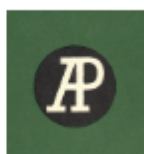


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Connecting

June 29, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this the 29th day of June 2020,

T-MINUS: Retirement tips for newbies

That's the headline of an email received by colleague **Bill Kole** ([Email](#)) – AP's New England news editor based in Boston – who explains:

A senior AP news exec told me offhand last year that one-third of the company's news staff is expected to retire in the next five years. I'm one of them, a little more than five years out.

That got me thinking that perhaps Connecting, which already is an ad hoc font of terrific wisdom, could be harnessed in a more deliberate way to provide advice to those of us approaching retirement. Maybe a standing feature (I keep thinking "T-MINUS," as in a rocket countdown) where people could share tips not only on what

they wished they'd done to prepare financially for retirement, but on more esoteric issues such as second acts, volunteering, hobbies, etc. This could, after all, be our longest season of life, yet many of us who think we're prepping for retirement haven't really thought it all the way through, or have blind spots.

Please tell us what you wished in hindsight someone had told you!

Connecting would welcome your thoughts as we have many active-duty people on the mailing list who would benefit from your wisdom.

Some of our colleagues once worked for Stars and Stripes and others served in the military and were avid readers of what General Eisenhower once called "the soldiers' paper."

It could well cease operations if Congress approves the president's fiscal 2021 budget that would eliminate funding for Stars and Stripes – as noted in our lead-off article, published last week in The Washington Post.

Connecting would like to hear your thoughts, not only on the decision but also what journalists can do.

Have a great week - be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

The Stars and Stripes newspaper has long supported the troops. Now it needs Congress's support.



An Army medic reads Stars and Stripes. Photo/Air Force

By Graham Vyse

By mid-March, coronavirus response efforts were underway worldwide. President Trump had declared a national emergency. France was in lockdown. And Japanese public schools were closed.

But schools on American military bases in Japan planned to remain open, much to the dismay of nervous parents. Then the news appeared in Stars and Stripes, the Pentagon-subsidized but editorially independent newspaper that covers the U.S. armed forces at home and abroad. “School is such an easy place for viruses and germs to spread,” one Navy spouse fretted to the publication, “and it seems like too much of a risk.” A day later, closures were announced.

Stars and Stripes has been chronicling the military angle of the covid-19 crisis for months now: sailors infected on Navy ships, face masks purchased for the Department of Defense workforce, stimulus checks cut for veterans. But in the midst of the pandemic, the newspaper faces an unprecedented threat all its own: In February, the Trump administration proposed eliminating all of the publication’s federal support in 2021. That’s more than \$15 million a year, about half its budget. “I can’t think of a graver threat to its independence,” the paper’s ombudsman, Ernie Gates, told me recently. “That’s a fatal cut.”

Defense Secretary Mark Esper justifies the cut by saying the publication’s money should be spent on “higher-priority issues,” including space and nuclear programs. But considering that Stars and Stripes represents a minuscule fraction of the department’s \$705 billion budget — “decimal dust,” as editorial director Terry Leonard puts it — critics see the proposal as consistent with the president’s broader war on journalism. “It’s another obnoxious assault by the Trump administration on freedom of the press,”

says Rep. Seth Moulton (D-Mass.), a Marine veteran and member of the House Armed Services Committee, who blasts the defunding plan as “un-American.”

Now Moulton’s committee — and ultimately the rest of Congress — must decide whether to support the appropriation by the fall, preserving a news organization with a unique civic role. This deliberation comes as the coronavirus economic crisis exacerbates the news industry’s financial woes, adding to what The Washington Post recently described as a “tsunami of layoffs, cutbacks, furloughs and closures” washing over American newsrooms.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting mailbox

BBC’s Dateline London honors AP’s Greg Katz



Robert Reid ([Email](#)) - BBC International's last edition of its weekly talk show Dateline London ended Saturday with a tribute to AP's Greg Katz, who appeared regularly on the show. (Katz, correspondent for The Associated Press in London who recently led the news cooperative's coverage of Brexit and the election of Boris Johnson as prime minister, died last Tuesday. He had been ill in recent months and had contracted COVID-19.)

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A virtual graduation ceremony in London





Steve Wilson ([Email](#)) - Our 18-year-old daughter, Alexandra, had a Zoom graduation from South Hampstead High School in London. She was sad not to be able to enjoy the traditional final-year celebrations and farewells but the school did it best to strike the right tone and made the virtual ceremony go off without a hitch. Next stop: The University of Edinburgh in September (depending on the pandemic situation). She is shown in second photo with my wife Katherine and me.

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Rock Center's famed statue now fitted with masks



Photo/James Keivom, New York Post

Rockefeller Center's famed statues – familiar figures especially to those who once worked in AP's headquarters when located at 50 Rockefeller Plaza - have been fitted out with masks,

The iconic "Atlas" holding a globe, the "Mankind Figures" and the golden "Prometheus" were all seen with blue fabric over their faces.

The stunt, by real estate investment firm Tishman Speyer, was intended to remind New Yorkers to put on face coverings and observe social distancing as they venture out.

The sculptures can be viewed on Fifth Avenue between 50th and 51st streets.

From [New York Post](#) . Shared by Sibby Christensen.

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Thanks for the tow, Molly



Gerald Jackson ([Email](#)) - Granddaughter Alex, escaping suburban Denver for the beautiful East Tennessee Lake Tellico, gets a tow with her paddle board from her dog Molly.

Celebrating birthday at Café Casey



Patrick Casey ([Email](#)) - The New Normal forced us to celebrate my birthday (including Xin Xin, a homeless rescue cat we adopted 12 weeks ago) at Cafe Casey Sunday night for the first time ever instead of at our traditional neighborhood favorite, 106 (in Beijing). It's a minuscule inconvenience in the grand scheme of things and we are immensely grateful for our good health and blessings but deeply saddened watching the coronavirus unnecessarily surge in America. Stay safe and wear a mask.

Best of the Week

White House homecoming photo speaks volumes on Trump's Tulsa rally



President Donald Trump crosses the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, early Sunday, June 21, 2020, after stepping off Marine One as he returns from a campaign rally in Tulsa, Okla. AP PHOTO / PATRICK SEMANSKY

What started as a mundane and potentially dull assignment turned into a golden opportunity for Washington-based photojournalist Pat Semansky. He was assigned weekend White House duty – a fairly routine gig for Washington photographers.

President Donald Trump had gone to Tulsa, Oklahoma, for his first, much-hyped campaign rally since the coronavirus pandemic put a halt to large gatherings. Semansky's Washington colleague, photographer Evan Vucci, accompanied the White House pool and had worked the rally itself, joined by Oklahoma City staffer Sue Ogrocki. The event ended with a much smaller turnout than the president and his campaign entourage had expected.

Read more [here](#).

Best of the States

Frontline health care workers face the emotional toll taken by the virus



As the coronavirus pandemic enters a new phase in a reopening nation, its psychological toll is sinking in for the people who have cared for the sickest patients. Some other media outlets have reported on the issue, but the AP went further by going into New York City hospitals to see the impact in person, in real time and on the record.

Writer Jennifer Peltz and video journalist Robert Bumsted sat in on a “debriefing” session where emergency-room staffers at hard-hit Elmhurst Hospital told each other how they were feeling now that the crisis has eased, but the fear of a resurgence has not.

“I am still scared ... I feel like it’s a calm before a second storm,” one doctor said.

“In my wildest dreams, I never imagined how hard it would be,” another doctor said.

Read more [here](#).

Stories of interest

A Debate Over Identity and Race Asks, Are African-Americans ‘Black’ or ‘black’? (New York Times)

By John Eligon

It's the difference between black and Black. A longtime push by African-American scholars and writers to capitalize the word black in the context of race has gained widespread acceptance in recent weeks and unleashed a deep debate over identity, race and power.

Hundreds of news organizations over the past month have changed their style to Black in reference to the race of people, including The Associated Press, long considered an influential arbiter of journalism style. Far more than a typographical change, the move is part of a generations-old struggle over how best to refer to those who trace their ancestry to Africa.

The capitalization of black, which has been pushed for years, strikes at deeper questions over the treatment of people of African descent, who were stripped of their identities and enslaved in centuries past, and whose struggles to become fully accepted as part of the American experience continue to this day.

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

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Even before virus, communities feeling loss of newspapers

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — If Penelope Muse Abernathy can take any solace in her grim work of counting how many newspapers across America have closed, it's that more people are becoming aware of the problem.

The North Carolina journalism professor's latest report out this week details the industry's decline from 2004 through 2019, a period that saw the loss of more than 2,000 newspapers and a 44% drop in circulation overall.

The result has left many communities without a local paper, a shift she said is being recognized by a broad range of people who notice a lack of strong local news coverage contributes to societal divisions and an erosion of trust in institutions.

"I see a big difference in awareness of the issue by community activists, government officials, by ordinary citizens and politicians," said Abernathy, professor at the Hussman School of Journalism and Media at the University of North Carolina and author of "The Expanding News Desert" report released Wednesday.

Read more [here](#) . Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

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Reporter at Trump's Tulsa rally tests positive for COVID-19

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — A journalist who attended President Donald Trump's rally in Tulsa last week said Friday he has tested positive for COVID-19.

Oklahoma Watch reporter Paul Monies said he was notified Friday of his positive diagnosis.

"I'm pretty surprised," Monies wrote on Twitter. "I have zero symptoms (so far) and I feel fine. In fact, I ran 5 miles this morning."

Monies said he was inside the rally for about 6 hours on Saturday at the BOK Center and that he wore a mask and mostly practiced social distancing, except for when he went to the concourse to get a snack. He said he was never close to the president.

Read more [here](#).

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Being the only Black woman journalist in the room is a privilege and a prison (Philadelphia Inquirer)



Queen Muse, For The Inquirer

Earlier this month, I became the only Black woman writer at a publication I work for. My former editor and another Black woman writer recently left because they were unhappy. That brought the total number of Black people in the newsroom from eight to six. This, while people were taking to the streets nationwide to protest for equality for Black lives. The timing couldn't have been worse—but it was no coincidence.

You don't get down to one Black woman writer, nor lack diversity, by accident. It happens from conscious decisions by white executives and editors who exercise the privilege of only hiring and promoting people who look like them. I've seen the scenario play out many times.

I once interned for a TV station where, despite my solid performance, I was told there was no budget to hire me. I begged to stay as a contractor, figuring I just needed to prove myself to earn a permanent place. I continued earning slightly more than minimum wage for strong work, taking shifts no one else wanted. A month later, my white male editor hired a young white woman in the role he'd claimed he had no budget for. The editor said she reminded him of himself when he was a young reporter and wanted to groom her. To add insult to injury, while I continued as an underpaid contractor, I had to listen to her complain about my dream job. I was so scarred by the experience I took a corporate job and stopped writing altogether.

Only by chance did I find myself back in a newsroom six years later. So many other Black journalists never do. They give up dreams of writing stories that matter because conditions in many newsrooms are too oppressive to overcome. I mourn for Black reporters and editors who've had it much worse than I did.

Read more [here](#) .

The Final Word

The End of an Era: A Short Film About The Last Day of Hot Metal Typesetting at The New York Times (1978)



This is usually what happens when I write a piece for Open Culture: As I drink an overpriced coffee at my local coffee shop, I research a topic on the internet, write and edit an article on Microsoft Word and then copy and paste the whole thing into WordPress. My editor in Open Culture's gleaming international headquarters up in San Francisco gives it a look-over and then, with the push of a button, publishes the article on the site.

It's sobering to think what I casually do over the course of a morning would require the effort of dozens of people 40+ years ago.

Until the 1970s, with the rise in popularity of computer typesetting, newspapers were printed the same way for nearly a century. Linotype machines would cast one line at a time from molten lead. Though an improvement from handset type, where printers would assemble lines of type one character at a time, linotype still required numerous skilled printers to assemble each and every newspaper edition.

The New York Times transitioned from that venerated production method to computer typesetting on Sunday, July 2, 1978. David Loeb Weiss, a proofreader at the Times, documented this final day in the documentary Farewell - Etain Shrdlu.

Read more [here](#) . Shared by Jane Anderson Vercelli.

Today in History - June 29, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, June 29, the 181st day of 2020. There are 185 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 29, 1613, London's original Globe Theatre, where many of Shakespeare's plays were performed, was destroyed by a fire sparked by a cannon shot during a performance of "Henry VIII."

On this date:

In 1520, Montezuma II, the ninth and last emperor of the Aztecs, died in Tenochtitlan (tay-nohch-TEET'-lahn) under unclear circumstances (some say he was killed by his own subjects; others, by the Spanish).

In 1767, Britain approved the Townshend Revenue Act, which imposed import duties on glass, paint, oil, lead, paper and tea shipped to the American colonies. (Colonists bitterly protested, prompting Parliament to repeal the duties [-] except for tea.)

In 1776, the Virginia state constitution was adopted, and Patrick Henry was made governor.

In 1880, France annexed Tahiti, which became a French colony on December 30, 1880.

In 1927, the first trans-Pacific airplane flight was completed as U.S. Army Air Corps Lt. Lester J. Maitland and Lt. Albert F. Hegenberger arrived at Wheeler Field in Hawaii aboard the Bird of Paradise, an Atlantic-Fokker C-2, after flying 2,400 miles from Oakland, California, in 25 hours, 50 minutes.

In 1933, actor-director Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle died in New York at age 46.

In 1946, authorities in British-ruled Palestine arrested more than 2,700 Jews in an attempt to stamp out extremists.

In 1970, the United States ended a two-month military offensive into Cambodia.

In 1974, Isabel Martinez de Peron was sworn in as acting president of Argentina, two days before the death of her ailing husband, President Juan Peron.

In 1995, the space shuttle Atlantis and the Russian Mir space station linked in orbit, beginning a historic five-day voyage as a single ship. A department store in Seoul (sohl), South Korea, collapsed, killing at least 500 people. Actress Lana Turner died in Century City, California, at age 74.

In 2006, the Supreme Court ruled, 5-3, that President George W. Bush's plan to try Guantanamo Bay detainees in military tribunals violated U.S. and international law.

In 2009, disgraced financier Bernard Madoff received a 150-year sentence for his multibillion-dollar fraud.

Ten years ago: China and Taiwan signed a tariff-slashing trade pact that boosted economic ties and further eased political tensions six decades after the rivals split amid civil war. Talk show host Larry King announced he would step down from his CNN show in the autumn after 25 years on the air.

Five years ago: A deeply divided Supreme Court upheld the use of a controversial drug, midazolam (mih-DAZ'-oh-lam), in lethal-injection executions. (Executions that employed midazolam took longer than usual and raised concerns that the drug did not perform its intended task of putting inmates into a coma-like sleep.) A car bomb killed Egypt's chief prosecutor, Hisham Barakat, in the country's first assassination of a senior official in 25 years. Stanley Cup winners Nicklas Lidstrom, Chris Pronger and Sergei Fedorov and former NHL star Phil Housley were among the seven newcomers in the Hockey Hall of Fame.

One year ago: Former New York City police detective Luis Alvarez, who was a leader in the fight to maintain the Sept. 11 Victims Compensation Fund, died of cancer at the age of 53. In Major League Baseball's first game in Europe, the New York Yankees outlasted the Boston Red Sox 17-13 in a London game that stretched for four hours and 42 minutes, just three minutes shy of the record for a nine-inning game.

Today's Birthdays: Songwriter L. Russell Brown is 80. Singer-songwriter Garland Jeffreys is 77. Actor Gary Busey is 76. Comedian Richard Lewis is 73. Actor-turned-politican-turned-radio personality Fred Grandy is 72. Rock musician Ian Paice (Deep Purple) is 72. Singer Don Dokken (Dokken) is 67. Rock singer Colin Hay (Men At Work) is 67. Actress Maria Conchita Alonso is 65. Actress Kimberlin Brown (TV: "The Bold and the Beautiful") is 59. Actress Sharon Lawrence is 59. Actress Amanda Donohoe is 58. Actress Judith Hoag is 57. Violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter is 57. Rhythm and blues singer Stedman Pearson (Five Star) is 56. Actress Kathleen Wilhoite is 56. Producer-writer Matthew Weiner is 55. Musician Dale Baker is 54. Actress Melora Hardin is 53. Actor Brian D'Arcy James is 52. Actress Christina Chang is 49. Rap DJ Shadow is 48. Actor Lance Barber is 47. Actor-dancer Will Kemp is 43. Actress Zuleikha Robinson is 43. Rock musician Sam Farrar is 42. Actor Luke Kirby is 42. Country musician Todd Sansom (Marshall Dyllon) is 42. Singer Nicole Scherzinger is 42. Comedian-writer Colin Jost (johst) is 38. Actress Lily Rabe is 38. Rhythm and blues singer Aundrea Fimbres is 37. NBA forward Kawhi Leonard is 29. Actress Camila Mendes (TV: "Riverdale") is 26.

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.

Paul Stevens

Editor, Connecting newsletter

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