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Connecting October 12, 2021

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Greetings on this Tuesday morning, Oct. 12, 2021.

AP Corporate Archives has compiled the eight takes of "AP at 175" into a one-click link, which you can find below.

Also, note the prepared obituary "worth dying for," shared by Connecting colleague **Kazuo Abiko**.

Have a great day. Stay well.

Peg
pcoughlin@ap.org

Connecting mailbox



Sunset sky

Dan Haney ([email](#)) - I took up photography as a retirement hobby. I started out shooting mostly birds but now snap just about everything, especially the beautiful scenery in Maine. My wife Susan and I have had a summer house in Boothbay on the Damariscotta River for over 40 years. This was shot in Boothbay at sunset looking toward the offshore islands that make Boothbay Harbor such a great boating destination. One aside: I didn't realize until we swapped email memories of Warren Leary, the recently departed science writer, that we live just across the river from AP alums Mike Putzel and Ann Blackman. They recently boated across for a visit on our screen porch.

The prepared obituary 'worth dying for'

Kazuo Abiko ([email](#)) - When Tokyo COB Jim Lagier attended the funeral of a friend of his in the mid-1990s, a thought struck him. He realized that AP Tokyo did not have a prepared obituary on John Roderick, a retired special correspondent who specialized in China affairs.

When he saw John at a reception a few days later, he said: "John, you look great, and we want you to live more than 100 years. But you are so famous, and I would be reprimanded if we didn't have a preparedness on you."

"A preparedness? You mean a prepared obituary?" John responded with mixed feelings.

But being a positive thinker all the time, John was soon thrilled with the idea that AP wanted to have a prepared obituary on him. So he asked Jim to send a newsman to

his home -- an exquisitely restored farmhouse decorated with antiques -- in Kamakura, southwest of Tokyo.

Jim sent Joe Coleman, who later became Tokyo COB, to interview him. And when a first draft was ready, it was sent to him by fax for fact-checking.

The following day, John told Jim on the phone that he loved it. "It's worth dying for," he said.

That remark was included in an updated obituary. John passed away in March 2008, and Jim in November 2015. Click [here](#) for Roderick's obituary.



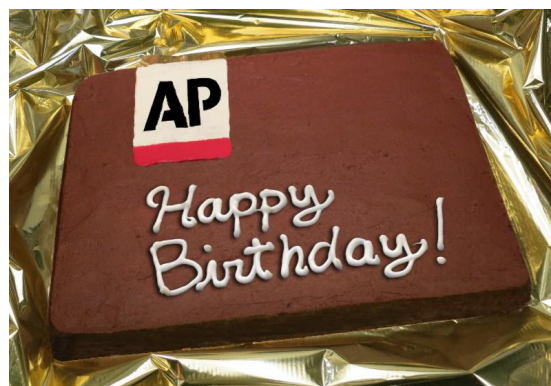
Tokyo Chief of Bureau John Roderick (left) talks with AP President Tom Curley (middle) at Roderick's farmhouse home in Kamakura. Also pictured in the undated photo is Kazuo Abiko, a former AP general manager of northeast Asia. "Always a creative thinker, John is using a recorder with a headset in lieu of a hearing aid," Abiko said. (Photo submitted by Kazuo Abiko)

AP at 175

Find the entire eight-part blog by Corporate Archives celebrating The AP's 175th birthday in May 2021 [here](#).



Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Tuesday Oct. 12:

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Stories of interest

Two journalists started an argument in Boston in 1979. It's not over yet.

By BEN SMITH

The New York Times

In 1979, two journalists got into an argument. More than four decades later, they haven't settled it.

The subject of their disagreement was journalistic "objectivity," a notion that goes back at least to the 1920s, when some of the more high-minded newspapers and magazines were trying to distinguish themselves from the scandal sheets and publications led by partisan and sometimes warmongering publishers.

In one corner, Alan Berger. In 1979, he was a 41-year-old media columnist for the Real Paper, an alternative weekly that had emerged from a rift at its predecessor, Boston Phoenix. Before he started watch-dogging the press, Mr. Berger had grown up in the Bronx, attended Harvard University and taught a class at M.I.T., in French, on the poet Charles Baudelaire.

His target in the debate over objectivity — which has come roaring back to life in the political storminess of recent years — was Tom Palmer. Back then, Mr. Palmer was a 31-year-old assistant national editor of The Boston Globe, meaning he belonged to the establishment and was thus a ripe target for the Real Paper. Mr. Palmer had grown up in a newspaper family in Kansas City, but dreamed of being a farmer before he struggled in organic chemistry and ended up in his father's trade.

The particular topic of Mr. Berger's column, which ran on April 21, 1979, with a teaser on the Real Paper's front page, was how the media was covering the nuclear accident at Three Mile Island. The underlying subject was something larger — the debate, within the news media industry, over when and whether reporters should tell readers what they really think about the issues and events they are writing about. To make his point, Mr. Berger went after Mr. Palmer by name, describing him as "thoughtful, honest, and entirely conventional."

Mr. Berger wrote that he was particularly struck by something the Globe editor had told him in defense of the paper's coverage of Three Mile Island: that it was his job "to not make the situation sound any worse than it was."

In a recent interview, Mr. Berger recalled that his view of the issue was influenced by the news media's deferential coverage of the Vietnam War. The "excessive fealty to its own traditional notions of balance and objectivity," he wrote in his column, had actually distorted reality — and Mr. Palmer's earnest dedication to the old values, Mr. Berger wrote, was exactly what was so dangerous about him.

“By the end of this millennium, the objectivity of some very decent people in the media will make them, too, look like irresponsible fanatics,” the columnist wrote of Mr. Palmer and others like him.

The particulars have changed in the decades since, but much of Mr. Berger’s column could have been written yesterday. (And alt-weeklies did prefigure the style and tone of online journalism.) The rise of Donald Trump, and the media’s growing realization that a studied neutrality often conceals a single, dominant perspective, has shaken many of the industry’s traditional assumptions.

Read more [here](#). Shared by **Jeannie Eblen**.

Should you trust media bias charts?

By **JAKE SHERIDAN**
Poynter

Impartial journalism is an impossible ideal. That is, at least, according to Julie Mastrine.

“Unbiased news doesn’t exist. Everyone has a bias: everyday people and journalists. And that’s OK,” Mastrine said. But it’s not OK for news organizations to hide those biases, she said.

“We can be manipulated into (a biased outlet’s) point of view and not able to evaluate it critically and objectively and understand where it’s coming from,” said Mastrine, marketing director for AllSides, a media literacy company focused on “freeing people from filter bubbles.”

That’s why she created a media bias chart.

As readers hurl claims of hidden bias towards outlets on all parts of the political spectrum, bias charts have emerged as a tool to reveal pernicious partiality.

Charts that use transparent methodologies to score political bias — particularly the AllSides chart and another from news literacy company Ad Fontes Media — are increasing in popularity and spreading across the internet. According to CrowdTangle, a social media monitoring platform, the homepages for these two sites and the pages for their charts have been shared tens of thousands of times.

But just because something is widely shared doesn’t mean it’s accurate. Are media bias charts reliable?

Read more [here](#).

AllSides™ Media Bias Chart

All ratings are based on online content only — not TV, print, or radio content. Ratings do not reflect accuracy or credibility; they reflect perspective only.



AllSides Media Bias Ratings are based on multi-partisan, scientific analysis. Visit AllSides.com to view hundreds of media bias ratings.

Version 3 | AllSides 2020

A true story about bogus photos of people making fake news

By TOM SIMONITE
Wired

The photographic elite gathered in Perpignan, France, on September 1 at the annual Visa Pour L'Image photojournalism festival. That night, the outdoor screen shimmered with images of people using laptops in Soviet-era apartments and a bear strolling past rundown industrial sites. They came from The Book of Veles by Jonas Bendiksen, an award-winning documentary photographer who had traveled to North Macedonia, which had been home to a vibrant fake news industry during the 2016 US election. As his peers gazed at his work, Bendiksen watched from the bleachers with increasing discomfort.

Two weeks later, a Twitter account bearing the name Chloe Miskin tagged Bendiksen in a tweet accusing him of fraud. She claimed to be from Veles and declared “the whole project is a joke” because he had paid locals \$50 to pose for his photos. An hour later, UK filmmaker Benjamin Chesterton, a frequent critic of the photography industry, retweeted the allegations.

Then Chesterton noticed that one of Miskin’s Twitter followers was wearing the same unusual pink sweater as a woman pictured in front of a snack kiosk in *The Book of Veles*. That fueled his own suspicions. “I imagine any minute now Jonas will reveal that the people in the images are computer generated as a 'clever' 'take' on fake news,” Chesterton tweeted—words Bendiksen read with a surge of relief.

In fact, Bendiksen had created the people in the images with software. The next day, the prestigious cooperative Magnum Photo posted an interview in which Bendiksen revealed that although he had traveled to Veles, every person and bear in his images was digitally faked using 3D models like those used to make video games. He also revealed that the book’s introduction, describing his travels, had been generated with artificial intelligence software. Miskin, too, was fake—created by Bendiksen to trigger his own exposure.

He had embarked on the caper to spark a conversation in photography about the growing power of deceptive technology. His ability to fool some of the craft’s elite portends trouble as tools for manipulating imagery and information become more widely available. “It’s scary that the most visually sophisticated people on the planet fell for this,” Bendiksen told WIRED. “Where’s the threshold for fooling people who are not so visually literate?”

Read more [here](#).



Celebrating AP's 175th

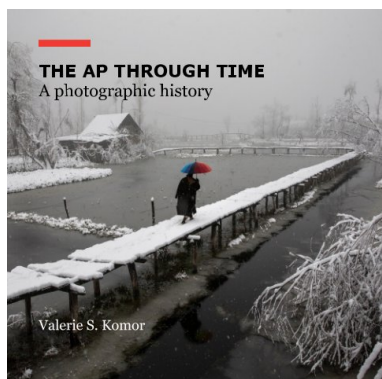
AP store for 175th, vintage merchandise



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.

Today in History - Oct. 12, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Oct. 12, the 285th day of 2021. There are 80 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 12, 2000, 17 sailors were killed in a suicide bomb attack on the destroyer USS Cole in Yemen.

On this date:

In 1792, the first recorded U.S. celebration of Columbus Day was held to mark the tricentennial of Christopher Columbus' landing.

In 1933, bank robber John Dillinger escaped from a jail in Allen County, Ohio, with the help of his gang, who killed the sheriff, Jess Sarber.

In 1942, during World War II, American naval forces defeated the Japanese in the Battle of Cape Esperance. Attorney General Francis Biddle announced during a Columbus Day celebration at Carnegie Hall in New York that Italian nationals in the United States would no longer be considered enemy aliens.

In 1973, President Richard Nixon nominated House minority leader Gerald R. Ford of Michigan to succeed Spiro T. Agnew as vice president.

In 1976, it was announced in China that Hua Guofeng had been named to succeed the late Mao Zedong as chairman of the Communist Party; it was also announced that Mao's widow and three others, known as the "Gang of Four," had been arrested.

In 1984, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher escaped an attempt on her life when an Irish Republican Army bomb exploded at a hotel in Brighton, England, killing five people.

In 1986, the superpower meeting in Reykjavik, Iceland, ended in stalemate, with President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev unable to agree on arms control or a date for a full-fledged summit in the United States.

In 1997, singer John Denver was killed in the crash of his privately built aircraft in Monterey Bay, California; he was 53.

In 2002, bombs blamed on al-Qaida-linked militants destroyed a nightclub on the Indonesian island of Bali, killing 202 people, including 88 Australians and seven Americans.

In 2007, former Vice President Al Gore and the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change won the Nobel Peace Prize for sounding the alarm over global warming.

In 2017, President Donald Trump lashed out at hurricane-devastated Puerto Rico, saying the federal government can't keep sending help "forever" and suggesting that the U.S. territory was to blame for its financial struggles.

In 2019, a Black woman, Atatiana Jefferson, was fatally shot by a white Fort Worth, Texas, police officer inside her home after police were called to the residence by a neighbor who reported that the front door was open. (Officer Aaron Dean, who shot Jefferson through a back window, resigned in the days after the shooting and is charged with murder; he has pleaded not guilty and is scheduled to go to trial in November.)

Ten years ago: A Nigerian al-Qaida operative pleaded guilty to trying to bring down a jetliner with a bomb in his underwear; Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab (OO'-mahr fah-ROOK' ahb-DOOL'-moo-TAH'-lahb) defiantly told a federal judge in Detroit that he had acted in retaliation for the killing of Muslims worldwide. Eight people were killed in a shooting at a hair salon in Seal Beach, California. (Scott Dekraai, whose ex-wife, Michelle Fournier, was among the victims, pleaded guilty to murder in 2014 and is serving life in prison.)

Five years ago: Wells Fargo announced that its embattled CEO, John Stumpf, was stepping down as the nation's second-largest bank found itself roiled by a scandal over its sales practices.

One year ago: At the start of fast-tracked Senate confirmation hearings, Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett presented her approach to the law as conservative and fair, while Democrats cast her as a threat to Americans' health care coverage during the coronavirus pandemic. At his first campaign rally since he contracted COVID-19, President Donald Trump insisted to supporters in Florida that he had delivered the nation a "rapid recovery" from the pandemic. A Wisconsin judge allowed the state's mask mandate to stand, rejecting an attempt by the Republican-controlled Legislature and a conservative law firm to overturn it even as coronavirus cases spiked and the number of people hospitalized with COVID-19 hit a new high. Facebook said it would ban posts that deny or distort the Holocaust. Roberta McCain, the mother of the late Arizona Sen. John McCain, died at 108.

Today's Birthdays: Former Sen. Jake Garn, R-Utah, is 89. Singer Sam Moore (formerly of Sam and Dave) is 86. Broadcast journalist Chris Wallace is 74. Actor-singer Susan Anton is 71. Pop/rock singer/songwriter Jane Siberry is 66. Actor Hiroyuki Sanada is 61. Actor Carlos Bernard is 59. Jazz musician Chris Botti (BOH'-tee) is 59. R&B singer Claude McKnight (Take 6) is 59. Rock singer Bob Schneider is 56. Actor Hugh Jackman is 53. Actor Adam Rich is 53. R&B singer Garfield Bright (Shai) is 52. Country musician Martie Maguire (Courtyard Hounds, The Chicks) is 52. Actor Kirk Cameron is 51. Olympic gold medal skier Bode Miller is 44. Rock singer Jordan Pundik (New Found

Glory) is 42. Actor Brian J. Smith is 40. Actor Tyler Blackburn is 35. Actor Marcus T. Paulk is 35. Actor Ito Aghayere is 34. Actor Josh Hutcherson is 29.

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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