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Connecting - September 20, 2019

1 message

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Connecting

September 20, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this the 20th day of September 2019,

Connecting congratulates our colleague and new AP retiree **Bob Salsberg**, who retired September 1 after a 28-year career in the Boston bureau and at the Massachusetts Statehouse.



Bob Salsberg

"Bob has held (and excelled in) a number of roles at the AP over nearly three decades: broadcast editor, business writer and state government reporter," said **Bill Kole**, Boston-based New England Editor who earlier announced Bob's retirement. "He's also one of the kindest and most genuine souls I've met in journalism. We're going to miss him so much! We wish Bob all the best in this neat new chapter. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts - not just for the innumerable Righteous Acts of Journalism™ you've perpetrated over the years, but for being a colleague, a friend, a mensch."

I asked Bob to recap his AP career and he delivered wonderfully, just as he's done through his AP career.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to our colleague **Evelyn Cassidy Dalton** on the death of her mother, **Lois Quam**, in Emmetsburg, Iowa. She died September 11 at the age of 91.

Evelyn shared, "My love of journalism began with the Des Moines Register, which my parents subscribed to when I was growing up and which my mom still read faithfully every day until the week before she died. She also listened to the news and weather on KICD radio several times a day and watched three television newscasts every night."

Evelyn's email is - evelyndalton@gmail.com

Have a good weekend!

Paul

Saying farewell to an AP career reflective of changes in the AP and journalism



A scene from a recent farewell celebration for Bob Salsberg by the Massachusetts Statehouse press corps. At left is Steve Brown, the Statehouse reporter for WBUR-FM and one of Bob's longtime friends.

Bob Salsberg (Email) - My 28 years at AP were reflective in many ways of the changes that buffeted the company and the business in general during this period.

I was hired as Boston broadcast editor by then-Bureau Chief Michael Short in December 1991, after working for more than a decade in radio and television newsrooms. I expanded the Massachusetts and New England broadcast reports to include additional fixtures, including a daily BusinessMinute, and modernized the delivery of breaking news to include urgent series and brief, standalone updates on developing stories. I also sought to improve broadcast member relations in the state by personally visiting each member, regardless of size, at least once in each calendar year, and by revitalizing the annual state AP conference and awards dinner. This approach included unique partnerships with the Radio-Television News Directors Association (RTNDA) and Emerson College to provide educational programming in conjunction with the conference.

By 2008, AP had phased out broadcast editors in US bureaus and I was assigned to the new role of Breaking News Staffer in Boston, working a variety of both day and evening



Bob Salsberg (right) with Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker (R) who he covered for the past five years.

shifts. The following year, then-News Editor Karen Testa asked me to leave the desk and become a full-time writer/reporter, something I had not done in many years but a role I was able to adapt to reasonably well.

In early 2011, longtime Massachusetts state government and political reporter Glen Johnson left the AP and Karen assigned me on an "interim" basis to the Statehouse bureau. I'm not certain when the interim tag officially came off but I remained at the capitol until my retirement on Sept. 1, 2019. Covering the intricacies of state government and the state's never dull political scene made for some of my most memorable and enjoyable years at AP.

Though I was largely a print-style reporter in my final years with the company, I never forgot my roots in broadcast journalism. I am especially proud of my long relationship with RTNDA, a prominent and influential trade association for radio and TV news professionals. I served on RTNDA's national board for more than a decade - the first AP employee to do so - and was elected by the membership to serve a term as chairman in 2003-2004.



This is a CSPAN screen shot from RTNDA's First Amendment Awards dinner around 2005 when Bob Salsberg was serving as host for event.

I am fortunate to have spent my entire AP career in a city I love and where my wife and I raised our two sons, now in their 30s. I worked alongside so many talented and dedicated journalists over the years, some whose names I can no longer recall but all of whom were part of the tapestry of my career. Regrettably, as many retirees know, our numbers now are far from what they were when I started - the Boston bureau is about 1/4 the size it was in 1991, both in terms of personnel and the space it occupies. But though my departure means one less staffer I am totally confident that my former colleagues will continue to turn out a superb report day in day out.

Opinion: AP's transphobic Sam Smith story exposes journalism's failings



Oscar-winning pop star Sam Smith, who is non-binary, announced Friday that they now use "they/them" as their third-person pronouns. On social media, they said that "after a lifetime of being at war with my gender I've decided to embrace myself for who I am ..."
[JOEL C RYAN | Joel C Ryan/Invision/AP]

By ASHLEY DYE, Tampa Bay Times

English singer Sam Smith now uses they/them pronouns.

It's a simple, but profound, statement that gives more crucial visibility to people living outside of the gender binary. Yet some of my fellow journalists - people entrusted to routinely break down complex topics - found it nearly impossible to write and say.

On Friday, months after talking publicly about their non-binary identity, Smith posted on social media to explain their change to they/them pronouns, rather than he/him.

"After a lifetime of being at war with my gender I've decided to embrace myself for who I am," they wrote.

As a queer, non-binary journalist, I was thrilled - to see another high-profile person similar to me and in anticipation of the education and conversations on gender this would encourage. What later came across the wires from the Associated Press chilled my blood. In its initial report Friday, the AP referred to Smith as he/him throughout. The first line began: "Sam Smith has declared his pronouns 'they/them' ..."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Howard Goldberg ([Email](#)), who commented:

Once you get past the overheated headline, this opinion piece provides a good perspective on a reality that is hard for most of my baby boomer generation and those older to grasp. Nonbinary sexual identity is being expressed more openly, more often these days, and we must adjust to it. The difficulty some people have giving fellow humans respect for their gender expression and pronoun choices reminds me of the sarcastic and dismissive reactions male media gatekeepers had in the early days of the women's movement to changes such as the introduction of Ms.

The way AP handled the Sam Smith story initially stood out because, no matter what you think about "they" as a singular pronoun, refusing to use it in this context was a departure from the usual deference the media have shown to singers' preference for identifying themselves: Singers can have one name like Madonna, many names like Snoop Dogg, and I personally remember fretting on the General Desk over how to word an AP People item when Prince changed his name in 1993 to an unpronounceable symbol that blended the male and female gender symbols. What's polite behavior changes from generation to generation, and now asking someone's pronoun preference is polite.

Asked for comment by Connecting, **Sarah Nordgren**, AP's deputy managing editor, said, "It was a regrettable mistake that we corrected as soon as possible."

Connecting mailbox

Covering the news on a five-speed, pedal-powered bike

John Wylie ([Email](#)) - Couldn't resist the query about using a cycle to gather the news. I did it for three years (72-'75) 'for KDIC-FM radio in Grinnell, Iowa, where I was at various times both news director of the station (and represented small market educational stations on the Iowa AP Broadcasters) and editor of the Grinnell Scarlet & Black (oldest college newspaper west of the Mississippi). The radio station was about to be shut down because we couldn't pay the bill for our UPI teletype and that was how EBS messages were sent so the FCC gave us 30 days to get an EBS link or lose our license.

AP was more creative - everything else went off the air or sent the staff home at dinner time and any overnight news went uncovered until the next day. If we'd keep track of multiple counties (few enough police frequencies that a slide tuner could lock in on all of the key agencies at once) and dictate stories, they let us have the service for free with a dedicated local line tied to our AM commercial sunup to sundown competition four blocks away. That only cost \$7.95/month vs. hundreds for a second dedicated the 60 miles from Des Moines to Grinnell but service payments and we jumped at it.

Grinnell had made radical lifestyle changes - going from one campus for men and another two blocks away, with curfew, for women, to dorms up to and including co-ed by alternating rooms; the drinking age was 18 for everything in Iowa; and both the deans and police chief had decided to look the other way and if asked would say "Pot on campus? Yeah, in the dorm kitchens to cook in, but we don't allow cooking in the rooms. Pot means something else? What are you talking about?"

So the only way to cover the news in Grinnell (by far the hub of news in the multi-county area) was on my five-speed pedal-powered bicycle, which back then I could ride fast enough to get a handful of warning tickets. KGRN had one of those converted hearses a/k/a the KGRN mobile news cruiser, complete with aerials, bars with flashing red and blue lights, etc. But never having had competition they didn't rush - I'd normally have my tape and be headed back from the fire, explosion, murder or whatever so I could get back to the station, get the story on the air and get it dictated in shorter form to AP.

In those days AP sent out a monthly newsletter to member stations which included the Beeper Billboard - an honor roll of which members had provided the most, second most, etc., stories to the wire the previous month. KGRN routinely took small market honors - until we started beating them and even went as far as 2-1 margin one month. The owner called me as I was packing up to leave after graduation, asked if I was sticking around, and was obviously delighted when I said I was going to The Kansas City Star. Congratulations and good luck, he said heartily. And as he hung up, he added under his breath "and good riddance." Had heard the same thing an hour earlier from the outgoing Grinnell president, who made it very clear who was responsible for what he described as "the nightly call to The Des Moines Register" (for which I also wrote) saying, 'Hold Page 1 for a negative story on Grinnell College.' " When I got his marked text for a reunion year later, I discovered the line was scripted. If you can cover a small city on a 5-speed, a 1,300-student campus is a breeze!

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AP wins IBC Innovation Award for underwater live video transmission



AP accepts the IBC Innovation Award for Content Distribution at the IBC Conference in Amsterdam, Sept. 15, 2019. From left: IBC Innovation Awards judge Heather McLean and AP representatives Stephen Barker, Peter Watson and David Hoad. (Photo courtesy IBC)

The Associated Press has won the IBC Innovation Award for Content Distribution for its groundbreaking transmission of broadcast-quality live video from the depths of the Indian Ocean.

The award was announced September 15 at the IBC Innovation Awards ceremony in Amsterdam.

Cutting edge optical technology allowed AP to send live footage of a deep sea scientific mission through the waves without cables to hundreds of broadcasters and digital publishers across the globe.

The technology was engineered by subsea communications specialist Sonardyne, with satellite transport from Inmarsat.

"Winning the IBC Content Distribution Award is a great honor," said AP Senior Vice President and Chief Technology Officer Gianluca D'Aniello. "The award recognizes that the transmission of over 70 hours of live video from the depths of the Indian Ocean was a major milestone for the video industry and a stunning technical achievement -- truly a first."

Read more [here](#).

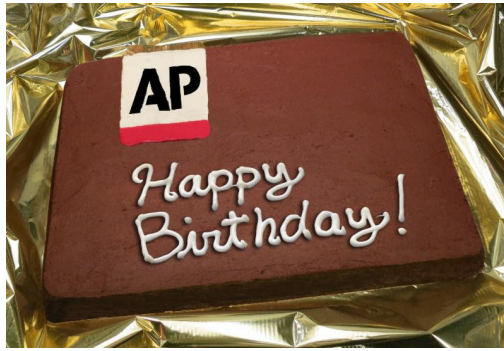
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Connecting sky shot - Ocean City



Ed Tobias ([Email](#)) - It looks like Fall isn't far away along the dunes in Ocean City, Maryland.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Julie Inskeep - jinskeep@jg.net

Terry Petty - tcraigpetty@outlook.com

Teresa Walker - tessandruss@bellsouth.net

On Saturday to...

Karol Stonger - karol.stonger@gmail.com

On Sunday to...

Michelle Williams - mwilliams@ap.org

Welcome to Connecting



Andrew Meldrum - ameldrum@ap.org

Stories of interest

Elimination of copy editors has been disastrous for newspapers (Toronto Star)

By Rosie DiManno

Legacy media. Pretty term. Stately, like. With gravitas.

Or a polite way of saying "old."

Can't for the life of me track down who coined it, although the earliest reference that comes up in a data search is 1998.

I'd like to think some copy editor out there - when copy editors still roamed the Earth and were a crucial part of newsrooms - invented the neologism. Because they were good at that: finding the precise words to convey an idea and in as few words as possible, to fit a headline.

When newspapers first grasped that the internet, wedded to technology, would usher in a mass communications revolution, even long before everybody had a smartphone to hand, the response was sluggish. They did, in time, find religion, worshipping at the altar of digital journalism as the dead tree version got skinnier and frailer, largely because advertisers fled to the far cheaper option of online access to customers.

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

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Press freedom advocates troubled by suit against Iowa paper

By **RYAN J. FOLEY**

DAVENPORT, Iowa (AP) - The former administrator for Iowa's third-largest city is suing the area's biggest newspaper, claiming that its coverage was unfair and cost him his job, in a case that has alarmed advocates for press freedom.

Former Davenport city administrator Craig Malin's lawsuit against the Quad-City Times is set to go to trial on Monday. He argues that the paper published false news and opinion pieces about his official actions, which forced him out after 14 years with the city.

The trial will not be a traditional libel case because a judge has ruled that Malin, as a public official, did not meet the high bar for proving the newspaper had defamed him. Instead, the case will be about whether the paper improperly interfered with Malin's employment contract, a claim that has a different standard of proof and is usually used in business disputes.

The newspaper's reporting on Davenport's handling of financial negotiations in 2015 for a new casino prompted the mayor to call for the termination of Malin, who left days later after negotiating a severance agreement. The newspaper has defended its coverage as accurate watchdog journalism and opinion protected by the First Amendment.

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

The Final Word

Things I'll miss about the AP...



EDITOR'S NOTE: Our colleague Jesse Holland ends a 25-year AP career today and in October will become a Distinguished Visiting Scholar In Residence at the John W. Kluge Center at The Library of Congress. He offers these thoughts from his AP career:

Jesse Holland (Email) - Things I'll miss:

- the people. AP reporters are the best folk: smart; funny; dedicated; honorable; interested in everything; great wordsmiths; usually down for a party or happy hour; willing to pick up the phone even if they're already at home, on vacation, or anywhere; willing to argue over a misplaced comma (or the Oxford comma) because they're passionate about their craft and willing to help people inside and outside the office just because it's needed and somebody's gotta do it.

- hearing Seth Borenstein berate some poor junior PR person for calling him when he's on deadline. I occasionally felt sorry for them, because they had to be new. Everyone who knows anything about Seth knows you don't call, you email.

- fearless talk, jokes, commentary from reporters to break the office tension. We deal with some awful stuff, and sometimes a bad joke or pun is better than months of therapy.

- Election Night. The food, the camaraderie, the training, and the idea that we're performing a national service, even though no one out there knows we're doing it. I've been counting votes and helping call elections at the AP since the mid 90s in South Carolina, New York and nationally from D.C. Did you know this? From the Chicago Sun Times: "There is no official government tabulation of statewide election results - until weeks later. The election night returns you've long seen reported in Illinois for state and national races don't come from the State Board of Elections, but instead from the Associated Press."

- getting new and exciting books to preview. I have more than two dozen books going home with me, and even more than that to be donated to libraries. I wish I had been able to write about them all or frankly read them all, but knowing the level of discourse on race relations, politics and history out there makes me feel better about this country.

- having smart people willing to explain complicated things to me. There are so many experts out there who have taken the time to explain their area to expertise to me in a way that I can then explain it to other people. And one of the things I made sure to do is to expand my list of experts to include more women and more minorities outside of the few white male experts that the media seems to talk to over and over.

- There's probably tons more that I'm not thinking of right now, but yes, I'll miss all of this. Now, onward ...

Today in History - September 20, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Sept. 20, the 263rd day of 2019. There are 102 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 20, 2001, during an address to a joint session of Congress, President George W. Bush announced a new Cabinet-level office to fortify homeland security and named Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge its director.

On this date:

In 1519, Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan and his crew set out from Spain on five ships to find a western passage to the Spice Islands. (Magellan was killed enroute, but one of his ships eventually circled the world.)

In 1873, panic swept the floor of the New York Stock Exchange in the wake of railroad bond defaults and bank failures.

In 1881, Chester A. Arthur was sworn in as the 21st president of the United States, succeeding the assassinated James A. Garfield.

In 1958, Martin Luther King Jr. was seriously wounded during a book signing at a New York City department store when he was stabbed in the chest by Izola Curry. (Curry was later found mentally incompetent; she died at a Queens, New York, nursing home in 2015 at age 98.)

In 1962, James Meredith, a black student, was blocked from enrolling at the University of Mississippi by Democratic Gov. Ross R. Barnett. (Meredith was later admitted.)

In 1963, President Kennedy proposed a joint U-S-Soviet expedition to the moon.

In 1976, Playboy magazine released an interview in which Democratic presidential nominee Jimmy Carter admitted he'd "looked on a lot of women with lust."

In 1984, a suicide car bomber attacked the U.S. Embassy annex in north Beirut, killing at least 14 people, including two Americans and 12 Lebanese. The family sitcoms "The Cosby Show" and "Who's the Boss?" premiered on NBC and ABC, respectively.

In 1995, in a move that stunned Wall Street, AT&T Corporation announced it was splitting into three companies.

In 1999, Lawrence Russell Brewer became the second white supremacist to be convicted in the dragging death of James Byrd Jr. in Jasper, Texas. (Brewer was executed on September 21, 2011.) Raisa Gorbachev, wife of the last Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev (mih-kah-EEL' gohr-bah-CHAHV'), died at a German hospital after a battle with leukemia; she was 67.

In 2004, CBS News apologized for a "mistake in judgment" in its story questioning President George W. Bush's National Guard service, saying it could not vouch for the authenticity of documents featured in the report.

In 2017, Hurricane Maria, the strongest hurricane to hit Puerto Rico in more than 80 years, struck the island, wiping out as much as 75 percent of the power distribution lines and causing an island-wide blackout. Rescuers worked furiously at a collapsed school in Mexico City where a girl was believed trapped under debris in the aftermath of a deadly earthquake; it was later determined that no children were still trapped in the debris.

Ten years ago: Blanketing most of the Sunday TV news shows, President Barack Obama said requiring people to get health insurance, and fining them if they didn't, would not amount to a backhanded tax increase. At the Emmy Awards, best drama and comedy series trophies went to repeat winners "Mad Men" and "30 Rock." The first game at the Cowboys Stadium set an NFL regular-season attendance record with a crowd of 105,121, and most of them went home disappointed after the New York Giants won, 33-31.

Five years ago: Turkish authorities reported freeing 49 hostages held by the militant Islamic State group without firing a shot, paying a ransom or offering a quid pro quo. Emmy-winning actress and singer Polly Bergen, 84, died in Southbury, Connecticut.

One year ago: A woman working a temporary job at a drugstore warehouse in Maryland opened fire on colleagues, killing three before taking her own life. A wave of buying sent U.S. stocks solidly higher, driving the Dow Jones Industrial Average above the all-time high it closed at in January. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (shin-zoh AH'-bay) was re-elected as head of his ruling Liberal Democratic party in a landslide.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Sophia Loren is 85. Rock musician Chuck Panozzo is 71. Actor Tony Denison is 70. Hockey Hall of Famer Guy LaFleur is 68. Actress Debbi Morgan is 68. Jazz musician Peter White is 65. Actress Betsy Brantley is 64. Actor

Gary Cole is 63. TV news correspondent Deborah Roberts is 59. Country-rock musician Joseph Shreve (Flynnville Train) is 58. Rock musician Randy Bradbury (Pennywise) is 55. Actress Kristen Johnston is 52. Rock singers Gunnar and Matthew Nelson are 52. Rock musician Ben Shepherd is 51. Actress Erika Okuma is 47. Actress-model Moon Bloodgood is 44. Actor Jon Bernthal is 43. Singer The Dream is 42. Actor Charlie Weber is 41. Rock musician Rick Woolstenhulme (WOOL'-sten-hyoolm) (Lifehouse) is 40. Rapper Yung Joc is 39. Actress Crystle Stewart is 38. Actor Aldis Hodge is 33. Rock drummer Jack Lawless is 32. Actor Malachi (MAL'-ah-ky) Kirby is 30.

Thought for Today: "A faith is a necessity to a man. Woe to him who believes in nothing." - Victor Hugo, French author (1802-1885).

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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