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# Connecting - October 29, 2019

1 message

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# Connecting

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## There is no justice for the dead. We hope it helps the living.

(Capital Gazette Editorial Board)

The man charged with the murder of Rob Hiaasen, Gerald Fischman, Wendi Winters, John McNamara and Rebecca Smith dropped the pretense Monday that he is innocent.

It was a legal fiction designed to make sure he would receive the due process owed him under the Constitution. Through Circuit Court Judge Laura Ripken's careful questioning, he acknowledged that he understood what he was doing, he was not under the influence of alcohol and that he was satisfied that he had been represented well by his team of defense lawyers.

There was never any chance that this moment of reckoning would not arrive. The man was discovered by police hiding under a desk, just moments after he called 911 and told a confused operator that he had obliterated five lives.

He, according to a recitation of the evidence in court following his plea, identified himself this way: "This is your shooter."

From that moment on June 28, 2018, in a shattered Annapolis newsroom to the hearing Monday afternoon in the Anne Arundel County courthouse, he was innocent until proven guilty. Today, in the eyes of the law, he is a murderer.

Sometime next month, a second hearing will determine whether this man was responsible for his actions. A judge or jury - he gets to pick - will determine if he is criminally responsible. He has claimed he is not by reason of insanity.

We will reserve opinion on that. It is the court system's place to decide, not ours.

So, was justice served on Monday? Will it matter whether this man serves the remainder of his life in prison or a secure psychiatric hospital?

Justice is a concept for the living. It does not matter to Rob or Gerald or Wendi or Rebecca or John what the man who killed them said on Monday. They are beyond caring.

There is no justice for the dead.

If there were, then this man's carefully examined admission - that he plotted the death of five people and then executed them - would magically result in their being restored to life.

Details were revealed in court that those familiar with the case had never heard before. He stalked the newsroom, taking photos and creating a list of "high priority" targets, according to the prosecutor.

Those who died were loved and loved in turn. They were reporters and editors, mothers and fathers, daughters and sons. They had hopes and leave dreams unfulfilled. Their lives have meaning and will be remembered.

The life of the man who admitted murdering them Monday, in the end, is meaningless. He should be forgotten.

Perhaps justice will make this violent loss easier to bear for those who lost colleagues, friends and family. Maybe it will be easier for Annapolis.

We have our doubts. But this moment was always coming. Justice has been served.

# Today is Tuesday

It's commonly an Election Day. It would have been an easy tabulation for this vote counter.

Turnout for the AP Stylebook "apostrophe s" question was dismal. Connecting's **four** voters overwhelmingly rejected the proposed change, 75 to 25 percent. So - for now - we'll leave the first and last word to **Roy Peter Clark**, who's taught writing at Poynter for four decades.

## Roy Peter Clark settles the possessive apostrophe debate: Follow grammarians's rules (Poynter)

In my career as a journalist and scholar I have written about sex - a lot. I have written about religion and politics. I have written about the millennium and the Holocaust. I wrote a 29-part series about AIDS. Just this week, I wrote about the connection between political corruption and language abuse.

Apparently, none of those topics really matter. What really matters to my readers is punctuation and AP style. There was that issue of the Oxford comma, you may remember. Then the semicolon emerged from its cage, seeking attention. The dash made a dash for the front of the stage.

So, desperate for readers and attention, I give you the apostrophe, the possessive and, yes, AP Style. A firestorm of controversy - a cliché I have condemned countless times - has been sparked by the AP's announcement that it is considering a change in the way we use the possessive apostrophe.

AP reporters write fast, but their Stylebook moves slow. So I will flatter myself into thinking that something I wrote in 2010 foreshadowed this reform movement.

My take on the topic appears on page 82 of my book "The Glamour of Grammar" (which has 11 chapters on punctuation!). This is part of what I had to say: Language scholars have a word for the sound made by the letter s. They call it a sibilant, which is derived from the Latin word meaning "to hiss."

Read more [here](#).

## AP images of the week



This week's gallery includes a ceremony marking the end of the 40-day mourning period after the anniversary of the 7th century death of the Prophet Muhammad's grandson in Pakistan; wildfires consuming a car in northern California; and sunrise at a mist-covered castle in England.

This gallery contains photos from the week of Oct. 19-25.

See more [here](#).

## Indian Country Today joins The Associated Press

(Columbia Journalism Review)

**By Valerie Vande Panne**

On Oct. 1, 2019, an Associated Press headline read, "Indigenous filmmaker strikes playful tone with showcase ad." The story - one of the 2,000 the AP's members could select from the wire service that day - was the first The AP picked up from Indian Country Today, the nation's leading outlet for news from Native America.

If the old adage - that good journalism is the first draft of history - is true, then Oct. 1 marked the first time in mainstream U.S. media that history was written by a Native publication about Indian Country. (Indian Country is the common and general reference to communities of Native Americans and all tribal governments in the United States.)

"In the whole history of media this hasn't happened before," says Aliyah Chavez, Kewa Pueblo, the author of the story The AP picked up. "It's super exciting."

Jim Clarke, AP's director for the West, notes that the collaboration with Indian Country Today "helps the wires and our collective journalism." He continues: "We cover Indian issues to the best of our ability. I can't name what we've been missing, but I know what they're doing will help us."

Read more [here](#).

Contributed by  
Sylvia Wingfield ([Email](#)).

## Connecting mailbox

### ***Kathryn Johnson: 'Unfailingly helpful, encouraging'***

**Henry Brasher ([Email](#))** - Kathryn Johnson ... was the secretary of Lew Hawkins, the Atlanta bureau chief who hired me in September 1955, and later moved into reporting -- becoming an outstanding one. As his secretary, she was unfailingly helpful and encouraging to young reporters such as I.

### ***A battle with 'battle'***

**Neal Ulevich ([Email](#))** - I suggest editors discourage the usage "died after a battle with cancer" to simply "died of cancer." Or perhaps extend the usage. For instance, "an absent minded stroller, he died after a battle with a cross town bus."

### ***Carry-on contraband in the days of clips***

**Steve Graham ([Email](#))** - (Wishing Paul and Linda well in the Holy Land). In 1986, when I was in charge of telecommunications for Europe, Africa and the Middle East, I made a trip to our bureau in Tel Aviv for reasons that escape me.

I was booked on El Al back to London and when checking in, I went through El Al security, where I was held up for what at the time was mystifying to say the least.

Q: Do you speak Hebrew?

A: No, sorry, but I do not.

Q: Not even a few words?

A: Well I know *shalom*, *l'chaim* and *mazel tov*, but that's about it.

Q: Is your wife Jewish or do you have a Jewish girlfriend?

A: No, sorry.

After we went 'round and 'round some more, I finally said something like: "Look guys. I have nothing at all to hide and if you would just tell me what the problem is, we can get this fixed."

"Well," they said. "If you don't speak Hebrew, why do you have some Hebrew language newspapers in your carry-on luggage?"

Barely able to stifle a groan, I replied: "You saw my credentials from The Associated Press. Look at these photos from the World Cup soccer championships in Mexico. They were taken by our photographers from London, and I'm taking the papers back so they can see how their photographs were used by Israeli newspapers. I have no idea what the text says."

"Oh," they said. "Have a nice flight."

## Stories of interest

### ***Poll: Majority Says First Amendment Goes Too Far***

(Newsmax)

**By Jeffrey Rodack**

Fifty-one percent of Americans say the First Amendment goes too far in allowing hate speech and should be rewritten, according to a poll by the Campaign For Free Speech.

Forty-two percent disagree.

Here is how the poll results, released Wednesday, break down:

\*57% of millennials say the First Amendment goes too far, while 35% disagree.

\*47% of baby boomers say the First Amendment goes too far, compared to 48% who disagree.

\*57% of all those polled say the government should be able to take action against newspapers and TV stations for biased content, compared to 35% who disagree.

\*48% say hate speech should be against the law, while 31% say it should be allowed.

"The findings are frankly extraordinary," executive director Bob Lystad told The Washington Free Beacon. "Our free speech rights and our free press rights have evolved well over 200 years, and people now seem to be rethinking them."

Contributed by Mark Mittelstadt ([Email](#)).

## ***Newspaper hawker's son defies odds to top Karachi's intermediate exam***

(The Express Tribune)

They say hard work always pays off even in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles.

Anas Habib, a resident of Hussainabad and the son of a newspaper hawker in Karachi, has managed to bag the top position in this year's Higher Secondary School Certificate Annual Examinations Part-II.

Anas scored 969 marks out of a possible 1,100 in the Commerce group exams held under the Board of Intermediate Board of Education Karachi (BIEK), clinching the top position among 43,021 students.

His father, Muhammad Habib, sells newspapers in buses and barely manages to make ends meet and pay for his son's education.

Read more [here](#).

Contributed by Kathy Gannon.

## **Today in history**



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Tuesday, Oct. 29, the 302nd day of 2019. There are 63 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 29, 2012, Superstorm Sandy slammed ashore in New Jersey and slowly marched inland, devastating coastal communities and causing widespread power outages; the storm and its aftermath were blamed for at least 182 deaths in the U.S.

On this date:

In 1787, the opera "Don Giovanni" by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart had its world premiere in Prague.

In 1901, President William McKinley's assassin, Leon Czolgosz (CHAWL'-gahsh), was electrocuted.

In 1911, Hungarian-born American newspaperman Joseph Pulitzer, 64, died in Charleston, S.C.

In 1923, the Republic of Turkey was proclaimed.

In 1929, "Black Tuesday" descended upon the New York Stock Exchange. Prices collapsed amid panic selling and thousands of investors were wiped out as America's "Great Depression" began.

In 1956, during the Suez Canal crisis, Israel invaded Egypt's Sinai Peninsula. "The Huntley-Brinkley Report" premiered as NBC's nightly television newscast.

In 1957, former MGM studio boss Louis B. Mayer died in Los Angeles at age 75.

In 1960, a chartered plane carrying the California Polytechnic State University football team crashed on takeoff from Toledo, Ohio, killing 22 of the 48 people on board.

In 1967, Expo 67 in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, closed after six months.

In 1987, following the confirmation defeat of Robert H. Bork to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court, President Ronald Reagan announced his choice of Douglas H. Ginsburg, a nomination that fell apart over revelations of Ginsburg's previous marijuana use. Jazz great Woody Herman died in Los Angeles at age 74.

In 1998, Sen. John Glenn, at age 77, roared back into space aboard the shuttle Discovery, retracing the trail he'd blazed for America's astronauts 36 years earlier.

In 2017, all but 10 members of the Houston Texans took a knee during the national anthem, reacting to a remark from team owner Bob McNair to other NFL owners that "we can't have the inmates running the prison."

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama paid a post-midnight visit to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware to honor the return of 18 soldiers killed in Afghanistan. A Coast Guard C-130 plane and a Marine Cobra helicopter collided off the Southern California coast, killing seven Coast Guard members and two Marines. Deposed President Manuel Zelaya and his opponents agreed to a U.S.-brokered deal to end the power crisis that had paralyzed Honduras following a coup.



Five years ago: Ordering firm restrictions for U.S. troops returning from West Africa, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said the military men and women helping fight Ebola had to undergo 21-day quarantines upon their return [-] longer than required for many civilian health care workers. The San Francisco Giants succeeded where no team had in 3 1/2 decades, winning Game 7 on the road for their third World Series title in five years as they defeated the Kansas City Royals 3-2.

One year ago: A new-generation Boeing jet operated by the Indonesian budget airline Lion Air crashed in the Java Sea minutes after takeoff from Jakarta, killing all 189 people on board; it was the first of two deadly crashes involving the 737 Max, causing the plane to be grounded around the world as Boeing worked on software changes to a flight-control system. The Pentagon announced that it was sending thousands of troops to the southwest border, as President Donald Trump stepped up his dire warnings about caravans of Central American migrants moving toward the United States. Klay Thompson of the Golden State Warriors broke teammate Stephen Curry's record for 3-point shots in one game, nailing 14 of them and scoring 52 points overall in a 149-124 win over the Chicago Bulls.

Today's Birthdays: Bluegrass singer-musician Sonny Osborne (The Osborne Brothers) is 82. Former Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is 81. Country singer Lee Clayton is 77. Rock musician Denny Laine is 75. Singer Melba Moore is 74. Musician Peter Green is 73. Actor Richard Dreyfuss is 72. Actress Kate Jackson is 71. Country musician Steve Kellough (Wild Horses) is 63. Actor Dan Castellana (TV: "The Simpsons") is 62. Comic strip artist Tom Wilson ("Ziggy") is 62. Actress Finola Hughes is 60. Singer Randy Jackson is 58. Rock musician Peter Timmins (Cowboy Junkies) is 54. Actress Joely Fisher is 52. Rapper Paris is 52. Actor Rufus Sewell is 52. Actor Grayson McCouch (mih-KOOCH) is 51. Rock singer SA Martinez (311) is 50. Actress Winona Ryder is 48. Actress Tracee Ellis Ross is 47. Actress Gabrielle Union is 47. Actor Trevor Lissauer is 46. Olympic gold medal bobsledder Vonetta Flowers is 46. Actress Milena Govich is 43. Actor Jon Abrahams is 42. Actor Brendan Fehr is 42. Actor Ben Foster is 39. Rock musician Chris Baio (Vampire Weekend) is 35. Actress Janet Montgomery is 34. Actress India Eisley is 26.

**Thought for Today: "Put it before them briefly so they will read it, clearly so they will appreciate it, picturesquely so they will remember it and, above all, accurately so they will be guided by its light."[-] Joseph Pulitzer, American newspaper publisher (born 1847, died this date in 1911).**

## 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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