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Connecting July 20, 2020

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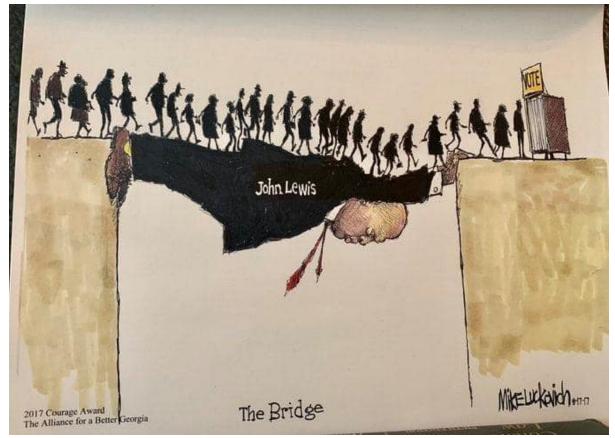




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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this the 20th day of July 2020,

Congressman John Lewis, a pillar of the civil rights movement, is being mourned by rights activists, politicians from both parties and many other people touched by the legacy of a man whose lifelong struggle against racial discrimination took him from a bridge in Selma to the nation's Capitol.

In lead stories for today's issue, two of our Connecting colleagues who covered him -**Phil Sandlin** and **Sonya Ross** - remember the Georgia Democrat who died Friday, several months after he announced that he had been diagnosed with advanced pancreatic cancer.

We also bring you news of new project involving Connecting colleague Lynn Sherr - a podcast she is co-hosting with Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Ellen Goodman on the Suffrage Centennial. It's called She Votes! We will bring you followup when the first episode drops on Wednesday.

"Of all the things I learned and absorbed and cherish from my years at The AP," Sherr said, "I suspect my latest project -- the podcast SHE VOTES! celebrating the centennial of the 19th Amendment -- is the most surprising. But really, it fits."



Sherr joined the AP in 1965, two years out of college, and initially worked in the book division. She joined Newsfeatures – and "that den of poets" - after creating and running the AP Filmstrips Division for a few years.

"(General Manager) Wes Gallagher was (rightly) eager to position AP the way The Washington Post and The New York Times were doing -morphing their outdated Women's Pages into Style sections. Ours was called Living Today. Or more commonly, The Mod Squad: five women, one man, explaining the craziness of the new hip world. It was 1969, and my beat included movements. Which meant the new thing looking at women's rights. At first, they didn't let guys into the meetings, so suddenly I had an

advantage. And then a mission. I realized I was a feminist, too -- a word I'd never heard -- and discovered the world of women's history. Never mind that Wes used to call Jurate Kazickas and me 'card-carrying members of the Women's Liberation Front.' I always thought he was quite pleased that we had the access and the understanding to get the beat on so many of the stories.

"So yes, it was at The AP--and through my assignments--that I learned about Susan B. Anthony and Sojourner Truth and all the rest. And I'm thrilled to be putting it all together now in this new adventure with my pod-partner, the Pulitzer-Prize-winning columnist Ellen Goodman. She was at the Boston Globe writing about the same issues during my time at AP. Now we're doing it together."

Here's to a great week ahead – be safe, stay healthy, share your stories.

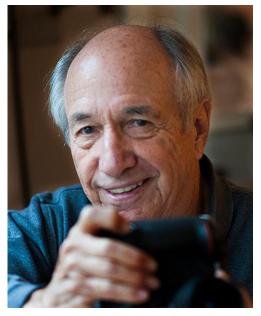
Paul

Recalling Selma march – when John Lewis used his camera to take photos of sea of marchers

Phil Sandlin (<u>Email</u>) - I remember the day when all of the marchers on the Selma March were entering Montgomery headed toward the Capitol. I was a photographer with United Press International at the time. It made the hair on the back of my neck stand up as the sea of marchers were singing "We Shall Overcome."

I was busy trying to get a vantage point to get a picture of that wall of marchers but couldn't find a place. There was a flatbed truck parked on the road and Peter Paul and Mary, along with other entertainers, were on the flatbed singing - as well as a crowd of dignitaries like Martin Luther King and others. I looked at the platform but a cop nodded his head "no".

My salvation came when I spotted one of the civil rights leaders I had covered when he was attacked by rednecks during an earlier confrontation. I tugged at his pant leg and asked if he would take my Leica and shoot a couple of images of the crowd. Without a moment's hesitation, John Lewis performed like a pro, taking his time for composition, making several frames for me of marchers



and those on the flatbed, and then handing a very happy photographer his camera back.

I can't honestly know what he got. I wasn't able to see my film during the actual march as me and another photographer Joe Hollaway drove a rented truck where we took turns driving so we could stay with the march and be on scene 24/7. So all the film we shot was picked up by other staffers who would drive back to Selma or Montgomery depending which was closer at the time.

(Phil Sandlin joined UPI in 1961, covering NASA's Gemini and Apollo programs and the civil rights movement, including the Selma March. He jumped to the AP in 1974, continuing his space coverage with the shuttle program, and served as AP's photo editor in Miami before retiring in 2001.)

For years, she enjoyed reporter/source relationship with John Lewis



US Rep. John Lewis and Sonya Ross at a private Capitol Hill book signing for Lewis' memoir, Walking With The Wind," 1998.

Sonya Ross (<u>Email</u>) - For many years, I enjoyed a reporter/source relationship with the legendary John Lewis. Yes, "enjoyed," because in 30-plus years, never once did John Lewis disrespect or rebuff me. He knew what I needed to do my job and he always obliged, understanding what having access to someone like him did for the professional credibility of someone like me.

And yes "legendary," because ... Oh c'mon, everybody knows he was.

I first met John Lewis when I was an intern for The Associated Press in Atlanta, and he was a plucky city councilman running for Georgia's 5th Congressional District seat against his student activist ally and friend Julian Bond. I had been sent to gather quotes at a Bond news conference with Rosa Parks, who had been flown in to endorse Bond. At least, that's what they said. But Mrs. Parks, ever the movement mother, told reporters "they're both my boys" and she couldn't choose one movement son over the other. Lewis, who came in when it was over to see Mrs. Parks, delighted in this. But he wouldn't gloat. Even when we reporters mobbed him, and one reporter pointed out that he still could lose, Lewis simply said let the voters speak, and we shall see.

Outside of work, John Lewis was my congressman during his first two terms. Even after I moved from Atlanta to DC, he remained my congressman -- in my mother's mind. He was her congressman, and she had no regard for jurisdictions. She would chat him up whenever he visited her senior's community center, and tell him to look

out for me in DC. Whenever I saw him in DC, he would ask, "how's your mother?" or duly report that he had just seen her and send greetings back to her through me. When she died, he personally expressed his sympathies to me as soon as I said hello to him at the Congressional Black Caucus' annual legislative conference -- and I hadn't even told him that she had passed. Here he is a congressman, a famous one at that, greeting hundreds of people everywhere he went, and he always, always remembered my mother.

Journalists often worry about appearing too cozy with sources, lest we look compromised or biased. But when it came to John Lewis, the great Black liberator and my mama's congressman, I could not care about that. John Lewis was living history. Living Black history, living American history, walking, talking, approachable, on the morally right side of history type of history. His congressional career and my reporting career started at the same time, in the same place. That made our dynamic too special to be defined by industry opinions of what "impartiality" should look like.



FILE - In this Tuesday night, Sept. 3, 1986, file photo, John Lewis, front left, and his wife, Lillian, holding hands, lead a march of supporters from his campaign headquarters to an Atlanta hotel for a victory party after he defeated Julian Bond in a runoff election for Georgia's 5th Congressional District seat in Atlanta. Lewis, who carried the struggle against racial discrimination from Southern battlegrounds of the 1960s to the halls of Congress, died Friday, July 17, 2020. (AP Photo/Linda Schaeffer, File)

This is why, with no shame, I took the photo (at top of the story) with John Lewis on Capitol Hill in 1998 after he signed my copy of his autobiography. And why I considered it a blessing to have captured an image of him and Bond together on stage in 2013, obviously recovered from the strain that their 1986 campaign put on their friendship. It is an honor, frankly, to have occupied the same space in time with John Lewis, a bona fide American hero who was never too big to care about regular folks like my mom on Atlanta's west side. I am so sad that he is gone. I will miss him terribly, like the rest of the world.

(Sonya Ross retired in June 2019 after a 33-year career at The Associated Press. She became the AP's first black woman White House reporter in 1995 and, in 1999, became the first black woman elected to the board of the White House Correspondents Association. Sonya was the print pool reporter aboard Air Force One with President George W. Bush as he was evacuated during the Sept. 11 terrorist attack, an historic first. An Atlanta native, Sonya joined AP as an intern in her hometown in 1986 and went on to cover the state legislature and the 1990 governor's race. She transferred to the Washington bureau in 1992 to cover civil rights and urban affairs. Sonya was inducted into the Society of Professional Journalists Hall of Fame in 2018. She is the founding chair of National Association of Black Journalist's political journalism task force and currently serves on the boards of the Washington Press Club Foundation, the Society of Professional Journalists Foundation and the National Newspaper Association Fund.)

Klibanoff: John Lewis provided voice of moral authority for Pulitzer Prize-winning book



At Manuel's Tavern in 2007, the night my wonderful friends at the Atlanta Journal-Constitution celebrated the Pulitzer Prizes that Cynthia Tucker (that's her left arm!) and I won. John Lewis joined the celebration.

Hank Klibanoff on Facebook (**Email**) - In deciding how to close The Race Beat, I knew I needed someone profoundly consequential, someone whose extraordinary story was woven into the fabric of the previous 400 pages, someone whose words crystallized the point and purpose of the book and who would leave readers satisfied and gratified by the history they'd just read. I knew for a long time who that would be, and I stayed with the instinct: John Lewis. (I've attached the final 7 paragraphs of the book). More than anyone else, John Lewis, my congressman, emerged from the civil rights struggle as THE moral authority then and for the next 50 years -- and, if we're good teachers of that moral authority, til the end of time. Even at 80, he died in the prime of his life because he was always in the prime of his life. Peace.

Connecting - July 20, 2020

NOTE : The Race Beat: The Press, the Civil Rights Struggle, and the Awakening of a Nation, is a Pulitzer Prize-winning book written in 2006 by journalists Gene Roberts and Hank Klibanoff. Klibanoff, former managing editor of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, is the former director of the journalism program at Emory University in Atlanta, currently a member of Emory's Creative Writing Program and director of the Georgia Civil Rights Cold Case Project. Previously he was deputy managing editor for The Philadelphia Inquirer and a member of The Associated Press Managing Editors Board of Directors. He hosts a podcast "Buried Truths" about racial tensions in Georgia during and after the 1948 election. The podcast has received numerous awards and honors, including the 2018 Peabody Award, the Edward R. Murrow Award, the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Journalism Award and a Webby honoree. Roberts held executive editorial positions at The New York Times and The Philadelphia Inquirer. (Shared by Mark Mittelstadt)

406 / THE RACE BEAT

Gunnar Myrdal had been astonishingly prophetic when he wrote in the early 1940s that if the mainstream press told the southern racial story, the rest of the nation would be "shocked and shaken" and demand sweeping changes. With constant pressure from the civil rights movement and constant coverage by the press, change came.

There is perhaps no greater embodiment of the movement's success than John Lewis, now a congressman representing King's birthplace, Atlanta. Today, when he looks back on how he survived and how the movement kept going, he thinks about how hard the segregationists worked to keep the prying eyes of the press away. He can recall the security he felt when reporters—"sympathetic referees," he calls them—were watching and the fear he felt when they weren't.

So many memories of so many important steps on the historic path crowd his mind. Still fresh in his memories, in his emotions, is Birmingham, 1961, when he sat in a Freedom Ride bus at a terminal and felt safe as long as he could see reporters and they could see him. Then police covered the windows, and he was overcome by fear. He can recall how Bull Connor's men rousted him in the dark of night, out of the sight of reporters, and drove him to the Tennessee state line, then abandoned him, leaving him shaken by his isolation from the comforting eyes of journalists. When he saw white thugs in Montgomery smash cameras, beat reporters, and rip up notebooks, he understood that there was an extraordinary power of communications operating parallel to, and intertwined with, the movement. It was, he felt, an allied force.

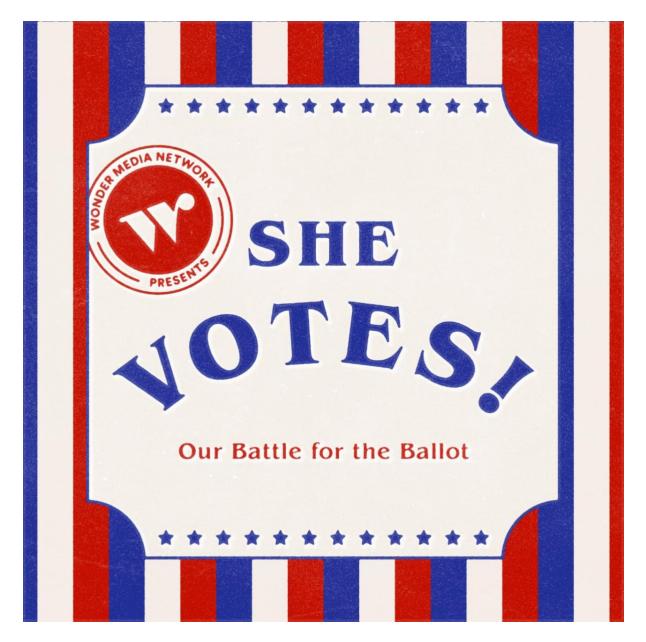
His greatest fear—and his greatest understanding of the power of the press—came in Mississippi when officers hauled Freedom Riders away from reporters and to the remote, desolate Parchman State Penitentiary. Lewis understood then, and now, the significance of the guard's sneering comment, "Ain't no newspapermen out here."

Selma, he could see years later, had been a catalytic moment in the relationship between the civil rights movement and the news media. "There was a sense of righteous indignation on the part of the American people because of the message that the media was able to translate and send around the country and around the world."

The civil rights movement had succeeded, Lewis would conclude, "because we had a group of men and women who were prepared to get up there to write the words or shoot the pictures, capture the sound. And I think that's changed the face of the South and, in changing the face of the South, changed this nation once and for all."³³

"If it hadn't been for the media—the print media and television—the civil rights movement would have been like a bird without wings, a choir without a song."³⁴

Announcing SHE VOTES! Our new podcast



Lynn Sherr (Email) - Hi all, on this historic day.

Exactly 152 years ago, a few hundred bold women and men gathered in upstate New York to discuss the rights of women. Their most radical demand: the right to vote. Newspaper editorials called the convention "unwomanly." The demand, ridiculous.

Which leads to news of my exciting new project.

As you surely are aware, August 26 is the centennial of the ratification of 19th Amendment to the Constitution -- the culmination of more than seven decades during which women fought for that right to vote. And it comes during a pivotal election which may well hinge on the women's vote. I've long been captivated by the suffrage movement and its extraordinary heroes. So I'm thrilled to announce that I'm cohosting a new podcast with my pal Ellen Goodman (photo at right). It's called *She Votes!* <u>You can listen to the trailer here</u>. The first episode drops on Wednesday and you'll get an update when you sign up (see below).

She Votes! is an 8-part audio documentary that digs into the complex history of the women's suffrage movement with all its glory and



shortcomings. From the first demands to speak on public matters by antislavery activists in 1837, through the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention for women's rights, to the drama of the final passage in 1920 and beyond. We're telling the story of a movement that carries astonishing relevance and importance today. We explore issues of gender and race, generational conflicts, power and politics. Ellen and I also connect our own ceiling-crashing careers to the struggles of our foremothers. With gratitude.

Oh – and a special treat: Listen for the voice of the great Christine Baranski channeling Susan B. Anthony!

We'd love if you could listen to *She Votes!* and help us get the word out. This is a whole new world for us, and we're more than eager to build an audience that matches those for our column and broadcasts and books. There are a few ways to support the show—all completely free. Won't cost you a cent. Pick any or all:

• Listen and subscribe to *She Votes!* on <u>Apple Podcasts</u>, <u>Spotify</u>, <u>Stitcher</u> or anywhere else you find podcasts. If you'd prefer to listen online, <u>subscribe to our</u> <u>email list here</u> and we will send you an email each week once a new episode is live.

• **Rate and review on Apple Podcasts!** This will help others find the show, which I've learned is very difficult with podcasts.

• **Tell your friends**. If you have social media, please send a tweet! Our friends at Wonder Media Network drafted <u>this tweet here that you can just click and post</u>.

Your support means so much. Thanks in advance for helping us amplify a story and a movement we're still fighting for today. And as the suffragists always put it, Onward!

Connecting series:

Oh, the places you'll go - with that special person you met



Above: Dining ashore at a winery during a 2017 cruise on the Rhone in France, and at right: We are at Janet's classroom desk in 1963. Marty is pretending he knows what's on the math paper he's holding.

Marty and Janet

Marty Thompson (<u>Email</u>) - Janet and I met in 1961 when as a radio news director in Janet's hometown I helped out the sports reporter by going by Sunnyside, Washington's city pool to get swim meet results from the coach, Janet.



I'm busy, Come back later, she said. I did, leading to our first date -- a natural for this cheapskate -- at the annual Fire Department picnic in a city park (I was an honorary volunteer firefighter).

We married after Janet graduated from Eastern Washington University in 1962. She began teaching high school math in her hometown, our first home together. Our first son, Chris, was born in Sunnyside in 1966 and Janet retired from teaching. That fall we moved to Seattle where I joined the AP. Our second son, Sean, was born in Reno where I was correspondent. Today, Chris is a banker in California and Sean is production manager/retoucher in the AP Photo Library in New York. We have a grandson in California and granddaughter in Brooklyn.

During my years as a bureau chief in San Francisco and Los Angeles, Janet and I were not only parents but also a team organizing and managing member publisher and editor groups and their meetings in California, Arizona, Nevada and Hawaii. Tough duty, in places like San Diego, Monterey, Palo Alto, Phoenix, San Francisco and on the Kona Coast of Hawaii.

Travel is a big part of our lives. My AP assignments took me to all 50 states and together Janet and I have been to 23 countries – often on river cruises, a great way to see a variety of places without unpacking every night. Plus yearly trips to Maui. Travel is on hold during the pandemic, but we expect to get going again when possible.

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Robert and Marlien

Robert Weller (<u>Email</u>) - I met my Afrikaans wife, Marlien, while covering South Africa in 1979. AP wanted to transfer me to Nairobi. Kenya wouldn't admit her. So AP flew her to New York and got her advanced citizenship. We couldn't move directly into the US. But later she was admitted - now it is almost 40 years. And we had twins.

Parenting during pandemic is no joke



Kiichiro Sato (<u>Email</u>) - Our 11-year-old son Kai asked for advice about taking better photos, and I obliged. Parenting during a pandemic is no joke. My wife Monique Curet, who took this photo, and I executed neighborhood-wide scavenger hunts for Kai and his friends, led countless bike rides and cooked three meals a day for months on end. We're very lucky to have this one in our quarantine corner here in Tokyo.

Pickleball games carry on – but with masks



Cliff Schiappa (<u>Email</u>) - During the pandemic, our group of almost 20 pickleball regulars in Palm Springs winnowed down to 9 or 10. But as long as we found city courts that were open, and we all agreed to wear masks, the games carried on. One of our PBall buds made masks for everyone using different designs reflecting the sport to which we have all become addicted.

Ironically, our creative friend tested positive for Covid-19 about a week after last playing with us. He works at one of the most popular night clubs in town, and I remember him mentioning that he thought the bars were re-opening too soon. Shortly after he tested positive, the clubs in the neighborhood closed as employees at nearby watering holes started testing positive.

He has since recovered, has had no symptoms for three weeks, and will be joining us back on the courts this week, masked of course, by his own designs. Also, everyone in our group got tested and all came back negative.

One reporter, two executions and haunting last words



FILE - In this July 17, 2020, file photo the federal prison complex in Terre Haute, Ind., is shown. (AP Photo/Michael Conroy)

By MICHAEL BALSAMO

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. (AP) — Daniel Lewis Lee, a condemned man and convicted murderer, was asked if he wanted to make a final statement from the execution chamber, with its institutional green-tiled walls and plate-glass interior window, moments before he too would die.

He did. He leaned his head up and we locked eyes.

"You're killing an innocent man," Lee said, looking directly at me.

Those were his last words. He said them to me.

Lee's execution, one of two that I witnessed this past week at the Federal Correctional Complex in Terre Haute, Indiana, played out slowly, after painstaking hours of final, futile legal appeals, before prison officials administered a lethal injection and the federal government carried out capital punishment for the first time in almost two decades. A third execution came later in the week.

Best of the Week Houston team vividly documents the grim reality playing out inside a Texas hospital



Dr. Joseph Varon, far right, calls out a rhythm as medical personnel perform CPR on a 66-year-old patient in the coronavirus unit at United Memorial Medical Center in Houston, July 6, 2020. Despite their efforts, the woman died. She had attended the funeral of her husband, who died of cancer, with about 100 people a few weeks earlier. "We didn't take precautions like we should have," said the woman's daughter, who fell sick herself. "We just got totally caught up in the moment." AP PHOTO / DAVID J. PHILLIP

An AP all-formats team spends a day in the coronavirus unit of a Houston hospital, recording the life-and-death efforts of frontline workers as cases surge around the country.

With coronavirus cases spiking in Texas and other states, AP journalists David J. Phillip, John Mone and Nomaan Merchant went beyond the daily numbers to show the reality in a small Houston hospital. In a gut-punch story that landed in newspapers and nightly newscasts, the trio's work included the last moments of a woman's losing battle with the coronavirus.

But the package – Phillip's photos, Mone's video and Merchant's text story – captured more than just a moment. It showed the grim realities facing frontline workers as cases rise nationally. Weaving details from their day spent inside the hospital with what was happening in Texas and beyond, a broader story emerged. While Texas said it had more than 100,000 available hospital beds, the team learned that they weren't necessarily in urban centers where the virus was surging. The scenes the trio witnessed were almost certainly playing out in other hospitals around the country.

Read more here.

Best of the States AP Exclusive: US Catholic Church lobbies, gets windfall in federal PPP funds



From the pulpit at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York, Cardinal Timothy Dolan delivers an Easter Sunday homily over virtually empty pews during the coronavirus pandemic, April 12, 2020. Under the federal Paycheck Protection Program, the Archdiocese of New York received 15 loans worth at least \$28 million just for its top executive offices. St. Patrick's Cathedral was approved for at least \$1 million. AP PHOTO / SETH WENIG

AP investigative journalists out-thought and out-hustled everyone to reveal the US Roman Catholic Church was among the biggest winners under the Paycheck Protection Program.

Based on a tip following AP's spring work on publicly traded companies receiving money from the program, investigative reporter Reese Dunklin and editors Justin Pritchard and Ron Nixon wondered whether the Roman Catholic Church might be one of the largest recipients. Investigative reporter Michael Rezendes joined Dunklin and, with help from data journalist Justin Myers, the two began digging.

Their initial reporting showed how the church had successfully lobbied for faith groups to get special treatment under the program. But it wasn't until the data dropped Monday that the full extent of the windfall became clear. In a marathon sprint on deadline, Dunklin hand checked thousands of data points to conclude that the church had received at least between \$1.4 billion and \$3.5 billion in forgivable loans.

Read more here.

Stories of interest

Everyone knew there was a Redskins story — but what was it? That's when the rumors took over.

(Washington Post)

By Paul Farhi

Drug abuse? Sex parties? Jeffrey Epstein? The end of Daniel Snyder's reign?

Fans and foes of the Washington Redskins went wild on social media this week about a story that didn't exist. Everyone seemed to know that there was a Washington Post story about the team — and everyone seemed to have thoughts about it. Except that until late Thursday afternoon, no such story had been published, and no one outside of a few people in The Post's newsroom — knew what it would say or when.

Starting late Sunday, and peaking in the 24 hours before publication, a giant game of telephone surrounded the story, fed by cryptic tweets from non-Post sports journalists and leading to increasingly lurid comments about what The Post supposedly was going to report.

Read more here . Shared by Bill McCloskey.

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Fox News Staff Erupts Over Network Racism: Bosses 'Created a White Supremacist Cell' (Daily Beast)

By Lachlan Cartwright, Lloyd Grove, Andrew Kirell, Noah Shachtman, Justin Baragona

Four days after Fox News aired a particularly tone-deaf graphic connecting the killings of Black men—including George Floyd and Martin Luther King Jr.—to stock market gains, many of the network's Black staffers took part in a phone call with company brass to confront Fox's increasingly racist and hostile rhetoric towards the protests against police brutality.

It did not go well.

The call on June 9 lasted more than 90 minutes and included Fox News Media CEO Suzanne Scott, President Jay Wallace, and HR chief Kevin Lord, people familiar with the matter told The Daily Beast. It was led by Scott, who is white, and Marsheila J. Hayes, the vice president of diversity and inclusion at Fox Corporation, who is Black.

It was almost immediately rife with tension. One staffer directly asked why Bret Baier —the anchor of the network's key weekday news broadcast, Special Report, which aired the offensive graphic—was not on the call, nor any other white on-air talent. (Baier had previously apologized for the "major screw-up," noting that, because the show bears his name, "the buck stops with me." Fox News also apologized for the "insensitivity" of the infographic, adding that it "should have never aired on television without full context.")

Read more here . Shared by Dennis Conrad.

The Final Word



Shared by Bruce Lowitt

Today in History - July 20, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, July 20, the 202nd day of 2020. There are 164 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 20, 1969, astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin became the first men to walk on the moon after reaching the surface in their Apollo 11 lunar module.

On this date:

In 1923, Mexican revolutionary leader Pancho Villa was assassinated by gunmen in Parral.

In 1944, an attempt by a group of German officials to assassinate Adolf Hitler with a bomb failed as the explosion only wounded the Nazi leader. President Franklin D. Roosevelt was nominated for a fourth term of office at the Democratic convention in Chicago.

In 1951, Jordan's King Abdullah I was assassinated in Jerusalem by a Palestinian gunman who was shot dead on the spot by security.

In 1960, a pair of Polaris missiles were fired from the submerged USS George Washington off Cape Canaveral, Fla., at a target more than 1,100 miles away.

In 1965, the Bob Dylan single "Like a Rolling Stone" was released by Columbia Records.

In 1968, the first International Special Olympics Summer Games, organized by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, were held at Soldier Field in Chicago.

In 1976, America's Viking 1 robot spacecraft made a successful, first-ever landing on Mars.

In 1977, a flash flood hit Johnstown, Pennsylvania, killing more than 80 people and causing \$350 million worth of damage. The U.N. Security Council voted to admit Vietnam to the world body.

In 1990, Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan, one of the court's most liberal voices, announced he was stepping down.

In 1993, White House deputy counsel Vincent Foster Jr., 48, was found shot to death in a park near Washington, D.C.; his death was ruled a suicide.

In 2007, President George W. Bush signed an executive order prohibiting cruel and inhuman treatment, including humiliation or denigration of religious beliefs, in the detention and interrogation of terrorism suspects.

In 2012, gunman James Holmes opened fire inside a crowded movie theater in Aurora, Colorado, during a midnight showing of "The Dark Knight Rises," killing 12 people and wounding 70 others. (Holmes was later convicted of murder and attempted murder, and sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.)

Ten years ago: The Senate Judiciary Committee voted almost totally along party lines, 13-6, to approve Elena Kagan to be the Supreme Court's fourth female justice. Actress Lindsay Lohan began a 14-day jail sentence [–] reduced from 90 due to overcrowding [–] for violating probation in 2007 drug case.

Five years ago: The United States and Cuba restored full diplomatic relations after more than five decades of frosty relations rooted in the Cold War. The U.N. Security Council unanimously endorsed a landmark deal to rein in Iran's nuclear program. Banks in Greece finally reopened after being closed for three weeks. Zach Johnson won the British Open. Songwriter Wayne Carson, 72, died in Nashville, Tennessee. "Archie" cartoonist Tom Moore, 86, died in El Paso, Texas.

One year ago: Americans marked the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing; Buzz Aldrin, the second man to set foot on the moon, showed Vice President Mike Pence the launch pad at Kennedy Space Center where the historic flight began. A heat wave that spread from Texas to Maine canceled festivals, horse races and other events.

Today's Birthdays: Actress-singer Sally Ann Howes is 90. Author Cormac McCarthy is 87. Former Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski, D-Md., is 84. Actress Diana Rigg is 82. Artist Judy Chicago is 81. Rock musician John Lodge (The Moody Blues) is 77. Country singer T.G. Sheppard is 76. Singer Kim Carnes is 75. Rock musician Carlos Santana is 73. Rock musician Jay Jay French (Twisted Sister) is 68. Rock musician Paul Cook (The Sex Pistols, Man Raze) is 64. Actress Donna Dixon is 63. Rock musician Mick McNeil (Simple Minds) is 62. Country singer Radney Foster is 61. Actor Frank Whaley is 57. Actor Dean Winters is 56. Rock musician Stone Gossard (Pearl Jam) is 54. Actor Reed Diamond is 53. Actor Josh Holloway is 51. Singer Vitamin C is 51. Actress Sandra Oh is 49. Actor Omar Epps is 47. Actor Simon Rex is 46. Actress Judy Greer is 45. Actor Charlie Korsmo is 42. Singer Elliott Yamin (yah-MEEN') (American Idol) is 42. Supermodel Gisele Bundchen is 40. Rock musician Mike Kennerty (The All-American Rejects) is 40. Actor Percy Daggs III is 38. Actor John Francis Daley is 35. Country singer Hannah Blaylock (Edens Edge) is 34. Dancer-singer-actress Julianne Hough is 32. Washington Nationals pitcher Stephen Strasburg is 32. Actress Billi Bruno is 24.

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 paulstevens46@gmail.com