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Connecting September 29, 2020

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Photo-Illustration: Vulture and Getty Images

Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this the 29th day of September 2020,

The first debate between President Donald Trump and his Democratic challenger, Joe Biden, will be held tonight in Cleveland and Connecting is asking you to put on your reporter's cap.

Chris Wallace, anchor of Fox News Sunday, will moderate the first presidential debate and

we would welcome your thoughts on how he performs in the moderator's role. Cast aside your politics and which candidate you might prefer; instead rate Wallace in journalistic terms. Fact-based questions, questions on contemporary issues, follow up when candidate answers are not responsive or are incomplete, keeping the candidates on track, fairness.

If your thoughts arrive in time after the end of the debate, we will use them in Wednesday morning's edition. If you cannot get them to me in time for deadline, I will use them the following day.



My thanks and a Pulitzer to my friend and colleague **Mark Mittelstadt** for his vacation relief of Ye Olde Connecting Editor in producing some great editions while Linda and I were away. It is so much appreciated by us all.

But Wait!!!

One more option for you to get involved: Scroll down to The Final Word on 15 Cliches to Avoid With a 10-foot Pole.

"I had this teed up as a Final Word," Mark said, "but then thought for a bunch of ink-stained wretches who've had to tighten their own copy over the years it might serve as a jumping-off point for reader engagement: 'What are your favorite (or least favorite) cliches?'"

Come ahead with your responses.

Here's to a great day ahead – be well, stay healthy.

Paul

Fred Sweets: Honoring father and mother on a special day



By **Fred Sweets** ([Email](#))

Today (Sept. 23) marks the birthdate of the smartest, coolest, most creative, entrepreneur I've ever known, N. A. Sweets (1901-1988).

Many of my friends may think I was about to say John Coltrane, who shares the 23 September birthday with my father, but Ohnedaruth always gets high 2nd place honors behind my main man on this date. I'm still trying to wrap my head around a Coltrane piece that describes how I feel about my father.

"A Love Supreme" (4 parts to be listened to without interruption) and "My Favorite Things" (Live at Newport Jazz Festival)



are my go-to cuts every September 23rd. I guarantee these Coltrane classics will move your mind.



I could go on about how my father was the youngest of 16, born to freed slaves, worked his way through college (first in family to attend) as a busboy and waiter, sold advertising for his college yearbook, took a job as advertising manager at the founding of a Black weekly (St. Louis American) in 1928, bought the newspaper from the distressed investors in 1933 with money he had saved for law school, married my mother, started other businesses, tried to start a Negro Football League, had 3 children, lived an interesting life full of travel, politics, sports, empathy, and compassion, but I won't.

I'll share photographs of my father in his hand-me-down suit (his description) and a hand colored B&W portrait by his best

friend, followed by a photo of a more civilized White House where President Truman, a fellow Missourian, hosted members of the National Newspaper Publishers Association. My father is at top right. I'll add a shot from his later years showing his wonderful wife and teammate, Melba, (1909-2006) who made him complete following their marriage in 1937.

I honor my father and mother, and I'm thinking of them always.

UN Debate Is Strangely Downbeat

Ford Burkhart ([Email](#)) - Those of us at the AP UN Bureau in the early 1970s would remember an upbeat feeling when the annual General Assembly top-level debate got rolling each September. Max Harrelson and Bill Oatis were the veterans and charged around the halls with a pace that inspired us younger hands, including Shirley Christian, Sam Koo and others.

But last week everything was different on several counts: the countries seem out of synch with each other and with the issues. And of course, the virus kept everybody off campus for the first time for such a debate. The one bright spot

was that the AP wrapup in our local paper in Tucson seemed loftier, embracing all the 75-year history of the place, spelling out the historic dysfunction in evidence at the virtual debate. Just a terrific job by Edie Lederer, AP's chief UN correspondent. Will the UN delegates rise to the challenges? It will be fun to watch AP keep track.

First time his name on AP wire – but as victim and not a reporter

Reporter awarded \$5,000 in damage suit over shooting

WINCHESTER, (AP)—A federal jury awarded \$5,000 in damages Thursday to a newspaper reporter shot by a Franklin County magistrate in a dispute over the newsman's attempt to photograph an arson investigation at the official's farm.

David Pace, 27, a former reporter for the Winchester Herald-Cronicle, had sought \$75,000 in his civil damage lawsuit.

The magistrate, Herschel Schultz, 63, testified during the two-day trial that he was under great emotional stress when he emptied his revolver at Pace.

Schultz said he could not re-

member why he fired or what happened immediately afterward.

Pace testified he was standing on a highway beside the Schultz farm at Huntland, taking pictures of bloodhounds aiding police in an arson investigation. He said he was given no warning before Schultz shot at him and hit him once.

Schultz was charged with assault with a deadly weapon, but a Franklin County grand jury twice refused to indict him.

Pace filed the civil suit seeking compensatory and punitive damages after the second no-true bill was handed up by the grand jury.



Court Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

Eastern District of Tennessee

September 2020

ELECTED OFFICIAL SHOOTS NEWS REPORTER; FEDERAL COURT TRIAL RESULTS

By Don K. Ferguson

This article is about an elected government official shooting a news reporter on a public road to stop him from reporting on a crime. And it happened while law enforcement officers looked on.

It's familiar sounding today, with all the violence taking place on the streets of cities across America, but this shooting took place 45 years ago in a small, rural Tennessee town.



Judge Neese

A federal court civil lawsuit was filed by the reporter, and the case was tried by the late U.S. District Judge **Charles G. Neese**, sitting in Winchester.

The reporter was **David Pace**, then 26 and a reporter for the Winchester Herald-Chronicle. The assailant was the late **Squire Herschel A. Schultz**, then 61, a politically powerful, longtime member of the

Franklin County Court, a large landowner, a prominent poultry farmer, and a church elder.

The lawyer who represented Pace in the federal court case was **Robert S. Peters**, who today serves as the Court Historical Society's Vice President for the Winchester Division. He said recently that he well remembers the two-day trial. "The courtroom was packed," he said. Schultz was represented by attorney **John McCord**, now deceased.

Pace, now retired after a 39-year career with the Associated Press, lives in Alexandria, Virginia. He said the story of this incident is one that people never tire of asking him about. It happened on a rural road in Huntland, Tennessee, near the Tennessee-Alabama line.

It was the "biggest and most dramatic story of my Tennessee tenure," Pace said.

We learned of the June 1975 encounter when Pace, who is writing his memoirs, recently asked court personnel to help him obtain a copy of the case file. **Court Clerk John Medearis**, a



Pace



Peters

member of the Court Historical Society, alertly suggested that we pursue a story about the incident for the society's newsletter. He said, "A reporter winning a jury trial against a local official in Winchester in 1976! Sounds like it might be an interesting case."

It all started when reporter Pace tried to make a photograph of a bloodhound that law enforcement officers had brought to the chicken farm to sniff out the scent of any potential arsonist in what was the sixth poultry barn fire on Schultz' property in less than three years. Damages had already topped \$300,000.

Schultz had earlier warned Pace and his editors not to report on the fire, because he was afraid the publicity would cause him to lose his insurance, Pace said, "No newspaper worth its salt would let an outsider dictate its coverage decisions. I may have been green, but that much I knew."

"Schultz was at the scene of the fire when I drove up," Pace said. One of the barns was still smoldering in the distance. "He started walking toward me as soon as he saw me."

"David, you aren't going on my property," he said.

"I don't intend to go on your property, Mr. Schultz. I plan to stay right here on this public road and watch what happens," I replied.

"You aren't going to take any pictures either," he said.

"I don't think you can stop me from taking pictures as long as I remain on this public road," I replied. "I'm just trying to do my job. I was sent out here to take pictures and that's what I intend to do."

"Well, we'll see about that," he said. "I told y'all not to come out here."

"I decided to take a couple of quick pictures and get out of there. As I raised the camera to my eye, I heard a gunshot ringing through the air. I lowered my camera and turned

continued on page 2

David Pace (Email) – Here is a story about my most "unusual" encounter with a public official. This was 45 years ago, before I joined AP. But it was the first time my name appeared on the AP wire, though as a victim rather than a

reporter. It resulted in a U.S. District Court trial and is the subject of this month's court newsletter.

New-member profile - Eric Eskola

Eric Eskola ([Email](#)) - Worked at KDAL TV/radio combo in Duluth, Minnesota from 1971 to 1980....was in contact often with AP staffers in Minneapolis....worked from 1980 to 2010 at WCCO Radio in Minneapolis....26 of those years as the year around capitol correspondent in St. Paul. Worked closely with AP Reporters at the Capitol, including Gerry Nelson, Gene Lahammer, Mary Sandok and many others.



Started co-hosting a Twin Cities public television show "Almanac" in 1986 and I still have that job today. Inducted into the Minnesota Broadcasting Hall of Fame in 2010.

The AP has been a trusted source for me during 49 years of reporting...I consider the AP capitol reporters I worked with to be mentors that helped me beyond compare.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Gary Gentile - apgary@gmail.com

Brent Kallestad - dakotaboybrent@aol.com

Stories of interest

My wife and I got the virus. I got better. We had to say goodbye over FaceTime. (Washington Post)



By Ken Beckley

Ken Beckley is a member of the Indiana Broadcast Pioneers Hall of Fame, where he has served as president, and a past vice president of the Indianapolis Press Club.

I said goodbye to my wife on FaceTime.

The two of us were strict about wearing face masks, washing and sanitizing our hands, and physical distancing. Yet the insidiousness of the coronavirus somehow let it infect both of us anyway. I'll never know how, where and when we contracted it. She had a pedicure three days before her first symptom and an MRI at an imaging center one day after that, always wearing a mask. We attended a funeral where she spoke the afternoon before manifesting her first symptom, but we were not in proximity to anyone and no one else who attended is known to have had the virus.

On Aug. 9, Audrey complained of her legs hurting. The condition disappeared later in the day, and her activities were normal. The following morning, she awoke unable to move her legs. After seven hours in the ER, I drove her home. None of the professionals who looked after her mentioned the possibility of covid-19. Instead, after taking MRIs, they suspected a flare-up of multiple sclerosis. That night, I experienced chills, body ache and a headache. Those symptoms disappeared by the following afternoon.

We both tested for the virus on Aug. 12. Our son came from Indianapolis to be with us in case we had more physical problems. (After 18 days at our home, he tested negative.) The following morning, Audrey was confused and unable to move her legs again. When the EMTs quizzed her, the only question she could answer was the name of the U.S. president. "Trump," she mumbled. (She was not a fan.)

Admitted to the hospital with a suspicion of the coronavirus, Audrey was moved to isolation in the ICU within two days. Her body's demand for oxygen from outside sources was growing. Mentally, she was sharp. On Aug. 16, she asked whether our son, visiting daughter and granddaughter, and I would share a dinner of ribs. I thought she was joking, but the charge nurse assured me it was all right, as long as we withheld the wine Audrey had requested. A meal of ribs, baked potato and salad was taken to the hospital. Audrey texted a photo of her enjoying the food. She was happy.

Good mothers always worry about their children. The morning of Aug. 17, Audrey texted that I should make certain our son had a specific food item for his birthday that day. In the afternoon, she sent a selfie with her oxygen device and said health staff were pleased with her oxygen level. A physician left a voice message on my cellphone, "Just know that the missus is doing okay." But less than 12 hours later, at 3 a.m., Aug. 18, I received a call that Audrey's condition had changed drastically. The caller asked whether I supported her

living-will declaration of no artificial means to keep her alive if all it did was prolong the inevitable? I did.

Read more [here](#).

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Nearly a year after sudden exit, Shepard Smith returns to TV

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — Two weeks shy of a year after abruptly quitting Fox News Channel with a declaration that “truth will always matter,” Shepard Smith returns to television this week at his unexpected new home.

He begins a general interest nightly newscast Wednesday at 7 p.m. on the financial network CNBC, putting him back in the time slot he loved before Fox moved him to the afternoon seven years ago.

The 56-year-old newsman, a Fox News original who joined that network at its start in 1996, says he’s relishing the fresh start.

“We’re going to come out and do just the news,” he said. “We’re not planning to do any analysis in our news hour. We’re going to have journalists, reporters, sound and video. We’re going to have newsmakers and experts ... but no pundits. We’re going to leave the opinion to others. It’s exactly what I’ve been wanting to do. It’s what I’ve been working at for 30 years.”

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

The Final Word

15 cliches to avoid with a 10-foot pole (Word Genius)

Words are powerful. But clichés are so overused they have lost authority. Unfortunately, clichés are so ubiquitous that you may not even realize when they sneak into your writing.

The best way to cut clichés out of your vocabulary is to proofread, proofread, and proofread again. Take a break and get away from your work before you take one last pass to remove clichés. Even better, ask someone to edit your work. An editor who isn't too emotionally close to your prose can eliminate your clichés.

Removing clichés will tighten up your writing and make your work more specific and descriptive. Avoid flowery descriptions and instead strive to make your writing more accessible.

Pull out a thesaurus to find good alternatives. Instead of “in this day and age,” just say “today.” Avoid “pros and cons” and try a descriptor specific to your argument — maybe “assets and liabilities” or “costs and benefits” instead.

The hardest part about cutting clichés is they are so widely known they just fall off the tip of your tongue (cliché). If you spot any of these phrases in your writing, pull out your red pen (another cliché).

Writing on the wall

Whirlwind tour

Patience of Job

Never a dull moment

Sands of time

Paying the piper

March of history

Hook, line, and sinker

Long arm of the law

In the nick of time

Leave no stone unturned

Fall on deaf ears

Cool as a cucumber

Cry over spilled milk

Champing at the bit

Click [here](#) for link to this story.

Today in History - September 29, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 29, the 273rd day of 2020. There are 93 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 29, 2005, John G. Roberts Jr. was sworn in as the nation's 17th chief justice after winning Senate confirmation.

On this date:

In 1789, the U.S. War Department established a regular army with a strength of several hundred men.

In 1910, the National Urban League had its beginnings in New York as The Committee on Urban Conditions Among Negroes.

In 1918, Allied forces began their decisive breakthrough of the Hindenburg Line during World War I.

In 1938, British, French, German and Italian leaders concluded the Munich Agreement, which was aimed at appeasing Adolf Hitler by allowing Nazi annexation of Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland.

In 1943, General Dwight D. Eisenhower and Italian Marshal Pietro Badoglio signed an armistice aboard the British ship HMS Nelson off Malta.

In 1962, Canada joined the space age as it launched the Alouette 1 satellite from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. The musical "My Fair Lady" closed on Broadway after 2,717 performances.

In 1975, baseball manager Casey Stengel died in Glendale, California, at age 85.

In 1978, Pope John Paul I was found dead in his Vatican apartment just over a month after becoming head of the Roman Catholic Church.

In 1982, Extra-Strength Tylenol capsules laced with deadly cyanide claimed the first of seven victims in the Chicago area. (To date, the case remains unsolved.)

In 1999, The Associated Press reported on the killing of hundreds of South Korean refugees by U.S. soldiers in the early days of the Korean War, beneath a bridge at a hamlet called No Gun Ri. (In 2001, after its own investigation, the U.S. Army affirmed that killings had occurred, but said they were not deliberate.)

In 2000, Israeli riot police stormed a major Jerusalem shrine and opened fire on stone-throwing Muslim worshippers, killing four Palestinians and wounding 175.

In 2001, President George W. Bush condemned Afghanistan's Taliban rulers for harboring Osama bin Laden and his followers as the United States pressed its military and diplomatic campaign against terror.

Ten years ago: Anti-austerity protests erupted across Europe; Greek doctors and railway employees walked off the job, Spanish workers shut down trains and buses, and one man rammed a cement truck into the Irish parliament to

protest the country's enormous bank bailouts. Actor Tony Curtis, 85, died in Henderson, Nevada.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama, hosting a U.N. gathering of world leaders, pledged all possible tools [-] military, intelligence and economic [-] to defeat the Islamic State group, but acknowledged the extremist group had taken root in Syria and Iraq, was resilient and was continuing to expand. NCAA banned the SMU men's basketball team from the postseason and suspended coach Larry Brown for nine games, saying he had lied to investigators and ignored a case of academic fraud by a player.

One year ago: In an interview that aired on CBS' "60 Minutes," Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said he took "full responsibility" for the grisly killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, but he denied allegations that he had ordered it. Low-price fashion chain Forever 21, once a hot destination for teen shoppers, announced that it had filed for bankruptcy protection and said it would close as many as 178 stores.

Today's Birthdays: Conductor Richard Bonyng is 90. Writer-director Robert Benton is 88. Singer Jerry Lee Lewis is 85. Soul-blues-gospel singer Sherman Holmes is 81. Former Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., is 78. Actor Ian McShane is 78. Jazz musician Jean-Luc Ponty is 78. Nobel Peace laureate Lech Walesa (lekh vah-WEN'-sah) is 77. Television-film composer Mike Post is 76. Actor Patricia Hodge is 74. TV personality Bryant Gumbel is 72. Rock singer-musician Mark Farner is 72. Rock singer-musician Mike Pinera is 72. Country singer Alvin Crow is 70. Actor Drake Hogestyn is 67. Olympic gold medal runner Sebastian Coe is 64. Singer Suzzy Roche (The Roches) is 64. Comedian-actor Andrew "Dice" Clay is 63. Rock singer John Payne (Asia) is 62. Actor Roger Bart is 58. Singer-musician Les Claypool is 57. Actor Jill Whelan is 54. Actor Ben Miles is 54. Actor Luke Goss is 52. Rock musician Brad Smith (Blind Melon) is 52. Actor Erika Eleniak is 51. Rhythm-and-blues singer Devante Swing (Jodeci) is 51. Country singer Brad Cotter (TV: "Nashville Star") is 50. Actor Emily Lloyd is 50. Actor Natasha Gregson Wagner is 50. Actor Rachel Cronin is 49. Country musician Danick Dupelle (Emerson Drive) is 47. Actor Alexis Cruz is 46. Actor Zachary Levi is 40. Actor Chrissy Metz (TV: "This Is Us") is 40. Actor Kelly McCreary (TV: "Grey's Anatomy") is 39. Country singer Katie McNeill (3 of Hearts) is 38. Rock musician Josh Farro is 33. NBA All-Star Kevin Durant is 32. Actor Doug Brochu is 30. Singer Phillip Phillips is 30. Pop singer Halsey is 26. Actor Clara Mamet 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.

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