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Connecting September 1, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this first day of September, 2021,

Nearly 60 years ago, our colleague **Monte Hayes** was studying aeronautical engineering at Purdue University when he experienced a moment of truth that changed his life.

"It was the first warm night of spring," he recalls. "I had pushed up the window in my dorm room to let the breeze in. As I tried to concentrate on my physics textbook, a task I found increasingly boring, I turned on the radio. Out poured a tale of political intrigue in Vienna skillfully related by an American correspondent. It was as if I were hit by a lightning bolt. I remember saying out loud, "That's what I want to do. I don't want to be an aeronautical engineer!"

Instead, Hayes launched into the study of journalism – and next month, he will be honored by The Media School at Indiana University as a Distinguished Alumnus for his 30-year career as a foreign correspondent in Latin America.

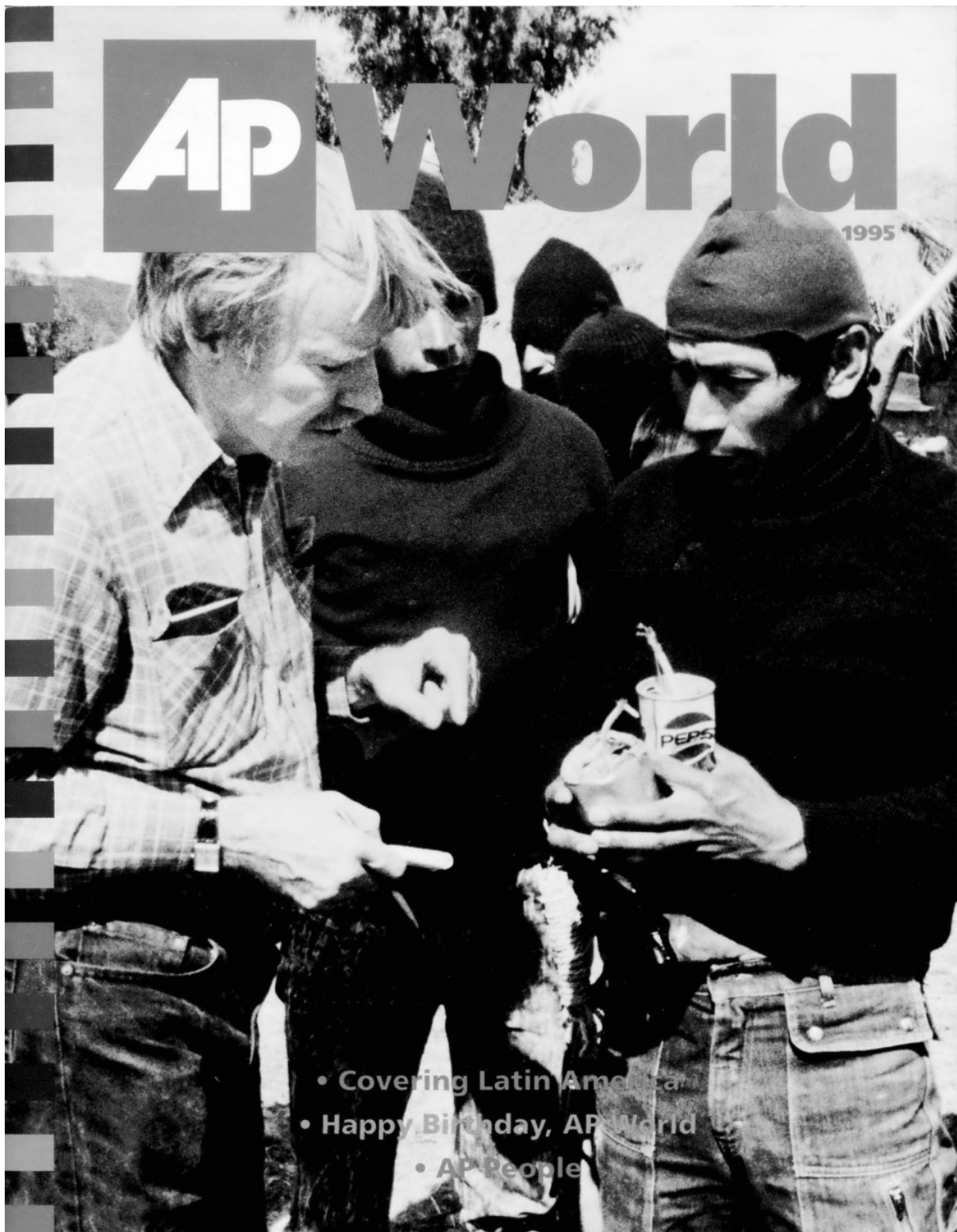
I asked Monte to share how this all took place – and his fascinating story leads today's Connecting.

LOU GRANT: CBS Sunday Morning just posted [this profile](#) of Ed Asner that aired originally Oct. 12, 2012. (Shared by George Widman)

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy (and to quote from Simon & Garfunkel's ["April, Come She Will"](#) - "September, I'll remember...a love once new has now grown old."

Paul

A journalist's journey that started in a dorm room in Indiana...



ABOVE: Lima Chief of Bureau Monte Hayes interviews ronderos - anti-rebel militamen - in the remote Andean village of Huamangilla. The rondero leader is showing Hayes a bomb made from a tin can, nails, dynamite and excrement. (Photo/Alejandro Balaguer) 1995 AP World cover courtesy AP Corporate Archives. **RIGHT:** Monte today.

Monte Hayes (Email) - I want to share with my friends in the AP that The Media School at Indiana University has honored me by declaring me a Distinguished Alumnus for my 30-year career as a foreign correspondent in Latin America. I will receive the distinction at a ceremony on Oct. 22 at IU's campus in Bloomington, Ind.



I was recognized for all those years in Venezuela, Mexico, Central America, Ecuador and Peru covering a kaleidoscope of stories that drew back the curtains on a fascinating region: stories of political intrigue, coups, civil wars, savage Maoist insurgents, military death squads, cocaine smugglers, economic collapse, hyperinflation, a volcano eruption that buried 25,000 people in Colombia, the dramatic rescue of 71 diplomats held by pro-Cuba rebels for four months in Lima and the tale of the "mermaid" baby girl whose legs were separated in a risky operation, a story that gripped the attention of the world.

I am deeply appreciative for the recommendations for the award from my former editors at the International Desk, including Tom Kent, Nick Tatro, Larry Heinzerling and Marcus Eliason. The strongest recommendation came from Lou Boccardi, for many years the president of The Associated Press and its top editor until his retirement.

He wrote: "Monte demonstrated again and again his grasp of what at times seemed like unending turmoil in Latin America and his courage in pursuing the story wherever events beckoned. He did more than stay in Lima directing the staff there. Monte frequently took dangerous trips into remote areas of the Andes to develop stories."

Perhaps I was destined for a career as a foreign correspondent but just didn't realize it. In fact, I began studying aeronautical engineering at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind., a few miles down the road from where I grew up.

In 1962 during my second semester at Purdue I experienced a moment of truth that changed my life. It was the first warm night of spring. I had pushed up the window in my dorm room to let the breeze in. As I tried to concentrate on my physics textbook, a task I found increasingly boring, I turned on the radio. Out poured a tale of political intrigue in Vienna skillfully related by an American correspondent. It was as if I were hit by a lightning bolt. I remember saying out loud, "That's what I want to do. I don't want to be an aeronautical engineer!"

After another year at Purdue to finish my general studies, I headed for Indiana University to study under the legendary John Stempel, the irascible head of IU's highly respected journalism program. A tough former editor at the old New York City Sun, Stempel took a liking to me and in my senior year named me editor-in-chief of the Indiana Daily Student.

After graduation I joined the Peace Corps for three years, serving as a rural community developer in the Dominican Republic, working and living in a dusty village

of dirt-floor, thatched shacks with no electricity or drinkable water. It was there that my love affair with Latin America and its people began.

When my Peace Corps tour was up, I worked for two years for the Miami Herald covering poverty and environmental issues. But I was restless and moved to Louisville to write about the lives of the people of Appalachia. I was not becoming rich as a freelancer, to say the least, and I heard that the local AP bureau was looking for someone to sit in for a staffer who was going on a 6-month maternity leave.

I got the job and that was when I learned about the nuts-and-bolts of an AP bureau operation, so different from newspapers. George Hackett, the bureau's news editor, was a great mentor and offered to find me a job somewhere in the AP as my temporary gig was ending. I thanked him profusely but said I had a job waiting for me in Venezuela.

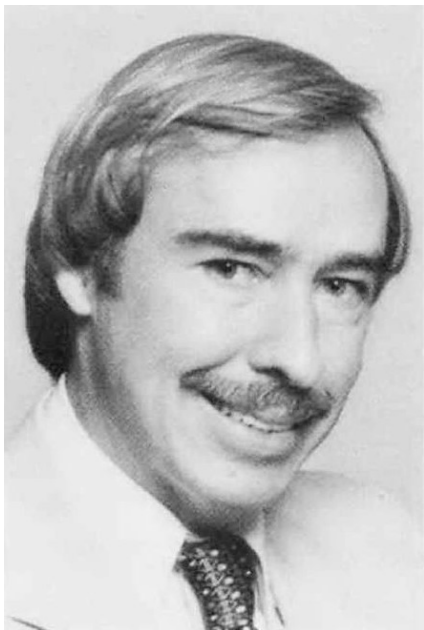
I arrived in Caracas in January 1975 and became national affairs reporter for the English-language Daily Journal, covering the presidency. For two years I traveled around Latin America with President Carlos Andes Perez on state visits as he spread around the country's oil dollars stemming from the incredible increase in the world price of petroleum in 1973. At the time, Venezuela was one of the world's richest nations, nothing like today's sad-sack country. A high point came in 1976 when President Perez decorated me with the country's prestigious Francisco de Miranda Award, the only foreign journalist to be so honored.

In 1977 I became the paper's news editor in charge of a dozen reporters and a year later I got a call from Bill Heath, the AP's Caracas bureau chief, who became a lifelong friend until his death in 2012. Bill offered me a job as a local-hire newsman in the bureau. I jumped at the opportunity. Thus started my 30-year run with the AP.

A few months later Bill moved to Buenos Aires to become bureau chief for Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay. Hank Ackerman took up the reins in Caracas, becoming, like Bill, a mentor. Hank helped me transfer to New York, a necessary step to becoming a full-fledged foreign correspondent. He gave me good advice on how to handle myself on the Foreign Desk, including, "Don't make the same mistake twice." I never forgot that.

In the winter of 1980 I moved with my new wife Sandra, a native of Trinidad, to New York City. I first worked at AP's old World Desk and then at the Foreign Desk under another legendary editor Nate Polowetzky, as irascible as my old journalism professor but just as supportive.

In 1982 Nate assigned me to Mexico City, the control bureau for Central America, a region engulfed in revolutionary fires. My COB was Eloy Aguilar, an unforgettable character and a hell of a newsman. It was an exciting time and place for a journalist. Twice I turned down promotions to other bureaus. I was so wrapped up covering Central America and Mexico that I didn't want to



give it up. When the third "offer" came from New York for a new posting, this time to Lima, Peru, as bureau chief, Eloy called me into his office and said, "You don't turn down a third promotion if you know what is good for you."

Somewhat begrudgingly, I took off for Lima in May 1985 with Sandra and our 4-year-old daughter Melanie in tow, thinking about all the stories I was leaving behind.

I had no idea what I was stepping into.

A week after we arrived, I was working late on a Friday in the bureau, then located in the colonial heart of Lima a few blocks from the Plaza de Armas and the Presidential Palace. Suddenly the lights flickered and went out throughout the city, followed by a flurry of gunshots coming from the main square. I sent Spanish-language reporter Teofilo Caso racing to the plaza while I tried to get a call through to New York but all the lines were jammed. Then, without warning, a massive explosion rocked the downtown and shook my office so badly that books and files fell off my desk and shelves.

After what seemed an eternity, Caso rushed back into my office, panting and showing where a piece of shrapnel from the explosion had slashed through his right coat sleeve somehow missing his arm. Four or five inches to the left and it would have cut through a lung.

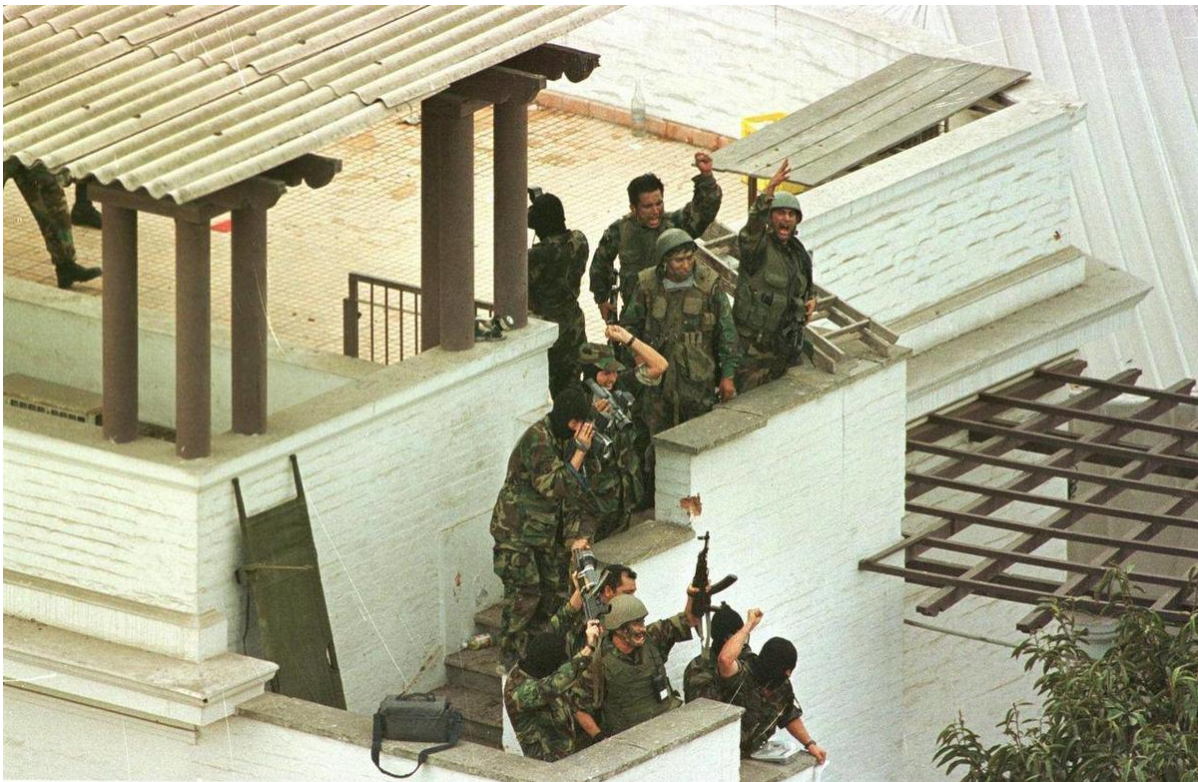
A car packed with dynamite that was left parked 10 feet from the front gate of the palace had exploded just as Caso reached the far side of the plaza.

The Shining Path, an extreme-left Maoist revolutionary group whose attacks until then had been restricted to remote Andean villages, had brought its war to the streets of Lima, and nothing would be the same again.

In the ensuing years, violence soared with the Shining Path and the army committing massacres in rural areas and political assassinations by both sides becoming common in the cities. There were so many car bombs in Lima that they did not seem big news unless many people died. More than 70,000 people were killed before the violence began to wane in the late 1990s.



AP International editor Tom Kent paid a visit to the AP's spot on the roof of a building across the street from the Japanese ambassador's residence in Lima, Peru - a few weeks before the dramatic rescue in which 71 hostages were freed. The AP and several other news organizations had been using the roof - crowded with TV and still cameras, microwave transmitters, tents and sleeping bags - since December. Pictured, from left: Lima newsman Teofilo Casoon, Kent and Lima CoB Monte Hayes. (Photo/Ricardo Figueroa) 1997 AP World courtesy AP Corporate Archives.



FILE - In this April 22, 1997 file photo, soldiers cheer on the roof during their taking of the Japanese ambassador's residence in Lima, Peru. Peruvians traumatized by years of guerrilla violence cheered in 1997 when government troops raided the Japanese ambassador's residence to rescue hostages held for 126 days by leftist rebels. Martin Mejia, File, Associated Press

Perhaps the most dramatic point during my 23 years in Lima came in 1997 when Peruvian commandos rescued 71 diplomats and high government officials held by pro-Cuba rebels as hostages for more than four months at the Japanese ambassador's residence. The Lima bureau's coverage won the 1997 APME's Top AP Reportorial Performance (Deadline) Award, beating out coverage of Princess Diana's fatal auto crash in Paris.

I remember one morning when I received a phone call at my office and an unidentified man said, "Mr. Hayes, your stories are lies and hurt our country. If you value your life, you have 24 hours to leave Peru." The heads of Reuters, EFE, AFP, ANSA and UPI, who had received the same warning, all got flights to Buenos Aires that night. I stayed. I calculated no paramilitary group linked to the army was going to embarrass the government by assassinating a foreign news agency chief. Fortunately, I was right. But I was also worried that Lou would pull me out of Peru if I told New York about the threat. I always played down the dangers when I met with him during my home leave visits.

I also have embedded in my memory that night when the first car bomb set off panic and terror in the streets of Lima. After dictating my last version of the story to the Foreign Desk by phone, I made my way back to my wife and small daughter in the Country Club Hotel in a leafy Lima suburb. Drivers sped wildly through darkened intersections trying to get home, barely avoiding crashes. I saw people fighting to get on buses. When I reached the hotel, the front desk gave me a small candle to make

my way down pitch-black hallways to my room. Inside, I found Sandra and Melanie hugging one another in bed.



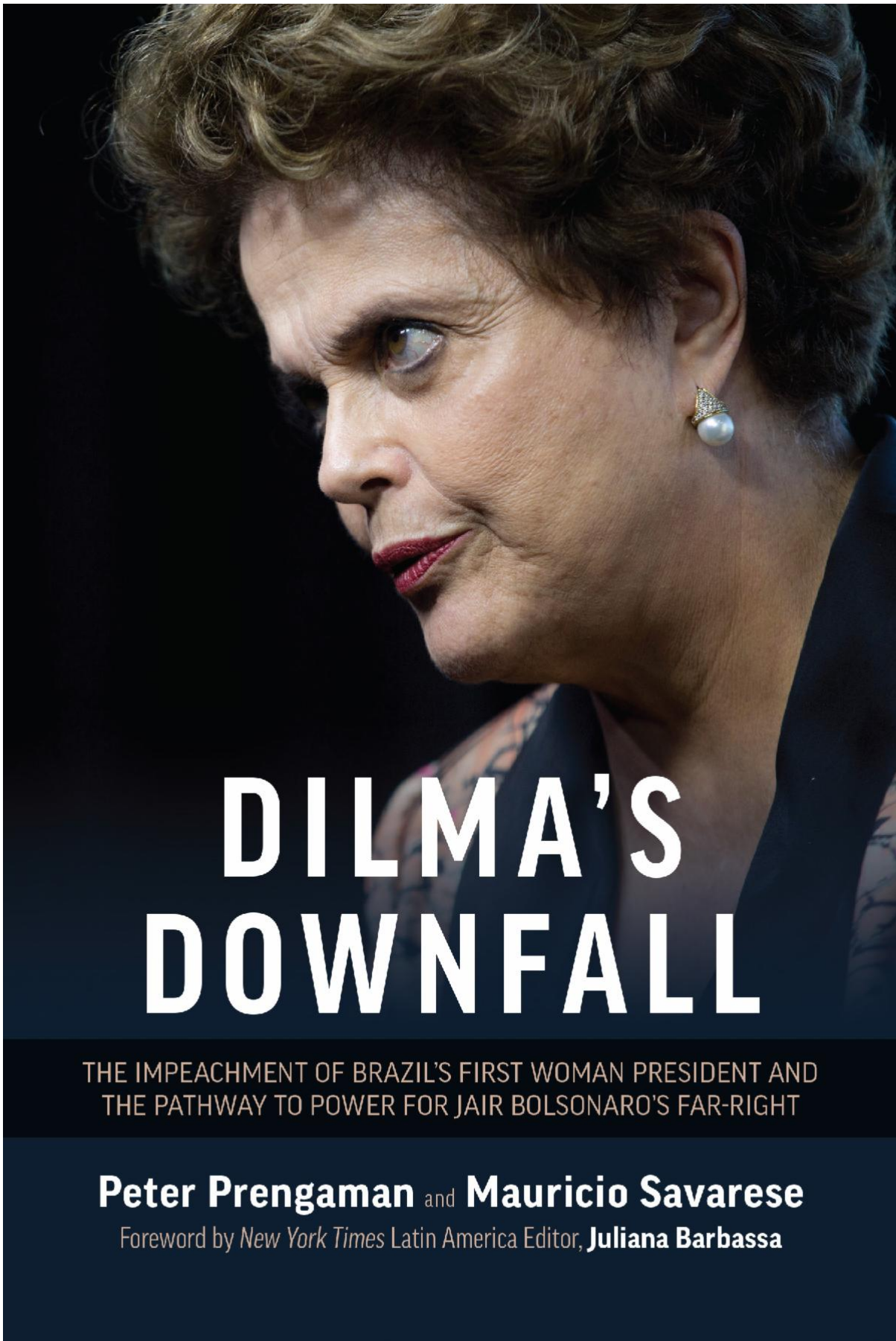
This was taken at a little diner in the village Crystal River, FL, on an excursion from our home in Sarasota this past weekend. Note the words on the diner's coffee mugs Sandra and I are holding: "Medicare Questions?" On the other side is an insurance salesman's phone number!

I would have understood if she had demanded, "Where the hell have you brought us?" But she didn't. In fact, she always gave me the green light for my risky endeavors. Without her support, my career as a foreign correspondent would not have been possible. She made a home for all of us, including our daughter, who grew up in Peru, going to school with Peruvians and becoming bilingual and bicultural. Sandra also used her beauty and charm to earn us many friends among Peruvians and in the expat community, and those friendships often came in handy in my reporting. Her parties became famous and when we got ready to leave in 2008, those friends organized 12 "despedidas" – farewell parties – in my last weeks, so many that I could barely drag myself into the office.

I'm proud to add that my daughter Melanie followed in her old man's steps. She earned a degree in journalism from Indiana University and worked as a reporter for a decade, including at the Indianapolis Star, before giving it all up to become a mom.

And sometimes when I'm alone, my thoughts drift back to that warm spring night in college when I turned on the radio and everything changed.

AP book examines impeachment of Brazil's 1st woman president



NEW YORK – A new book from The Associated Press explores and brings to life the dramatic and divisive impeachment of Dilma Rousseff, Brazil's first woman president.

"Dilma's Downfall: The Impeachment of Brazil's First Woman President and the Pathway to Power for Jair Bolsonaro's Far-Right," chronicles the ouster of former President Rousseff, which many Brazil watchers cite as a root cause of some of the biggest problems plaguing Latin America's largest nation today.

Through interviews with key players, including Rousseff, deep research and personal experience covering Rousseff's impeachment in 2016, Sao Paulo-based correspondent Mauricio Savarese and former Brazil Bureau Chief Peter Prengaman present a detailed and essential examination of this critical period in Brazil's history.

The book outlines the rise and fall of Rousseff, a former Marxist guerilla turned politician, along the way showing how betrayal, deep frustration with her handling of the economy and bare-knuckled politics fueled the ouster of a democratically elected president based on controversial accusations of mismanaging the federal budget.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting mailbox

TV reporters standing in rain

Mike Holmes ([Email](#)) - Tuesday's Connecting coverage of TV reporters standing in the rain brought back a few memories. In 16 years on the Texas staff, I was dispatched to the Gulf Coast for several. My favorite TV moment came in the mid-1980s, when a CBS crew was braving it on the balcony of a fancy beachfront hotel in Galveston. "It's looming out there. You can feel it," one of the announcers ominously declared. Later that night the hurricane hit ... in Mexico, more than 400 miles away. I still have no idea what the CBS guy was feeling.

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Media is – nope, are...

Bruce Handler ([Email](#)) - I feel for John Wylie and his long battle for the proper usage of electric-power "homes and businesses," as opposed to "customers." (See Tuesday's Connecting)

My quixotic quest is with the word "media." My stained, dog-eared copy of the AP Stylebook says flatly it is plural. One medium IS...Two or more media ARE.

But these days, alas, the illiteracy "The media is..." has invaded the world of journalism like kudzu or a swarm of cicadas. As I am getting old, I have given up yelling at the TV.

The only remaining ray of hope I have found is Howard Kurtz' "Media Buzz" on Fox. He still says, correctly, "The media are...", and the chyrons at the bottom of the screen offer grammatically proper phrases such as "The Media Hate (not HATES) Trump."

I once brought this up in an email to Brian Stelter of CNN's "Reliable Sources." He actually answered, saying "everybody" now accepts "media" as a collective singular.

Not I.

Thoughts from fellow Connectors?

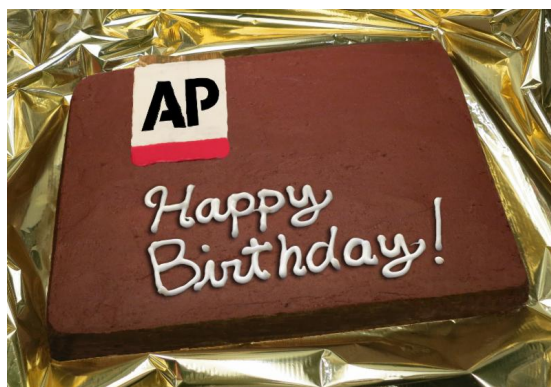
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First grandson



Bruce Pomerantz ([Email](#)) - Former NY Photo Editor Bruce Pomerantz (1978-1995) celebrates the arrival of his first grandson, Charlie Adam Becker. Aug. 31.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Bill Chevalier - billc164@comcast.net

Don Ryan - dryan.nmg@gmail.com

Stories of interest

Twenty years later, a tale of 9/11 survivors takes shape (AP)



Author Larry Kirwan poses for a photo in his New York apartment Monday, Aug. 30, 2021. Kirwan, a novelist and former leader of the rock band Black 47, tried telling stories of survivors on an album and in a play but finally feels he got it right in the novel "Rockaway Blue." (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — Larry Kirwan traces the roots of his novel “Rockaway Blue” to the Saturday night after Sept. 11, 2001, when the band he led, Black 47, played Connolly’s Pub in Manhattan. The crowd would look to the door each time it opened, and cheer at the sight of a familiar face.

Johnny’s here! Mary’s here! They’re alive.

Black 47 attracted a heavily working class Irish-American audience, a reflection of what they saw onstage, including many of the cops and firefighters whose ranks suffered after responding to the World Trade Center attack.

The characters that populate “Rockaway Blue” are drawn from that audience, from the Rockaway Beach section of Queens, New York. That’s “Black 47 country,” filled with people Kirwan says he knows well.

“There’s a lot of pain that’s still out there,” said Kirwan, 66, a prolific writer of novels, plays and songs. “I lost two good friends, but I didn’t lose a family member, and that’s really intense. I really wanted to give it back to the people, to tell their story, because no one else is going to do it.”

Read more [here](#).

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Arrest warrant issued for Ohio man accused of confronting NBC's Shaquille Brewster on live TV (NBC)

By David K. Li and Donna Nelson

Mississippi police issued an arrest warrant Tuesday for an Ohio man who they say confronted NBC News' Shaquille Brewster on live television.

The man, Benjamin Eugene Dagley, of Wooster, Ohio, will be charged with two counts of simple assault, one count of disturbing the peace and one count of violating an emergency curfew, Gulfport police said in a statement.

He could also be in violation of his probation in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, if he traveled without authorization, police said.

Dagley had not been arrested by late Tuesday afternoon, and he could not be immediately reached at publicly listed telephone numbers.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Carol Riha.

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Pentagon rips Politico over article on 'mass casualty event' warning that preceded Kabul attack (The Hill)

BY DOMINICK MASTRANGELO

The Pentagon blasted Politico for a story published early Monday morning, saying the article endangered the lives of Americans conducting extraction missions in Afghanistan.

The article detailed how top brass at the Pentagon met 24 hours before Thursday's bombing outside the Kabul airport that killed more than 170 people, including 13 U.S. service members.

During the meeting, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and other top Pentagon officials reportedly warned department leaders to prepare for a "mass casualty event."

The outlet, citing classified notes of the meeting that were shared with Politico, reported that Austin told his colleagues early Wednesday morning, "I don't believe people get the incredible amount of risk on the ground," and Gen. Mark Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, cited "significant" intelligence suggesting an attack near the airport by ISIS's affiliate in Afghanistan, ISIS-K, was imminent.

Read more [here](#).



Celebrating AP's 175th

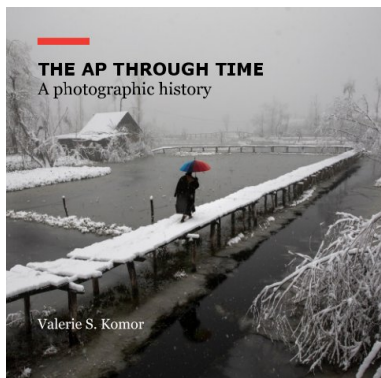
AP store for 175th, vintage merchandise



The AP has created a store with 175th anniversary merchandise available for purchase, as well as items branded with some of AP's most historic logos.

Click [here](#).

AP Through Time: A Photographic History



AP Through Time: A Photographic History” - created by Director of Corporate Archives, Valerie Komor, is a keepsake commemorating AP's 175th year. Small in size (6 ¾ x 6 ¾ in.), it is organized chronologically in eight segments that trace the broad outlines of AP's development from 1846 to the present: Beginnings, Evolution, New Century, Modernity, Expansion, One World, Speed, and Transformation. Click [here](#) to view and make an order.

AP at 175 video

This video celebrates the unique role AP has played since 1846.

Oops!

The embed code for this video is not valid.



Today in History - Sept. 1, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 1, the 244th day of 2021. There are 121 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 1, 1939, World War II began as Nazi Germany invaded Poland.

On this date:

In 1159, Pope Adrian IV, the only English pope, died.

In 1807, former Vice President Aaron Burr was found not guilty of treason. (Burr was then tried on a misdemeanor charge, but was again acquitted.)

In 1923, the Japanese cities of Tokyo and Yokohama were devastated by an earthquake that claimed some 140,000 lives.

In 1942, U.S. District Court Judge Martin I. Welsh, ruling from Sacramento, Calif., on a lawsuit brought by the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of Fred Korematsu, upheld the wartime detention of Japanese-Americans as well as Japanese nationals.

In 1945, Americans received word of Japan's formal surrender that ended World War II. (Because of the time difference, it was Sept. 2 in Tokyo Bay, where the ceremony took place.)

In 1969, a coup in Libya brought Moammar Gadhafi to power.

In 1972, American Bobby Fischer won the international chess crown in Reykjavik (RAY'-kyuh-vik), Iceland, as Boris Spassky of the Soviet Union resigned before the resumption of Game 21. An arson fire at the Blue Bird Cafe in Montreal, Canada, claimed 37 lives.

In 1983, 269 people were killed when a Korean Air Lines Boeing 747 was shot down by a Soviet jet fighter after the airliner entered Soviet airspace.

In 1985, a U.S.-French expedition located the wreckage of the Titanic on the floor of the Atlantic Ocean roughly 400 miles off Newfoundland.

In 2005, New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin issued a “desperate SOS” as his city descended into anarchy amid the flooding left by Hurricane Katrina.

In 2009, Vermont’s law allowing same-sex marriage went into effect.

In 2015, invoking “God’s authority,” Rowan County, Kentucky, Clerk Kim Davis denied marriage licenses to gay couples again in direct defiance of the federal courts, and vowed not to resign, even under the pressure of steep fines or jail. (Davis would spend five days in jail; she was released only after her staff issued the licenses on her behalf but removed her name from the form.)

Ten years ago: In a fiery broadcast from hiding, Libya’s Moammar Gadhafi warned that loyalist tribes in his main strongholds were armed and preparing for battle. Leaders and envoys from 60 countries and the U.N. met in Paris for talks with Libya’s rebel-led National Transitional Council to map the country’s future.

Five years ago: A massive fireball and explosion erupted at SpaceX’s main launch pad at Cape Canaveral, destroying a rocket as well as a satellite that Facebook was counting on to spread internet service in Africa.

One year ago: Visiting Kenosha, Wisconsin, where he toured the charred remains of a city block, President Donald Trump blamed “domestic terror” for the violence that had followed the shooting of Jacob Blake, who’d been left paralyzed when he was shot in the back seven times by a police officer. Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said he would lift the state’s ban on visiting nursing homes; the ban had been in effect since mid-March over fears of spreading the coronavirus. U.S. Sen. Edward Markey of Massachusetts defeated U.S. Rep. Joe Kennedy III in a hard-fought Democratic Senate primary; it was the first time a Kennedy had lost a race for Congress in Massachusetts. With videoconferencing an integral part of daily life during the pandemic, the Wall Street market value of Zoom surged to more than \$129 billion, higher than Citigroup, Boeing and Starbucks.

Today’s Birthdays: Actor George Maharis is 93. Conductor Seiji Ozawa (SAY’-jee oh-ZAH’-wah) is 86. Attorney and law professor Alan Dershowitz is 83. Comedian-actor Lily Tomlin is 82. Actor Don Stroud is 78. Conductor Leonard Slatkin is 77. Singer Archie Bell is 77. Singer Barry Gibb is 75. Rock musician Greg Errico is 73. Talk show host Dr. Phil McGraw is 71. Singer Gloria Estefan is 64. Jazz musician Boney James is 60. Singer-musician Grant Lee Phillips (Grant Lee Buffalo) is 58. Country singer-songwriter Charlie Robison is 57. Retired NBA All-Star Tim Hardaway is 55. Actor Ricardo Antonio Chavira is 50. Actor Maury Sterling is 50. Rock singer JD Fortune is 48. Actor Scott Speedman is 46. Country singer Angaleena Presley (Pistol Annies) is 45. Actor Boyd Holbrook is 40. Actor Zoe Lister-Jones is 39. Rock musician Joe Trohman is 37. Actor Aisling (ASH’-ling) Loftus is 31.

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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