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Connecting
September 24, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this Sept. 24, 2021,

Summer may have officially ended this week, but there's still time for another light topic to pose to you - though I doubt it or anything may compete with the topic of encountering famous people in an elevator...

Name a weird smell that you like?

Our colleague **Ed Williams** ([Email](#)) – retired journalism professor emeritus at Auburn – posed that question to his Facebook friends, and thought it might be of interest to his Connecting friends for their replies that may have a bent toward news, although not necessarily. Like: the smell of newsprint...or the smell of a print shop — combination of alcohol, ink, molten lead, paper.

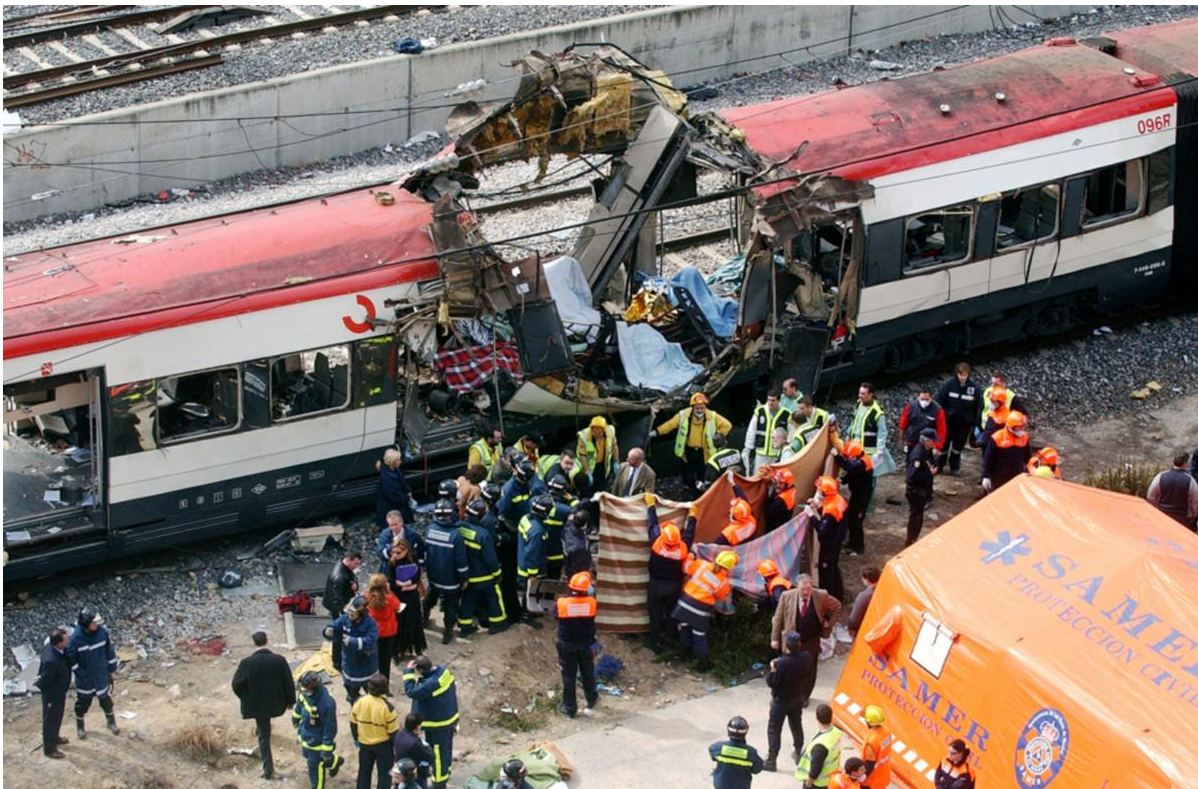
Connecting still welcomes your experiences of encounters with famous people on an elevator – but here's a new question to add to the mix.

REMINDER: A memorial service for Chuck Lewis, former Washington bureau chief for The Associated Press and Hearst Newspapers, will be held at 10 a.m. tomorrow, Saturday, Sept. 25, at the [National Press Club](#). A longtime member of the Club, Lewis died of cancer March 20 in Arlington, Va. He was 80.

Have a great weekend – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Madrid bombings – and resisting offer for comment without attribution



Rescue workers sift through the rubble after the deadly March 11, 2004, bombings in Madrid. Photo: Paul White/AP file

Ed McCullough ([Email](#)) - On the morning of March 11, 2004, in Madrid, terrorists set off bombs in commuter trains killing 191 people and injuring about 1,800. That happened three days before national elections and at once became the issue that would decide the outcome. The government of then prime minister Jose Maria Aznar immediately blamed ETA, the Basque separatist group, which immediately denied any involvement.

I was AP bureau chief in Madrid and got a telephone call from Moncloa Palace, Spain's White House. Here's a paraphrased summary of that call.

"ETA did it. You can use that," a voice said.

"Who is this?" I responded.

"You know who this is."

"Yes, but I want you to state that."

"You can use that comment without attribution."

"No I can't."

Tremendous headlines in most Spanish newspapers the next day blamed ETA. The AP story, however, stated that the government blamed ETA without offering proof while ETA - a spokesman for which we did get hold of - denied responsibility. Within days police attention shifted to al-Qaeda, not ETA. On March 14, the Spanish Socialist Workers Party upset Aznar's Popular Party to take office.

And this observation from today...

Ed McCullough ([Email](#)) - Re OTR or not for attribution, here is a well-crafted (in my opinion) sentence in an AP story from Wednesday.

Haitians have been freed on a "very, very large scale" in recent days, according to one U.S. official who put the figure in the thousands. The official, who has direct knowledge of operations, was not authorized to discuss the matter and spoke on condition of anonymity.

It provides a fact (release of immigrants), the source of the fact (a U.S. official who has direct knowledge of operations), and a compelling reason why that official is not identified in the story (not authorized to discuss the matter).

Also of course there is the overwhelming corroborating evidence of news photos and video, statements by other officials, etc.

Neat.

Your encounters with famous people on an elevator

Hal Bock ([Email](#)) - This was not an elevator but maybe it counts.

Sportswriters don't ask for autographs, most of the time. It is viewed as unprofessional. There was one exception for me.

Muhammad Ali was promoting a book of photographs by his friend, Howard Bingham. A friendly PR person asked if I would like to ride from the Waldorf Astoria to a signing on Wall Street. You don't refuse that kind of opportunity.

Ali could not speak so the Q-A was mostly yes-no. It worked and when we reached the bookstore, the street was jammed with fans waiting for Ali. At that moment, I lost my composure and said, "OK, nobody leaves the car until Ali signs a book for me."

He smiled, took my copy of Bingham's book and wrote "To Hal, my pal, best wishes Muhammad Ali"

It occupies a special spot in my office bookcase.

-0-

Chris Carola (Email) - During my first stint with AP at the 50 Rock HQ (June 1982-March 1985), I stepped into one of the fourth floor's elevators just ahead of the Rev. Billy Graham and George Cornell, AP's longtime religion writer. America's most famous Christian evangelist had been with George for an interview. No one else was on that elevator, and I can't recall if the two silver-haired gentlemen discussed anything, but I remember thinking to myself, "Well, if the cable snaps at least I'm going in good company."

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Warren Lerude (Email) - When I was The AP's Correspondent (and sole staffer) in the Las Vegas bureau in 1962, my wife Janet and I found ourselves in an elevator at the Sahara Hotel with comedian George Burns and comedienne Carol Channing on our way to Judy Garland's suite after her performance in the Congo Room. Judy had kept the audience waiting for what seemed an eternity of minutes, as was her less than happy custom in those days, and apologetically invited some reporters, national and local, and celebrities to come to her suite after the show. George Burns cracked jokes in the elevator. Carol Channing gushed about what a thrill it was going to be for her to meet Judy. Judy kept us all waiting for another seemingly eternity in the suite. But when she finally appeared, she was dazzlingly pure Judy.

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Dave Lubeski (Email) - In Las Vegas in 1989 to cover a fight, I squeezed into a crowded elevator with a colleague as I was telling him I was going to make a short night of it because I wanted to get back to my room to watch Die Hard premiering on HBO, since I missed it in the theaters. When we got off the elevator, he informed me that he happened to notice when he got on that Bruce Willis was in the crowd on that elevator ride and no doubt heard my Die Hard plans.

And... at a World Series game in Atlanta in the early 90s, I was on the elevator to the press box level when Ted Turner and Jane Fonda got on. Her perfume was overwhelming, but a very pleasant scent. I couldn't help but remark "somebody sure smells good." The elevator operator turned to me with a stunned look and I said to him, "oh, is it you?"

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Andrew Selsky (Email) - I have read with interest the encounters with famous people in elevators. Here's mine.

It's 1984, and I am going to work as a temp in the AP bureau in Los Angeles, in a Herald-Examiner annex building at 1111 S. Hill Street. I get in the elevator and there is George Takei.

As I recall, the building had only two floors. George was standing by the controls of the elevator. There was a button for the first floor and another button for the second. But helmsman Sulu, who could make the USS Enterprise rocket through space at warp factor 10, seemed perplexed on how to operate the elevator. I either pointed to the correct button or reached over and pushed it myself.

As the elevator slowly went up, I looked at George and grinned, pleased to be in the same elevator as him.

"Judging by your expression, you must be a Star Trek fan," George said, engaging me in conversation. I agreed that I was. After we got out at the second floor, we chatted for a bit. He said he was in the building to find old newspaper articles about the mass incarceration of Japanese-Americans during World War II. He struck me as a really nice guy.

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Paul Stevens ([Email](#)) – Back in the late 1980s, we hosted a seminar for member business editors in the Kansas City bureau and were able to secure David Glass, then CEO of Walmart, as the featured speaker.

Glass, who would later become owner of the Kansas City Royals, was one of the richest people in the country and one of its most successful businessmen – but he insisted on handling his own arrangements to get from Walmart headquarters in Bentonville, Ark., to Kansas City and from the airport to our bureau in downtown Kansas City. He declined any offer to pick him up.

So I waited outside the bureau at the appointed time for his arrival, in a cab and alone with no entourage or security of any kind, and we rode up our building's elevator where he spoke and then mingled with editors in the down-to-earth manner for which he was known.

Diversity study: APSE's gender-hiring scores continue to lag

By AARON BEARD

A diversity study found the Associated Press Sports Editors has improved in racial hiring but the independent national organization continues to lag when it comes to hiring women.

The report card Wednesday from The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport (TIDES) at Central Florida assigned the organization an overall C grade, with a B-plus for racial hiring but an F for gender hiring. The biennial report examines sports-media positions

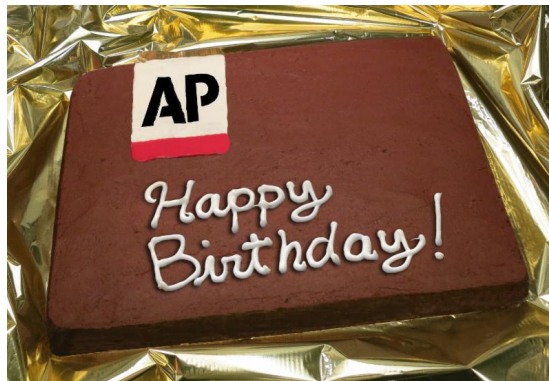
such as editors, reporters, columnists and web specialists at more than 100 newspapers and websites, though this was the first report card for the organization's members since 2018 after last year's scheduled release was delayed amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The overall grade was up from a D-plus from the 2018 report for the APSE, a national organization designed to improve and maintain professional standards of sports departments. The organization earned its highest overall grade since the study began in 2006, but the gender grade marked a sixth consecutive time the study assigned an F.

TIDES has long compiled similar report cards looking at diversity hiring in the NFL, NBA, WNBA, Major League Soccer and Major League Baseball, as well in college sports. Richard Lapchick, TIDES director and lead report author, noted there had rarely been consistent F grades and called the gender-hiring struggles in the APSE study "the "biggest lack of progress of all the report cards we've done since the 1980s."

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Linda Deutsch - lcdeutsch@yahoo.com

On Saturday to...

Mark Mittelstadt - markmitt71@yahoo.com

Wayne Slater - wslater1066@yahoo.com

On Sunday to...

Ray Newton - raynpat@cableone.net

Jay Perkins - jrperk42@me.com

Welcome to Connecting



Renner Bradley – rennerj3319@gmail.com

Jay Jorden - jjorden@gmail.com

Steve Wine - scwine@bellsouth.net

Stories of interest

White House blames Boris Johnson after U.S. press corps denied opportunity to ask questions (Washington Post)

By Adela Suliman

Members of the White House press corps filed a formal complaint after a meeting between President Biden and the British Prime Minister Boris Johnson ended with questions only from members of the British press.

Yet the White House appeared to point the finger at Johnson, insisting the British leader was responsible for the seemingly chaotic scenes in the Oval Office by springing an unplanned news conference.

“He [Johnson] called on individuals from his press corps without alerting us to that intention in advance,” White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Wednesday when asked about the incident.

“I think our relationship with the United Kingdom and with Prime Minister Johnson is so strong and abiding, we will be able to move forward beyond this,” she added.

Read more [here](#).

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Photographer behind controversial photos speaks exclusively to KTSM



Photo/Paul Ratje

By: Natassia Paloma

EL PASO, Texas (KTSM) – The photographer behind images depicting Border Patrol agents on horseback told KTSM things are not exactly what they seem when it comes to the photos.

The photographs, which were taken Sunday, appear to show agents on horses with a whip in hand. The photos caused outrage because from certain angles, it appears to show Border Patrol whipping migrants, but photographer Paul Ratje said he and his colleagues never saw agents whipping anyone.

“Some of the Haitian men started running, trying to go around the horses,” Ratje said.

Ratje is a photographer based in Las Cruces and has been in Del Rio since Friday. He said took the photographs from the Mexican side.

"I've never seen them whip anyone," Ratje said. "He was swinging it, but it can be misconstrued when you're looking at the picture."

The photos drew immense criticism from many on social media and the White House said it will investigate.

Read more [here](#).

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Teaching journalism in the wake of George Floyd

(Gateway Journalism Review)

By Jenny Spinner

For many journalism educators and their students, the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin in May 2020 launched a year of reckoning, intensifying classrooms discussions focused on race and the media.

Brandy Monk-Payton, an assistant professor in the department of communication and media studies at Fordham University, said when she returned to the classroom this spring to teach TV, Race and Civil Rights, which she had not taught since 2018, she found students starting from a different point of engagement.

"The degree of the shifts of the student consciousness around these issues was like night and day," Monk-Payton said. "I really attribute it to summer 2020, which galvanized a lot of students wanting to figure out how to be allies, how to be in the struggle."

Monk-Payton said students drew parallels between the images she showed them of Rodney King, an unarmed Black man who was beaten by Los Angeles police officers during an arrest in 1991, and those of Floyd's arrest and murder.

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word

When the Newsies Took on William Randolph Hearst

(PBS)

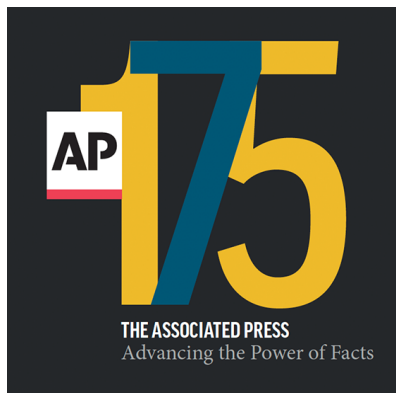


By Kirstin Butler

William Randolph Hearst wanted to go to war, and he wanted to go in style. In 1895, his newspapers began calling for the United States to bring an end to Spanish occupation of Cuba. When, in April 1898, Congress passed a joint resolution authorizing President McKinley to use force on the island, Hearst had rockets set off from the roof of the building of his newspaper, the New York Journal. Hearst arranged to go to Cuba himself and had a boat refitted to meet his standards for travel south. The steamer was loaded with darkrooms, printing presses and medical supplies; it was also equipped with huge quantities of ice, his favorite foods and chefs to cook it. The Journal splurged on its war coverage as well. The paper sent special correspondents to Cuba and to the war's second front in the Philippines, published extra wartime editions and ran contests with large money prizes for its readers.

Meanwhile, Hearst was waging his own war at home. The Journal, a newspaper he'd purchased to gain entry into the New York City market, was in its third year of fierce competition with The World, the daily newspaper owned by Joseph Pulitzer. Both Hearst's Journal and Pulitzer's World had their headquarters on Newspaper Row, a block of downtown Manhattan so named for its concentration of newspaper offices—and proximity seemed only to stoke Hearst and Pulitzer's rivalry. The Journal and World battled incessantly for exclusives, competed for the largest circulation numbers, poached each others' staff and spied on the other's operations.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Jim Spehar.



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.

Today in History - Sept. 24, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Sept. 24, the 267th day of 2021. There are 98 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 24, 2001, President George W. Bush ordered a freeze on the assets of 27 people and organizations with suspected links to terrorism, including Islamic militant Osama bin Laden, and urged other nations to do likewise.

On this date:

In 1789, President George Washington signed a Judiciary Act establishing America's federal court system and creating the post of attorney general.

In 1869, thousands of businessmen were ruined in a Wall Street panic known as "Black Friday" after financiers Jay Gould and James Fisk attempted to corner the gold market.

In 1929, Lt. James H. Doolittle guided a Consolidated NY-2 Biplane over Mitchel Field in New York in the first all-instrument flight.

In 1934, Babe Ruth made his farewell appearance as a player with the New York Yankees in a game against the Boston Red Sox. (The Sox won, 5-0.)

In 1955, President Dwight D. Eisenhower suffered a heart attack while on vacation in Denver.

In 1960, the USS Enterprise, the first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, was launched at Newport News, Virginia. "The Howdy Doody Show" ended a nearly 13-year run with its final telecast on NBC.

In 1969, the trial of the Chicago Eight (later seven) began. (Five were later convicted of crossing state lines to incite riots at the 1968 Democratic convention, but the convictions were ultimately overturned.)

In 1976, former hostage Patricia Hearst was sentenced to seven years in prison for her part in a 1974 bank robbery in San Francisco carried out by the Symbionese Liberation Army. (Hearst was released after 22 months after receiving clemency from President Jimmy Carter.)

In 1991, children's author Theodor Seuss Geisel (GY'-zul), better known as Dr. Seuss, died in La Jolla, Calif., at age 87.

In 1996, the United States and 70 other countries became the first to sign a treaty at the United Nations to end all testing and development of nuclear weapons. (The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty has yet to enter into force because of the refusal so far of eight nations — including the United States — to ratify it.)

In 2015, a stampede and crush of Muslim pilgrims occurred at an intersection near a holy site in Saudi Arabia; The Associated Press estimated that more than 2,400 people were killed, while the official Saudi toll stood at 769.

In 2019, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi launched a formal impeachment inquiry against President Donald Trump; the probe focused partly on whether Trump abused his presidential powers and sought help from the government of Ukraine to undermine Democratic foe Joe Biden. (Trump would be acquitted by the Republican-controlled Senate on two impeachment charges.)

Ten years ago: Russian President Dmitry Medvedev proposed Vladimir Putin as a presidential candidate for 2012, paving the way for Putin's return to office four years after he was legally forced to step aside. NASA's dead six-ton Upper Atmosphere Research Satellite fell to Earth, 20 years after being deployed from the space shuttle Discovery.

Five years ago: The new Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture opened its doors in Washington, D.C. Police arrested a suspect in a shooting at the Cascade Mall in Burlington, Washington. The shooting a day earlier left five people dead.

One year ago: Protesters again gathered in Louisville, Kentucky, and in New York, Philadelphia and other cities to protest the decision by a Kentucky grand jury not to indict the officers involved in the fatal shooting of Breonna Taylor. President Donald Trump's refusal to commit to a peaceful transfer of power if he were to lose the November election drew swift blowback from both parties in Congress, with Senate GOP leader Mitch McConnell saying that the winner "will be inaugurated on January 20th." Trump was booed by spectators in the streets near the Supreme Court as he arrived to pay respects to the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Florida prosecutors dropped a misdemeanor charge against New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft

after courts blocked their use of video that allegedly showed him paying for massage parlor sex.

Today's Birthdays: R&B singer Sonny Turner (The Platters) is 82. Singer Phyllis "Jiggs" Allbut Sirico (The Angels) is 79. Political commentator Lou Dobbs is 76. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Joe Greene is 75. Actor Gordon Clapp is 73. Actor Harriet Walter is 71. Songwriter Holly Knight is 65. Actor Kevin Sorbo is 63. Actor-writer Nia Vardalos is 59. Rock musician Shawn Crahan (AKA Clown) (Slipknot) is 52. Country musician Marty Mitchell is 52. Actor Megan Ward is 52. Singer-musician Marty Cintron (No Mercy) is 50. Contemporary Christian musician Juan DeVevo (Casting Crowns) is 46. Actor Ian Bohen is 45. Actor Justin Bruening is 42. Olympic gold medal gymnast Paul Hamm (hahm) is 39. Actor Erik Stocklin is 39. Actor Spencer Treat Clark is 34. Actor Grey Damon is 34. Actor Kyle Sullivan is 33. Actor Ben Platt is 28.

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

Editor, Connecting newsletter

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