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Connecting

October 16, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this the 16th day of October 2020,

With Election Day 2020 just 18 days away, we're seeing all kinds of encouraging words to get out and be sure to vote.

One of my new favorites came from a listserv that our Connecting colleague **Carl Leubsdorf** provides of his political columns – a post from the father of a Broadway performer who brought her colleagues together to produce a video. It's our lead item.

WRITTEN A BOOK IN THE PAST YEAR?

AUTHORS ALERT: If you have written a book in the past year, Connecting would like to feature it in our annual listing of books authored by Connecting colleagues. The book issue will appear in a couple weeks – so this is an invitation to send me the

following: Name of book, jpg image of the cover and your headshot, and 300 words on the book including where it can be purchased. Send along the information soon.

Have a great weekend – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

Make a Plan to Vote



Deborah Grausman ([Email](#)) - A new troupe of B'way performers has come together, virtually, to encourage Americans to plan their vote. This company of professional artists has produced a bubbly, engaging video called Make a Plan to Vote with the simple premise that we can all enjoy voting this year. Set to the score of Irving Berlin's "Puttin' on the Ritz," this two-minute video will have voters humming all the way to the polls! The goal is to inspire, motivate, and entertain people so that they get out and vote, between now and November 3rd, regardless of party affiliation.

(Deborah Grausman is an actor/singer/voice actor known for voicing Smartie, Elmo's friend, on Sesame Street, and has been seen across the US and Canada in the North American Tour of Fiddler on the Roof, starring Topol and Harvey Fierstein. "I woke up one morning and the lyrics just came pouring out," said Grausman. "Everyone I asked, jumped on board—without hesitation—and donated their time, talent, and wonderful energy to this project. Needless to say, I couldn't be happier with the result!")



Click [here](#) to view. Shared by Deborah's father Richard Grausman in a listserv of the latest political column by our colleague Carl P. Leubsdorf.

Stocks movement and Trump tweets

David Briscoe ([Email](#)) - Note to The Associated Press and all other financial journalists: Please stop trying to tie idiotic White House utterances to routine market ups and downs. While investors may at times be swayed (or sway themselves in order to make more money) one way and/or the other (often at the same time) by presidential claptrap, Wall Street knows more than most of us how ignorant, unpredictable and unreliable DJT is. There is no direct cause-and-effect between his stream of lies and the markets. So please stop trying to make it look like there is. You all do it, and it's lousy journalism. And, by the way, my dear AP, the markets are always spinning. They never stop, and their sole purpose is always the same: to grab the brass ring. (I realize this is a repetitive bitch of mine, but I'll keep screaming it as long as you keep doing it.)

Nauseous and nauseated

Ed Williams ([Email](#)) - The things that students remember...

Got a text message last night from a former student asking me to explain again the difference in nauseous and nauseated.

He said he remembered me explaining the two words in Journalism 1100 class many years ago, but could not recall the details.

I always talked about the two words when we reviewed "The Elements of Style" by Strunk and White.

So here it is again:

The word nauseated means to be affected with nausea or to feel sick to your stomach. Nauseous describes something that causes a feeling of nausea. These words have the same root word, nausea, a Latin word that refers specifically to seasickness.

Dan Perry named managing partner of Thunder 11

Dan Perry ([Email](#)) – a longtime foreign correspondent for The Associated Press - was named Thursday managing partner of the New York-based communications firm Thunder 11. He will for a while also remain Chief Business Development Officer for Engageya, an internet company that competes with Taboola/Outbrain.



Perry led AP in the Caribbean, then in Europe and Africa from London, and most recently in the Middle East from a base in Cairo. From 2001 to 2004, he served as chairman of the Foreign Press Association in Jerusalem. Since leaving AP in 2018, he has focused on business and technology projects. At Thunder11, Perry will help oversee and optimize operations and client service, pursue global partnerships and aim to scale the business. From a base in Tel Aviv, a major global innovation hub, he will also serve as a gateway to Israeli tech companies. Perry joins a leadership team that includes senior partner Marco Greenberg, creative partner Liel Leibovitz and VP of media relations Ryan Birchmeier.

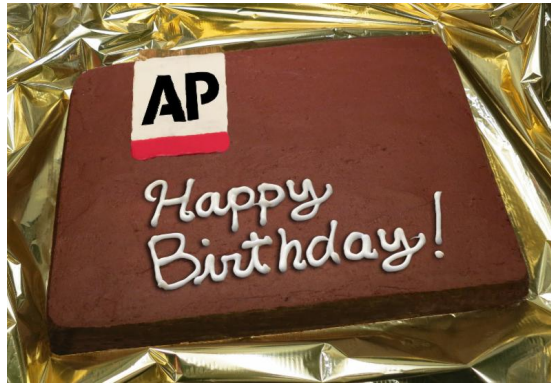
From our back deck--Sedona, Arizona



Ray Newton ([Email](#)) - We rented a home in Sedona, AZ, so we could have a family reunion—17 people—kids, grandkids, great-grandkids—from all over the

country. Patty found the views inspirational, yet humbling - reminders that we should continually appreciate that which surrounds us.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



On Saturday to...

Brian Bland - blandCBHS@aol.com

Martin Crutsinger - mcrutsinger@ap.org

Stories of interest

NBC's Savannah Guthrie Grills Trump Opposite ABC's Sober Biden Talk (New York Times)

By Michael M. Grynbaum and John Koblin

George Stephanopoulos of ABC had it easy, steering an old-school Washington veteran through policy plans against a patriotic backdrop, while Savannah Guthrie of NBC had to navigate the stormy waters of QAnon, white supremacy and whether the virus-stricken president had pneumonia. (Despite repeated inquiries, he would not say.)

Viewers of Thursday's dueling network town halls with President Trump and Joseph R. Biden Jr. — which aired simultaneously in prime time, much to civic-minded critics' chagrin — were treated to a pair of telecasts as starkly different as the candidates they featured.

On a night when Mr. Biden and Mr. Trump had been scheduled to meet on a single debate stage, television instead cleaved in two. Mr. Biden's ABC town hall had all the fireworks of a vintage episode of "This Week With David Brinkley." Mr. Trump's NBC forum had all the subtlety of a professional wrestling match.

The election may hinge on which type of programming Americans want to spend the next four years watching.

Read more [here](#).

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Why tech giants limited the spread of NY Post story on Biden

By BARBARA ORTUTAY

OAKLAND, California (AP) — When Facebook and Twitter moved quickly this week to limit the spread of an unverified political story published by the conservative-leaning New York Post, it led to predictable cries of censorship from the right. But it also illustrated the slippery hold even the largest tech companies have on the flow of information, particularly in the midst of a raucous presidential election campaign.

While Facebook and Twitter have often been slow to combat apparent misinformation and other violations of their rules, their response in this case shows how quickly they can move when they want to. Misinformation frequently outpaces the truth on social networks, academic studies have found. But if social media titans aren't careful, their attempts to clamp down on a story can amplify it further. And even when they exercise caution, they risk generating their own headlines with every move.

For the first time in recent memory, the two social media platforms enforced rules against misinformation on a story from a mainstream media publication. The story in question, which has not been confirmed by other publications, cited unverified emails from Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden's son that were reportedly discovered by President Donald Trump's allies.

Read more [here](#).

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C-SPAN suspends Scully after he admits to lie about hack



FILE - White House Correspondents Association President Steve Scully appears at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room at the White House in Washington on July 11, 2007. (AP Photo/Ron Edmonds, File)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — C-SPAN suspended its political editor Steve Scully indefinitely Thursday after he admitted to lying about his Twitter feed being hacked when he was confronted about a questionable exchange with former Trump aide Anthony Scaramucci.

The news came on the day of what was supposed to be a career highlight for the 30-year C-SPAN veteran. Scully was to moderate the second debate between President Donald Trump and Democrat Joe Biden, which was canceled after Trump would not agree to a virtual format because of his COVID-19 diagnosis.

A week ago, after Trump had criticized him as a “never Trumper,” Scully tweeted “@Scaramucci should I respond to Trump.” Scaramucci, a former Trump communications director and now a critic of the president, advised Scully to ignore him.

Scully said that when he saw his tweet had created a controversy, “I falsely claimed that my Twitter account had been hacked.”

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

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Journalism alliance aims for racial equity in newsrooms (AssociationsNow)

By LISA BOYLAN

Three journalism groups are collaborating on a racial equity initiative that goes beyond discussions about diversity and inclusion in newsrooms to a next-level cultural shift focused on dismantling systemic racism.

Amid an ongoing conversation in associations and other organizations about how to move from words to action in combating systemic racism, the Online News Association has partnered with OpenNews and the Maynard Institute in a collective effort to fight for social change in journalism. Vision25: Building Racial Equity in Newsrooms aims to build journalistic institutions where newsrooms are actively anti-racist and collaborative, and journalists of color have a sense of belonging.

The Kerner Commission, formed by President Lyndon Johnson to identify the causes of the 1967 riots, delivered a stinging assessment of the journalism industry for its lack of diversity. More than 50 years later, racial injustice and unrest still permeate the country, and media organizations are still insufficiently inclusive, ONA Executive Director Irving Washington, FASAE, CAE, wrote in a statement announcing the Vision25 initiative.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

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Anchorage Mayor Resigns After Admitting to 'Inappropriate' Relationship With TV Anchor (New York Times)

By Mike Baker

The mayor of Anchorage, Ethan Berkowitz, resigned on Tuesday, one day after admitting that he had engaged in an “inappropriate” relationship with a local news anchor, the latest development in a roiling political drama that began when the reporter claimed there were graphic personal photos of the mayor on an “underage girl’s website.”

“It is with profound sadness and humility that I resign as mayor of the municipality of Anchorage,” Mr. Berkowitz said in a statement read to the Anchorage Assembly by his chief of staff, Jason Bockenstedt. Many residents in the crowd, some of whom gathered to object to restrictions that the city has introduced to control the coronavirus, immediately burst into cheers, standing and clapping.

“My resignation results from unacceptable personal conduct that has compromised my ability to perform my duties with the focus and trust that is required,” the statement said. The resignation is to take effect at the end of next week.

Mr. Berkowitz’s resignation followed an unsubstantiated claim posted to social media on Friday by the news anchor, Maria Athens, promising viewers an “exclusive” story set to air on upcoming newscasts. Mr. Berkowitz responded by calling the allegations “slandorous” and false, and Ms. Athens shot back by posting what she said was an image of the mayor’s bare backside, with a laughing emoji.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Pizac.

Today in History - October 16, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Oct. 16, the 290th day of 2020. There are 76 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On Oct. 16, 1968, American athletes Tommie Smith and John Carlos sparked controversy at the Mexico City Olympics by giving “Black power” salutes during a victory ceremony after they’d won gold and bronze medals in the 200-meter race.

On this date:

In 1793, during the French Revolution, Marie Antoinette, the queen of France, was beheaded.

In 1859, radical abolitionist John Brown led a group of 21 men in a raid on Harpers Ferry in western Virginia. (Ten of Brown's men were killed and five escaped. Brown and six followers were captured; all were executed.)

In 1901, Booker T. Washington dined at the White House as the guest of President Theodore Roosevelt, whose invitation to the Black educator sparked controversy.

In 1916, Planned Parenthood had its beginnings as Margaret Sanger and her sister, Ethel Byrne, opened the first birth control clinic in Brooklyn, New York. (The clinic ended up being raided by police and Sanger was arrested.)

In 1934, Chinese Communists, under siege by the Nationalists, began their "long march" lasting a year from southeastern to northwestern China.

In 1962, the Cuban missile crisis began as President John F. Kennedy was informed that reconnaissance photographs had revealed the presence of missile bases in Cuba.

In 1978, the College of Cardinals of the Roman Catholic Church chose Cardinal Karol Wojtyla (voy-TEE'-wah) to be the new pope; he took the name John Paul II.

In 1991, a deadly shooting rampage took place in Killeen, Texas, as a gunman opened fire at a Luby's Cafeteria, killing 23 people before taking his own life.

In 1995, a vast throng of Black men gathered in Washington, D.C. for the "Million Man March" led by Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan.

In 2002, President George W. Bush signed a congressional resolution authorizing war against Iraq. The White House announced that North Korea had disclosed it had a nuclear weapons program.

In 2009, agricultural officials said pigs in Minnesota had tested positive for the H1N1 virus, or swine flu, the first such cases in the U.S.

In 2017, Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, who had been captured and held by the Taliban for five years after walking away from his post in Afghanistan, pleaded guilty to desertion and endangering his comrades. (A military judge later decided not to send him to prison.)

Ten years ago: Iran freed an American businessman jailed in Tehran for more than two years on suspicion of ties to an allegedly violent opposition group. (Reza Taghavi, 71, hadn't been charged with a crime and denied knowingly supporting the organization,

known as Tondar.) Actor Barbara Billingsley, the matriarch of TV's "Leave It to Beaver," died in Santa Monica, California, at age 94.

Five years ago: Interior Secretary Sally Jewell announced that the federal government was canceling federal petroleum lease sales in U.S. Arctic waters that had been scheduled for 2016 and 2017. Four Palestinians, including one assailant, were killed by Israeli fire amid continuing widespread unrest as the U.N. Security Council convened an emergency meeting to discuss the escalation.

One year ago: President Donald Trump declared that the U.S. had no stake in defending Kurdish fighters in Syria who had died by the thousands as America's partners against Islamic State extremists; Trump's stance on the Kurds was condemned by Democrats and some Republicans who'd been staunch Trump supporters. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and other top Democrats walked out of a meeting at the White House, with Pelosi accusing Trump of having a "meltdown"; Trump replied on Twitter that it was Pelosi who had a "total meltdown" and called her a "very sick person." Bargainers for General Motors and the United Auto Workers reached a tentative contract deal to end a monthlong strike that brought the company's U.S. factories to a standstill. (Workers voted to approve the contract the following week.) Former Chicago Cubs manager Joe Maddon agreed to a three-year deal to manage the Los Angeles Angels.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Angela Lansbury is 95. Actor Peter Bowles is 84. Actor-producer Tony Anthony is 83. Actor Barry Corbin is 80. Sportscaster Tim McCarver is 79. Rock musician C.F. Turner (Bachman-Turner Overdrive) is 77. Actor Suzanne Somers is 74. Rock singer-musician Bob Weir is 73. Producer-director David Zucker is 73. Record company executive Jim Ed Norman is 72. Actor Daniel Gerroll is 69. Actor Morgan Stevens is 69. Actor Martha Smith is 68. Comedian-actor Andy Kindler is 64. Actor-director Tim Robbins is 62. Actor-musician Gary Kemp is 61. Singer-musician Bob Mould is 60. Actor Randy Vasquez is 59. Rock musician Flea (Red Hot Chili Peppers) is 58. Movie director Kenneth Lonergan is 58. Actor Christian Stolte is 58. Actor Todd Stashwick is 52. Actor Terri J. Vaughn is 51. Singer Wendy Wilson (Wilson Phillips) is 51. Rapper B-Rock (B-Rock and the Bizz) is 49. Rock singer Chad Gray (Mudvayne) is 49. Actor Paul Sparks is 49. Actor Kellie Martin is 45. Singer John Mayer is 43. Actor Jeremy Jackson is 40. Actor Caterina Scorsone is 40. Actor Brea Grant is 39. Actor Kyler Pettis is 28. Philadelphia Phillies outfielder Bryce Harper is 28. Tennis star Naomi Osaka 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.**

Paul Stevens

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