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# Connecting - October 11, 2019

1 message

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# Connecting

October 11, 2019

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Colleagues,

We lead today's Connecting with a compelling story from the San Diego Union-Tribune on fixers, a term for the men and women who help visiting photojournalists and reporters to navigate the complexities of their country.

Many of you have served in international assignments. How about sharing your story of working with a fixer?

First responses in for what you need to do to really be educated. As noted in Thursday's edition, basketball coach Al McGuire's suggestions: spend six months as a bartender and six months as a cabdriver.

Here's to a great weekend that will find me and a dozen high school friends in Iowa City for our 20th annual Iowa game. Go Hawkeyes!

Paul

## Want to interview cartel hit men or human smugglers? These men and women can make it happen



**Tijuana "fixer" Margarito Martinez, a photographer himself helps visiting photojournalists and reporters to navigate the complexities of Tijuana. He was photographed in Tijuana on Thursday, October 3, 019.(John Gibbins/The San Diego Union-Tribune)**

**By GUSTAVO SOLIS**

## San Diego Union-Tribune

TIJUANA - Margarito Martinez spent 10 nights sleeping inside his white minivan parked outside a Tijuana makeshift shelter last year when a caravan of Central American migrants reached the U.S.-Mexico border.

Inside the shelter, thousands of men, women and children were crammed into a park. When the winter rains came many slept on mud and disease spread throughout the shelter.

Martinez was working. He'd been hired by French journalists to be their eyes and ears in Tijuana.

"I had to be aware of everything that was going on in the shelter," he said, "If anything big happened, I'd call the journalists and they'd come right away."

Martinez, who works as a freelance news photographer for multiple publications in Tijuana, wasn't the only local reporter hired by foreign journalists who descended upon Tijuana when the migrant caravan arrived.

Whenever the foreign press drops in to cover a big international story - be it a natural disaster in Southeast Asia, a civil war in Africa, or a humanitarian crisis on the U.S.-Mexico border - they rely on local guides to show them around town, arrange interviews, scout locations, serve as translators, and sometimes even negotiate interview terms with local cartel bosses.

These local guides are referred to as "fixers." Whenever the BBC, CNN, New York Times, or pretty much any big news organization comes to Tijuana, they call local fixers.

Read more [here](#).

## What do you need to do to be really educated?

**George Hanna (Email)** - Life experience that helps one "really be educated"?  
There is no life experience...not a single one...none...as educational as three

months in boot camp at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot at Parris Island, SC.

Yes, sir.

-0-

**Jim Reindl (Email)** - My "real" education came from my time at Great Lakes Steel working as a laborer in the electric furnaces, a place best described as hell's disco -- incredibly loud, hot and dirty. I'd worked there between my senior year of high school and my first year of college but after my first year at school I decided to take a break and see what would come next. A return to the mill was the answer.

I took that summer off and went back to the mill when everyone else was going back to school. My friend joined me, but he got placed in a production job that paid incentives for his work, though his legs bare the permanent scars of numerous steel spark burns. In one of life's ironies, my uncle was controller for the company based in Pittsburgh but I ended up on one of the lowest rungs of the labor ladder. Good for an education, I have to say.

So, what did I learn?

I learned that in the 1970s much of American steel seemed to be made by people who were drunk a lot. I surmised this from my drives into the concrete parking lot that always sounded like I was on a gravel road. When I'd exit the car, I'd see it was a sea of broken liquor and beer bottles.

I learned that the work I was doing was mind numbing and reminded me of Sisyphus. We'd start pushing our brooms at one end of the floor, sweeping away the steel dust, soot, lime and assorted other pollutants, only to finish and see the start had been covered again. There was a certain dangerous fun in dodging the roaring forklifts and overhead cranes carrying tons of scrap steel to feed the furnaces.

I learned that though modern steel making had advanced, the basic process was the same since Han dynasty Chinese made it in the third century. I think, though, it was louder in my time. A heat of steel in an electric furnace takes about 3-4 hours and consists of shooting thousands of volts of electricity through giant pencil lead-like carbon filaments into scrap steel, which produces deafening explosions for two hours, followed by the sort of mournful (but loud) droning I imagine Stephen King would create for any story he wrote about steel mills. Great Lakes had two furnaces but I always marveled that nearby McClouth Steel had nine. I could picture a bunch of retirees from that place talking with sign language.

There were lots of other lessons, such as lime burns when it snows on you from the filthy lunchroom ceiling and making bombs is fun if a bit insane (we applied what I called plastic warheads to long cardboard tubes and inserted a blasting cap. These were used to blow the tap holes on the furnaces.)

Mostly, I learned I needed to go back to school. That lesson was drilled home one day when I met a new member of our crew and we got to talking. He was elated that he'd joined the mill and proudly proclaimed that this was the first day of his "30 and out." I know what happened to me but I've always wondered if he made it.

## **This carrier delivered a newspaper with a story that hit home**



**Kathy Curran (Email)** - Tim Curran was a paper carrier in 1954 when The Wisconsin State Journal he was delivering one morning carried a very personal story for him. Tucked six inches beneath the front-page headline announcing "Draft to Be Slashed in Half, Wilson says" was an article titled "Mauston Fire Hits Elevator, Curran Brothers Warehouse Burns."

Tim's father, Frank, owned the Curran Brothers Coal and Grain warehouse in Mauston, Wisconsin. The original Curran Brothers were Tim's grandfather and great uncle. When the second of those brothers died, Frank quit law school and returned home to work with his own brother Pete, and they became the second set of Curran Brothers to run the business. Eventually Pete went on to another job in a different city, so Frank became the sole owner.

One evening just before Christmas in 1954, the family received a phone call reporting a huge fire at the warehouse. Tim and his parents rushed down to the site and watched with horror as the three-story grain elevator and all of its contents were destroyed.

Tim was 13 years old and what he has always recalled about that great fire, in addition to seeing his family's story being dropped at each doorstep that morning, was a serious discussion with his father afterwards. His dad was considering whether or not he would rebuild and it was dependent upon whether Tim, his only child, would ever be interested in taking over the business. At age 13, Tim decided he would not. Frank sold the business and went on to another career.

The stories in the papers he was delivering is what held Tim's interest. And he went on to a career in journalism that included nearly 40 years with The Associated Press in Milwaukee, Columbus, Cleveland and Kansas City.

## Connecting mailbox

### *Memories of Al McGuire - a 'cracked sidewalk guy'*

**Hal Bock** ([Email](#)) - Your Al McGuire quote in Thursday's edition brought back a flood of memories. He was a dream interview, loaded with one liners and philosophy. He was a New York guy and although he left the city to coach at Marquette, the city was never far from his heart

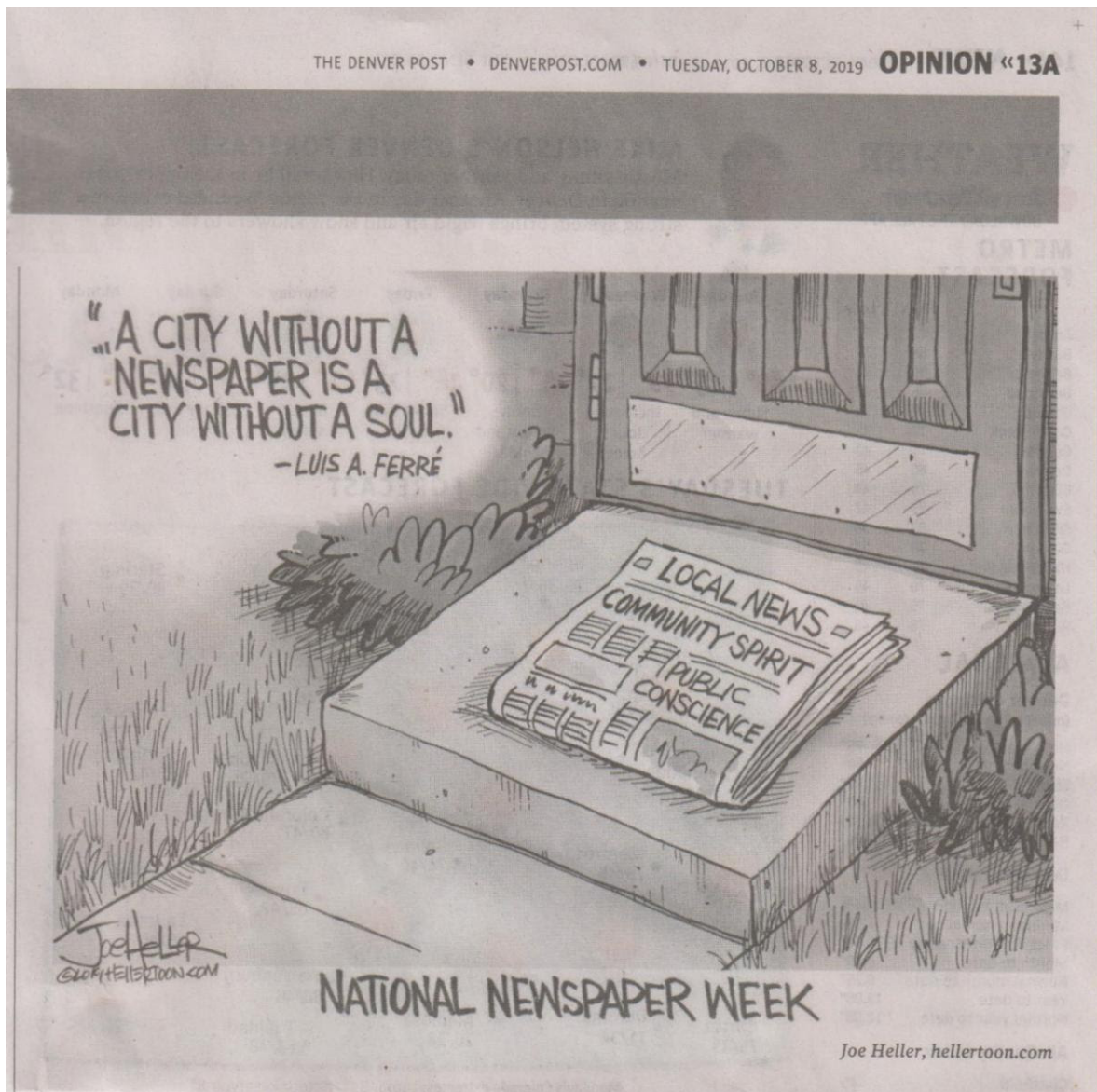
One time, we talked for about an hour at the New York Athletic Club. He confided in me that he turned down a job coaching the New York Knicks. He told Sonny Werblin, who made the offer, "I don't like the traffic." Werblin did not take that answer very easily and offered McGuire a Manhattan apartment and a place on Fire Island. McGuire's response was final. "I don't like the traffic," he said.

He also told me he had a hard and fast rule for recruiting. He would not recruit a player who had grass in front of his house. "I'm a cracked sidewalk guy," he said.

At the end of the interview he asked if I would be covering the Final Four. I told him I was and he said "Good, bring your credit card." I did and it was well worth it.

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## ***National Newspaper Week (October 6-12)***



Shared by Paul Albright.

***The lasting value of newspapers*** (Columbia Tribune)



**By Kathy Kiely**

*Kathy Kiely is the Lee Hills Chair in Free Press Studies at the University of Missouri School of Journalism.*

Once upon a time, having a job at a newspaper meant working in one of the most imposing buildings in town, inhaling the acrid aroma of fresh ink and the dusty breath of cheap newsprint and feeling mini-earthquakes under our feet every time the presses started to roll. For those of us old enough to remember those days, National Newspaper Week 2019 could be one big, fat elegiac nostalgia trip.

Today, many newspapers are ditching the imposing buildings for low-rent storefronts and have outsourced the printing. Those could be the newspapers that are left. My hometown had three daily newspapers when I was a kid. Now it's down to one that shows up in print just three days a week. Youngstown, Ohio just became the first major American city without any newspaper at all. As University of North Carolina professor Penny Abernathy has documented in her groundbreaking research on the news desertification of America, upwards of 1,300 communities that had newspapers of their own in 2004 now have none.

But if we ink-stained wretches fall prey to the temptation to spend National Newspaper Week crying in our beers, we'd be wasting an opportunity.

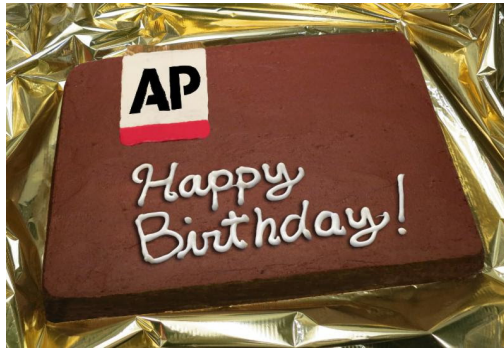
Real newshounds don't wallow in the cozy memories of a sepia-stained past. We are about the now and the next. Our job has always been to help our communities recognize today's challenges of today and turn them into tomorrow's promise.

Yes, it's awkward that of today's biggest challenges involves us -the newshounds. We've always been better at telling your story than telling our own. Yet this is your story too: The future of democracy is inextricably bound up with the future of a free press.

So here, dear readers, are some facts you need to know:

Read more [here](#).

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

*On Saturday to...*

Craig Whitney - [crwhitney65@gmail.com](mailto:crwhitney65@gmail.com)

*On Sunday to...*

Sonya Zalubowski - [szalubowski@gmail.com](mailto:szalubowski@gmail.com)

## Story of interest

***Iowa newspaper that exposed police officer's relationship with teenager raises money after beating libel lawsuit*** (Des Moines Register)



**Douglas Burns (Photo: Special to the Register)**

## By Gage Miskimen

A small Iowa newspaper that exposed a police officer's sexual relationships with a teenage girl is raising money after successfully fighting a libel lawsuit filed by the police officer.

Douglas Burns, vice president of the Carroll Times Herald, said the western Iowa newspaper's investigation and resulting lawsuit cost it thousands of dollars in expenses and lost revenue.

He launched a GoFundMe page that has raised more than \$45,000 in less than 24 hours.

"It's very heartening," Burns told the Register on Thursday. "Our industry can sometimes feel like we're under siege, but in this case, it's been heartening to see people - and not just from Iowa - come forward and want accountability journalism."

Read more [here](#).

# The Final Word



Shared by Bruce Lowitt.

## Today in History - October 11, 2019



## By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Oct. 11, the 284th day of 2019. There are 81 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 11, 1986, President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev opened two days of talks concerning arms control and human rights in Reykjavik, Iceland.

### On this date:

In 1809, just over three years after the famous Lewis and Clark expedition ended, Meriwether Lewis was found dead in a Tennessee inn, an apparent suicide; he was 35.

In 1906, the San Francisco Board of Education ordered the city's Asian students segregated in a purely "Oriental" school. (The order was later rescinded at the behest of President Theodore Roosevelt, who promised to curb future Japanese immigration to the United States.)

In 1910, Theodore Roosevelt became the first former U.S. president to fly in an airplane during a visit to St. Louis.

In 1958, the lunar probe Pioneer 1 was launched; it failed to go as far out as planned, fell back to Earth, and burned up in the atmosphere.

In 1968, Apollo 7, the first manned Apollo mission, was launched with astronauts Wally Schirra (shih-RAH'), Donn Fulton Eisele and R. Walter Cunningham aboard. The government of Panama was overthrown in a military coup.

In 1975, Bill Clinton and Hillary Diane Rodham were married in Fayetteville, Arkansas. "NBC Saturday Night" (later "Saturday Night Live") made its debut with guest host George Carlin.

In 1983, the last full-fledged hand-cranked telephone system in the United States went out of service as 440 telephone customers in Bryant Pond, Maine, were switched over to direct-dial service.

In 1991, testifying before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Anita Hill accused Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas of sexually harassing her; Thomas re-appeared before the panel to denounce the proceedings as a "high-tech lynching."

In 1992, in the first of three presidential debates, three candidates faced off against each other in St. Louis: President George H.W. Bush, Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton and businessman Ross Perot.

In 2001, in his first prime-time news conference since taking office, President George W. Bush said "it may take a year or two" to track down Osama bin Laden and his terrorist network in Afghanistan, but he asserted that after a five-day aerial bombardment, "we've got them on the run."

In 2002, former President Jimmy Carter was named the recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.

In 2006, a single-engine plane carrying New York Yankees pitcher Cory Lidle (LY'-dul) and flight instructor Tyler Stanger crashed into a high-rise apartment building in New York City, killing both men.

Ten years ago: Thousands of gay rights supporters marched from the White House to the U.S. Capitol. A 22-hour attack on Pakistan's army headquarters in Rawalpindi ended with nine militants and 14 others dead. A Russian Soyuz capsule carrying Cirque du Soleil founder Guy Laliberte (gee lah-lee-behr-TAY') and two other space travelers landed safely in Kazakhstan.

Five years ago: The International Monetary Fund's policy-setting committee promised "bold and ambitious" action to boost a global recovery that was showing signs of weakness. Customs and health officials began taking the temperatures of passengers arriving at New York's Kennedy International Airport from three West African countries in a stepped-up screening effort meant to prevent the spread of the Ebola virus.

One year ago: As residents in the Florida Panhandle emerged from shelters and hotels to find homes and businesses torn to pieces by Hurricane Michael, the remnants of the hurricane brought flash flooding to North Carolina and Virginia. A rocket carrying an American and a Russian to the International Space Station failed two minutes into the flight, sending the capsule into a steep, harrowing fall back to Earth; the crew landed safely in Kazakhstan. Rapper Kanye West, seated across from President Donald Trump in the Oval Office, delivered a rambling and sometimes profane monologue that touched on social issues, hydrogen planes and mental health. The Supreme Court in Washington state unanimously struck down the state's death penalty as arbitrary and racially-biased, making Washington the 20th state to do away with capital punishment.

Today's Birthdays: Former U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry is 92. Actor Ron Leibman is 82. Actor Amitabh Bachchan is 77. Country singer Gene Watson is 76. Singer Daryl Hall (Hall and Oates) is 73. Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., is 69. Rhythm-and-blues musician Andrew Woolfolk is 69. Actress-director Catlin Adams is 69. Country singer Paulette Carlson is 68. Original MTV VJ Mark Goodman is 67. Actor David Morse is 66. Actor Stephen Spinella is 63. Actress-writer-comedian Dawn French is 62. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Steve Young is 58. Actress Joan Cusack is 57. Rock musician Scott Johnson (Gin Blossoms) is 57. Comedy writer and TV host Michael J. Nelson is 55. Actor Sean Patrick Flanery is 54. Actor Lennie James is 54. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL player Chris Spielman is 54. Country singer-songwriter Todd Snider is 53. Actor-comedian Artie Lange is 52. Actress Jane Krakowski is 51. Actress Andrea Navedo is 50. Actress Constance Zimmer is 49. Bluegrass musician Leigh Gibson (The Gibson Brothers) is 48. Rapper MC Lyte is 48. Figure skater Kyoko Ina is 47. Actor Darien Sills-Evans is 45. Actor/writer Nat Faxon is 44. Singer NeeNa Lee is 44. Actress Emily Deschanel is 43. Actor Matt Bomer is 42. Actor Trevor Donovan is 41. Actor Robert Christopher Riley is 39. Actress Michelle Trachtenberg is 34. Actress Lucy Griffiths is 33. Golfer Michelle Wie is 30. Rapper Cardi B is 27.

**Thought for Today: "Modesty is the highest form of arrogance." - German saying.**

## 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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