



Connecting

March 9, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this the 9th day of March 2020,

The focus of today's Connecting is the worldwide coronavirus outbreak.

In a series of essays, more than a dozen of your colleagues shared how the outbreak has impacted their lives - with dispatches coming from Japan, China, Australia, Mexico and the United States. I am hoping you will take time to share your own experiences, so please send them along today.

Our colleague **Russ Kaurlo** was scheduled to be the subject of today's Monday Spotlight but he had to defer, as the former AP communications executive who is now vice president and CIO of Computing and Information Technology at Clemson University explains:

I've been hammered preparing for the inevitable COVID-19 Pandemic outbreak at Clemson so I need to delay the feature piece.

Interesting to note is that all of the earthquakes, fires, riots and major events in Los Angeles would have prepared me for a Pandemic which was the only event we did not experience throughout my 22 years at The AP. When I exited the AP for USC, I wound up taking the lead at USC on Business Continuity Planning (BCP) and Disaster Recovery (DR) which has now carried over to Clemson. Who would think that all these years later I'd be presented with this event. In this situation - the major challenge for all universities other than the University of Phoenix, is how do you take the majority of your student population and switch them to online teaching in a matter of days? Most professors are not trained or embraced online teaching but the simple fact remains - if you don't teach class, you lose student fees (revenue) so business continuity is critical.

My biggest concern are not the professors teaching online, they're smart and will figure it out, but it's the online systems themselves. These are cloud based SaaS systems technically unmanaged by the university so the question is can these systems scale to an unprecedented level. Every university and community college across the nation is looking to switch to online and /or video conferencing when social distancing is invoked and it's starting already. This is an unprecedented time with each day creating new challenges against the hype of the modern-day Spanish flu of 1918.

Never thought the craziness in LA through the 80's and 90's would prepare me for this..... more later.

A memorial gathering for John Kuglin, "including food, drinks and stories" will take place Sunday, March 15 from 1-3 p.m. at the Montana City Grill in Montana City, according to his son, **Tom Kuglin**. In his obituary is this: Memorials in his name may be sent to the Lewis and Clark Humane Society at lchsmontana.org or Prickly Pear Land Trust at pricklypearlt.org. John, longtime AP chief of bureau in Helena who was an ardent advocate for open government, died Feb. 29 at the age of 78.

Finally, my thanks - our thanks - to **Mark Mittelstadt** for an excellent job in producing Connecting last week while Linda and I were on vacation in Florida. Like everyone on our Southwest flights to and from Tampa, we used sanitizing wipes to clean our seating area and winced when someone on the flight coughed or sneezed. Little evidence that people were staying away from restaurants or the beaches.

NOTE: Due to some technical difficulties, I am unable to include links in today's edition. I am working with Constant Contact on the issue.)

Here's to a good - and safe - week ahead.

Paul

Coronavirus - Your Stories

From New England...

Norm Abelson - As to my reaction to the coronavirus, I've learned that as individuals, we humans tend to think personally, not universally.

For example, I'm currently making my way, painfully, through a bout of shingles. So while I am concerned about the epidemic, I'd probably be more focused if my health were better. There's also a sense that, as badly as I feel about the afflicted, we may be victims of our own inattention and passivity.

While globalism may have been inevitable, perhaps we should have realized that along with any advantages would come costs. For example, crowding thousands of people from all over onto cruise ships making stops at many ports has come with costs. So has jamming bigger, closely-quartered crowds aboard world-circling airliners. Ditto international business and pleasure travel. Not to speak of world trade.

Maybe we should have paid more attention before handing over decision-making to some wealth-collectors and egocentric politicians who don't seem to give a damn about the well-being of all of us, the folks who have made them rich or elected them to high places. After all, this is supposed to be a representational democracy, not a giant supermarket run by the few who own it and a crew of enablers that largely gets elected with their money. Incidentally, there's enough blame for our current paralytic state of affairs to be handed out to all sides of the political spectrum.

For now, we must put our efforts into caring for the ill and halting the epidemic. And I'm certainly going to wash my hands more and try not to touch my face. But, starting now, I'm also going to pay a lot more attention to whose products I purchase, and where I put my mark in the next election.

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From Japan...



Mask-wearing parents and their children spending time on Monday afternoon at a playground in Inogashira Park in western Tokyo, as schools are closed because of the concern over the spread of COVID-19. Photo/Kazuo Abiko

Kazuo Abiko - As reported by the AP in Tokyo, almost all sports events are either halted or being held without spectators and large gatherings have been called off in Japan because of the spreading new coronavirus. Schools are also closed across the nation.

At present, the number of infected people, as announced by the Japanese government, is relatively small, but some quarantine experts and critics of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government say that it probably would rise when infection tests are conducted in a much wider scale, as promised by Abe.

Abe has been criticized for the government's slowness in taking necessary steps and also for trying to downplay the possible spread of the virus and its effect. The critics say that the government appears to have been excessively worried about its negative impact on the scheduled visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping to Japan in April, which now has been postponed, and the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics to be held in summer.

As far as the epidemic in Japan is concerned, we of course should remain careful, but I'm not worried too much about it, other than its impact on the economy. People in general seem to be taking precautionary measures in an orderly manner to reduce the possibility of the further

virus spreading. We wear masks when we go out and wash hands frequently with soap and/or sanitizers at homes, workplaces, stores, or wherever it is possible.

On a private note, for example, the Tokyo Lawn Tennis Club, one of Japan's oldest tennis clubs which I belong to, issued the following statement to all members on March 2. I understand that other sports and social clubs have made similar announcements to their members.

For the safety of members, we would like to ask for your cooperation on the following points:

** Do not visit the club if you are not well, such as with fever over 37.5C.*

** If you have recently visited places where the potential for infection is high (for example China, Hong Kong, South Korea, Italy, Iran), in consideration of fellow members, please refrain from visiting the club for a minimum of 14 days.*

** In order to restrict the club premises to known members, non- family visitors and guests will not be allowed until further notice.*

** There are reports of possible infection at places like sports gyms, where equipment is shared by unknown people. Please be cautious about this.*

** Events where a large number of members gather and one day tournaments will be cancelled for the time being.*

For members visiting the club:

** Immediately gargle and wash your hands when entering the club premises*

** Practice additional hygiene etiquette, including regular gargling and washing hands with soap and water.*

** If soap and water are not available, use the hand sanitizers placed throughout the club.*

** Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.*

** It is not necessary to shake hands after each game.*

** Please read carefully the attached notice from the government which explains very well some [basic] measures against infectious disease.*

** In the unfortunate event that you contract the virus, please notify us immediately.*

The tennis club is still open, as none of its members has been reportedly infected. And I still visit there regularly to enjoy the sport, while avoiding

unnecessary risks elsewhere.

In any case, it probably will take a few more months before the virus situation becomes under control in Japan.

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From Los Angeles...

Peter Arnett - A state of emergency has been declared in California as the coronavirus surfaces in cruise ships and in major cities down the West Coast, including Los Angeles and San Francisco. But longtime resident Nick Ut parties on, inviting friends this past weekend to celebrate his award of The National Medal of Arts at his favorite restaurant, Song Long, in Westminster's Little Saigon. No surgical masks, please, as the AP's Pulitzer Prize winner enthusiastically shook hands and embraced arriving guests, while accepting congratulations from local media pals, business acquaintances and a special guest, his friend French actress Anne Solenne. Nick will receive his Medal of the Arts at a ceremony at the White House on March 20; It's the latest recognition of his remarkable 50-year career with the Associated Press, a career that since his retirement has taken him on a score of invited trips to Asia, Europe, Australia and India. Nick has made a concession to the coronavirus threat and has canceled upcoming trips to Asia.



French Actress Anne Solenne and Peter Arnett join Nick Ut at his National Arts Medal party

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From Florida...



Adolphe Bernotas Other than the occasional forearm bump greeting and surgical mask, we don't see many examples of Corona virus concerns in our part of Florida, but it is on our minds: a new case in a neighboring community and a death in a town 30 minutes' drive away.

Marguerite and I are in our 70s (I turn 79 this week) and wonder that as the pandemic grows should we stay in Florida or return to New Hampshire after our annual snowbird escape from winter? Miss the 25-year AP dinner? Annual trips to the New York City Ballet in Saratoga Springs, Boston Symphony at Tanglewood in Massachusetts? What about the CWA conference in Washington?

So far we have not been avoiding public gatherings and have attended two weekend Red Sox spring training games (lost both but saw J.D. Martinez homer); this afternoon we head to Sarasota Opera and Monday night to another Bosox game.

But the virus is on our minds as we joke about washing hands (and looking both ways when crossing the street).

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Here are a few photos. All taken by me.

A delivery boy slips a takeout order over the fence of our apartment compound.

From Beijing...



Shoppers load up on food to avoid repeated trips to the supermarkets. Photos/Patrick Casey

Patrick Casey - We're seven weeks deep into the ongoing epidemic here in Beijing and I've only been to our newsroom a handful of times. That's because I'm among the millions of people in the city who work at home these days. On the few occasions that I do go, I ride my bicycle, wear gloves and, of course, a mask.

I haven't been inside a restaurant, had a haircut or exercised in a gym in seven weeks. I've been to a bank maybe once, can't recall seeing a movie, visiting a shopping mall, or buying a cup of coffee. I also gave up my hobby of taking random photos in the neighborhood.

Instead, my wife and I stay at home and try to make a massively disruptive outbreak as much of a positive as we can. Wanli is deep into

an online series of PhotoShop lessons and uses the social media app WeChat to talk with her friends and keep tabs on her elderly parents. I use WeChat to communicate with the Global Business newsroom, chat with my friends, and order take-out dinners that well-covered-up delivery boys slide under the iron gates of our locked-down community.

We've been given special passes to get in and out of our apartment complex and I get my temperature taken five or six times at every stop on the rare days that I do venture out to buy groceries or other needed supplies.



Security guards check IDs and temperatures before allowing people inside their apartment compounds.

Speaking of groceries, you really don't want to go shopping. You just want to get in and out of the supermarket as quickly as possible without hearing a single sneeze or cough or getting too close to anyone.

The experience is so distasteful that the Beijing city government has issued 10 rules for safe grocery shopping.

Rule Number One: Everyone who enters the store must first have their temperature taken and wear a mask. They're also urged to keep a distance of at least three feet between themselves and others while inside.

In addition, shoppers are advised to pay with their cell phone accounts instead of with cash or bank cards in order to reduce physical contact.

The city is also encouraging people to wear disposable gloves, avoid public transportation when they go shopping and buy in bulk in order to reduce the number of errands they need to run.

One good thing I've noticed, though, is that the supermarkets are generally well stocked with fresh fruit and vegetables, meat, milk and bread. There also are ample supplies of bottled water, toilet paper and most everything else. The only hard to find stuff includes the obvious -- masks, hand sanitizer and clean wipes.

I've also noticed that when stuck inside one's home, it's a good idea to maintain positive habits, like making one's bed every morning, eating healthy, exercising, doing the daily chores, and trying to remember what day of the week it is. I don't dress up for work but do change out of my pajamas and keep the TV off.

I'm also dreaming of a leisurely vacation when this is all over. Some place warm where you don't need to wear a mask or have your temperature taken before coming or going. Until then, I will just be happy to sit in a Beijing restaurant, count my blessings, and ask for a menu and a big bottle of their coldest beer.

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From North Carolina...

Dennis Conrad So far, the news of the spreading coronavirus likely will affect my wife and I in at least one major way: how we celebrate our 45th wedding anniversary. In early January, before the world really knew what was about to happen with the virus, we signed up for a Danube River cruise for May and shortly thereafter made a nonrefundable payment in the thousands of dollars. It didn't take long before I began to think we had just flushed a lot of cash down the toilet. I had my doubts about how enjoyable the cruise could be amid a worldwide panic about the virus. We did get some good news March 2nd, though, when the cruise company notified us that it had decided to make a temporary change to its cancellation policy that would allow us to cancel the cruise up to 24 hours before its scheduled departure and then get a voucher to

be used for another cruise in the following 24 months. So, all we have to do is survive 2020.

In the meantime, the county where we live in North Carolina has just reported having a man test positive for the virus - only the second case to date in the state. He just came back from a trip to Italy. For my family, the virus outbreak has special meaning. My maternal grandmother died in New Jersey at age 22 in the 1918 Influenza Epidemic, leaving behind her husband, a fellow Polish immigrant, and two daughters, an infant and a 2-year-old. The husband - my grandfather - would return to Poland with his American-born girls and die in a Nazi concentration camp in 1944.

Another reason for my sensitivity is my wife is a retiree of the National Institutes of Health whose former bosses are among those speaking today with concern about the potential threat of the virus.

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From the Adirondacks...

Tom Curley - I have been traveling extensively over the last month, including to Tokyo. The travel bans and check points are Swiss cheese.

Tokyo meeting included people from China. Flight from Tokyo to DC included a hundred soldiers stationed in Korea and an Air Marshal who had been to China. No questions asked.

Domestically, DC in full angst with sell-outs and mobs at grocery stores. Adirondacks at peace (and happier). Steamboat Springs ski resort and restaurants still attracting crowds from all over.

Trip to NYC included Amtrak ride with Chinese tour group and dinner at restaurant with Xinhua staff at surrounding tables.

If you travel, good luck. You'll need it. Once you leave your bunker, anything can happen.

Do try to avoid people who cough.

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From Virginia...

Gene Herrick - Having been an "at the front" in journalism for many years, and having faced many dangers, I am not one to panic at threats. However, being of an elderly age I do think about the dangers of the coronavirus, and its likelihood of nabbing me. But, as they say, I've had a good life and death will come someday, so why panic?

I am more bothered by the way President Trump has minimized the dangers. Two days ago I visited a nurse, who specializes in blood testing, saying "I think the threat is overblown, and the result of bad media." Who does that sound like? Scary.

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From Arizona...

Mark Mittelstadt - Coronavirus has made me question whether it is wise as a referee to shake hands with participants in soccer matches.

It's traditional to shake hands with officiating partners, coaches and players. In a typical three-game assignment we may shake hands or "fist bump" 70 people or more. Some state associations and leagues have directed officials and teams to stop shaking hands as a result of COVID-1, and to take other precautions (don't spit on the field, wash hands often, don't share referee whistles). Arizona has not issued such guidance, and most referees and teams seem fine with pre- or post-game contact. I have started using Purell and sanitizing wipes between and after games.



Empty pegs where packages of N95 breathing masks should be hanging. This hardware store in suburban Tucson has been out of stock nearly two months.

The hardware store where I work a couple days a week has been out of N95 masks for nearly two months. Even before coronavirus became a big story in the United States two or three Asian customers were buying all N95 masks in stock. We don't know whether the masks were for themselves or more likely to ship back to family or friends. Our corporate office reported several weeks ago there was a global shortage and they, with other large retailers, were working with suppliers to rapidly accelerate manufacture and distribution. We were supposed to receive masks last Tuesday but didn't. Our large warehouse for the Southwest still hadn't received new stock as of Friday.

Supposedly the priority for new masks is hospitals and clinics. But a couple friends who work in health care said a big reason for their shortage is workers taking masks home.

As far as travel, our youngest son flew back to Oxford a week ago after spending time at Harvard. He reported no problems or testing at either Logan International Airport or Heathrow. One passenger on his flight was wearing a mask.

We are concerned spread of coronavirus will result in more travel restrictions and possibly delay our oldest son's wife and her son from being able to come to the United States from Guatemala in the next month or so after a year-and-a-half wait for visas, just granted.

The biggest coronavirus problem for me right now has been following guidance to not touch my face. Dry eyes, skin and itchy ears in desert conditions make it hard to keep my hands away!

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NPPA webinar on Thursday...

Doug Pizac - ASMP, the commercial sibling of NPPA, is holding a "Potential Business Ramifications of Coronavirus (COVID-19)" online webinar at 4p Thursday, March 12. General Counsel Tom Maddrey will be addressing the situation, possible business and legal ramifications, insurance coverage, and best practices in these type scenarios.

Here is the link to register for the webinar. It is free.

This should be of particular interest to current and former AP photographers who do freelancing. If anyone has any questions about the program or ASMP, please contact me. I run organization's educational webinar series.

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From Australia...

Carl Robinson - Drought, Bushfires, Floods and now Coronavirus. It was quite a dramatic Summer in Australia and now we're into Autumn and the start of our traditional Flu Season - and time for our annual flu shot from our doctor or, for the first time, from our local chemist (drug store). Panic Time? Well, images of Australia's unseemly rush on toilet paper of all things have already gone 'round the world and, after one particular supermarket brawl went viral at the weekend, two women were charged by police with "affray," a common law public disorder offense, which could earn 'em a big fine, even prison time. See this link. Meanwhile, even as some shysters start selling the product on-line at exorbitant prices, Australia's three toilet paper mills are cranking out rolls on round-the-clock shifts. Others, in typical Aussie fashion, are treating the whole thing as just another laugh, like the prankster in South Australia who filled what's called a "skill tester" - at \$2 a go - with toilet rolls. (See image below.) And lots of memes (second image.)

**HOW AUSTRALIANS
PROTECT THEMSELVES**



AGAINST CORONA VIRUS

© Instagram



For my wife Kim-Dung and myself, our biggest concern over the past week is stocking up on that good old Vietnamese staple, Jasmine Rice, which had already disappeared - along with all the toilet paper - from our local Costco when we visited last week. Our nearby supermarkets were also out of rice (and toilet paper) but lots of other staples like cereal, baked beans and other canned goods. We finally scored a 20kg bag of Cambodian rice at the weekend in a nearby heavily Asian suburb at a reasonable price and should be fine.

To its credit, Australia - already renown for its tough quarantine policies - acted very quickly when the Coronavirus outbreak began, banning all flights from China and other strong measures such as banning the return of Chinese students from their summer break despite howls of protest from universities. (Iran and South Korea followed, with extra scrutiny now on anyone arriving from Italy.) Two evacuation flights from Australian out of Wu Han into isolated camps in Australia, one on infamous Christmas Island south of Indonesia where thousands of Middle

Eastern and South Asian boat people were housed only a decade ago, and then a further flight from the Diamond Princess in Japan. So far, Australia has 70 confirmed cases of the virus and three deaths, all elderly. The tourism industry, already hard hit by the bushfires, has slumped with cruises, a popular pastime for many Aussies, the hardest hit. Any hopes of the conservative government's scoring a budget surplus (yes) have gone out the window with relief programs for fire victims, the tourism industry and now an economic stimulus package to keep Australia out of recession.

Our day-to-day activities are little changed. I'm still up for my early morning walks and getting lots of fresh air -- and Vitamin D. Any public transport is at quieter times of day. I've never liked crowds or even public events that much, in any case. But Holy Communion at my Anglican Church yesterday was definitely a change. No handshakes. Hand spray. Wafer daintily presented. And especially, no communal wine -- but small individual cups -- and, of course, any extra prayer especially for the elderly and most vulnerable amongst us.

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From Las Vegas...

Dan Sewell - As carefree as a trip to Vegas sounds, the mood gets dampened somewhat when you start seeing folks at the airport wearing respiratory masks. All of our seatmates on our three flights total wielded disinfectant wipes, as we did thanks to Vickii stocking up with Clorox wipes.

You can watch live news on the Delta flights, but we decided the latest grim reports about COVID-19 weren't setting the right mood. By the time we landed, the Las Vegas area had that day confirmed its first case.

There was a Purell station in the Caesars Palace lobby, and our seatmate out of Las Vegas said at conference's breakout rooms, there were sample sizes of Purell instead of snacks.

It was strange to see people in masks playing slots, especially the guy who was also wearing what appeared to be a white Hazmat suit with protective gloves.

Rod Stewart, opening the first in a series of shows the next two weeks at Caesars, commented: "This is a thin crowd, for obvious reasons." He invited fans to come down to fill empty seats near the stage, promising to have a happy evening in a world that doesn't have much to smile about these days. He then launched into "Havin' A Party."

It seemed staff was down, with long waits for services at some places. At one bar, we had a waitress who got a first walk-through from a manager and then tentatively began serving. We joked that the manager had spotted an attractive woman passing by and asked her if she could fit into the cocktail dress. We watched group after group sit down, then leave after getting no service.

The virus threat is huge for Las Vegas, of course. Losing conferences and tourists could make for a long, hot summer.

A second case was confirmed by the time we left.

As stepson Brad Felblinger noted, there are many more dangerous things in Las Vegas than coronavirus, so let's hope what we were exposed to in Vegas, stays in Vegas.

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From Kansas City...

George Varghese, M.D. - Spread of corona virus which has reached to the level of a pandemic, is a matter of grave concern; but not to a panic level. We have no vaccine to prevent it yet. So, we are left with preventive measures. We should isolate anyone who is suspected of infection. A good hand hygiene is important. Any one exposed to a suspected case should self-quarantine. Anyone with fever especially with cough should stay home until symptoms are subsided. If you suspect the disease, call your doctor first before running to the Emergency Room. Elderly and those with underlying significant medical conditions should be extra careful to avoid crowded places and visiting infected areas.

One unfortunate development are the confusing and often conflicting messages coming out of the administration. It is not a political issue, it is a health issue. Leave it to the experts and health care professionals to speak.

One caution often not mentioned in the media is, warning for those of us going to the gym. Exercise equipment is not sanitized after each use. The handlebars and control plates can be a source for the virus. So, those who use them, should self-sanitize the handles and control plates to be on the safe side.

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From Mexico...

Kevin Walsh - Lisa and I have visited 83 countries since we began our "home free" adventure in July 2016.

We are in Mexico now, where the coronavirus has had minimal impact so far. The hard-working and good-humored Mexican people seem to be going about their lives as normal.

During our travels, we have stayed in almost 300 Airbnbs and countless hotels. We spent more than two months traveling across Italy at the end of last year.

I recently received this message from our host in Rome regarding the coronavirus:



Lisa and Kevin in Dubai in 2019

"The message I want to send is that the life of us citizens continues normally, with some hygienic precautions but life is going on!! In Rome, we are not locked in quarantine, we normally go out to work, for dinner, we normally go to the market! Please help us spread the word!! Use or check the hashtag or to support our country!"

I also had this message exchange today with Antonio, our very kind host in Milan. Much of northern Italy is currently under quarantine, representing one-fourth of the country's population.

"Hello, Antonio. I was thinking of you and the people of northern Italy today. I wish you all the best and hope this terrible virus goes away soon. Kevin Walsh"

"Hi Kevin! Thank you for your message and the thought!"

"Yeah, it's really a bad time here, but we'll do our best to solve the problem as soon as possible. It's hard to follow the rules but it is necessary, especially for elders... Seems that the only way to win this battle is to stay isolated for a while."

"It's a completely different mindset and from (an) economic point of view it is a disaster. But we still can face it with the support of everyone, so thank you so much for contacting me! Take care!"

We are not planning to alter our travel plans or lifestyle, other than avoiding coronavirus hot spots. We try to keep in mind that this is a temporary event, affecting a very, very small portion of the global population, with the most serious impact on the elderly and those whose health is already comprised.

Best of the Week

AP's tour de force coverage of Weinstein verdict sweeps all formats



Harvey Weinstein arrives at the courthouse during jury deliberations in his rape trial, Feb. 24, 2020, in New York. Later in the day the jury convicted the Hollywood mogul of rape and sexual assault. The jury found him not guilty of the most serious charge, predatory sexual assault, which could have resulted in a life sentence. AP PHOTO / CRAIG RUTTLE

An Associated Press team dominated coverage of the closely watched Harvey Weinstein verdict, delivering all-formats wins with speed, depth and exclusivity.

A photographer leaning out of a bathroom window, reporters breathlessly waiting in courthouse hallways - Mary Altaffer captured the camaraderie and competition of the cadre of women covering Harvey Weinstein's rape trial. Her photo essay gave an engaging behind-the-scenes look at the trial that was being closely watched around the world as a test for

holding powerful men accountable for their mistreatment of women. And when time came for the verdict to be read in the case, an all-formats AP team - of women and men - delivered coverage that far outpaced competitors on the biggest trial of the #MeToo era.

Best of the States

AP looks at race in Baltimore through the lens of 'squeegee kids'



Jerome Holloway, left, sprays his squeegee alongside another teenager as they work a corner in Baltimore, Oct. 24, 2019. A debate over Baltimore's so-called squeegee kids is reaching a crescendo as the city grapples with issues of crime and poverty and a complicated history with race relations. Officials estimate 100 squeegee kids regularly work at intersections citywide, dashing into the street during red lights to clean windshields in exchange for cash from drivers. AP PHOTO / JULIO CORTEZ

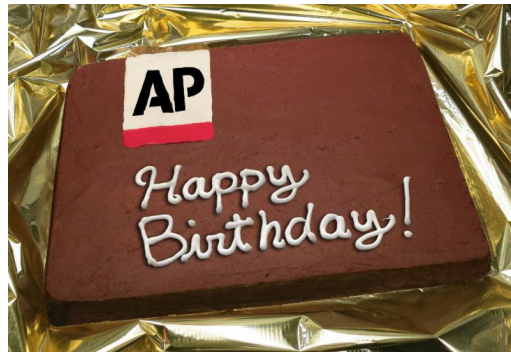
AP's Regina Garcia Cano took a deep dive into the "squeegee kids" - a fixture at intersections across Baltimore - as a lens to examine the complicated issues of race, inequality, poverty and crime in the city post-Freddie Gray.

Reporter Regina Garcia Cano saw Baltimore's "squeegee kids" at intersections all over the city - predominantly black young men who wash

windshields for tips as an way to make money instead of turning to drugs, crime and gangs.

She used data as one entry into the story, reviewing the figures related to reports on the practice - which is technically illegal though widely practiced. Through her reporting, she found one squeegee kid in particular who was willing to open up about the daily grind at the intersections and how it helped him support his family. Working with her Baltimore colleague, photographer Julio Cortez, she used that young man, Nathaniel Silas, to tell the story - and the risks the kids face as they race the stoplight's clock.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

David Kennerly - david@kennerly.com

Stories of interest

The media is blowing its chance to head off an Election Day debacle (Washington Post)

By Margaret Sullivan
Media columnist

If Election Day 2020 turns into a full-blown disaster, no one can say there weren't plenty of warning signs.

There were the Iowa caucuses, when glitches with an untested new app delayed the state's election results for havoc-filled days that turned into weeks. Or the Texas Democratic primary, where some Super Tuesday voters waited in line to vote for more than six hours while others simply gave up. Or the California primary that same day, when faulty new touch-screen voting equipment triggered hours-long waits in Los Angeles County.

If comparable disaster in November robs well-intentioned voters of their chance to be heard - or worse, gives bad-faith partisans an excuse to undermine the credibility of the vote - then the news media will bear a share of the blame.

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When an emergency room suspected I had coronavirus, things got serious fast

(Washington Post)

By Josh Dawsey
White House reporter

The snaking check-in line at the emergency room last Friday and the scores of sickly patients seeking comfort in the spartan lobby presaged a long, dreadful morning.

Then something worse happened: I was taken back immediately, ahead of everyone on the gurneys, in the wheelchairs, on the floor and even those who appeared passed out in the chairs. No insurance papers were needed. "Mr. Dawsey, please come this way."

After I was whooshed into a private, Manhattan-studio-size room at MedStar Washington Hospital Center, nurses in heavy-duty hazmat-like suits and masks suddenly surrounded me, inserting an intravenous needle, checking my heart and pulse, examining my organs and writing measurements on charts. New masks were changed. One doctor stood at least 10 feet away from me, his back against the wall, as he talked to me.

It suddenly dawned on me, though no one had said it. They thought I had coronavirus.

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Trump escalates fight against press with libel lawsuits (The Hill)

By JUSTIN WISE

The Trump campaign's libel lawsuits against The New York Times, The Washington Post and CNN mark a dramatic escalation in the president's long fight with the media.

Legal experts have said the suits are dead on arrival, failing to meet the high bar to prove defamation of a public figure, but they fear an environment in which powerful elected officials try to use the courts to intimidate the press.

"The concern here is not that one of these suits would win on the merits - it's the chilling effect that it has on public discussion of political affairs," Jonathan Peters, the Columbia Journalism Review's press freedom correspondent and a University of Georgia media law professor, told The Hill.

Shared by Doug Pizac.

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The Irish photographer who won a Pulitzer, then quit 'the best job in the world' (Irish Times)

By Fionola Meredith

When Irish photographer Cathal McNaughton was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in May 2018, it was the peak of his professional career.

McNaughton was already a multi-award-winning photojournalist, but it was his searingly powerful images of desperate Rohingya refugees fleeing

genocide in Myanmar that won McNaughton - along with his colleagues from Reuters news agency - the prestigious prize.

At the time, McNaughton was based in Delhi, working for Reuters as its chief photographer in India. But when he returned from the Pulitzer ceremony in New York, via Toronto, he was denied re-entry to India.

McNaughton was dazed: it was late at night and he had just come off a 14-hour flight. Without explanation, the Indian authorities escorted him back to the plane he'd flown in on and marched him down the aisle to his seat. Before he was fully aware of it, he found himself flying back to Toronto. His job, his apartment, his friends, his possessions: all were left behind in Delhi.

McNaughton's life, as he had known it up until then, had disintegrated.

Shared by Andrew Selsky.

Today in History - March 9, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, March 9, the 69th day of 2020. There are 297 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 9, 1945, during World War II, U.S. B-29 bombers began launching incendiary bomb attacks against Tokyo, resulting in an estimated 100,000 deaths.

On this date:

In 1841, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *United States v. The Amistad*, ruled 7-1 in favor of a group of illegally enslaved Africans who were captured off the U.S. coast after seizing control of a Spanish schooner, *La Amistad*; the justices ruled that the Africans should be set free.

In 1916, more than 400 Mexican raiders led by Pancho Villa (VEE'-uh) attacked Columbus, New Mexico, killing 18 Americans. During the First World War, Germany declared war on Portugal.

In 1933, Congress, called into special session by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, began its "hundred days" of enacting New Deal legislation.

In 1959, Mattel's Barbie doll, created by Ruth Handler, made its public debut at the American International Toy Fair in New York.

In 1964, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *New York Times Co. v. Sullivan*, raised the standard for public officials to prove they'd been libeled in their official capacity by news organizations.

In 1976, a cable car in the Italian ski resort of Cavalese fell some 700 feet to the ground when a supporting line snapped, killing 43 people.

In 1981, Dan Rather made his debut as principal anchorman of "The CBS Evening News."

In 1987, Chrysler Corp. announced it had agreed to buy the financially ailing American Motors Corp.

In 1989, the Senate rejected President George H.W. Bush's nomination of John Tower to be defense secretary by a vote of 53-47. (The next day, Bush tapped Wyoming Rep. Dick Cheney, who went on to win unanimous Senate approval.)

In 1997, gangsta rapper The Notorious B.I.G. (Christopher Wallace) was killed in a still-unsolved drive-by shooting in Los Angeles; he was 24.

In 2005, Dan Rather signed off for the last time as principal anchorman of "The CBS Evening News."

In 2009, President Barack Obama lifted George W. Bush-era limits on using federal dollars for embryonic stem cell research.

Ten years ago: Vice President Joe Biden, visiting Israel, condemned an Israeli plan to build hundreds of homes in east Jerusalem. Former television producer Robert "Joe" Halderman pleaded guilty in New York to attempted grand larceny for trying to blackmail talk show host David Letterman. (Halderman was sentenced to six months in jail; he actually served four.) Doris "Granny D" Haddock, a New Hampshire woman who'd walked across the country at age 89 to promote campaign finance reform, died at age 100.

Five years ago: In northwestern Argentina, two helicopters collided and burst into flames shortly after taking off near the remote settlement of Villa Castelli, killing both pilots and eight French nationals. (Among the victims were Olympic champion swimmer Camille Muffat (moo-FAY'), Olympic bronze-medalist boxer Alexis Vastine and pioneering sailor Florence Arthaud, who were contestants on a European reality TV show which was being shot in the sparsely populated region.) Solar Impulse 2, a Swiss-made solar-powered aircraft, took off from Abu Dhabi just after daybreak in a historic first attempt to fly around the world without a drop of fossil fuel (however, overheated batteries grounded the plane in Hawaii). Apple CEO Tim Cook unveiled the Apple Watch in San Francisco.

One year ago: R&B singer R. Kelly walked out of a Chicago jail after someone who officials said did not want to be publicly identified paid \$161,000 that Kelly owed in back child support. (Kelly would be arrested in July and ordered held without bond as he awaited sex-related charges in Chicago and New York.) Julia Ruth Stevens, the last surviving daughter of Hall of Fame baseball slugger Babe Ruth, died at an assisted living facility in Nevada at the age of 102; she had been a decades-long champion of Ruth's legacy.

Today's Birthdays: Former Sen. James L. Buckley, Conservative-N.Y., is 97. Singer Lloyd Price is 87. Actress Joyce Van Patten is 86. Country singer Mickey Gilley is 84. Actress Trish Van Devere is 79. Singer-musician John Cale (The Velvet Underground) is 78. Singer Mark Lindsay (Paul Revere and the Raiders) is 78. Former ABC anchorman Charles Gibson is 77. Rock musician Robin Trower is 75. Singer Jeffrey Osborne is 72. Country musician Jimmie Fadden (The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band) is 72. Actress Jaime Lyn Bauer is 71. Magazine editor Michael Kinsley is 69. TV newscaster Faith Daniels is 63. Actress Linda Fiorentino is 62. Actor Tom Amandes is 61. Actor-director Lonny Price is 61. Country musician Rusty Hendrix (Confederate Railroad) is 60. Actress Juliette Binoche is 56. Rock musician Robert Sledge (Ben Folds Five) is 52. Rock musician Shannon Leto (30 Seconds to Mars) is 50. Rapper C-Murder (AKA C-Miller) is 49. Actor Emmanuel Lewis is 49. Actress Jean Louisa Kelly is 48. Actor Kerr Smith is 48. Actor Oscar Isaac is 41. Comedian Jordan Klepper (TV: "The Daily Show") is 41. Rapper Chingy is 40. Actor Matthew Gray Gubler is 40. Rock musician Chad Gilbert (New Found Glory) is 39. Roots rock musician Ben Tanner (Alabama Shakes) is 37. NHL defenseman Brent Burns is 35. Actress Brittany Snow is 34. Rapper Bow Wow is 33. Rapper YG is 30. Actor Luis Armand Garcia is 28. Actress Cierra Ramirez is 25.

Thought for Today: "Anybody who wants the presidency so much that he'll spend two years organizing and campaigning for it is not to be trusted with the office." [-] David Broder (1929-2011).

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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