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Connecting - October 15, 2019

1 message

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this the 15th day of October 2019,

The issue of sharing information in a story with a source before publication has been in the news recently when former AP journalist **John Solomon** tweeted that ""I have done this at every job I have held, with the knowledge of my bosses, starting when I was a young reporter at AP and continuing today at The Hill. Sometimes people

have time for me to go over it on the phone, other times I fax, email or text a summary."

Our colleague **Kevin Walsh** suggested that Connecting reach out to you to hear your own thoughts and experiences. Walsh said, "My personal experience at AP over a more than 30-year career is that we never shared stories or excerpts of stories with sources or subjects of stories in advance of publication. Fact-checking and reaction comments from sources were always given in response to specific, very limited portions of a story - for example, a single quote or sentence. Not paragraphs or a draft of a story. That's the AP I remember."

AP's policy is clear, said **Lauren Easton**, Global Director of Media Relations and Corporate Communications: "AP standards prohibit any behavior or activity that creates a conflict of interest, including sharing unpublished drafts of stories with sources."

Craig Klugman, retired as longtime editor of the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette, believes "AP has the right policy. But as with almost everything in our business, there can be exceptions. For example, a complicated science or financial story might benefit from having the source read parts of the story. It should go without saying that showing a story to give someone a heads-up for, say, political reasons is repugnant ."

At the University of Missouri School of Journalism, one of the oldest journalism schools in the world and alma mater to many AP journalists past and present, operates the Columbia Missourian, where executive editor **Ruby L. Bailey** shares:

"We do require accuracy checks. The reporter checks the accuracy of the facts provided by the source, and, if necessary, adds context or makes corrections. The source is not able to change a quote or a fact during this process. The reporter does not share the entire story and often completes the AC by phone."

Elizabeth Conner Stephens, director of community outreach for the Missourian, said, "The standard procedure is for the reporter to call sources after the story is written and edited but not yet published to read back quotes and confirm facts that are attributed to the source. While there are always exceptions, our standard rule is to not show the whole story to a source. We ask specifically about the parts they contributed to. We check for factual errors or confusion and discourage rewriting by the source."

Look forward to hearing from you.

Paul

Written a book in the past year? Share news of it with your Connecting colleagues

AUTHORS, AUTHORS!!! This is Connecting's annual call to the authors among us. If you have written a book **in the past year**, I invite you to share the following information on it with your colleagues who may soon be in the shopping mode for the upcoming holidays:

Name of book and a synopsis of no more than 300 words.

A jpg image of the book cover and a jpg headshot of you.

Where your book can be purchased, including a link.

Ye Olde Connecting Editor will collect what you submit and publish information on your books in early November. Let me know if you have any questions. Please deliver the information to me by the end of this month.

I'll never forget those educators in the ice plant

Norm Abelson ([Email](#)) - As I learned on Connecting, the late Marquette basketball coach Al McGuire said wisely that for people to be truly educated, they should spend six months as a bartender and six months as a cabbie. That rang a bell with me.

My education came early in my life in the frigid chambers of an artificial ice-making plant.

Though it may be difficult to grasp in these techno-times, in those long-ago days ice was the principle refrigerant in the nation. Plants across the country manufactured and spewed out hundreds of thousands of 300-pound cakes to be cut into small chunks and delivered by local ice men for, among other things, home ice chests, bars, hospitals, park drinking-water fountains and "air-cooled" movie theaters.

It was the 1940s, and from the ages of about 14 to 19 I labored, mostly summers, for the Boston Ice Company, a division of the huge American Ice Company. And labored is the right word; the work was labor-intensive, repetitive and called for a combination of strength and adeptness. My initial poor performance held me up to much scorn.



My feelings during my first days were along these lines: Here's a place to make good money, and then move on. After all, I'm sort of an outsider, headed for college. Don't have much in common with my fellow workers. But as time went on, my young, arrogant self had a hell of a lot to learn.

The first was that while these folks would mercilessly poke fun at my failures, they also had my back, helping me along until I finally could hack it. And later, as they allowed me to share lunchtime with them, I listened to their stories, learning what good family men and solid citizens they were, what great guys they were to hang out with.

Then there was the time my assumptions about their levels of intelligence were knocked into a cocked hat. I was assigned to work on filling bags of ice-cubes destined for hotels and barrooms. I would have to stand for eight hours in front of a huge machine cutting the cubes and dropping them into the bags. Worst of all, I would be working next to that weird guy who always seemed to be muttering strange things to himself. Know what he was muttering? Huge chunks of Shakespeare plays he had memorized!

Two occurrences filled me with pride. After a few years at the job, I was invited to join the Teamsters Union, which represented the ice workers. This stamped me as one of them. The second was just before leaving the plant for the last time, my fellow workers invited me to join them after work to share "a few shooters" at the local bar. They were telling me I was an equal. That still ranks as one of the finest invitations I've ever received.

So how was I educated?

Lesson one: Don't assume, don't presume.

Lesson two: Sharing the solid and honorable lives of America's working class.

Lesson three: School is for learning stuff; life experience is for getting educated.

I'll never forget those educators in the ice plant.

So that's why Marquette lost in the NCAAs

Dan Day ([Email](#)) - This is not exactly an AP tidbit, but it's in the family, so to speak.

I loved Bob O'Meara's and Kathy Curran's stories about Al McGuire, whom I never had a chance to meet.

But my wife did. When I was posted in Omaha in the mid-80s, Becky was visiting a friend whose husband owned the Chevrolet dealership in town. The friend mentioned to Becky that her husband was elsewhere in the house, showing off his collection of tin soldiers - to Al McGuire.

Becky, who played flute in the Marquette band during a few of the team's glory years, was thrilled to meet him.

I should note that the week I was accepted into Marquette's graduate school in journalism, the Warriors - one year after Maguire led them to the national championship - lost in the first round of the NCAA tournament to Miami of Ohio. It was a huge upset. Somehow I still feel responsible for the loss.

New-member profile: Owen Ullmann

Owen Ullmann ([Email](#)), an AP reporter from 1973-83, retired in February after a 50-year career in journalism, the last 20 at USA TODAY. The New Jersey native, who began his career in 1969 at the Daily Journal in Elizabeth, N.J., joined the AP Detroit Bureau in 1973. Before being transferred to the Washington Bureau in 1977, he covered the collapse of the U.S. auto industry in the wake of the Arab oil embargo, the initial surge of auto imports into the U.S., national strikes by the United Auto Workers and Teamsters, and the still unsolved case of the disappearance of former Teamsters President Jimmy Hoffa.

In Washington, Owen covered labor and economic issues until 1983, when he joined Knight-Ridder's Washington Bureau. During a 10-year stint at the newspaper chain,

he covered economics, the White House and the State Department.

He worked at Business Week from 1993 to 1999 as senior Washington editor. At USA TODAY, he held several senior editing positions that included managing editor for Page One, World News and Special Projects.

Owen currently serves as executive editor and Washington columnist at The International Economy magazine. He also teaches an advanced journalism class at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and lectures on journalism, economics and politics at a variety of venues. He lives in Bethesda, Md., with his wife of 42 years, Lois Kietur. They have two children, Cara and Daniel, and a terrier, Teddy.



Circulation drop explained: 2019 - 1919.



Shared by George Arfield.

Stories of interest

How The Times Covers the United States Ahead of a Pivotal Election (New York Times)

With one of the largest teams of national correspondents in the business, we help the country to understand itself. Watch with us on Tuesday as we co-sponsor the Democratic debate.

By Marc Lacey and Jia Lynn Yang

Times Insider explains who we are and what we do, and delivers behind-the-scenes insights into how our journalism comes together.

The New York Times, which co-sponsors Tuesday's Democratic presidential debate with CNN, has one of the largest teams of national correspondents in the business. They work out of office towers in big cities such as Los Angeles and Chicago, and out of home offices in neighborhoods around Albuquerque, Boston and Miami.

But more often than not, their offices are their cars - company-issued Chevrolet Malibus generally - which collectively rack up hundreds of thousands of miles a year.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Hank Ackerman, who noted, "Of course, all of AP's reporters are 'national' correspondents!"

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This trail-blazing suburb has tried for 60 years to tackle race. What if trying isn't enough?

(Washington Post)



Olivia McDowell at Shaker Heights High School in May. (Maddie McGarvey for The Washington Post)

By Laura Meckler

SHAKER HEIGHTS, Ohio - It's an article of faith in this Cleveland suburb: If any place can navigate the complex issues of race in America, it's Shaker Heights. Sixty years ago, black and white families came together to create and maintain integrated neighborhoods. The school district began voluntary busing in 1970, and boundary lines were drawn to make schools more integrated. Student groups dedicated themselves to black achievement, race relations and cross-racial friendship.

So why, last November, was 16-year-old Olivia McDowell on the stage of Shaker Heights High School, begging the packed auditorium to understand how hard it is to be one of the few black kids in Advanced Placement English?

"I need answers," Olivia said after escaping her seat, jumping onstage and taking the microphone out of the principal's hand. She had ignored her mom's admonition to keep quiet and, unable to suppress her rising anger, outed herself as the student at the center of a swirling controversy.

"It's my education," she said. "My education."

Read more here. Shared by Chris Connell, who said, "You might like to link to this unusually personal and thought-provoking story by Laura Meckler about turmoil in wealthy Shaker Heights, Ohio, over the large achievement gap between white and black students in its high school, her alma matter, one of the country's best known public schools. Laura got her start in the AP Cleveland and Washington bureaus before going on to continued success with the Wall Street Journal and now The Washington Post, where she covers education."

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word



Shared by Adolphe Bernotas

Today in History - October 15, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Oct. 15, the 288th day of 2019. There are 77 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 15, 1991, despite sexual harassment allegations by Anita Hill, the Senate narrowly confirmed the nomination of Clarence Thomas to the U.S. Supreme Court, 52-48.

On this date:

In 1783, the first manned balloon flight took place in Paris as Jean-Francois Pilatre de Rozier ascended in a basket attached to a tethered Montgolfier hot-air balloon, rising to about 75 feet.

In 1917, Dutch exotic dancer Mata Hari (Margaretha ZelleGeertruida MacLeod), 41, convicted by a French military court of spying for the Germans, was executed by a firing squad outside Paris. (Maintaining her innocence to the end, Mata Hari refused a blindfold and blew a kiss to her executioners.)

In 1940, Charles Chaplin's first all-talking comedy, "The Great Dictator," a lampoon of Adolf Hitler, opened in New York.

In 1945, the former premier of Vichy France, Pierre Laval, was executed for treason.

In 1946, Nazi war criminal Hermann Goering (GEH'-reeng) fatally poisoned himself hours before he was to have been executed.

In 1954, Hurricane Hazel made landfall on the Carolina coast as a Category 4 storm; Hazel was blamed for some 1,000 deaths in the Caribbean, 95 in the U.S. and 81 in Canada.

In 1976, in the first debate of its kind between vice-presidential nominees, Democrat Walter F. Mondale and Republican Bob Dole faced off in Houston.

In 1989, South African officials released eight prominent political prisoners, including Walter Sisulu (sih-SOO'-loo).

In 2001, Bethlehem Steel Corp. filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

In 2003, eleven people were killed when a Staten Island ferry slammed into a maintenance pier. (The ferry's pilot, who'd blacked out at the controls, later pleaded guilty to eleven counts of manslaughter.)

In 2006, three members of Duke University's lacrosse team appeared on CBS' "60 Minutes" to deny raping a woman who'd been hired to perform as a stripper (Collin Finnerty, Reade Seligmann and David Evans were later exonerated).

In 2017, actress and activist Alyssa Milano tweeted that women who had been sexually harassed or assaulted should write "Me too" as a status; within hours, tens of thousands had taken up the #MeToo hashtag (using a phrase that had been introduced 10 years earlier by social activist Tarana Burke.)

Ten years ago: A report of a 6-year-old Colorado boy trapped inside a runaway helium balloon engrossed the nation before the boy, Falcon Heene (HEE'-nee), was found safe at home in what turned out to be a hoax. (Falcon's parents served up to a month in jail.)

Five years ago: Fresh signs of slow global economic growth and the Ebola crisis sent stocks on Wall Street tumbling as much as 460 points in the most turbulent day since 2011 before partially recovering; European shares slid as well. The Kansas City Royals advanced to their first World Series since 1985 after finishing a four-game sweep in the AL Championship Series with a 2-1 victory over the Baltimore

Orioles. The San Francisco Giants came within one game of winning the NL Championship Series with a 6-4 win over the St. Louis Cardinals.

One year ago: Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen died in Seattle at the age of 65 from complications of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma; he had used the billions from the company he founded with childhood friend Bill Gates to invest in conservation, space travel, arts and culture and professional sports. Massachusetts Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren released a DNA analysis that she said indicated that she has some Native American heritage; the move was intended as a rebuttal to President Donald Trump, who had mocked those claims. (A Stanford University expert concluded that Warren had a Native American ancestor who probably lived six to 10 generations ago.) Sears filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, with plans to shutter 142 unprofitable stores. Kensington Palace announced that Britain's Prince Harry and his wife, the former Meghan Markle, were expecting their first child in the spring. (The baby boy, born May 6, was named Archie.)

Today's Birthdays: Jazz musician Freddy Cole is 88. Singer Barry McGuire is 84. Actress Linda Lavin is 82. Rock musician Don Stevenson (Moby Grape) is 77. Baseball Hall of Famer Jim Palmer is 74. Singer-musician Richard Carpenter is 73. Actor Victor Banerjee is 73. Former tennis player Roscoe Tanner is 68. Singer Tito Jackson is 66. Actor-comedian Larry Miller is 66. Actor Jere Burns is 65. Movie director Mira Nair is 62. Britain's Duchess of York, Sarah Ferguson, is 60. Chef Emeril Lagasse (EM'-ur-ul leh-GAH'-see) is 60. Actress Tanya Roberts is 60. Rock musician Mark Reznicek (REHZ'-nih-chehk) is 57. Singer Eric Benet (beh-NAY') is 53. Actress Vanessa Marcil is 51. Singer-actress-TV host Paige Davis is 50. Country singer Kimberly Schlapman (Little Big Town) is 50. Actor Dominic West is 50. Rhythm-and-blues singer Ginuwine (JIHN'-yoo-wyn) is 49. Actor Devon Gummersall is 41. Actor Chris Olivero is 40. Christian singer-actress Jaci (JAK'-ee) Velasquez is 40. Actor Brandon Jay McLaren is 39. Rhythm-and-blues singer Keyshia Cole is 38. Actor Vincent Martella is 27. Actress Bailee Madison is 20.

Thought for Today: "A friend to all is a friend to none." - Aristotle, Greek philosopher (384 B.C.-322 B.C.).

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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