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Connecting

October 02, 2020

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HAPPY 96TH TO JIMMY CARTER Via The Carter Center: “Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter were treated to a drive-by birthday parade outside their home in Plains, Ga., Thursday! It was organized by members of the local community and Maranatha Baptist Church. Happy 96th Birthday Mr. President!” (Photos via The Carter Center) Shared by Scott Charton

Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this the 2nd day of October 2020,

Words matter.

This week, the AP Stylebook – considered the style bible of the news industry – was amended to discourage the use of the word “riot” to describe violent protests, instead expanding the definition of “protest” to include violent demonstrations.

And we bring you, from the Stylebook, the guidelines for use of cliches in news copy.

In this morning's Poynter Report, Tom Jones describes how the media covered the breaking and stunning news overnight that President Trump and his wife Melania tested positive for the coronavirus. Click [here](#).

Monday's issue will bring you the quarterly listing of Connecting colleagues in their 80s or 90s. Achieving a place in either group is an admirable feat these days – “growing old is not for sissies” (uh oh, a cliché?). If you recently qualified for either group, or were not listed in the past, drop me a note.

Have a great weekend – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

AP Stylebook Discourages Use of ‘Riot,’ Expands Definition of ‘Protest’ to Include ‘Violence’



A Black Lives Matter protester uses a shield as federal officers use chemical irritants to disperse demonstrators at the Mark O. Hatfield United States Courthouse on Friday, July 24, 2020, in Portland, Ore. (AP Photo/Noah Berger)

By **BRITTANY BERNSTEIN**
National Review

The Associated Press Stylebook was amended this week to discourage the use of the word “riot” to describe violent protests, instead expanding the definition of “protest” to include violent demonstrations.

“Use care in deciding which term best applies: A riot is a wild or violent disturbance of the peace involving a group of people. The term riot suggests uncontrolled chaos and pandemonium,” said the AP Stylebook, which sets style guidelines followed by many mainstream media publications.

“Focusing on rioting and property destruction rather than underlying grievance has been used in the past to stigmatize broad swaths of people protesting against lynching, police brutality or for racial justice, going back to the urban uprisings of the 1960s,” it added.

The recommendation comes after months of rioting and looting in cities nationwide sparked by the death of George Floyd in May.

Riots in the immediate aftermath of the police shooting of Jacob Blake in Kenosha, Wis. in August led to the fatal shooting of two people and caused an estimated \$2 million in damage to city-owned property alone. Violent demonstrations across the country have also injured a number of law enforcement officers, including in Portland, Ore. where riots have raged for more than 125 days straight.

Read more [here](#).

Here is the full new entry, from AP Stylebook Online:

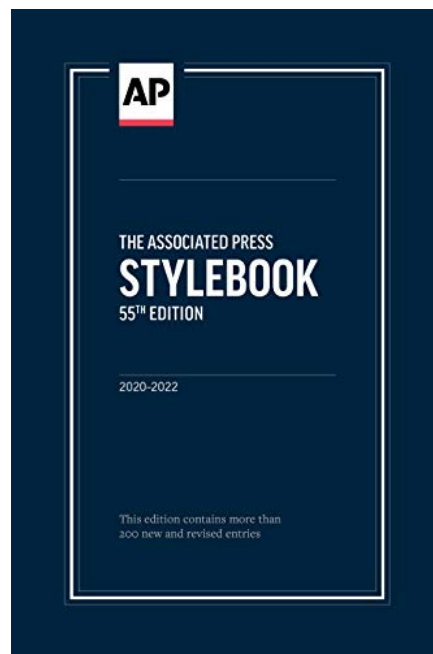
riot, unrest, protest, demonstration, uprising, revolt

Use care in deciding which term best applies:

A riot is a wild or violent disturbance of the peace involving a group of people. The term riot suggests uncontrolled chaos and pandemonium. Focusing on rioting and property destruction rather than underlying grievance has been used in the past to stigmatize broad swaths of people protesting against lynching, police brutality or for racial justice, going back to the urban uprisings of the 1960s. Inciting to riot is a longstanding criminal offense involving two or more people. In the United States, a federal criminal anti-riot act was enacted in 1968 in response to violent civil disturbances and protests of that era.

Unrest is a vaguer, milder and less emotional term for a condition of angry discontent and protest verging on revolt.

Protest and demonstration refer to specific actions such as marches, sit-ins, rallies or other actions meant to register dissent. They can be legal or illegal, organized or spontaneous, peaceful or violent, and involve any number of people.



Revolt and uprising both suggest a broader political dimension or civil upheavals, a sustained period of protests or unrest against powerful groups or governing systems.

And some reaction to the change...

'This is not the AP for which I was proud to work for'

Bill Schiffmann (Email) - Anybody who has watched what went on in Portland or Kenosha or Chicago -- the violence, the fires, the damage, the stealing, the attacks on police -- knows they are watching a riot, not a demonstration. How do you cover such events without using words that accurately describe what you're seeing? If I was the reporter, I'd use the word riot whenever it was accurate and let the General Desk edit in the inaccuracy.

RIOT: a noisy, violent public disorder caused by a group or crowd of persons, as by a crowd protesting against another group, a government policy, etc., in the streets.

IN LAW: a violent offense against public order involving THREE or more people for an illegal purpose.

Rather than a decision involving the accurate use of a word, this is wholly a political decision which could have been written by Antifa -- or the DNC.

The AP should be ashamed of this blatant pandering to those criminals destroying our cities, and AP reporters should be united in supporting accuracy over home office orders. This is not the AP for which I was proud to work.

-0-

AP Issues New Guidance for Reporters to Cover Up Leftist Violence

**By Bronson Stocking
Townhall**

Mobs of violent left-wing kooks have been roaming the streets of American cities for months terrorizing residents, murdering Trump supporters, beating people to a pulp, shooting police officers, and assaulting people in their vehicles. But you wouldn't know any of this if you consumed news exclusively from the mainstream media because the mainstream media doesn't want you to know about it.

The Associated Press (AP) issues guidelines, closely adhered to by many journalists, dictating what words are politically correct at the time and what words to avoid. The AP issued new guidance on Wednesday telling journalists to avoid using the word "riot" when covering leftwing events and refrain from reporting on property destruction because, according to the AP, such reporting has been used in the past as a way to stigmatize protests against lynching and racial injustice. To the AP, it's not the job of journalists to report the news. It's the job of journalists to advance a left-wing narrative.

The AP dictates that "unrest" should be used instead of the word "riot" because it's less "emotional." The AP then points out how great the words "protest" and "demonstration" are because both words can technically refer to violent and peaceful gatherings alike and help gloss over the violence.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Ralph Gage.

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The AP Stylebook Now Doesn't Want a Riot to Be Called a 'Riot'

BY MATT MARGOLIS
PJ Media

The death of George Floyd sparked a wave of riots and looting that has plagued cities across the country. Buildings have been burned. People have been assaulted and killed. Stores have been looted. But, according to latest addition to the Associated Press Stylebook Newspeak Dictionary, you shouldn't be using the word "riot" anymore.

"A riot is a wild or violent disturbance of the peace involving a group of people. The term riot suggests uncontrolled chaos and pandemonium," explained the AP Stylebook's official Twitter account on Wednesday. "Focusing on rioting and property destruction rather than underlying grievance has been used in the past to stigmatize broad swaths of people protesting against lynching, police brutality or for racial justice, going back to the urban uprisings of the 1960s."

Read more [here](#).

Connecting mailbox

More thoughts on the debate

Jeff Barnard (Email) - I think the best moderator in future debates would be a good middle school teacher, preferably a woman from the old school. One with a piercing eye, a clear understanding of what is right, who knows when to rap her ruler on the desk.

-0-

Jim Limbach (Email) - These things are not debates.

As a communications major, I studied, participated and judged debates.

In fact, going back to JFK-Nixon, there have been no debates. They're joint press conferences at best, cage matches at the worst.

You need to go back to Lincoln-Douglas for a real political debate.

The AP should refuse to dignify them as debates and call what they are: joint candidate appearances.

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AP Sighting – Loveland, Colorado



The AP spotted recently on a restoration company service vehicle near Loveland, Colorado. Photo from John Epperson.

Memories of the overnight in LA

Lyle Price (Email) - It isn't any mystery to me why there were so few responses to the question of what AP staffers on the early/overnight/graveyard/lobster shift did on their days off: Namely, they were so groggy about it at the time that memories are as hard to clearly recall as last night's dream. In my two years solid on the overnight shift in the Los Angeles bureau for all of 1969 and some months before and some months after that year, I struggled to get enough sleep and no time period seemed to work well compared to the hours of darkness. In fact, during the entire time I was on the early shift, I was actually the least groggy during the 11:30 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. shift itself. So, my relative alertness on the Early might serve to explain why other ex-overnighters could readily recount on-duty memories but didn't respond about how they spent their off-duty hours.

In my on-duty time, might I add, there was never once that I gave any thought to taking a nap. I kid you not. Don't, however, chalk that up to an unswerving determination to stay alert and awake on the job no matter what. It was, rather, due to an unswerving amount of breaking news or things to be done or questions from New York that had to be answered. Two occasions that come readily to mind: An airplane hijacking (which, due to its timing, I personally labeled as the Halloween Hijacking) and the time that the NY desk said an inquiry from a Chicago member required me to phone Frank Sinatra's agent at 3 o'clock in the morning Pacific time.

(FYI, Sinatra's agent asked if I was aware it was 3 a.m. and I replied that I certainly was --"and AP New York told me not to wait." That, however, is much less memorable response than when newsman Dick Bieser, an overnight crew member years earlier, said upon phoning John Wayne at 5 am one day the cinema cowboy had said, "You SOB, if you ever call me again at 5 o'clock in the morning I'll come down to your office and shoot you." (For historical accuracy, the SOB was spelled out, BTW.) I used to repeat that story so often--my imitation of Wayne being better than Bieser's--that some of my ex-colleagues at AP have come to think the curse had been flung at ME. No, I always sigh; but it'd be something that I wouldn't mind to have actually had happen to me.

The other news people on that shift during my Early Days were Keith Hearn and Bill Woodruff. Hearn was there as punishment for wearing a beard and he escaped (according to him) when the late bureau chief Bill Waugh agreed to transfer him to Sacramento to cover politics if he shaved off his facial foliage. It probably wasn't a fable about the "beard sentencing," since that same COB while I was in the San Francisco bureau also put a staffer with a beard on the Early there for that reason. Woodruff was there because he hated COBs and other bosses. The overnight tape puncher in LA was a man named Samir; his last name escapes me. He was there because he lacked seniority for a different shift.

I wasn't on the overnight as punishment but as a volunteer, with the understanding after fulfilling that stint that I'd never again have to pull any overnight shift. I made that agreement because my combination of shifts had me working at least a half hour on every day of the week! San Francisco also had such a shift. The news editors in both bureaus patently explained to me that my talents were so, uh, wide-ranging that I fit that schedule in a way that no one else could. I patiently explained that such a shift was worse for working out a sleep pattern than working a straight overnight.

The legendary New York Overnight Ringmaster Ed Dennehy would call from time to time. One time he chatted about maybe moving to Nevada when he retired. I had first encountered Ed phone-wise when I was still in San Francisco and once on the night desk tried to sell Ed on a story for his PM budget before the reporter writing the story had even gotten back to the office. Ed gently advised me that he couldn't do that -- actually, he chuckled -- but that he'd look at it after I sent it to him on the old collection wire. He ran it on the A wire when I shipped it to him, fyi.

Finally, I had no idea until I read the recollections from other AP staffers that anyone anywhere at AP would ever dare or have time to nap during an overnight shift. Although I will concede, without naming names, there was an overnight staffer in San Francisco on the radio desk who would write all of his hourly "splits" during his first hour and sleep for the rest of the shift. FYI, he had an alarm clock to wake him up. His stated reason for doing things that way was that he was working a day shift as a hotel clerk and needed the double paycheck because he was paying both alimony and a mortgage on the house he had just bought. Also, the staffer sentenced to the overnight shift in San Francisco for wearing a beard didn't snooze; but he did write a book and play chess with the teletype operator during his shift. I was on an overnight shift myself so the foregoing observations were made by me personally and aren't myths.

BTW, it is only in the last year or so in my dotage that I usually by mid-afternoon feel as groggy as once plagued me on the overnight and I now regularly fall asleep in the late afternoon or early evening on a regular basis, while watching TV or reading. Previous to that, I never imagined I'd ever find it easy to sleep or even to catch a nap during the day.

More on the use of cliches

Paula Froke ([Email](#)) – AP Stylebook Editor - A couple of years ago, we expanded our Stylebook guidance on cliches and jargon with a lengthy section, complete with examples. Here is the full version in Stylebook Online:

cliches, jargon

It is tempting to advise writers to avoid cliches like the plague; they are the bane of our existence. Right there, you can see why they are so difficult to shun: Cliches are

the junk food of the literary pantry, much loved by lazy writers. But platitudes and shopworn phrases serve as signals to the reader to move along, there's nothing to see here.

Don't push readers away, or lull them to sleep. Engage them with original, specific phrasing.

Jargon presents other issues. It has its place in specialized worlds whose inhabitants use jargon-speak as shortcuts (and sometimes, as code words for those in the know, or as tools to disguise, euphemize or editorialize). To a doctor, "symptomatology" is a patient's set of symptoms; to a businessperson, "due diligence" is putting the necessary effort into research before making a decision; to a military officer, "collateral damage" is the accidental killing of innocent people. To the rest of us, these words may be befuddling.

William Strunk Jr. and E.B. White put it simply in "The Elements of Style": "Be clear." Jargon is the opposite of clarity. Don't just repeat the words. Translate them, and push for the true meaning when necessary.

Here's what not to do:

COMMUNITIES: Pivoting from her image as cheerleader touting pricey government entitlements, Mayor Begonia Jargonne voiced profound dismay at plunging revenue enhancements as she pushed back against self-professed economists who fault her policies. In taking this proactive stance, the tree-lined community's mayor aims to reach out to disgruntled constituents who have referenced her programs as irresponsible. To be sure, these critics had sanctioned such measures before, but more recently are dwelling on the mayor's pressure points as a big spender. For her part, Jargonne proclaims that citizens soon will witness a sea change in budgetary matters in her drive to rally past their objections. Far from working under the radar, she vowed to commission a blue-ribbon commission, a game-changer that she said that would leave no leaf unturned at the end of the day in formulating shots in the arm for at-risk populations.

GOVERNMENT: Exercising his bully pulpit, the president touted his executive orders as a dramatic, no-holds-barred way to target a laundry list of problems. But his reform proposals sparked a backlash from legislators who said the president had become the poster boy for executive overreach. The disagreement fueled a constitutional standoff on steroids that prompted both sides to take their grievances to court and poisoned the atmosphere.

In a major policy address, the president took the bull by the horns and reached out to disaffected Americans, kicking off a campaign to win over their hearts and minds with a litany of proposals to reduce red tape and cut pork-barrel spending by thinking outside the box. Casting the proposals as a no-brainer, he said his plan would drill down to put more boots on the ground in ramping up the fight against waste, fraud and abuse.

POLITICS: Taking no vote for granted, the candidate crisscrossed the country to take his campaign to key battleground states, where he issued a campaign manifesto with a 10-point funding plan that he had penned on his own. Still facing an uphill battle after failing to get much traction, he huddled with key advisers to map out a new blueprint that would take his campaign to the next level and broaden his support beyond his traditional lane with conservatives, who consider him a rock star. But the new narrative threatened to tarnish his brand as a truth-teller.

After amassing a huge campaign war chest and zigzagging across the heartland, the candidate pressed the flesh as he sprinted to the finish line. In a time-honored tradition, voters trooped to the polls in droves on what promised to be a long night. The candidate holed up in a hotel with top advisers to await the results, which were up for grabs.

BUSINESS: Buoyed by the ongoing efforts of a cutting-edge staff that doubled-down on achieving deliverables to replenish the conglomerate's coffers, CEO Notso Frank — the company's cheerleader-in-chief — downplayed wide-ranging, continuing warnings that the local economy was about to crash and burn. Joining a chorus of naysayers who have chimed in to shed a little daylight on the equities at risk, he said that after crunching the numbers and drilling down into the problem, he was hesitant to put the cart before the horse but that it appeared the company would weather the storm by the skin of its teeth and was working to avoid a worst-case scenario.

That said, Frank acknowledged that his arsenal holds no Hail Mary moves to yield dividends any time soon. Without saying the P-word by name, he termed it a wake-up call for all bucket owners to grow their bandwidth and broaden their portfolios to avoid worst-case scenarios that could be toxic for the more upscale segments.

POLICE AND COURTS: Police say an intoxicated person of interest suffered a self-inflicted gunshot to his left foot in an officer-involved shooting after being pulled over on suspicion of driving at a high rate of speed on a tree-lined street. Police Chief I.M. Kleeshay said responding officers, who were responding to the scene, said the unnamed suspect got into a physical and verbal altercation with them. A gun fired during the fracas, grazing him in the lower extremity. He was transported to a local hospital for treatment of his glancing toe blow, then remanded to be lodged in the local jail after which he may be bound over for trial. "A slay this wasn't, but we must toe the line on gun crimes," Kleeshay said.

Authorities responded to an active shooter situation after students reported seeing a juvenile male discharging a firearm in a dormitory before fleeing the scene on foot. The dorm was fully engulfed in flames and two students were observed to be deceased. A short time later, law enforcement officers spotted an individual matching the description of the suspect walking down a nearby street and he was apprehended without incident.

And more of your thoughts

Robert O'Meara (Email) - Another cliché: They couldn't care less. And its incorrect version: They could care less.

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Mike Rouse (Email) - A couple more annoying clichés: "make landfall," "the bottom line." One of George Orwell's rules of good writing was, "Don't use an expression that you've heard before."

From the AP Archives

'And So We Say Without Fear Of Successful Contradiction ...'

By **WILLIAM J. CONWAY**
AP Newsfeatures

CHICAGO — You'll soon be hearing the old familiar words and phrases.

Political orators will "point with pride" and "view with alarm."

"Nothing under the canopy of heaven" can stop them.

For every campaign year is an open season for clichés "from the rock ribbed coast of Maine to the sunny slopes of California."

"Look at the record"—that reaches back to the "founding fathers."

A man decides to "toss his hat in the ring." His "worthy opponent" does likewise.

One will "stand on his record." Don't, he argues, "swap horses in mid-stream." Another says "it is time for a change," and a new hand "must take the helm of the ship of state."

Both "stand four square" for "government of the people, by the people and for the people." Both regard "public office as a public trust." They praise "sons of the soil." They remember "the forgotten man."

Not even "the generations still unborn," are forgotten. Thousands of candidates "take the stump" to "carry their case" to the people. They pause only to "mend their fences."

The "political pot boils." Issues "transcend party lines" but they are "joined" anyway. The "rising tide of public opinion" springs from the "grass roots" and sweeps on "like a prairie fire." The "battle of ballots" rages.

Somebody "hurls a bombshell"



at the "lords of labor." Somebody else "turns his guns" on the "big corporations." That starts the "mudslinging" by the "smear brigades."

Now it's a "political battle royal." Everybody's in it—"fat cats," "starry-eyed visionaries," the "vested interests," "tories," "fellow travelers," "backroom bosses," "reactionaries," "parlor pinks," the "machine" and the "courthouse crowd."

They're "playing politics with human misery." The "party line" is busy. There are "political footballs," "canards," and "eleventh hour roorbacks."

Somebody "leaves the door

ajar." A "wheelhorse" emerges from a "smoke filled room," and "drags a red herring across the trail."

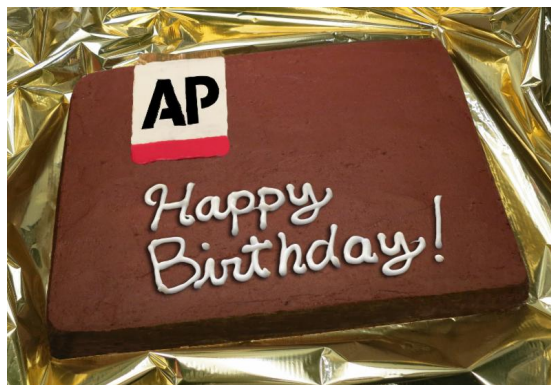
But whatever transpires in the "whispering campaign," it is almost certain to be "a lie fabricated on the whole cloth." Or "a stench in the nostrils of all decent citizens." Or "a smoke screen, a snare and a hollow mockery."

It may smack of "regimentation," but the voters "march to the polls." They will "exercise their franchise" and "write the verdict."

The winners receive a "mandate." The losers "bow to the will of the majority."

(1948 illustration courtesy of AP Corporate Archives)

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Robert Meyers – meyers.robert@gmail.com

Charlotte Porter – charlotte_porter@yahoo.com

On Saturday to...

Mark Hamrick – hamrickusa@gmail.com

Richard Horwitz - rh.mail@mac.com

On Sunday to...

Peggy Walsh – walshnyt@gmail.com

Stories of interest

Google will spend \$1 billion to pay publishers for news showcase (Axios)

By SARA FISCHER

Google will pay publishers more than \$1 billion over the next three years to create and curate high-quality journalism for a new set of features called Google News Showcase, executives tell Axios.

Why it matters: This is Google's biggest ever financial commitment to the news industry. In 2018, it pledged \$300 million to efforts supporting the news industry. This

announcement builds on that effort and its existing news licensing program, where it pays select publishers to feature their stories in Google News and Search.

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

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The Times Starts Review of 'Caliphate' Podcast After Hoax Charge (New York Times)

By Katie Robertson

The New York Times said on Wednesday that it had opened a “fresh examination” into how its popular “Caliphate” podcast portrayed a Canadian man who has been charged with lying about being an Islamic State executioner.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police announced on Friday that it had arrested Shehroze Chaudhry, who was featured in “Caliphate” using the name Abu Huzayfah, under terrorism hoax laws. The authorities accused Mr. Chaudhry of fabricating his involvement in acts of terrorism in Syria with ISIS and of raising “public safety concerns amongst Canadians.”

In several episodes of “Caliphate,” which was released by The Times in 2018, Mr. Chaudhry described his recruitment by ISIS and the violent executions he said he had taken part in. One episode cast doubt on some of his claims as the reporters uncovered inconsistencies with his passport and travel dates.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Chris Connell.

-0-

In bulletproof vest, this photojournalist walked into a Proud Boys rally

Beth Nakamura is a photojournalist with The Oregonian. (Photo by Doug Brown)

By KRISTEN HARE

Last weekend, Beth Nakamura clipped herself into a bulletproof vest and walked with a colleague and personal security detail into a Proud Boys rally in Portland.

The (Portland) Oregonian photojournalist has covered protest movements in her career and made photos around the world. But the things she needed to cover the Southern-Poverty-Law-Center-designated hate group are things Nakamura never thought she'd have to do at home.

In fact, if you'd told her during a pandemic that she'd emerge a conflict photographer, she would not have believed you.

"I have nothing to compare with what has happened in Portland and what continues to unfold," she said.

A recent story Nakamura wrote and photographed captured a bit of hope, though, even if it was hazy.

Read more [here](#).

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Reuters launches 'The Great Reboot,' a section dedicated to the future of the workplace

By Reuters Communications

Reuters announced today (Sept. 28) the launch of a new editorial vertical on the transformation and reimagining of the workplace that is being accelerated around the world by COVID-19. 'The Great Reboot' will provide essential news and insights on the future of the workplace to corporate leaders and professionals, including a rich mix of news stories, visual features, exclusive video interviews with business leaders and creative thinkers, deep dives into corporate strategies, lessons learned, as well as a weekly data feature and newsletter.

The coronavirus has triggered a tectonic shift around the world, accelerating the arrival of the future workplace and forcing business and political leaders to reinvent strategies on the fly. What were once "future" work trends—virtual teamwork, the recalibration of work-life balance and the redesign of everything from factory floors to commuter transport—have hurtled into the present. 'The Great Reboot' is a crucial resource to corporate leaders, investors and professionals, helping them to understand how the world is being reimagined and the ramifications for people, companies and society.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Claude Erbsen.

Today in History - October 02, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Oct. 2, the 276th day of 2020. There are 90 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 2, 1944, German troops crushed the two-month-old Warsaw Uprising, during which a quarter of a million people had been killed.

On this date:

In 1869, political and spiritual leader Mohandas K. Gandhi was born in Porbandar, India.

In 1890, comedian Groucho Marx was born Julius Marx in New York.

In 1941, during World War II, German armies launched an all-out drive against Moscow; Soviet forces succeeded in holding onto their capital.

In 1950, the comic strip "Peanuts," created by Charles M. Schulz, was syndicated to seven newspapers.

In 1958, the former French colony of Guinea in West Africa proclaimed its independence.

In 1967, Thurgood Marshall was sworn as an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court as the court opened its new term.

In 1970, one of two chartered twin-engine planes flying the Wichita State University football team to Utah crashed into a mountain near Silver Plume, Colorado, killing 31 of the 40 people on board.

In 1984, Richard W. Miller became the first FBI agent to be arrested and charged with espionage. (Miller was tried three times; he was sentenced to 20 years in prison, but was released after nine years.)

In 2002, the Washington, D.C.-area sniper attacks began, setting off a frantic manhunt lasting three weeks. (John Allen Muhammad and Lee Boyd Malvo were finally arrested for killing 10 people and wounding three others; Muhammad was executed in 2009; Malvo was sentenced to life in prison.)

In 2005, a tour boat, the Ethan Allen, capsized on New York's Lake George, killing 20 elderly passengers. Playwright August Wilson died in Seattle at age 60. Actor-comedian Nipsey Russell died in New York at age 87.

In 2017, rock superstar Tom Petty died at a Los Angeles hospital at the age of 66, a day after suffering cardiac arrest at his home in Malibu, California.

In 2018, President Donald Trump ignited a crowd at a campaign rally in Mississippi by mocking Christine Blasey (BLAH'-zee) Ford over her claim that she had been sexually assaulted by Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh decades ago; Trump also said it's a "very scary time for young men in America" who could be considered guilty based on an accusation.

Ten years ago: A coalition of progressive and civil rights groups marched by the thousands on the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C., pledging to support Democrats struggling to keep power on Capitol Hill.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama said he wouldn't sign another temporary government funding bill after the current one expired Dec. 11, insisting that congressional Republicans and Democrats work out a long-term budget deal with the White House. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced his resignation, which President Obama reluctantly accepted. Former Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle, 78, who was deposed in 1988 after challenging then-dictator Manuel Noriega, died in Cleveland, Ohio.

One year ago: House Democrats threatened to make White House defiance of a congressional request for testimony and documents potential grounds for an article of impeachment. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo acknowledged for the first time that he had been on the phone call in which President Donald Trump pressed Ukraine's president to investigate Democrat Joe Biden. Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders canceled campaign events "until further notice," a day after being treated for what his campaign later confirmed was a heart attack. A World War II-era plane with 13 people aboard crashed and burned at an airport near Hartford, Connecticut, after encountering mechanical trouble on takeoff; seven people were killed. A Dallas jury sentenced white former police officer Amber Guyger to 10 years in prison, a day after convicting her of murder in the killing of her Black upstairs neighbor; she said she had mistaken his apartment for her own.

Today's Birthdays: Retired MLB All-Star Maury Wills is 88. Movie critic Rex Reed is 82. Singer-songwriter Don McLean is 75. Cajun/country singer Jo-el Sonnier (sahn-YAY') is 74. Actor Avery Brooks is 72. Fashion designer Donna Karan (KA'-ruhn) is 72. Photographer Annie Leibovitz is 71. Rock musician Mike Rutherford (Genesis, Mike & the Mechanics) is 70. Singer-actor Sting is 69. Actor Robin Riker is 68. Actor Lorraine Bracco is 66. Country musician Greg Jennings (Restless Heart) is 66. Rock singer Phil Oakey (The Human League) is 65. Rhythm-and-blues singer Freddie Jackson is 64. Singer-producer Robbie Nevil is 62. Retro-soul singer James Hunter is 58. Former NFL quarterback Mark Rypien (RIP'-ihn) is 58. Rock musician Bud Gaugh (Sublime, Eyes Adrift) is 53. Folk-country singer Gillian Welch is 53. Country singer Kelly Willis is 52. Actor Joey Slotnick is 52. Rhythm-and-blues singer Dion Allen (Az Yet) is 50. Actor-talk show host Kelly Ripa (TV: "Live with Kelly and Ryan") is 50. Rock musician Jim Root (AKA (hash)4 Slipknot) is 49. Singer Tiffany is 49. Rock singer Lene Nystrom is 47. Actor Efren Ramirez is 47. Rhythm-and-blues singer LaTocha Scott (Xscape) is 47. Gospel singer Mandisa (TV: "American Idol") is 44. Actor Brianna Brown is 41. Rock musician Mike Rodden (Hinder) is 38. Former tennis player Marion Bartoli is 36. Actor Christopher Larkin is 33. Rock singer Brittany Howard (Alabama Shakes) is 32. Actor Samantha Barks is 30. Actor Elizabeth McLaughlin is 27.

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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