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Connecting - November 04, 2019

1 message

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Mon, Nov 4, 2019 at 8:29 AM

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Connecting

November 04, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this the 4th day of November 2019,

Today marks the 40th anniversary of the seizure of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and our colleague **Charlie Hanley** - on the AP's Foreign Desk in New York when it happened - shares his memories of one of those unforgettable moments in reporting.

Click [here](#) for an AP package on the Iran revolution anniversary.

Here's a reminder 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 next week. Please send along the information to me by the end of this week.

Have a great week!

Paul

40 years ago today: Seizure of U.S. Embassy in Tehran



Iranian student protesters storm the U.S. Embassy in Tehran on Nov. 4, 1979.

Charlie Hanley ([Email](#)) - Today's 40th anniversary of the U.S. Embassy seizure in Tehran brings back, for me, one of those unforgettable moments in reporting.

It was a Sunday morning, a change of shift on the Foreign Desk at 50 Rock. I was the weekend supervisor, taking over with perhaps two other editors. What's up? I asked Gary Peterson, the solitary overnight hand. Some students invaded the Tehran embassy, he told me. This had happened before. Just months earlier, after the shah was ousted, protesters seized the embassy but gave it up after just three hours, under pressure from Iran's new revolutionary government.

"It'll be over in a few hours," Gary reckoned.

The initial overnight report came from official Tehran Radio, monitored in London. AP and other U.S. news organizations had been absent, expelled, from Tehran for some time. Any reporting had to be done remotely, from Mideast buros, London, New York. Luckily our former Tehran correspondents (Kent, Reid, Doelling and other stalwarts) left us with a useful contact list.

I got on the phone, got through to the Foreign Ministry in Tehran, finally found someone authorized to speak. What's happening?

"The loyal Muslim student followers of the Imam's line have seized the American den of spies!" he announced angrily.

This was the ministry charged with protecting foreign embassies. I still recall the sinking feeling: Sounds like more than a few hours.

In the days, weeks, months that followed, the story consumed America, the front pages, the nightly newscasts. We were still barred from Iran, cobbling together hostage roundups with what we could gather from myriad sources.

Finally, on January 20, 1981, that "Rolodex" came in handy again.

As Ronald Reagan took the oath of office in Washington, I was on the phone once more, desperately trying to get through to Tehran. At last they picked up at the best place possible, the control tower at Mehrabad Airport. Language confusion ensued. "English?" "Français?" "Español?" I even shouted, "Sprechen sie Deutsch?" though I spoke no German. Then an English speaker came on the line and confirmed: It was wheels-up at such-and-such time. The few days had become 444, but the hostages were free.

Today, one wonders, would a barrage of tweets (#DenOfSpies, #MehrabadControl) pre-empt such memorable, heart-stopping moments?

Iran spins more centrifuges on US Embassy crisis anniversary



AP Photo/Vahid Salemi

By NASSER KARIMI and JON GAMBRELL

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) - Iran on Monday broke further away from its collapsing 2015 nuclear deal with world powers by announcing it's doubling the number of advanced centrifuges it operates, calling the decision a direct result of President Donald Trump's withdrawal from the agreement.

The announcement - which also included Iran saying it now has a prototype centrifuge that works 50 times faster than those allowed under the deal - came as demonstrators across the country marked the 40th anniversary of the 1979 U.S. Embassy takeover that started a 444-day hostage crisis.

By starting up these advanced centrifuges, Iran further cuts into the one year that experts estimate Tehran would need to have enough material for building a nuclear weapon - if it chose to pursue one. Iran long has insisted its program is for peaceful purposes, though Western fears about its work led to the 2015 agreement that saw Tehran limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions.

Read more [here](#).

Flames, gear and risks of photographing California wildfires



Associated Press photographer Marcio Jose Sanchez, left, takes a selfie with fellow AP photographer Gregory Bull while covering the Easy Fire on Oct. 30, 2019, in Simi Valley, Calif. (AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez)

By MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ

SANTA PAULA, Calif. (AP) - It's ironic, but momentarily forgetting some of my safety gear ended up saving my life.

It happened as I drove late Thursday into the heart of a wildfire that had erupted near the city of Santa Paula, a two-hour drive west of Los Angeles. This was one of the dozens of blazes that have been springing up daily in Northern and Southern California the last couple weeks, an indication that we are now in the middle of wildfire season.

Dressed in flame-resistant clothes, heavy boots and carrying my two cameras, I spent a few minutes walking around and surveying the scene before starting to shoot photos. To get the best shots, you first need to fully understand a situation, everything from where firefighters are working to the winds.

After a few minutes, I realized I had forgotten my helmet and fire shelter, essentially a tarp that can be deployed to cover and protect your body if you can't escape flames.

So I began walking back to my car, and a few minutes later two large burning branches crashed in the exact place where I had been standing.

I have been covering wildfires since I began working with The Associated Press in 2002, and have had other near-death experiences. Still, the close call this week was so unnerving that I called my editor and a fellow photographer to make sure both had my wife's phone number. If something happened to me, they could tell her.

Read more [here](#).

New-member profile: Dar Yasin

Dar Yasin ([Email](#)), born in 1973, in Indian Kashmir. Studied bachelor's in computer science and technology in South of India. Dar is based in Indian Kashmir and has extensively covered Kashmir conflict, South Asia Earthquake and its aftermath. Historical opening of bus route between divided Kashmir.

On assignment in Afghanistan has covered Afghan War, Afghan Refugees and Daily life of war-torn Afghanis. In Bangladesh Dar has covered Rohingya refugee crisis who fled large- scale violence and persecution in Myanmar. Dar has also covered the annual Islamic pilgrimage in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, which draws millions of visitors each year, making it the largest yearly gathering of people in the world. His works have appeared in almost all the major newspapers and news magazines around the globe.

Dar has won dozens of international and national photo awards including POYi, Atlanta Photojournalism, China Press Photo contest, the National Headliner Awards, finalist in WARS Photography Award, the Sigma Delta Chi Award by the Society of Professional Journalism. And Indian's most prestigious Ramnath Goenka Award twice for the stories from Kashmir. Dar also was part of the Associated Press team that won the Hal Boyle Award for the Rohingya Exodus in the Overseas Press Club and a Robert F. Kennedy Award in the International Print category. In year 2017 he

received NPPA (National Press Photographers Association) Humanitarian Award which is presented to an individual for playing a key role in the saving of lives or in rescue situations.

His work has been exhibited in Visa Pour L'Images in Perpignan, France. Most recently, he has won the newly minted Yannis Behrakis International Photojournalism Award for his work covering the conflict in Kashmir.



Connecting mailbox

No 'tips for foreign correspondents' when he was sent abroad

Joe McGowan ([Email](#)) - Re Kevin Noblet's tips for foreign correspondents (in Friday's Connecting), when I was sent abroad (starting with New Delhi) in 1965, there were no tips for new foreign correspondents. But I did manage to gather some useful information from former foreign correspondents who now worked on the Cable Desk at 50 Rock with me. I did take with me a short-wave radio, and I took medicines for me, my wife, and infant son. Our doctor in New York City gave us medicines, syringes, instructions for using them, etc. Today you would not get through TSA with what I carried.

One thing I do remember is that war between India and Pakistan over Kashmir broke out not long after I arrived in India. A cable came in from foreign editor Ben Bassett informing me that I should not worry about the war and, besides that, the AP had substantially increased my life insurance!!!

I did get shot at. I was riding with a Pakistani military convoy heading into Kashmir when four Indian Air Force bombers and three fighter jets attacked the convoy. They made four passes and wiped out one Jeep, killing two soldiers. After they left, I found an extremely sharp piece of shrapnel right next to my chest in the dirt where I had gone to take photos of the incoming aircraft!

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Memories sparked by Midway post

Brent Kallestad ([Email](#)) - Noting Bill Kaczor's piece on Midway and FWIW, I celebrated my 21st birthday on Midway in 1966 when our ship made a four-hour resupply stop. Had time for a quick game of touch football and a couple beers at the enlisted men's club before returning to sea. Connecting brings back so many memories!

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Midway story contained three links to memories of his dad

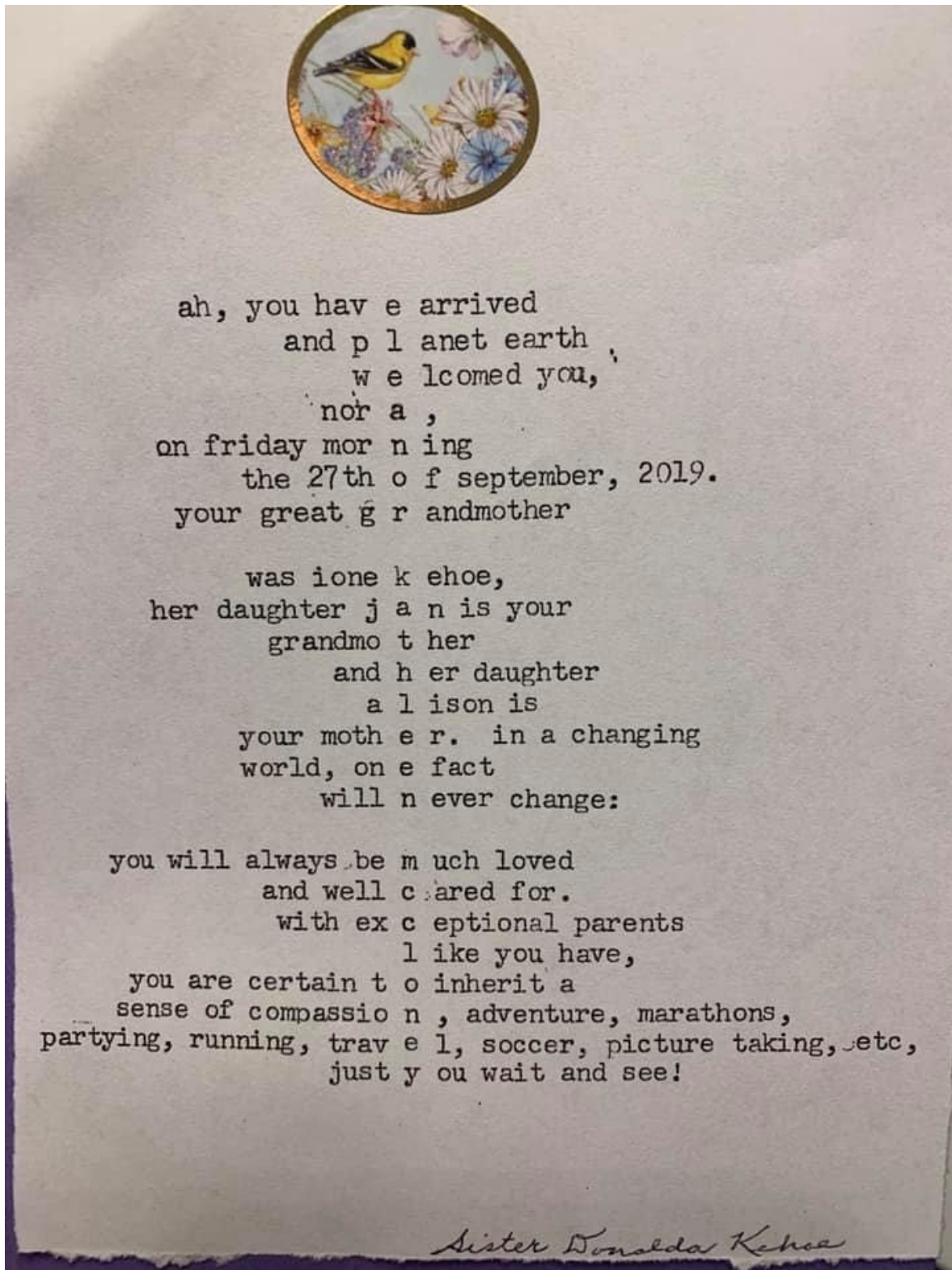
Dave Tomlin ([Email](#)) - Thanks to Bill Kaczor for his Midway story (in Friday's Connecting), which contained three links to memories of my dad, Hollier G. (Tom) Tomlin.

Dad served throughout World War II and afterward as a naval aviator. He had his basic flight training in Pensacola. He then flew anti-submarine patrols out of Greenland in the oddly beautiful PBY Catalina. His final duty assignment took us all to Corpus Christi, where he was commander of a seaplane training squadron before retiring to become an Episcopalian priest.

The Lexington had not yet arrived before we had all gone our separate ways from Corpus, so I've never stepped aboard. Maybe after my 60th high school reunion.

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Now THIS is a unique way to celebrate a birth



Sister Donalda Kehoe ([Email](#)) - a Connecting colleague from Dubuque, Iowa, who is 90 years young - put her acrostic skills to use when composing the poem above for her great niece Alison Hoeman who delivered a baby. "If you don't have a 90-year-old great aunt, who is a nun, in your life - I highly recommend getting one," Allison wrote. "Mine writes poetry... check out this very fancy acrostic poem, which is all the more impressive when you consider that she did it on the typewriter!"

Best of the Week

AP investigation: Ukraine's Zelenskiy pressured by Trump months before call



President Donald Trump meets with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at a New York hotel during the United Nations General Assembly, Sept. 25, 2019. An AP investigation found that more than two months before the phone call that launched the impeachment inquiry into Trump, newly elected Zelenskyy was already worried about pressure from the U.S. president to investigate his Democratic rival Joe Biden. AP PHOTO / EVAN VUCCI

Desmond Butler and Michael Biesecker, global investigations reporters in Washington, wanted to fill out the timeline of the diplomatic scandal at the heart of House impeachment inquiry. For weeks, Biesecker worked sources in Washington, while Butler traveled to Ukraine to meet with associates of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, and with other sources developed over years of investigating wrongdoing in the former Soviet Union.

What they learned moved the needle on a complex narrative - associates of the Ukrainian leader said that pressure on Zelenskyy from the Trump White House

started much earlier than was known previously, dating from shortly after Zelenskiy's election in April, and before he took office as president.

The exclusive report earns Best of the Week honors for Butler and Biesecker.

Read more [here](#).

Best of the States

Experience, persistence pay off with breaking news: US to collect asylum seekers' DNA



As a longtime police reporter now covering immigration and Homeland Security, Colleen Long's ears perked up in early October when she heard Homeland Security officials mention "CODIS" as they briefed reporters about the likelihood they would expand their practice of collecting DNA from migrants.

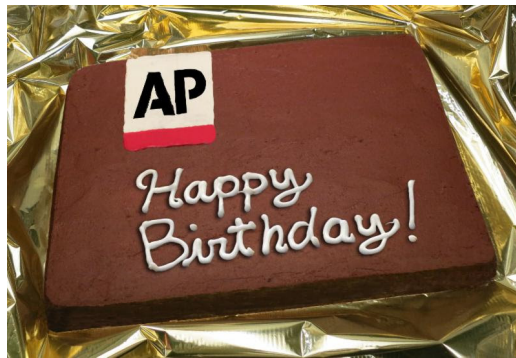
CODIS, she knew, was an acronym for an FBI database used by law enforcement around the world to match DNA to a criminal suspect. The database is usually associated with violent crimes like rape and murder, so Long was surprised to hear of its use in connection with migrants whose only crime was crossing the border illegally. Long followed up with detailed questions at the briefing, but didn't get

answers. So she kept asking about it: Who was going into this database? Were officials conforming to the way CODIS is used? Were they capturing DNA from anyone who crossed the border?

Long's obvious grasp of how CODIS worked impressed one official who agreed they would discuss the new DNA policy with her before it was published in the Federal Register - the step that would make it official. Long was given an advance briefing, getting not only an early look at the rule that would be published, but additional details about how the policy would be implemented. The story was embargoed until the day of publication.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Dick Weiss - weisswrite@gmail.com

Welcome to Connecting



Lee Brown - lbrown@hearst.com

Scott Chrostek - scott.chrostek@cor.org

Ginny Sherlock - vsherlock@lshlaw.net

Stories of interest

Americans Trust Local News. That Belief Is Being Exploited. (New York Times)

By Brendan Nyhan

The nature of the news misinformation problem may be changing. As consumers become more skeptical about the national news they encounter online, impostor local sites that promote ideological agendas are becoming more common. These sites exploit the relatively high trust Americans express in local news outlets - a potential vulnerability in Americans' defenses against untrustworthy information.

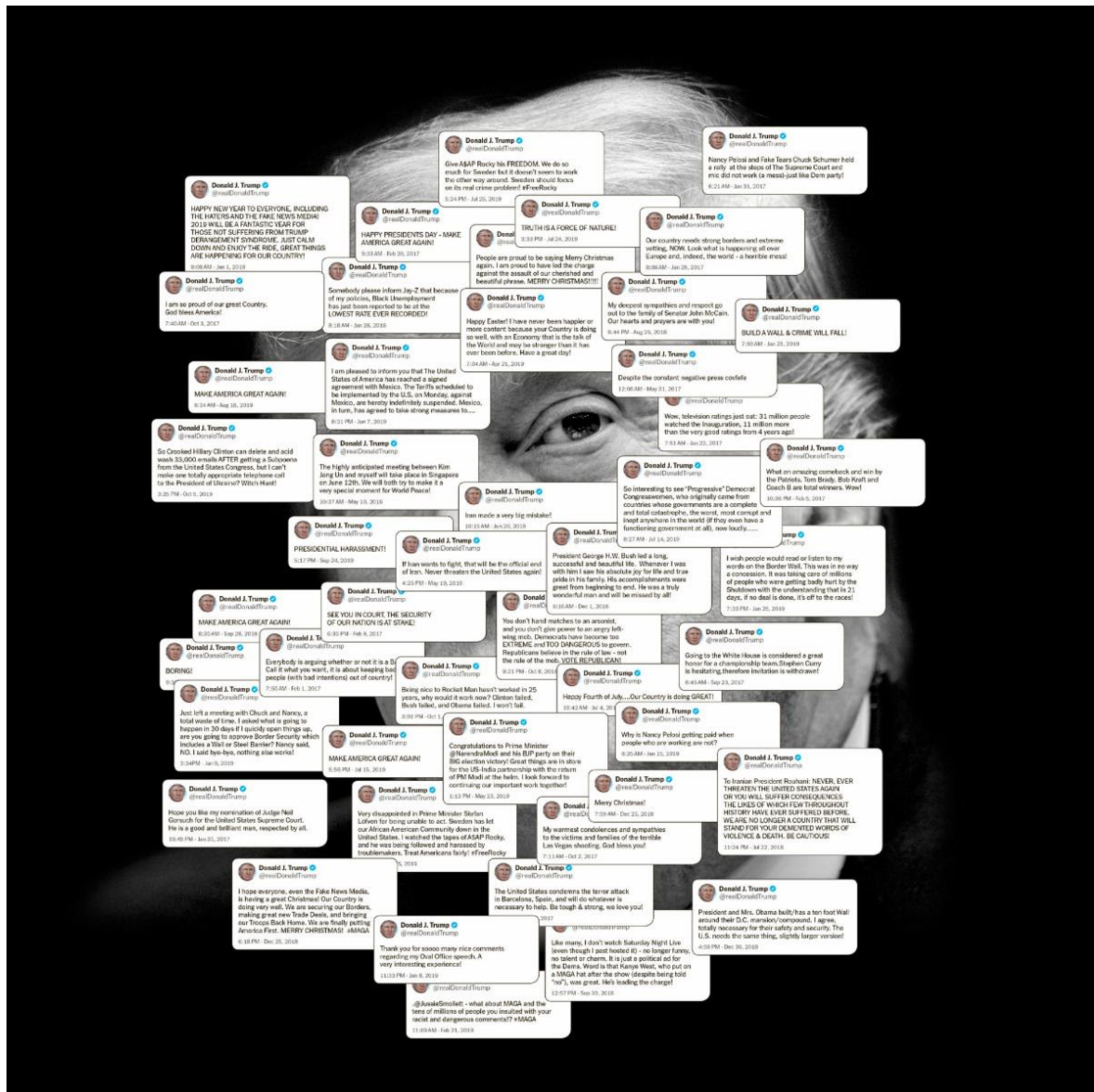
Some misinformation in local news comes from foreign governments seeking to meddle in American domestic politics. Most notably, numerous Twitter accounts operated by the Russian Internet Research Agency were found to have impersonated local news aggregators during the 2016 election campaign.

A recent Senate Intelligence Committee report found that 54 such accounts published more than 500,000 tweets. According to researchers at N.Y.U., the fake local news accounts frequently directed readers to genuine local news articles about polarizing political and cultural topics.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Hank Ackerman.

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The Journalists Who Read All of President Trump's Tweets. Twice. (New York Times)



Photograph by Doug Mills/The New York Times; illustration by The New York Times

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

By Katie Van Syckle

To understand just how much President Trump has reshaped the American presidency through his use of Twitter, The Times wanted to find data.

So a team spent months collecting every one of the president's posts on the social media platform from Inauguration Day through Oct. 15 into a spreadsheet. The graphics editors Karen Yourish and Larry Buchanan read every tweet - more than 11,000 of them - twice. They sorted each post according to 52 categories and subcategories: attacks, praise and conspiracy; the economy, immigration and crowd sizes. They noted how frequently he conducted official business on Twitter and when he deleted a tweet. They and Keith Collins, a visual storytelling editor, then analyzed the entire data set to find trends and outliers.

The data set informed a collaborative project from Investigations, Washington, Politics and Digital and Print Design. "The Twitter Presidency" appears as a special section in Sunday's paper.

Ms. Yourish and her editor, Wilson Andrews, discussed the project and what they hope readers will take away. This conversation has been lightly edited and condensed for clarity.

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

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Fox News isn't talking about key impeachment witnesses nearly as much as the other networks (Washington Post)



A security guard looks out of the News Corp. headquarters doors in New York. (Mary Altaffer/AP)

By Philip Bump

After the launch of the impeachment inquiry in the House last month, there have been a number of new polls that reveal the extent to which Fox News viewers in particular stand allied with President Trump.

Two weeks ago, we reported on a poll from PRRI, which found that those who identify Fox News as a primary source of news were most likely to say that almost nothing Trump could do would prompt them to disapprove of his presidency.

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

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Deadspin died just like it lived. The sports world will be worse off without it. (Washington Post)

By Michael Serazio

It is fitting, albeit tragic, that Deadspin died a punk rock death.

More so than any other organization in the history of sports journalism, it lived a punk rock life. With its de facto passing this week - as the site's most talented writers and editors fled in protest of meddlesome new ownership - all the maladies of contemporary media come forward as culprits.

Sports don't usually nurture punk values - the do-it-yourself ethos, the instinctive irreverence, the cool outsider pose. Quite the contrary; sports tend to demand a culture of structure, hierarchy, discipline, uniformity and deference. Too often throughout history, sports journalism has regrettably mirrored those ideals.

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

Today in History - November 4, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Nov. 4, the 308th day of 2019. There are 57 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 4, 1980, Republican Ronald Reagan won the White House as he defeated President Jimmy Carter by a strong margin.

On this date:

In 1862, inventor Richard J. Gatling received a U.S. patent for his rapid-fire Gatling gun.

In 1879, humorist Will Rogers was born in Oologah, Oklahoma.

In 1916, CBS newsman Walter Cronkite was born in Saint Joseph, Missouri.

In 1922, the entrance to King Tutankhamen's tomb was discovered in Egypt.

In 1955, Baseball Hall of Fame pitcher Cy Young died in Newcomerstown, Ohio, at age 88.

In 1956, Soviet troops moved in to crush the Hungarian Revolution.

In 1979, the Iran hostage crisis began as militants stormed the United States Embassy in Tehran, seizing its occupants; for some of them, it was the start of 444 days of captivity.

In 1991, Ronald Reagan opened his presidential library in Simi Valley, California; attending were President George H.W. Bush and former Presidents Jimmy Carter, Gerald R. Ford and Richard Nixon [-] the first-ever gathering of five past and present U.S. chief executives.

In 1995, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated by a right-wing Israeli minutes after attending a festive peace rally.

In 2001, Hurricane Michelle roared across Cuba, forcing the government to shut down power for much of the communist island and evacuate 750,000 people. The Arizona Diamondbacks won their first World Series by beating the New York Yankees 3-2 in Game 7.

In 2007, King Tutankhamen's face was unveiled for the first time to the public more than 3,000 years after the pharaoh was buried in his Egyptian tomb.

In 2008, Democrat Barack Obama was elected the first black president of the United States, defeating Republican John McCain. California voters approved Proposition 8, a constitutional amendment outlawing same-sex marriage, overturning a state Supreme Court decision that gave gay couples the right to wed just months earlier.

Ten years ago: An Italian judge convicted 23 Americans in absentia along with two Italians in the kidnapping of an Egyptian terror suspect, delivering the first legal convictions anywhere in the world against people involved in the CIA's extraordinary renditions program. The New York Yankees won the World Series, beating the defending champion Philadelphia Phillies 7-3 in Game 6 behind Hideki Matsui's record-tying six RBIs. Former NBA referee Tim Donaghy was released after serving most of a 15-month sentence in a gambling scandal.

Five years ago: Riding a powerful wave of voter discontent, resurgent Republicans captured control of the Senate and tightened their grip on the House during the 2014 elections. A Russian member of the Taliban made his first appearance in a federal court in Richmond, Virginia, marking the first time a military detainee from Afghanistan had been brought to the U.S. for trial. (In August 2015, a federal jury convicted Irek Hamidullin of planning and leading a Taliban attack on U.S. forces in Afghanistan; he was sentenced to life in prison.)

One year ago: Lelisa Desisa of Ethiopia and Mary Keitany of Kenya were the men's and women's winners in the New York City Marathon, which organizers said had set a record for the most finishers of any marathon worldwide - 52,812. The Freddie Mercury biopic "Bohemian Rhapsody" collected \$50 million in weekend ticket sales in the U.S. and Canada on its opening weekend, beating expectations.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Loretta Swit is 82. Rhythm-and-blues singer Harry Elston (Friends of Distinction) is 81. Blues singer Delbert McClinton is 79. Former first lady Laura Bush is 73. Actress Ivonne Coll is 72. Actress Markie Post is 69. Rock singer-musician Chris Difford (Squeeze) is 65. Country singer Kim Forester (The Forester Sisters) is 59. Actress-comedian Kathy Griffin is 59. Actor Ralph Macchio is 58. "Survivor" host Jeff Probst is 58. Saxophonist Tim Burton is 56. Actor Matthew McConaughey is 50. Rapper-producer Sean "Puffy" Combs is 50. Talk show host Bethenny Frankel is 49. Actor Anthony Ruivivar is 49. Soul/jazz singer Gregory Porter is 48. Rhythm-and-blues singer Shawn Rivera (Az Yet) is 48. Celebrity chef Curtis Stone is 44. Actress Heather Tom is 44. Rhythm-and-blues/gospel singer George Huff is 39. Actress Emme Rylan is 39. Actor Chris Greene (Film: "Loving") is 37.

Thought for Today: "A boy becomes an adult three years before his parents think he does, and about two years after he thinks he does." [-] Gen. Lewis B.

Hershey, Selective Service director (1893-1977).

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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11/10/2019

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