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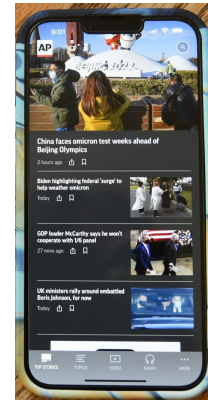
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Connecting

June 16, 2022

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DASH TO THE PHONES: AP World War II correspondent Wes Gallagher, later president of AP, dashing for the phone to report the verdict at the Nuremberg war crimes trials on October 1, 1946. He used an old trick; his wife, Betty, held the line open for him.

Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this June 16, 2022,

First off, Linda and I thank you for the anniversary greetings that many of you sent in celebration of our 54th year of marriage. Wednesday was a good day.

The Phone Booth of the Mind was the headline of a recent New York Times story, by Melissa Kirsch, noting that while phone booths may be obsolete, they still offer a good model for keeping our phones from taking over our lives. The story's lead:

A crowd gathered in Times Square recently for the removal of what the city promoted as New York's last public pay phone. "End of an Era," declared the news release headline, even though the era when pay phones played any meaningful role in New Yorkers' lives certainly ended long ago.

One might be forgiven for feeling a bit nostalgic. Pay phones are vestiges of the analog world, before the "I'll be 15 minutes late" text, when long-distance was a consideration and people on calls in public got their own private booths.

"People miss a period of time when a call meant something," Mark Thomas of The Payphone Project told The Times. "When you planned it and you thought about it, and you took a deep breath and you put your quarter in."

The pay phone was an essential instrument of news gathering back in the day, and many of us depended on it to get news to the bureau from the site of a news story. So...

How about sharing your favorite story of a pay phone and how it played a role in a story you covered?

Don't forget Connecting's call for - "If you had it to do all over again, would you pursue a career in journalism." Here's first response from colleague [Ed McCullough](#), who shared:

Here's a quote about the importance of why career journalists do - and esteem, sometimes against tall odds - the calling they signed onto: "I have said that true and unbiased news is the highest moral concept ever developed in America and given the world."

That's from former general manager Kent Cooper at a retirement dinner for an AP colleague on Nov. 12, 1943, as published in Cleartime, the AP's alumni newsletter for retirees. I and I'm sure many former reporters share that conviction.

Please share your own views.

Two years ago, Connecting ran a mock news conference story from colleague **Myron Belkind's** news writing and reporting class at George Washington University. Myron is now in the midst of teaching his course in person for the first time since 2019 as covid restrictions are relaxed and we bring you news stories from his mock news conference this summer term.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Still teaching at 82 (back in person)



Myron Belkind outside the White House with his wife Rachel, left, and their daughter Yael.

Editor's Note: Each semester **Myron Belkind** has taught at George Washington University's School of Media and Public Affairs starting in 2005, he has given a mock news conference for his students. Here are reports by two of his students on his most recent news conference, the first given in person after two years of teaching remotely during the pandemic:

By Baila Salifou

“We don't fight with bullets, we fight with facts, we fight with accuracy, with the truth.”

With this declaration amid the continuing challenges facing journalism, Myron Belkind, professorial lecturer and former foreign correspondent for The Associated Press, encouraged the next generation of journalists in a 35-minute news conference in the Media Lab of the well-known School of Media and Public Affairs at the George Washington University.

After four exhilarating decades of working for The Associated Press, Belkind, still inspired by his Ohio State mentor George J. Kienzle, made it his mission to transfer

that inspiration to future journalists by teaching journalism at the School of Media and Public Affairs.

“My goal has been to demonstrate that beginning news writing students who master these basic techniques can report and write the major stories of the day just as well as journalists who work for leading newspapers,” Belkind said, gripping the podium.

He described his proudest moments as seeing his students being successful outside the classroom, “with three becoming editors in chief for the Hatchet (the university’s student newspaper).” His students, seated around the polished conference table, all listened attentively in awe as he listed the accomplishments of his previous students.

Belkind’s passion for teaching journalism stems from the necessity to defend the role of media by planting future journalists with the seeds of responsibility, accuracy and fairness.

He emphasizes, “We are a unique profession in that we don't have to pass (the equivalent of) a bar exam. We have to keep emphasizing our credibility; once we lose our credibility we lose our right to publish.” His eyes glistened under the media lab ceiling lights, the passion emanating from his voice.

Credibility is the foundation of his course where to date students have “learned the importance of using a stylebook, fine-tuned grammar skills, and wrote a simulated news story on deadline...” in addition to “acquiring news writing skills...using the traditional inverted pyramid structure and learning other formats including hourglass and list techniques.”

Writing techniques is just one part of it. Belkind advises that “every reporter should be able to do reporting abroad - journalists have to be fast learners.” He notes the importance of being able to write under quick deadlines and doing the proper research, which can even manifest as getting early to events to speak to people who later may be essential to the report.

With a chuckle, Belkind exclaimed, “I can assure you I read up everything about India, Sri Lanka, Japan, and Nepal,” emphasizing the necessity of assimilating oneself with other cultures in order to effectively report abroad.

However rewarding, teaching SMPA 2110W has not been easy. Belkind described many challenges including “preparing a syllabus that enables all students to learn as much as possible... teaching an academically diverse group of students some of whom... are from a wide variety of academic majors, and finally being constrained in the autumn and spring semesters by 75-minute class sessions.”

Teaching SMPA 2110W for the first time in the summer of 2009 with three-hour-long classes was an “eye opener,” exclaimed Belkind. This experience is the basis of his recommendation to extend the length of his typical classes from 75 minutes to three hours to allot for classroom exercises and deadlines.

“The change would mean that SMPA 2110W could be conducted in a more professional, real life manner equivalent to working on a daily newspaper,” adds Belkind as a final remark.

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By Bryan Quenum

In the 35th edition of his customary mock news conference, 82-year-old professorial lecturer Myron Belkind reassured his students of his commitment to keep on educating future journalists on the principles of responsibility, accuracy, and fairness.

Standing at a familiar lectern inside the media lab on the lower level of the School of Media and Public Affairs building, where he has taught Introduction to News Writing & Reporting aka SMPA 2110W since 2005, Belkind started his mock conference by acknowledging how pleased he was with this summer class.

Indeed, it was the first time since 2019 that he had the opportunity to meet in person on campus with students. For the past 17 years, Belkind steadily delivered mock news conferences to provide students with material for one of the class's writing assignments. Along with style and grammar exercises, these assignments helped the professor impart to his students the writing and journalism skills that would put them on par with professionals — which he defined as his goal.

Before teaching at GWU, Belkind occupied different positions within The Associated Press for 42 years, mainly as a foreign correspondent in India, England, and Japan. He earned his title as professor for the first time after holding a position as an adjunct professor in London from 1987 to 1992 for Webster University London's journalism program while serving as the AP local bureau chief. Those teaching aspirations had been planted early on in the professor's mind by his undergraduate mentor at the Ohio State University, George J. Kienzle, who hoped that he would, one day, come back to teach in the university's journalism school.

After retiring from the AP, Belkind returned to the United States in 2004. The teaching streak had never faded in the professor's mind. He said: "I hoped that when I retired, I would get the opportunity to pursue Professor Kienzle's goal for me," once again emphasizing the role of his mentor in his life. Today, he lives in the neighborhood of Foggy Bottom in Washington, D.C, with his wife, Rachel.

During his 35th mock conference, the professor, who turned 82 years old two months ago, had initially planned to announce his retirement from the teaching profession. However, considering the evergreen challenges facing journalism, Belkind decided to keep teaching as long as his health permitted and students seemed receptive to his teaching methods. The professor's commitment is as strong as ever despite his age. "After each class, as I would walk back home, I answer the question [continuing to teach] ... 'Yes'", he said determinedly.

According to him, teaching future journalists responsibility, accuracy, and fairness is now "more essential than ever" as those values help journalists and institutions resist the attacks they now suffer. "We [journalists] don't fight with bullets, we fight with facts, we fight with accuracy, and that's all we can keep doing," he said in the final moments of the conference.

In other developments, the professor:

- Acknowledged the challenges faced by the course.
- Reminiscid over the success stories of some of his students, even those not part of the SMPA.
- Proposed that the course be offered in a three-hour format for other semesters.

For the professor, designing syllabi that encompass all the aspects of news writing while fitting the 75-minute period allotted to class during the fall and spring semesters represent a significant challenge. The professor proposed that the class be offered in the autumn and spring semesters as a three-hour class to remediate.

Another challenge he identified is the academically diverse body of students originating from the class's Writing in Disciplines attribute. Over the years, the professor had to develop syllabi that could appeal to all students and benefit them in their respective fields.

He also expanded on the success stories of some of his students like Sarah Ferris, a congressional reporter at Politico, or Sarah Fitzpatrick, now a member of the NBC News Investigative Unit who came into the course through the WID gateway.

Calm and confident in the value of his role as a teacher, professor Belkind closed by reminding his students of the importance for a journalist to safeguard the values of the RAF because credible news institutions are still important to society.

Puzzled?

CELEBRITY CIPHER | LUIS CAMPOS

THE MARINE HISTORY WILL RECORD
 "XNK SIEPOK NPDXWEZ MPVV EKFEH
 TWO JIMA AS HIGH AS ANY IN THEIR
 PMW GPSI ID NPLN ID IOZ PO XNKPE
 MANY GALANT ACTIONS IN THE
 SIOZ LIVVIOX IFXPWOD PO XNK
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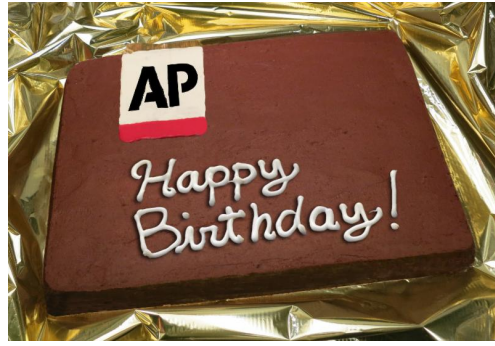
Previous Solution: "I don't think there's good guys or bad guys. We're all potentially bad and potentially good." — Stellan Skarsgard

TODAY'S CLUE: *W s r n b a s*

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John Strachan - This cryptogram puzzle appears daily in our local morning paper. The celebrity quote is usually from a rock idol, a Hollywood star, or a sports icon. This one from yesterday is my favorite.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Ron Edmonds](#)

[Mike Harris](#)

Welcome to Connecting



[Stan Austin](#)

[Peter Banda](#)

[Philip Rosenbaum](#)

[Tom Tait](#)

[John Zenor](#)

Stories of interest

Every newsroom needs to update its social media policies (Poynter)

By: Kelly McBride

There isn't a senior newsroom leader who doesn't fear the next social media blow-up. One of your top reporters might tweet out a crass comment. A rising star might get into a fight with a troll. Or like we saw last week at The Washington Post, your journalists might start fighting with each other.

Every time one of these stories makes news, a spokesperson for the news organization concedes that social media policies are due for an update.

And yet, it's no surprise why that doesn't happen. Updating policies, especially social media policies, can be tedious, tense, time-consuming and tricky. It requires dedicating a manager (or a team of them), with the clout and journalism leadership skills to facilitate difficult conversations among those with diverse beliefs and perspectives. "Social media" is not a monolithic thing and the endeavor to come up with a fresh "policy" will undoubtedly include making some calls that will not be popular with everyone. It requires committing time and including many voices.

I know because as a trainer and consultant I've guided this process for dozens of newsrooms either as a stand-alone social media policy or as a revision of broader ethics policies. So here's a four-step framework for revising your newsroom social media policy. For each of these steps, it's helpful to seek input from a diverse group of advisers or a small committee.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Brazil police find remains in search for UK journalist, suspect confesses - investigators (Reuters)

By Jake Spring and Bruno Kelly

ATALAIA DO NORTE, Brazil, June 15 (Reuters) - Police have found human remains in their search for British journalist Dom Phillips and Brazilian indigenous expert Bruno Pereira after a suspect confessed to killing them in the Amazon rainforest, investigators said on Wednesday.

The suspect, a fisherman who had clashed with Pereira over his efforts to combat illegal fishing in indigenous territory, led police to a remote burial site where the remains were unearthed, detective Eduardo Fontes told a news conference.

The news marks a grim conclusion to a case that has raised global alarm, hanging over President Jair Bolsonaro at a regional summit and stirring concern in the British Parliament.

Phillips, a freelance reporter who has written for the Guardian and the Washington Post, was doing research for a book on the trip with Pereira, a former head of isolated and recently contacted tribes at federal indigenous affairs agency Funai.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

So long, Internet Explorer. The browser retires today (AP)

By RICHARD JACOBSEN

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Internet Explorer is finally headed out to pasture.

As of Wednesday, Microsoft will no longer support the once-dominant browser that legions of web surfers loved to hate — and a few still claim to adore. The 27-year-old application now joins BlackBerry phones, dial-up modems and Palm Pilots in the dustbin of tech history.

IE's demise was not a surprise. A year ago, Microsoft said that it was putting an end to Internet Explorer on June 15, 2022, pushing users to its Edge browser, which was launched in 2015.

The company made clear then it was time to move on.

“Not only is Microsoft Edge a faster, more secure and more modern browsing experience than Internet Explorer, but it is also able to address a key concern: compatibility for older, legacy websites and applications,” Sean Lyndersay, general manager of Microsoft Edge Enterprise, wrote in a May 2021 blog post.

Read more [here](#).

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Bloomberg News staffer released on bail in China, authorities say (CNN)

Hong Kong (CNN) A Chinese national employed by Bloomberg News was released on bail earlier this year following more than a year in detention, according to Chinese authorities.

Haze Fan, a member of Bloomberg's bureau in Beijing, was last seen being escorted from her building in Beijing by "plain clothes security officials" in December 2020 and was held on suspicion of endangering national security, Bloomberg said at the time. A statement from the Chinese Embassy in Washington, dated May 6, was brought to the attention of Bloomberg over the weekend, a report from the news agency said on Tuesday. Bloomberg has not been able to contact Fan, it said.

China's state security authority released Fan on bail in January pending trial, the embassy said in its statement. The case is still under investigation and Fan's "legitimate rights and interests have been fully protected," the statement said.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - June 16, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, June 16, the 167th day of 2022. There are 198 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 16, 1858, accepting the Illinois Republican Party's nomination for the U.S. Senate, Abraham Lincoln said the slavery issue had to be resolved, declaring, "A house divided against itself cannot stand."

On this date:

In 1903, Ford Motor Co. was incorporated.

In 1933, the National Industrial Recovery Act became law with President Franklin D. Roosevelt's signature. (The Act was later struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court.) The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. was founded as President Roosevelt signed the Banking Act of 1933.

In 1941, National Airport (now Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport) opened for business with a ceremony attended by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In 1963, the world's first female space traveler, Valentina Tereshkova (teh-ruhsh-KOH'-vuh), 26, was launched into orbit by the Soviet Union aboard Vostok 6; Tereshkova spent 71 hours in flight, circling the Earth 48 times before returning safely.

In 1970, Kenneth A. Gibson of Newark, New Jersey, became the first Black politician elected mayor of a major Northeast city. Chicago Bears running back Brian Piccolo, 26, died at a New York hospital after battling cancer.

In 1977, Soviet Communist Party General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev was named president, becoming the first person to hold both posts simultaneously.

In 1978, President Jimmy Carter and Panamanian leader Omar Torrijos (toh-REE'-ohs) signed the instruments of ratification for the Panama Canal treaties during a ceremony in Panama City.

In 1999, Thabo Mbeki (TAH'-boh um-BEH'-kee) took the oath as president of South Africa, succeeding Nelson Mandela.

In 2011, U.S. Rep. Anthony Weiner, D-N.Y., announced his resignation from Congress, bowing to the furor caused by his sexually charged online dalliances with a former porn performer and other women. Osama bin Laden's longtime second-in-command, Ayman al-Zawahri (AY'-muhn ahl-ZWAH'-ree), took control of al-Qaida.

In 2015, real estate mogul Donald Trump launched his successful campaign to become president of the United States with a speech at Trump Tower in Manhattan.

In 2016, President Barack Obama traveled to Orlando, Florida, the scene of a deadly nightclub shooting that claimed 49 victims; the president embraced grieving families and cheered on Democrats' push for new gun control measures. Walt Disney Co. opened Shanghai Disneyland, its first theme park in mainland China.

In 2020, federal authorities announced murder and attempted murder charges against an Air Force sergeant, Steven Carrillo, in the fatal shooting of a federal security officer outside a U.S. courthouse in Oakland, California. (Carrillo, who had ties to the far-right, anti-government "boogaloo" movement, pleaded guilty to a federal murder charge after prosecutors agreed not to seek the death penalty.) A statue of Christopher Columbus that stood in a St. Louis park for 134 years was removed; park officials said it had symbolized a "historical disregard for indigenous peoples."

Ten years ago: Egyptians began going to the polls for a two-day runoff to choose their first freely elected president; Islamist candidate Mohammed Morsi emerged the winner. China launched its most ambitious space mission to date, carrying its first female astronaut, Liu Yang, and two male colleagues on a 13-day mission to an orbiting module that ended safely.

Five years ago: President Donald Trump acknowledged for the first time that he was under federal investigation as part of the expanding probe into Russia's election meddling as he lashed out at a top Justice Department official overseeing the inquiry. A St. Anthony, Minnesota, police officer was acquitted of manslaughter in the fatal shooting of Philando Castile, a Black motorist who had just informed the officer that he was carrying a gun. Former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl died at his home in Ludwigshafen; he was 87. Actor Stephen Furst, who played naive fraternity pledge Flounder in the hit movie "Animal House," died in Moorpark, California, at age 63.

One year ago: After a three-hour summit in Geneva, President Joe Biden and Russia's Vladimir Putin emerged largely where they started, with deep differences on human rights, cyberattacks, election interference and more. Actor Frank Bonner, best known as salesman Herb Tarlek on the TV series "WKRP in Cincinnati," died at 79.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Eileen Atkins is 88. Actor Bill Cobbs is 88. Author Joyce Carol Oates is 84. Country singer Billy "Crash" Craddock is 84. Songwriter Lamont Dozier is 81. R&B singer Eddie Levert is 80. Actor Joan Van Ark is 79. Actor Geoff Pierson is 73. Boxing Hall of Famer Roberto Duran is 71. Pop singer Gino Vannelli is 70. Actor Laurie Metcalf is 67. Actor Arnold Vosloo is 60. Actor Danny Burstein is 58. Model-actor Jenny Shimizu is 55. Actor James Patrick Stuart is 54. Rapper MC Ren is 53. Actor Clifton Collins Jr. is 52. Golfer Phil Mickelson is 52. Actor John Cho is 50. Actor Eddie Cibrian is 49. Actor Fred Koehler is 47. Actor China (chee-nah) Shavers is 45. Actor Daniel Bruhl is 44. Bluegrass musician Caleb Smith (Balsam Range) is 44. Actor Sibel Kekilli is 42. Actor Missy Peregrym (PEH'-rih-grihm) is 40. Actor Olivia Hack is 39. Singer Diana DeGarmo (TV: "American Idol") is 35. Actor Ali Stroker is 35. Tennis player Bianca Andreescu is 22.

Got a story or photos to share?

Connecting is a daily newsletter published Monday through Friday that focuses on retired and former Associated Press employees, present-day employees, and news industry and journalism school colleagues. It began in 2013 and past issues can be found by clicking Connecting Archive in the masthead. Its author, Paul Stevens, retired from the AP in 2009 after a 36-year career as a newsman in Albany and St. Louis, correspondent in Wichita, chief of bureau in Albuquerque, Indianapolis and Kansas City, and Midwest vice president based in Kansas City.



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:

- **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.
- **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?
- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

Paul Stevens

Editor, Connecting newsletter

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