 2019, Associated Press journalist Andrew Meldrum poses for a photograph at the entrance to State House in the capital Harare, Zimbabwe. (AP Photo/Ben Curtis)**



**FILE - In this May 16, 2003, file photo, journalist Andrew Meldrum is manhandled by police and pushed into a car after being issued with a "prohibited immigrant" order by immigration officials at their offices in Harare, Zimbabwe. (AP Photo/File)**

**By ANDREW MELDRUM**

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) - The immigration officer lifted his stamp to put the visa into my passport and I heaved a sigh of relief. But then my passport was taken by a smiling woman who asked, "Have you been to Zimbabwe before?"

Through questioning she determined that I had worked as a journalist in the country from 1980 to 2003.

"Was your departure from Zimbabwe voluntary or involuntary?" she asked. I answered truthfully: It was involuntary as I had been expelled by the government.

"Please come with me to answer a few questions," she said, leading me to a small room.

I knew that room well, as I had been detained there 16 years ago. That was after I was dragged from a news conference, slapped by a police officer, put in a car with a hood over my head and held in the airport basement for several hours.

This time I was questioned by the young woman and two other agents. They interrogated me about why I had been jailed, put on trial and acquitted but then forcibly ejected from Zimbabwe. Had my reporting been biased? I said that I had reported objectively and that I had been the last foreign correspondent based in Zimbabwe to be thrown out of the country. I told them I was returning to cover the burial of former president Robert Mugabe.

"It's an historic event. Robert Mugabe ruled Zimbabwe for 37 years and had a huge influence on Zimbabwe and across Africa. I want to chronicle this final chapter of his life," I told them.

"The international sanctions against Zimbabwe, why haven't they been lifted?" I was asked, prompting a discussion about the economic penalties that were imposed during Mugabe's rule and have been maintained.

Then came their verdict.

"Welcome back to Zimbabwe!" said one of the agents, telling me I would be admitted - and adding that they would be watching my work.

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

## Connecting mailbox

### ***Dan Elliott was (and is) a bigger fish than he thinks he was***

**Dave Tomlin** ([Email](#)) - All of us who read Connecting have become connoisseurs of the written valedictory. Dan Elliott's was a great one. I bet he was a bigger fish than he thinks he was. (See Wednesday's Connecting on the valedictory by Dan, an AP Denver newsman for the past 20 years.)

-0-

### ***Deaths of Cokie Roberts, Sander Vanocur a blow to news industry***

**John Wylie** ([Email](#)) - I had heard about Cokie Roberts death overnight but first word I got on Sander Vanocur was (where else) in Connecting. Their passings are both blows to the industry, although he had been far less active recently than she has. I thought George W. and Laura Bush's comment on her passing showed how much he has grown and the Presidency has shrunk in the past few years. It showed a true understanding of the First Amendment and showed that a top notch journalist and a President could disagree on how the president and his policies are presented to the public and still maintain a courteous and mutually respectful relationship and develop a friendship that allowed better understanding of each other while not damaging her impartiality. It is a lesson sorely lacking in today's Washington, and that is a tragedy. I will miss both! they were true role models.

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### ***Catching up with Kathleen Carroll***



**Linda Deutsch** ([Email](#)) - Retired AP Executive Editor Kathleen Carroll and I reminisced about our times together in the AP/LA bureau in the 1980s at an event Monday for LA Press Freedom Week. Programs were sponsored by several media groups including the Committee to Protect Journalists. Kathleen is now board chair of CPJ. She participated in a powerhouse all-women panel on press freedom worldwide with reporters from Hungary, the Philippines and an LA Times editor. Great to catch up with her.

And....

Another AP retiree who got the chance to catch up with Kathleen was our **Rachel Ambrose**, who shares:

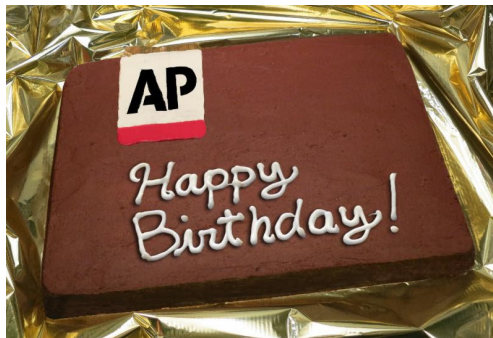


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## ***Times caught using word that ends in 'st'***

**Bob Greene** ([Email](#)) - For years I have warned about the use of absolute words that end in "st," such as "first", "last", "best," etc., a warning I learned in my first days at the Kansas City bureau. Now The New York Times has stumbled into that problem, pushing the following on Wednesday: A correction: Last Friday's briefing erroneously attributed a distinction to the Western Wall in Jerusalem. It is one of the holiest sites in Judaism, not the holiest.

## **Connecting wishes Happy Birthday**



to

Karen Ball - [kjanball@aol.com](mailto:kjanball@aol.com)

John Hartzell - [jchartzell@mac.com](mailto:jchartzell@mac.com)

## Stories of interest

### ***Nonprofit news outlets aren't relying as heavily on foundations - but journalism philanthropy continues to grow*** (Nieman)

By CHRISTINE SCHMIDT

Nonprofit news does not mean news without a business model. As more and more 501(c)(3) status-granted outlets emerge in the last decade of journalism, more and more are building out ways to make money beyond foundation grants - though with less impact from membership than their commercial counterparts.

Throughout 2018, nonprofit news outlets brought in \$450 million in annual revenue - \$100 million more than the previous year - and employ 3,000 people (two-thirds of them journalists). Those numbers come from the Institute for Nonprofit News' annual INN Index surveying its 230+ members on the state of their journalism finances and operations. With a 56 percent response rate, INN says the index is representative of its members (other than public broadcasters).

Read more [here](#).

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### ***Opinion: This Article Is Spying on You*** (New York Times)

By TIMOTHY LIBERT

The press has performed admirably in reporting on privacy violations by the National Security Agency and major internet companies. But news sites often expose users



to the same surveillance programs and data-collection companies they criticize. Even articles that explained how the N.S.A. was using Google cookies to "pinpoint targets for hacking" often included the exact same cookies revealed by Edward Snowden. Likewise, articles about Facebook and Cambridge Analytica often include Facebook tracking code, allowing Facebook to keep tabs on what people read.

Surveillance on news websites is particularly problematic because the news you consume may reveal your political leanings or health interests - information that is not just exploited by corporations to sell you things, but could also be abused by governments. And because news organizations benefit from the surveillance economy by running advertisements targeted to reader interests, they may be less likely to report on their own tracking practices.

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

## The Final Word

# Automobiles

# 225



**PORSCHE 2019 Cayenne E-Hybrid.** Purchased: 8-30-19. Car is too fast, I am too old and too nervous. \$104680. 2901 mi.

504 224 2222

**Scott Charton** ([Email](#)) - Spotted Tuesday in the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette and posted to Facebook by Tobias Simmons, son of late Little Rock COB Bill Simmons.

## Today in History - September 19, 2019



## By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Sept. 19, the 262nd day of 2019. There are 103 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 19, 2008, struggling to stave off financial catastrophe, the Bush administration laid out a radical bailout plan calling for a takeover of a half-trillion dollars or more in worthless mortgages and other bad debt held by tottering institutions. Relieved investors sent stocks soaring on Wall Street and around the globe.

### On this date:

In 1777, the first Battle of Saratoga was fought during the Revolutionary War; although British forces succeeded in driving out the American troops, the Americans prevailed in a second battle the following month.

In 1796, President George Washington's farewell address was published. In it, America's first chief executive advised, "Observe good faith and justice toward all nations. Cultivate peace and harmony with all."

In 1881, the 20th president of the United States, James A. Garfield, died 2½ months after being shot by Charles Guiteau; Chester Alan Arthur became president.

In 1934, Bruno Hauptmann was arrested in New York and charged with the kidnap-murder of 20-month-old Charles A. Lindbergh Jr.

In 1970, the "Mary Tyler Moore" show debuted on CBS-TV.

In 1982, the smiley emoticon was invented by Carnegie Mellon University professor Scott E. Fahlman, who suggested punctuating humorously intended computer messages with a colon followed by a hyphen and a parenthesis as a horizontal "smiley face." :-)

In 1985, the Mexico City area was struck by a devastating earthquake that killed at least 9,500 people.

In 1986, federal health officials announced that the experimental drug AZT would be made available to thousands of AIDS patients.

In 1995, The New York Times and The Washington Post published the manifesto of Unabomber Ted Kaczynski (kah-ZIHN'-skee), which proved instrumental in identifying and capturing him.

In 1996, IBM announced it would extend health benefits to the partners of its gay employees.

In 2001, The Pentagon ordered dozens of advanced aircraft to the Persian Gulf region as the hour of military retaliation for deadly terrorist attacks on Sept. 11 drew closer.

In 2004, Hu Jintao (hoo jin-tow) became the undisputed leader of China with the departure of former President Jiang Zemin (jahng zuh-MEEN') from his top military post.

Ten years ago: Russia said it would scrap a plan to deploy missiles near Poland after Washington dumped a planned missile shield in Eastern Europe. Art Ferrante, 88, half of the piano duo Ferrante and Teicher, died in Longboat Key, Florida. (Lou Teicher had died in 2008 at age 83.)

Five years ago: President Barack Obama signed legislation authorizing the military to arm and train moderate Syrian rebels fighting Islamic State militants in the Middle East. Shortly after President Obama and his daughters left the White House by

helicopter, a man with a knife jumped the fence and made it into the presidential residence before being tackled. (Omar Gonzalez, an Army veteran with mental health issues, was later sentenced to 17 months in prison.) Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba debuted as a publicly traded company and swiftly climbed nearly 40 percent in a mammoth IPO.

One year ago: President Donald Trump visited North and South Carolina to survey the wreckage left by Hurricane Florence. Wanda Barzee, who had helped her then-husband kidnap Utah teen Elizabeth Smart 15 years earlier, was released from prison; Smart had said she was shocked and disappointed by the news that Barzee would be freed.

Today's Birthdays: Author Roger Angell is 99. Host James Lipton (TV: "Inside the Actors Studio") is 93. Actress Rosemary Harris is 92. Actor David McCallum is 86. Singer-songwriter Paul Williams is 79. Singer Bill Medley is 79. Singer Sylvia Tyson (Ian and Sylvia) is 79. R&B singer Freda Payne is 77. Retired professional golfer Jane Blalock is 74. Singer David Bromberg is 74. Actor Randolph Mantooth is 74. Rock singer-musician Lol Creme (10cc) is 72. Former NFL running back Larry Brown is 72. Actor Jeremy Irons is 71. Actress Twiggy Lawson is 70. TV personality Joan Lunden is 69. Singer-producer Daniel Lanois (Ian-WAH') is 68. Actor Scott Colomby is 67. Musician-producer Nile Rodgers is 67. Singer-actor Rex Smith is 64. Rock singer Lita Ford is 61. Actor Kevin Hooks is 61. Actress Carolyn McCormick is 60. Celebrity chef Mario Batali is 59. Actress-comedian Cheri Oteri is 57. Country singer Jeff Bates is 56. Country singer Trisha Yearwood is 55. News anchor Soledad O'Brien is 53. Rhythm-and-blues singer Espraronza Griffin (Society of Soul) is 50. Celebrity chef Michael Symon is 50. Actor Victor Williams is 49. Actress Sanaa Lathan (suh-NAH' LAY'-thun) is 48. Actress Stephanie J. Block is 47. Rock singer A. Jay Popoff (Lit) is 46. "Tonight Show" host Jimmy Fallon is 45. TV personality Carter Oosterhouse is 43. Actress-TV host Alison Sweeney is 43. Rock musician Ryan Dusick is 42. Folk-rock singers-musicians Sara and Tegan (TEE'-gan) Quin are 39. Actor Columbus Short is 37. Rapper Eamon is 36. Christian rock musician JD Frazier is 36. Actor Kevin Zegers is 35. Actress Danielle Panabaker is 32. Actress Katrina Bowden is 31.

**Thought for Today: "Do not let yourself be tainted with a barren skepticism." - Louis Pasteur, French scientist (1822-1895).**

## 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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