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Connecting - October 18, 2019

1 message

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Fri, Oct 18, 2019 at 8:58 AM

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Connecting

October 18, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this the 18th day of October 2019,

Congratulations are in order for several Connecting colleagues, as related in stories in today's Connecting:

Nick Ut, whose Pulitzer Prize-winning 1972 photo of a nine-year-old girl running naked from a napalm attack during the Vietnam War was voted the most powerful news image of the last 50 years in a survey by the London Daily Mail. A number of other AP photos also were honored.

Julie Pace, AP's Washington chief of bureau, who hosts a revamped political podcast, "Ground Game," offering fresh insights and observations as she speaks with newsmakers, reporters and editors about the top political stories of the week.

Hillel Itale, 35-year AP veteran journalist based in New York, who was selected by The Society of Professional Obituary Writers as winner in the Best Long Form category for his 2018 obituary of singer Aretha Franklin. (The plaque he was awarded is one of the coolest I have ever seen.)

Pilgrimage Relief:

Connecting's reins will be handed over to colleague **Peg Coughlin** beginning Monday and continuing through next week and three days into the following week. Linda and I are taking a long-awaited pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Peg, who once worked with me as Kansas City assistant chief of bureau, graciously agreed to publish the newsletter during my absence.

Please send your story submissions to Peg at - pcoughlin@ap.org

Have a great weekend!

Paul

**The most powerful news pictures ever:
Haunting image of Vietnamese girl
running naked from napalm attack
tops list of photographs that changed
the world**



South Vietnamese forces follow after terrified children, including nine-year-old Kim Phuc (centre) as they run down Route 1 near Trang Bang after an aerial napalm attack on suspected Viet Cong hiding places. A South Vietnamese plane accidentally dropped its flaming napalm on South Vietnamese troops and civilians. The terrified girl had ripped off her burning clothes while fleeing. The children (left to right) are: Phan Thanh Tam, younger brother of Kim Phuc, who lost an eye, Phan Thanh Phouc, youngest brother of Kim Phuc, Kim Phuc, and Kim's cousins Ho Van Bon, and Ho Thi Ting. Behind them are soldiers of the Vietnam Army 25th Division

By CHRIS DYER

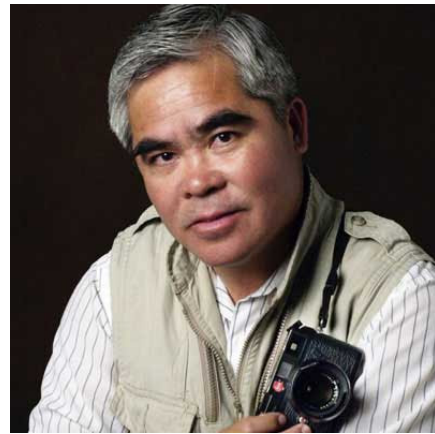
London Daily Mail

The striking image of a nine-year-old girl running naked from a napalm attack during the Vietnam war has been voted the most powerful news image of the last 50 years in a new survey.

The horrific 1972 photograph, taken by photographer Nick Ut of Kim Phuc, was published around the world and is credited for having helped end the conflict in Vietnam.

It was chosen by 37 per cent of British voters in a new survey as the hardest hitting news image of the last five decades.

Second on the list with 35 per cent was the heart-breaking and harrowing image of three-year-old Syrian Aylan Kurdi's lifeless body washed up on a beach in Turkey. Aylan's family had left Bodrum in Turkey on September 2, 2015, hoping to get to the Greek island of Kos but their small boat capsized just 30 minutes into their journey.



Nick Ut

In joint third place were pictures of Nelson Mandela being freed from prison after 20 years in 1990, Buzz Aldrin on the Moon in 1969 and one protester confronting a Chinese tank on Tiananmen Square in 1989.

Other photos on the list included an injured woman being helped after the London 7/7 terror attacks, Prince Charles kissing Diana after their wedding and the moment US President Ronald Reagan was shot in 1981.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Tad Bartimus.

Julie Pace to host AP's 'Ground Game' podcast

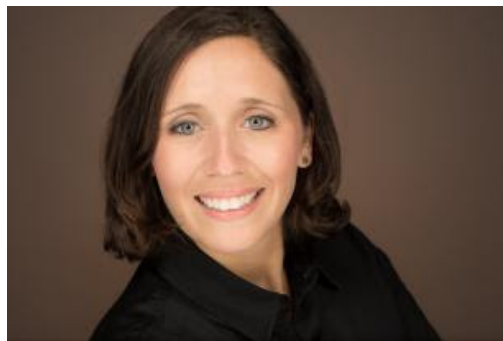
By Patrick Maks

Today (Thursday) AP debuted its revamped political podcast, "Ground Game," hosted by Washington Bureau Chief Julie Pace.

Listen to the first episode [here](#).

"Ground Game" offers fresh insights and observations as Pace speaks with newsmakers, reporters and editors about the top political stories of the week.

With reporters in every U.S. state and political journalists based in key regions across the country, AP is able to tell the story of the 2020 U.S. presidential election from the ground up.



Julie Pace

In Wednesday's episode of "Ground Game," Pace and AP's chief political reporter, Steve Peoples, reviewed Tuesday's debate between the Democratic presidential candidates. The installment also explores whether Ohio remains a swing state.

New episodes will be available every Wednesday through the 2020 election.

"Ground Game" is produced and distributed by Westwood One, America's largest audio network. It is available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Sticher and Google Podcasts.

Click [here](#) for a link to this story.

AP's Hillel Italie among winners of a Grammy





2019 Grimmy winners; from left: Harrison Smith, Hillel Italie, Maureen O'Donnell and Tom Hawthorn

Every two years, The Society of Professional Obituary Writers honors excellence in obituary writing with The Grimmys. Reporters and editors from all over the world submit entries to the contest, which is then blind-judged by a panel of society members. The awards were presented October 5.

AP's Hillel Itale's winning obituary of singer Aretha Franklin written in August 2018 was the winner in the Best Long Form category. He is a 35-year AP veteran who is a books and publishing reporter based in New York. The obituary began:

The clarity and the command. The daring and the discipline. The thrill of her voice and the truth of her emotions.

Like the best actors and poets, nothing came between how Aretha Franklin felt and what she could express, between what she expressed and how we responded. Blissful on "(You Make Me Feel Like) a Natural Woman." Despairing on "Ain't No Way." Up front forever on her feminist and civil rights anthem "Respect."

Franklin, the glorious "Queen of Soul" and genius of American song, died Thursday morning at her home in Detroit of pancreatic cancer. She was 76. Few performers were so universally idolized by peers and critics and so exalted and yet so familiar to their fans. As surely as Jimi Hendrix settled arguments over who was the No. 1 rock guitarist, Franklin ruled unchallenged as the greatest popular vocalist of her time.

Click [here](#) to read more.

Connecting mailbox

Wishing Paul Randall Dickerson the best with upcoming surgery

Adam Yeomans ([Email](#)) - Paul Randall Dickerson, AP's longtime broadcast editor in Nashville, will undergo open heart surgery sometime in mid-November for an aortic aneurysm, bypass and valve replacement. PRD says the surgery is elective and he feels good, but he wants to get it done sooner rather than later to remove the "Sword of Damocles" over his health. Paul retired in 2013 after 24 years with AP in Nashville, and 50 years in radio broadcasting.



Paul Randall Dickerson

He says he'll be hospitalized about a week after surgery and under his doctor's care several months while he goes through post-surgery rehab.

The procedure will take about five hours and the national average for survival is 97 per cent. The surgeon told PRD his personal survival rate is 99 per cent and PRD told him he wants to make sure it stays that way.

If you'd like to drop Paul a note, his email is - tnbackcountry@gmail.com

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No to sharing finished piece pre-publication, but fact checking can avoid whopping mistakes

John Wylie ([Email](#)) - Sharing a verbatim finished piece pre-publication is not a good idea. In my world, it is called fact-checking and for exactly the reason you

explain. Done correctly, the writer always maintains control but you can avoid some whopping big mistakes. If the source wants to withdraw a quote out of second-thoughts, speaker's remorse or whatever, it is up to the writer to "just say no." This is where very complete notes, a complete recording of all conversations, or better yet, both, come in handy.

Especially in the age of few or no copy editors, some form of checkback is vital on certain major stories - especially where scientific principles, complex laws or large amounts of numerical data are involved.

There's an additional benefit: When a key figure in a story has declined comment, seeing how the end result will look in print can be a very sobering experience which leads to something like, "Do you still want me to respond? Can I have 15 minutes and call you back/send you an email with that?" Having a detailed reaction makes the story stand up far better under scrutiny than simply having a "no comment" or "did not return our call."

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His first experience with AP led to eventual pairing with Paul Shane

Kathy Curran ([Email](#)) - Tim Curran's first experience with the AP was about a year and a half before he was hired. He was a small-town reporter, carrying around his own camera, taking pictures to go with the stories he wrote.

One Saturday there was an accident where 12 Wisconsin National Guardsmen were injured when the truck in which they were riding overturned and burned while en route to nearby Camp McCoy (now Fort McCoy.) Tim was there to cover it and was ready to return to his office, develop the pictures and get the story out.

The AP photographer in the Milwaukee bureau at that time was Paul Shane who, due to coming in from a longer distance, was a bit late to get the pictures he wanted. He arranged with Tim to accompany him to the office dark room, where he purchased a picture of the accident, and transmitted it to the AP bureau.

The next day Tim's picture of the National Guard accident was featured on the top of the front page of The Milwaukee Journal.

You'd think this would be a pretty big deal for a small-town reporter and photographer, though credit for the picture went to the AP.

But it was bittersweet. I had graduated from college a few weeks earlier, and on the day that picture ran, June 12, 1966, Tim was putting me on the train to New York City for my first job. He had already named that day Black Sunday.

By the end of the next year Paul Shane and Tim coincidentally become colleagues in the Milwaukee AP bureau.

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On the day when Van Cliburn never made it to the track to sing National Anthem

Mike Harris (Email) - The posts about Van Cliburn reminded me of a story involving the famed Texas pianist that I actually covered.

I was at the first NASCAR Cup race at Texas Motor Speedway in 1997. It was also the first race of any kind at the track on the outskirts of Fort Worth. A huge crowd, estimated at more than 200,000 people, was expected and the roads around the track, including Interstate 35W, were overwhelmed by the traffic. Making matters worse, heavy rains, which had washed out qualifying, left many of the sprawling track's parking lots flooded. By 8 a.m. on race day, I-35W was backed up 16 miles south of the track.

Fortunately, I anticipated trouble and had left my hotel in the early morning darkness and got to my parking space at the track before the huge backup.

To take care of VIPs, track officials had many of them park at a nearby private airport and flew them into the track by helicopter. That was to include Cliburn, who was scheduled to play the National Anthem before the race. Somehow, Cliburn, dressed formally in a tuxedo and ready to go, was left at the airport. The mistake

was not discovered in time to get Cliburn to the track for his performance and track officials had to scramble to find someone to sing the National Anthem.

Cliburn never did make it to the track and it became a notebook item for me.

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Connecting sky shots

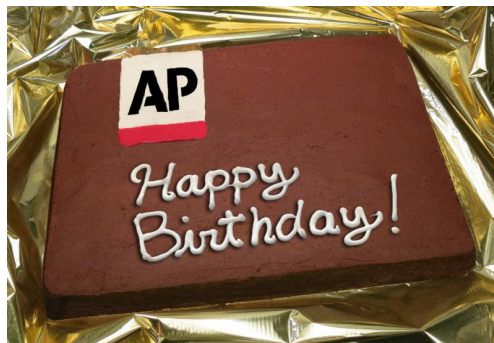


Lee Siegel ([Email](#)) - ... of the Pacific at Otter Rock, Oregon.



Mark Mittelstadt ([Email](#)) - ...the view looking east at a series of white chalk cliffs known as the Seven Sisters between the towns of Seaford and Eastbourne in southern England. After a recent visit to our son, Brent, in Oxford we drove to the southern coast for a couple days before returning home.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Doug Daniel - dkdaniel@ap.org

Morley Piper - mlpiper52@comcast.net

On Saturday to...

Steve Herman - sgherman@comcast.net

Pat Kreger - patkreger@yahoo.com

On Sunday to...

Bob Nordyke - bobpress@aol.com

Stories of interest

Los Angeles Times reaches historic agreement with its newsroom union (Los Angeles Times)

By MEG JAMES

The Los Angeles Times on Wednesday reached a tentative labor agreement with the guild that represents about 475 members of its newsroom, a milestone for a newspaper that for generations was known as a bastion of anti-unionism.

The two sides had been working on the newsroom's first collective bargaining agreement for more than a year.

The proposed three-year agreement would provide immediate pay raises of at least 5% for many newsroom employees after years of stagnant wages, and some will see a more significant boost. The Times agreed to a 2.5% raise in the second and third years. The proposed contract includes job protections, parental leave, severance pay and rights for journalists who wanted to pursue book deals. In addition, managers of The Times committed to interview people from underrepresented groups to fill job openings as a way to increase newsroom diversity.

Most non-management newsroom employees will be covered, including reporters, columnists, data journalists, copy editors, librarians, web producers, audio producers, page designers, photographers and videographers.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Pizac.

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ESPN's politics policy - and its journalism - tested by NBA-China controversy (Washington Post)

By Ben Strauss

When a tweet from a leading basketball executive incited an international incident last week, the NBA found itself embroiled in a media firestorm, with rippling ramifications about its values, its business and its international future. A sports media company that prides itself on blanketing that league with wall-to-wall coverage - and likes to call itself the place of record in sports - should have been salivating.

But ESPN's handling of the story of Houston Rockets GM Daryl Morey's tweet supporting Hong Kong demonstrators and the controversy that followed has been more confusing than authoritative. The company's website relied on news services instead of well-known ESPN writers. Several producers of ESPN opinion shows were warned to avoid the topic of Chinese politics, as Deadspin first reported. And a well-known ESPN NBA reporter was told to scuttle a planned podcast interview with an expert on China.

Since ESPN President Jimmy Pitaro took over the network's top job a year and a half ago, he has stressed ESPN's apolitical nature while at the same time insisting that it would remain a news powerhouse. "What we've said from Day 1 is that we're the place of record. We are covering the intersection of sports and politics," he said over the summer.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad.

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Andy Ostmeyer appointed editor of Joplin Globe

Andy Ostmeyer, managing editor of The Joplin Globe, has been promoted to editor of the newspaper, publisher Dale Brendel announced Wednesday.

Ostmeyer succeeds longtime editor Carol Stark, who died of cancer in August. He will oversee the paper's digital and print platforms, including magazines and other specialty publications.

"It's a genuine honor," Ostmeyer said. "Carol set the standard we will follow when it comes to providing information essential to the lives of our readers, and to our community."



Assistant Metro Editor Emily Younker, a native of Joplin, was named by the publisher to succeed Ostmeyer as managing editor of the Globe. She has worked at the paper for 10 years, starting as a beat reporter covering Webb City and Carl Junction.

"We are excited to announce Andy as our new editor," Brendel said. "He has been serving in the interim role for the past couple of months, and he is the best choice to continue the legacy of outstanding journalism and local news coverage established by Carol Stark and other predecessors at the top of the newsroom. He has deep roots in the Joplin region and has been one of the leaders in the newsroom for many years."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Scott Charton.

Today in History - October 18, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Oct. 18, the 291st day of 2019. There are 74 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 18, 1977, West German commandos stormed a hijacked Lufthansa jetliner on the ground in Mogadishu, Somalia, freeing all 86 hostages and killing three of the four hijackers.

On this date:

In 1648, Boston shoemakers were authorized to form a guild to protect their interests; it's the first American labor organization on record.

In 1892, the first long-distance telephone line between New York and Chicago was officially opened (it could only handle one call at a time).

In 1898, the American flag was raised in Puerto Rico shortly before Spain formally relinquished control of the island to the U-S.

In 1912, black boxer Jack Johnson was arrested in Chicago, accused of violating the Mann Act because of his relationship with his white girlfriend, Lucille Cameron. (The case collapsed when Cameron refused to cooperate, but Johnson was later re-arrested and convicted on the testimony of a former mistress, Belle Schreiber.)

In 1931, inventor Thomas Alva Edison died in West Orange, New Jersey, at age 84.

In 1944, Soviet troops invaded Czechoslovakia during World War II.

In 1961, the movie musical "West Side Story," starring Natalie Wood and Richard Beymer, premiered in New York, the film's setting.

In 1962, James D. Watson, Francis Crick and Maurice Wilkins were honored with the Nobel Prize for Medicine and Physiology for determining the double-helix molecular structure of DNA.

In 1969, the federal government banned artificial sweeteners known as cyclamates (SY'-kluh-maytz) because of evidence they caused cancer in laboratory rats.

In 1972, Congress passed the Clean Water Act, overriding President Richard Nixon's veto.

In 1984, actor Jon-Erik Hexum, 26, was taken off life support six days after shooting himself in the head with a pistol loaded with a blank cartridge on the set of his TV show "Cover Up."

In 2001, CBS News announced that an employee in anchorman Dan Rather's office had tested positive for skin anthrax. Four disciples of Osama bin Laden were sentenced in New York to life without parole for their roles in the deadly 1998 bombings of two U.S. embassies in Africa.

Ten years ago: A suicide bomber struck a meeting between Revolutionary Guard commanders and Shiite and Sunni tribal leaders in the Iranian border town of Pishin, killing 42 people, including 15 Guard members. Jessica Watson, a 16-year-old Australian, steered her bright pink yacht out of Sydney Harbor to start her bid to become the youngest person to sail solo and unassisted around the world. (She succeeded, returning to Sydney Harbor in May 2010.)

Five years ago: The Supreme Court said Texas could use its controversial new voter identification law for the November election, rejecting an emergency request from the Justice Department and civil rights groups to prohibit the state from requiring voters to produce certain forms of photo ID. (Three justices dissented.) The remains of missing University of Virginia student Hannah Graham, 18, were found near Charlottesville; a suspect, Jesse Leroy Matthew Jr., is charged with first-degree

murder and abduction with intent to defile. Paul Craft, 76, a songwriter and member of the country Hall of Fame, died in Nashville.

One year ago: President Donald Trump threatened to close the U.S. border with Mexico if authorities could not stop a caravan of migrants making their way from Central America. Trump threatened "very severe" consequences if the Saudis were found to have murdered Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi (jah-MAHL' khahr-SHOHK'-jee). LeBron James finished with 26 points and 12 rebounds, but the Los Angeles Lakers lost to the Portland Trail Blazers, 128-119, in James' regular-season debut with the Lakers. The Boston Red Sox advanced to the World Series, beating the Houston Astros 4-1 to win the American League Championship Series in five games.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Dawn Wells is 81. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Mike Ditka is 80. Singer-musician Russ Giguere is 76. Actor Joe Morton is 72. Actress Pam Dawber is 69. Author Terry McMillan is 68. Writer-producer Chuck Lorre is 67. Gospel singer Vickie Winans is 66. Director-screenwriter David Twohy (TOO'-ee) is 64. International Tennis Hall of Famer Martina Navratilova is 63. Actor Jon Lindstrom is 62. International Hall of Fame boxer Thomas Hearns is 61. Actor Jean-Claude Van Damme is 59. Jazz musician Wynton Marsalis is 58. Actor Vincent Spano is 57. Rock musician Tim Cross is 53. Former tennis player Michael Stich (sh-teek) is 51. Singer Nonchalant is 46. Actress Joy Bryant is 45. Rock musician Peter Svenson (The Cardigans) is 45. Actor Wesley Jonathan is 41. Rhythm-and-blues singer-actor Ne-Yo is 40. Country singer Josh Gracin is 39. Country musician Jesse Littleton (Marshall Dyllon) is 38. Olympic gold medal skier Lindsey Vonn is 35. Jazz singer-musician Esperanza Spalding is 35. Actress-model Freida Pinto is 35. Actor Zac Efron is 32. Actress Joy Lauren is 30. TV personality Bristol Palin is 29. Actor Tyler Posey is 28. Actor Toby Regbo is 28.

Thought for Today: "Only those ideas that are least truly ours can be adequately expressed in words." - Henri Bergson, French philosopher (1859-1941).

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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