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October 09, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this the 9th day of October 2020,

That fly nesting for several minutes on Mike Pence's hair in Wednesday night's vice presidential debate brought these ideas from two of our colleagues:

Merrill Hartson ([Email](#)) – A cutline: Pence's snow-white thatch presents bait for editors fly-specking debate report.**Tom Kent ([Email](#))** – A lead: Kamala Harris had the floor. But she didn't have the fly.

As Harris wowed to save Obamacare [or whatever she was saying at the time] at Wednesday night's debate, the eyes of the nation were elsewhere.

An important correction: in Thursday's story on new retiree Frank Eltman, my introduction said Frank was an avid Mets and Yankees fan. It should have been Giants,

not Yankees. "God forbid I am ever known as an avid YANKEES fan!" he told me.

We lead today's issue with sad news that **Karsten Thielker**, a Pulitzer Prize-winning German photographer with The Associated Press, has died. He was 54. If you have a memory of working with him, please send it along.

Have a great weekend – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

Karsten Thielker, Pulitzer-winning AP photographer, dies



By **KIRSTEN GRIESHABER**

BERLIN (AP) — Karsten Thielker, a Pulitzer Prize-winning German photographer with The Associated Press who covered human suffering in conflict zones around the globe, has died. He was 54.

Thielker died Oct. 3 in Berlin of esophageal cancer, his wife Janna Ressel said Thursday.

Thielker, who started his career at a Mainz-area regional newspaper before working for the AP from 1990-1996, was part of a team that won the Pulitzer Prize for feature photography in 1995 for photos of ethnic violence in Rwanda.

His photo of an overcrowded camp of Rwandan refugees in 1994 in Tanzania was among those selected for the prizewinning package.

Thielker's career took him to many other conflicts and war zones, including Bosnia, Somalia and Chechnya.

"During the war in Bosnia, he made a photo project about a maternity ward in besieged Sarajevo — I think it says a lot about his love for mankind," Ressel said, reflecting upon the years her husband spent abroad covering people living, fleeing and dying in armed conflicts.



FILE - In this Jan. 25, 1995 file photo, Chechens duck for cover as a Russian sniper takes a pot shot at a street market on the southern outskirts of Grozny, Chechnya. (AP Photo/Karsten Thielker, File)

Beyond his photography, Thielker also trained photojournalists in Eastern Europe, Central America and Asia.

"So many potential, and definitely unique photos, will no longer appear in taz, the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Zeit, and other publications — this will leave a huge void," wrote Berlin photojournalist Stefan Boness in the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung of his friend Thielker's death.

"Even greater, however, is the painful loss of an always positive, deeply sympathetic and supportive colleague and friend."

After his years with the AP, which also included working on the photo desk in London, Thielker eventually returned to his home base of Berlin where he focused on street photography.

“Karsten was an excellent and highly talented photographer — his Pulitzer-winning work in Rwanda and long stints in the Balkans prove this beyond doubt,” said Tony Hicks, AP’s Deputy Director of Photography, International.

“He was also a lovely man who made a lot of friends throughout his career and someone I am glad to say I had the pleasure of working closely with when he came to work on the London photo desk.”

Some of his most recent work included photos of life in the German capital during the coronavirus pandemic.

He also founded the photo website Berlin Daily and sometimes worked together with his wife.

“Our passion for Berlin city life connected us; I work as a city guide in Berlin,” Ressel said. “That way we could sometimes combine our work.”

Thielker is survived by two children, ages 16 and 18, and a 16-year-old stepdaughter.

Click [here](#) for link to this story. Shared by John Daniszewski, Frank Abrashi.

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Click [here](#) for a 2019 story on Karsten Thielker in The East African, titled “THIELKER: No war is usual but the job is still the same.” Shared by Santiago Lyon.

Remembering my brother – killed on AP assignment during Vietnam War



Nick Ut ([Email](#)) – On Saturday, it will be 55 years ago since my older brother Huynh Thanh My was killed when he was on assignment for the AP in the Mekong Delta on October 10, 1965.

Huynh Thanh My was one of the toughest photographers of the Vietnam War. He had a Bachelor of Arts Degree and for several years he carried heavy network news equipment around the battlefield for CBS, until he was lured to AP in 1963 to work as a staff photographer.

In May 1965, he was wounded by machine gun fire but returned to the front lines as soon as he was released from the hospital. While covering a fight between the Viet Cong and SVN Rangers in the Mekong Delta later that year, Huynh Thanh My was wounded in the chest and arm. As he waited to be evacuated by helicopter, the enemy overran the makeshift aid station and killed the wounded. Nearly the entire Saigon Press Corps marched in Huynh Thanh My's funeral procession to the Mac Dinh Chi cemetery.



Huynh left behind his 19-year-old widow and seven-month-old daughter. I was hired by the AP in 1966 and covered the rest of the war, winning a Pulitzer Prize in 1973. I retired from the AP Los Angeles bureau in 2017 after 51 years with the AP.

After my brother was killed, I keep thinking of him every day. I love my brother so much.

AP Sighting: Richard O'Malley featured in movie on Berlin Airlift



"Shucks, it was nothing," says Frankfurt staffer Richard O'Malley, obliging with an autograph in response to congratulations from Paul Welsh, public information officer at Frankfurt, who had something to do with the sign.

AP's O'Malley Makes the Movies and (Vice Versa) in 'The Big Lift'

ON the day of the Broadway film opening of "The Big Lift," one of The AP WORLD's scouts reported on staffer Richard O'Malley's movie debut as follows: "He does a swell job and it's a great boost for The AP. . . ."

All O'Malley had to do in this story of the Berlin airlift was to play himself, the role of a reporter who knows

his way around in Berlin, as well as in other parts of the world where he has covered for The Associated Press.

In the film, O'Malley is assigned to an airlift plane to do a personalized article on a typical crew member. Being a reporter in quartered Berlin (where he once was roughed up by police in the Soviet zone) was about all the training O'Malley needed to play the movie part of a reporter in the airlift.

The rest was the natural O'Malley way of carrying out his part of the plot and—though this might not sound like an O'Malley—helping *another* guy get the girl.

This other guy's named Montgomery something or other, oh, yes, Montgomery Clift. Then there's still another chap . . . Douglas . . . Paul Douglas. They both have good parts too. And somehow, Clift and Douglas wangled top billing in the cast of characters.

On that score, incidentally, O'Malley's friends make head-shaking comments about studio favoritism and such things in Hollywood. But then with tight-lipped resolution they put up a placard (see above) which reveals that they know who the real stars are—O'Malley of The Associated Press and the American Broadcasting Company's Lyford Moore, also playing himself.



"Shucks, it was nothing," says Frankfurt staffer Richard O'Malley, obliging with an autograph in response to congratulations from Paul Welsh, public information officer at Frankfurt, who had something to do with the sign.

• CHICAGO—The May issue of The Quill, monthly publication of Sigma Delta Chi, professional journalism fraternity, gave considerable prominence to The Associated Press radio service. The cover showed Howard L. Kany, Washington radio representative, and William L. Beale, chief of bureau, discussing regional radio news services with Denis Sartain, editor of Washington station WWDC. Inside, the feature article was by Kany: "How States Develop Radio News." It was illustrated by a group photo taken at a Richmond meeting and showing Oliver Gramling, assistant general manager for radio; Fred L. Hart of WLPM, Suffolk, Va.; Jack Weldon of WWOD, Lynchburg, Va., and John Eure, WDBJ, Roanoke, Va.

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J.—Nathan Polowetsky, Associated Press staffer expelled by the Czechoslovak government on charges of unobjective reporting, has been designated winner of the Rutgers University Journalism Society's first Award for Distinguished Journalism.

The citation said that Polowetsky is "well trained in the truth-speaking principles of The Associated Press, world-renowned newsgathering organization."

Polowetsky, in charge of the Prague bureau at the time of his expulsion, is now on the London bureau staff.

When night photo editor Ernie King of San Francisco on a tour of Hollywood night spots by Frank Filan. L. to r. are Filan, King, Lois King,

Dick Lipsey (Email) - A movie about the Berlin Airlift, starring Montgomery Clift and Paul Douglas, includes an extensive sighting of the Saint Paul AP correspondent of the time, Richard O'Malley.

The airlift kept the city supplied in 1948-49 during the Soviet blockade of the city. "The Big Lift" was filmed in 1950 and shows much of the city still in ruins, including the Reichstag and the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church.

AP correspondent Richard O'Malley is reporting on the airlift and meets Clift, a hometown boy. "I'm Dick O'Malley, the AP Saint Paul correspondent, and the Saint Paul Dispatch is one of our members," he tells Clift. O'Malley decides to write a feature on Clift's role (he appears to be the crew chief on a C-54 transport) and interacts with Clift while arranging to accompany the crew on a flight and then on the flight itself.

O'Malley has several lines and does a creditable job of playing himself as a reporter. Apart from Clift and Douglas, the many airmen in the cast were service members in their actual jobs in the airlift. They are shown in the credits and identified by name and rank while standing in formation. O'Malley is listed in the cast credits but not shown. An AP obituary indicates that O'Malley died in 1999 at the age of 88. He was on the battleship Missouri for the Japanese surrender ceremony, was a correspondent in Moscow, and was bureau chief in Paris, Denver, Cyprus, and Germany, retiring in 1973.

Richard Pyle: Don't make me 'upthrow'

Kazuo Abiko (Email) - Wednesday's Final (Contrarian) Word by Adolphe Bernotas was great. One passage in the article reminded me of an episode that took place when I was working in the editorial department of the Tokyo bureau in the early 1980s.

That is: "The venerable copy editor of the New York Times, Ted Bernstein, is said to have had a rule for writers: "Those who write 'ongoing' will be outgoing the door."

Those days, the Tokyo news and photo desks operated 24 hours a day on three shifts. At the end of each shift, we listed up and wrote down unfinished tasks, often in connection with ongoing news stories, in the desk log, so that the desk editor on the next shift could follow up the tasks appropriately.

The word "upfollow" was commonly used by desk editors – e.g., "Please upfollow x x x."

The late Richard Pyle, who was serving as Asia News Editor based in Tokyo at that time, did not like it. He sent a memo to editorial people, instructing them not to use

the made-up word any more. Otherwise it would make him "upthrow," he said.

By the way, I shared the article with a friend of mine, a retired American journalist residing in Japan. He liked it a lot. But he said with a smile mark in his reply email, "I'm sure many writers who get paid by the word will opt for the longer expressions."

My Month of MS Moving Madness

Ed Tobias ([Email](#)) - We've been moving and I've been stressed. That's redundant, I know. Moving is stress on wheels — which isn't good for someone with MS.

Studies have shown a link between stressful life events and MS exacerbations, known as flares. Researchers, if you're reading this, you should have been watching me. I've been a symphony of stress!

My wife, Laura, and I have been moving from a two-bedroom-plus-den condo to a two-bedroom apartment just three hours away. We're also moving to a two-bedroom-plus-den condo 1,200 miles away. Double your pleasure, double your fun.

My MS limits my ability to help very much, and Laura has her own health problems. But we thought that if we moved slowly, we'd be OK. We gave ourselves over two months to find a mover, pack many of our things ourselves, and move in stages.

Who were we kidding?

Read more [here](#).

Celebrate Gramling winners in 30 minutes!



A Zoom meeting was held Thursday morning to celebrate the 2020 Oliver S. Gramling Awards and Chairman's Prize winners. Viewers heard from the winners of the Achievement, Spirit and Journalism awards and the Chairman's Prize, along with President and CEO Gary Pruitt and members of the AP Management Committee.

Click [here](#) to watch a video featuring the winners.

My Wheaties never tasted better this morning

Dave Lubeski ([Email](#)) - Always glad to see the fine work of old friends show up in my local morning paper. A shoutout to an ace sportswriter and former AP colleague Paul Newberry.

Here's Newby's column on the front page of the sports section along with high school tennis and the Chiefs.

My Wheaties never tasted better this morning.

I met Paul at his first Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway in 1994. We

became fast friends and established a very good working relationship then and at each subsequent Olympics. Example: At the Sydney Olympics I camped out in the venue athlete runway during the swimming competition. I'd stop American athletes coming through after their competition and get interviews. I'd have sound bites to use in Olympic reports and feed to member stations and then I'd run upstairs to Newby and Beth Harris's seat so they'd have quotes for the stories they were writing. Before each night's session, Newby and I would meet in the press center or the venue to map out what each of us needed to do.

All AP radio reporters at the Olympics worked with the likes of Newberry and Dahlberg and many other wireside reporters during our Olympic coverages. Many writers were guests on our sportscasts and podcasts and our radio reporters were a source of help with quotes for their stories.

Newberry and I became good friends working together at Olympics and at other major sporting events we covered at the same time. We did eight of them together. I had 17 Olympics assignments. That's the most ever for any AP reporter, I've been told. Newby will be the first to break that record if he keeps covering them. He currently has 13 and counting.



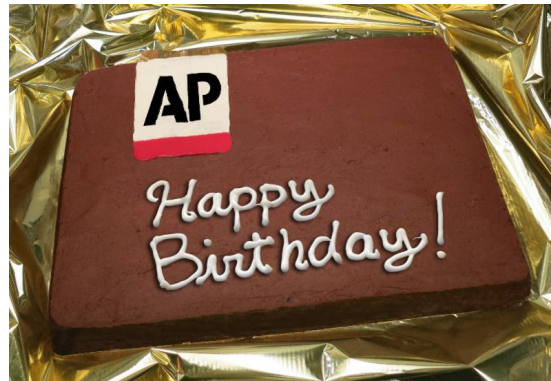
A mention of trees needing pruning – and I was put in charge

Gary Sosniecki (Email) - Helen and I eat our carry-out meals occasionally at Lebanon's Route 66-themed Boswell Park. We noticed a month ago that the trees the Lebanon (MO) Rotary Club planted as a service project a couple of years ago had not been pruned and were growing out of control. I mentioned that to our Rotary president, and the next thing I knew, I was in charge of the tree-trimming project. We had six volunteers today, including non-Rotarian Helen, and, with the blessing of our parks director, about 40 young trees were pruned quickly. Next week, we'll trim another 40 young, Rotary-planted trees at Atchley Park. Boswell

Park will look sharp when the Route 66 Association of Missouri's Motor Tour visits later this month.



Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Kim Gamel – kgamel@gmail.com

Sue Price Johnson - sue.price.johnson@gmail.com

Welcome to Connecting



Linda Barnas - linda.barnas2@gmail.com

Hillary Chura Hohmann - hiho.pt@gmail.com

Stories of interest

Journalism faces a crisis in trust. Journalists fall into two very different camps for how to fix it (Nieman)

By MARK CODDINGTON AND SETH LEWIS

Journalism faces a well-documented crisis of trust. This long-running decline in public confidence in the press is part of a broader skepticism that has developed about the trustworthiness of institutions more generally — leading to an overall trust recession that worries observers who speculate about the endgame of this downward spiral.

But might we see these issues of news and trust in a new light if we reconsidered our assumptions about what actually leads people to develop trust in journalism?

Consider, for example, how journalists for decades have sought to establish trust and confidence by focusing on their democratic responsibility to provide objective information — in which case, trust is presumed to be a product of faithfully adhering to standards and neutrality. In that case, reclaiming trust could be a matter of “getting back to basics,” as it were, and reporting facts in a way that more clearly communicates what people need to know, with the independence and distance that people have come to expect from journalists.

Read more [here](#).

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Man steals Biden yard sign is then caught stealing newspapers detailing his theft (Des Moines Register)

By ROBIN OPSAHL

What was one Iowa man's solution to making sure his neighbors didn't find out about his theft? Even more theft.

Peter De Yager, who owns the Foreign Candy Company in Hull, was caught stealing a Joe Biden yard sign in July near Monarch Cove. At first, he pled not guilty to the two misdemeanor charges for fifth-degree theft and trespassing.

But De Yager didn't exactly respond like an innocent man when his charges were printed in the Dickinson County News' Sept. 2 edition.

According to reporting by Dickinson County News, security cameras at the Spirit Lake Jiffy station showed De Yager taking a stack of the newspapers without paying for them on Sept. 3. Multiple other businesses, including the Spirit Lake Kum & Go, Spirit Lake Fareway, Spirit Lake Hy-Vee, Okoboji Kum & Go and Jennings Shell station reported similar newspaper thefts in that timeframe.

Read more [here](#).

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Jim Dwyer, Pulitzer Prize-Winning Journalist, Dies at 63 (New York Times)

By Robert D. McFadden

Jim Dwyer, a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter, columnist and author whose stylish journalism captured the human dramas of New York City for readers of New York Newsday, The Daily News and The New York Times for nearly four decades, died on Thursday in Manhattan. He was 63.

His death, at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, was announced by Dean Baquet, the executive editor of The Times, and Clifford Levy, the paper's metropolitan editor, in an email to the Times staff. The cause was complications of lung cancer.

In prose that might have leapt from best-selling novels, Mr. Dwyer portrayed the last minutes of thousands who perished in the collapse of the World Trade Center's twin towers on Sept. 11, 2001; detailed the terrors of innocent Black youths pulled over

and shot by racial-profiling state troopers on the New Jersey Turnpike; and told of the coronavirus besieging a New York City hospital.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mark Mittelstadt, Richard Chady, Dennis Conrad.

Today in History - October 09, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Oct. 9, the 283rd day of 2020. There are 83 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 9, 1936, the first generator at Boulder (later Hoover) Dam began transmitting electricity to Los Angeles.

On this date:

In 1888, the public was first admitted to the Washington Monument.

In 1910, a coal dust explosion at the Starkville Mine in Colorado left 56 miners dead.

In 1914, the Belgian city of Antwerp fell to German forces during World War I.

In 1967, Marxist revolutionary guerrilla leader Che Guevara, 39, was summarily executed by the Bolivian army a day after his capture.

In 1974, businessman Oskar Schindler, credited with saving about 1,200 Jews during the Holocaust, died in Frankfurt, West Germany (at his request, he was buried in Jerusalem).

In 1985, the hijackers of the Achille Lauro (ah-KEE'-leh LOW'-roh) cruise liner surrendered two days after seizing the vessel in the Mediterranean. (Passenger Leon Klinghoffer was killed by the hijackers during the standoff.)

In 2001, in the first daylight raids since the start of U.S.-led attacks on Afghanistan, jets bombed the Taliban stronghold of Kandahar. Letters postmarked in Trenton, N.J., were sent to Sens. Tom Daschle and Patrick Leahy; the letters later tested positive for anthrax.

In 2009, President Barack Obama won the Nobel Peace Prize for what the Norwegian Nobel Committee called "his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples."

In 2012, former Penn State assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky was sentenced to 30 to 60 years in prison following his conviction on 45 counts of sexual abuse of boys.

In 2014, six U.S. military planes arrived in the Ebola hot zone with more Marines as West African leaders pleaded for the world's help in dealing with what Sierra Leone President Ernest Bai Koroma described as "a tragedy unforeseen in modern times."

In 2016, During a bitter debate in St. Louis, Hillary Clinton declared that Donald Trump's vulgar comments about women revealed "exactly who he is" and proved his unsuitability to be president; firing back, Trump accused Clinton of attacking women involved in Bill Clinton's extramarital affairs and promised she would "be in jail" if he were president.

In 2018, Brett Kavanaugh took the bench for the first time as a Supreme Court justice in a jovial atmosphere that was at odds with the rancor that surrounded his confirmation.

Ten years ago: Chile's 33 trapped miners cheered and embraced each other as a drill punched into their underground chamber where they had been stuck for an agonizing 66 days. The International Monetary Fund wrapped up two days of talks in Washington without resolving deep differences over currency movements. A crush of fans circled a flower-graced mosaic in Central Park's Strawberry Fields and sang lyrics from "Imagine" to honor John Lennon on his 70th birthday.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama visited Roseburg, Oregon, the scene of a community college shooting that had claimed the lives of nine victims as well as the gunman; the president met with victims' relatives, but also faced protests from legal gun owners. A democracy group, the Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet, won the Nobel Peace Prize for its contributions to the first and most successful Arab Spring movement. Former British Treasury chief and foreign secretary Geoffrey Howe, 88, died in Warwickshire, England.

One year ago: Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden said for the first time that President Donald Trump must be impeached for abusing the powers of his office to

help his own reelection. Turkey launched airstrikes, fired artillery and began a ground offensive against Kurdish fighters in northern Syria after U.S. troops pulled back from the area. A heavily-armed man tried to force his way into a synagogue in Germany on Yom Kippur, Judaism's holiest day, then shot two people to death nearby in an attack that was livestreamed on a gaming site. (The suspect was arrested about 1 [1/2] hours after the attack and is charged with murder and attempted murder.) The Nobel Prize in chemistry was awarded to three scientists, including American John Goodenough, for their work on lithium-ion batteries.

Today's Birthdays: Retired MLB All-Star Joe Pepitone is 80. Former Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss., is 79. C-SPAN founder Brian Lamb is 79. Rhythm-and-blues singer Nona Hendryx is 76. Singer Jackson Browne is 72. Nobel Peace laureate Jody Williams is 70. Actor Gary Frank is 70. Actor Richard Chaves is 69. Actor Robert Wuhl is 69. Actor-TV personality Sharon Osbourne is 68. Actor Tony Shalhoub is 67. Actor Scott Bakula is 66. Musician James Fearnley (The Pogues) is 66. Actor John O'Hurley is 66. Writer-producer-director-actor Linwood Boomer is 65. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Mike Singletary is 62. Actor Michael Pare is 62. Jazz musician Kenny Garrett is 60. Rock singer-musician Kurt Neumann (The BoDeans) is 59. Country singer Gary Bennett is 56. Movie director Guillermo del Toro is 56. Former British Prime Minister David Cameron is 54. Singer P.J. Harvey is 51. Movie director Steve McQueen (Film: "12 Years a Slave") is 51. World Golf Hall of Famer Annika Sorenstam is 50. Actor Cocoa Brown is 48. Country singer Tommy Shane Steiner is 47. Actor Steve Burns is 47. Rock singer Sean Lennon is 45. Actor Randy Spelling is 42. Christian hip-hop artist Lecrae is 41. Actor Brandon Routh is 41. Actor Zachery Ty Bryan is 39. Actor Spencer Grammer is 37. Comedian Melissa Villasenor (TV: "Saturday Night Live") is 33. Actor Tyler James Williams is 28. Country singer Scotty McCreery (TV: "American Idol") is 27. Actor Jharrel Jerome is 23.

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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