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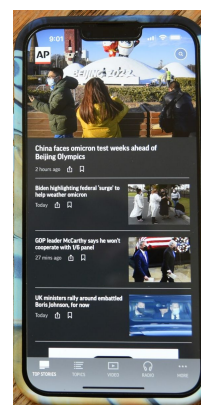
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Connecting

June 29, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this June 29, 2022,

Ketchup dripping from the wall in the West Wing dining room.

According to former White House aide Cassidy Hutchinson, it was a result of an angry former President Donald Trump reacting to an exclusive interview that former Attorney General William Barr had arranged.

It was an Associated Press scoop that quoted Barr as saying the U.S. Justice Department had uncovered no evidence of widespread voter fraud that could change the outcome of the 2020 election, contradicting the concerted effort by Trump to subvert the results of the election.

That's our lead story in today's Connecting, written for the wire by our colleague **David Bauder**, AP's media writer.

Ever published a book while in your mid-90s? We have a colleague who's done just that.

Congratulations to our colleague **Gene Herrick** on his new book, "The Man Who Calls Himself Jesus" – as Gene explains, an imaginary journalistic approach to the life of Jesus Christ and its duality of mission as presumed by the people - Is He the Messiah or is he a religious crackpot?

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

The story behind AP report that caused Trump to throw lunch



Cassidy Hutchinson, former aide to Trump White House chief of staff Mark Meadows, testifies as the House select committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol holds a hearing at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, June 28, 2022. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — The news story that reportedly caused former President Donald Trump to throw his lunch against a White House wall came from an exclusive interview that former Attorney General William Barr had arranged with The Associated Press.

The scoop, which was published on Dec. 1, 2020, quoted Barr as saying that the U.S. Justice Department had uncovered no evidence of widespread voter fraud that could change the outcome of the 2020 election. It was a bombshell that contradicted the concerted effort by Trump, his boss, to subvert the results of the election.

In testimony before the Jan. 6 committee on Tuesday, former White House aide Cassidy Hutchinson recalled “hearing noise coming from down the hallway” around the time the AP interview was published.

She noticed a door propped open in a West Wing dining room where Trump had eaten, and a valet who was changing a tablecloth.

“He motioned for me to come in and then pointed towards the front of the room near the fireplace mantle and the TV when I first noticed there was ketchup dripping down the wall and there was a shattered porcelain plate on the floor,” Hutchinson said.

The valet told her that Trump was angry about Barr’s interview with AP and had thrown his lunch against the wall, she said.

“I grabbed a towel to clean up ketchup from the wall,” she said.

The story had been written by AP Justice Department reporter Michael Balsamo, who had been told a day earlier that Barr wanted him to come in for lunch. In videotaped testimony to the committee, Barr said that he “felt it was time to say something” about the voter fraud claims.

Recognizing the importance of the statement when Barr said the department had uncovered no evidence of voter fraud, Balsamo asked him to repeat it, and he did. He quickly filed his story from an office in the Justice Department when lunch was over.

Neither Balsamo nor AP editors had any comment Tuesday about Hutchinson’s testimony.

Read more [here](#).

Remembering Steve Gonzales

Cliff Schiappa - I was saddened to hear of Steve Gonzales’ passing after a multi-year battle with cancer that had him ringing the bell at M.D. Anderson, but then finally succumbing to his health challenges.

I knew Steve when he was a “lab boy” at the Topeka (KS) Capital-Journal under the guidance of Rich Clarkson and surrounded by incredible photojournalism talent. We then became colleagues at The Kansas City Times and his career blossomed from there.

As the photo director at both Kansas City papers and then the Houston Chronicle, he more than paid forward the tutelage he received in Topeka, hiring photographers who had raw talent and refining them into award-winning professionals.

After my AP days, I did some consulting work with a group called Story4, and The Chronicle was our first big client, thanks to Steve. He was determined to have his still photographers become video literate, and in the process, I witnessed the respect his staff had for him.

Steve's faith, sense of humor, generous spirit and incredible talent will be missed by his family, friends, colleagues, and readers.

New book: 'The Man Who Calls Himself Jesus'



Gene Herrick - My new book - "The Man Who Calls Himself Jesus" - is an imaginary journalistic approach to the life of Jesus Christ and its duality of mission as presumed by the people - Is He the Messiah or is he a religious crackpot?

The scenario:

I become a reporter during the time of Jesus on earth. I "Covered Him" for a local paper in Jerusalem.

Jesus got crucified, and shortly I was murdered because I was friends with Jesus.

Below is the background for my new book I just published. First part of forward:

Journalism is the foundation and backbone of my life.

During the time of my journalistic career and the years since, I have played mental fantasies with the thought of what it would be like to be a journalist assigned to cover Jesus.

I so wanted to transcend myself to that time and cover Jesus as I would a thought-provoking person in today's world. I would want to interview Jesus and ask him the hard questions we journalists do.

That is what I did, and that is what the book is about. Jesus is the story I always wanted to write about. I became transformed back to those times Jesus was on earth.

Joshua, (me) was the reporter who caught up with Jesus and did the interviews.

I covered the crucifixion, burial, and ascension. Soon, I was brutally killed, and went to Heaven.

From there, I became good friends with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

I asked Jesus if he had problems with his parents, as children of today do. Did He ever get into trouble? Did He ever sass his parents? I would study the man, and determine, as journalists do, what kind of a person He was.

I want to ask the man in the street how he sees Jesus and how he feels about Him.

Jesus has been a curiosity and a wonder for the greater part of my life. And, also, people of the cloth and historians, His life, as reported in the Bible, is exciting.

There are those who think of Jesus as a profit, or teacher, or the son of God, or even a big phony.

It is the big question the peoples of the universe have always asked.

Using a pay phone to cover the news

Hal Bock - Free agency came to baseball in 1976 and baseball had no idea how to handle it. MLB decided to conduct a draft of the free agents (which is exactly the opposite of free agency) and chose the posh Plaza Hotel in Manhattan for the event. They set up one of the main ballrooms with tables for each of the teams. There was one small problem for the press. No telephones.

This was in journalism's pre-cell phone era, so it was a challenge to find communications. I located an available pay phone in the vestibule of a ladies room, grabbed it and started dictating. I got some startled looks by women coming and going and just smiled benignly and explained I was doing my job .. in the vestibule of the ladies room at the Plaza Hotel.

I am eternally grateful nobody called the cops.

Memories of Indianapolis bureau, now closed

[Gene Herrick](#) - Nostalgia came over me after hearing of the closing of the Indianapolis bureau.

It was my first bureau after former Newsphoto editor Al Resch appointed me as a staff photographer and assigned me to the Indianapolis bureau.

It was the bureau's first time to have an AP staff photographer position. There were a lot of "Firsts" for me there. Covering the Indianapolis 500 Speedway was a thrill. Also, there was a big disaster at Effingham, Illinois, with the deaths of some 80 patients at a Catholic Hospital there. A very long night, on top of a long busy day.

My first bureau chief there was John Jamison, a quiet, polite, friendly Native American. He was a quiet, and friendly man, who happened to be of Cherokee Indian descent. He quietly guided me and became a friend.

For years, the bureau had a secretary, Margaret Dinkalacker, who became a long-time friend. It was nice to be in a bureau which was at the edge of the city room, and where I could know everyone. The people there were so friendly.

It was the post where I proposed to and married my first wife.

Good memories continue to linger on the bureau.

Stories of interest

Supreme Court declines to revisit landmark First Amendment decision, leaving higher bar for libel in place (CNN)

By Ariane de Vogue, CNN Supreme Court Reporter

(CNN) - The Supreme Court has declined to revisit the landmark First Amendment decision in *New York Times v. Sullivan*, a 1964 ruling that created a higher bar for

public figures to claim libel and has been a bedrock of US media law.

Justice Clarence Thomas dissented from the court's refusal to take up the case.

"I would grant certiorari in this case to revisit the 'actual malice' standard," Thomas wrote. "This case is one of many showing how New York Times and its progeny have allowed media organizations and interest groups 'to cast false aspersions on public figures with near impunity.'"

He continued, "SPLC's 'hate group' designation lumped Coral Ridge's Christian ministry with groups like the Ku Klux Klan and Neo-Nazis. It placed Coral Ridge on an interactive, online 'Hate Map' and caused Coral Ridge concrete financial injury by excluding it from the AmazonSmile donation program. Nonetheless, unable to satisfy the 'almost impossible' actual-malice standard this Court has imposed, Coral Ridge could not hold SPLC to account for what it maintains is a blatant falsehood."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Kent Prince.

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Journalists in Uvalde are stonewalled, hassled, threatened with arrest (Washington Post)

By Arelis R. Hernández and Paul Farhi

UVALDE, Tex. — Journalists had been threatened with arrest for getting too close to the mourners, so Houston Chronicle reporter Julian Gill stayed in the designated media area when he reported on funerals the week after the massacre at Robb Elementary School.

Nevertheless, a phalanx of uniformed bikers confronted Gill outside the cemetery gates. They called themselves “Guardians of the Children” and claimed to be working with police officers who stood watch.

“I’m not trying to disturb anyone, guys,” Gill told the bikers, in a video he posted online. “I’m not trying to ask anybody any questions. I just wanted to watch. That’s all we can do, right?”

But the bikers followed and harassed journalists anyway, Gill wrote in the Chronicle. When he accidentally bumped into a Guardian who claimed to be a paramedic, the bikers accused him of assault and battery. “As a public servant, that’s kind of a felony,” the biker-paramedic said in the video.

Read more [here](#).

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Fans unhappy with Avalanche reporter for celebrating with Stanley Cup (yahoo/sports)

By Olivier Neven

The Colorado Avalanche are Stanley Cup champions for the first time since 2001, and the celebrations are in full swing for the players, their families and friends, and... team reporters?

Longtime Avalanche beat reporter Mike Chambers of the Denver Post shared photos of his own celebrations with the Cup on Twitter on Monday.

Chambers posed with the Cup over his head with a cigar in his mouth and a stained button-up shirt, before getting a picture with Colorado captain Gabriel Landeskog and the trophy.

Many fans and fellow media members took exception to Chambers' celebrations, reminding the reporter of the impartiality and objectivity that the press are traditionally expected to adhere to.

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

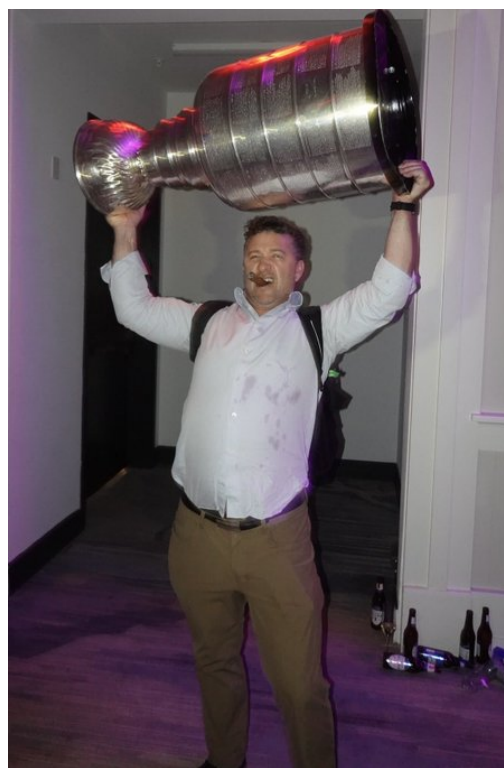
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Arrest of Indian Muslim journalist sparks widespread outrage (AP)

By SHEIKH SAALIQ

NEW DELHI (AP) — Police in New Delhi have arrested a Muslim journalist for allegedly hurting religious sentiment in what many slammed as the latest example of shrinking media freedom under Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government.

Mohammed Zubair, a co-founder of fact-checking website Alt News, was arrested Monday evening over a tweet that police said deliberately insulted "the god of a particular religion." Senior police officer K.P.S. Malhotra said the case was brought following a complaint from a Twitter user and Zubair was remanded in custody for one day.



Journalists across India have been targeted increasingly for their work in recent years. Some have been arrested on criminal charges over posts on social media, where they routinely face threats and trolling. The Twitter accounts of some journalists and news websites have also been suspended on government orders.

The incident set off a wave of outrage, with activists, journalists and opposition politicians decrying it as harassment of the media and calling for Zubair's immediate release.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

Today in History - June 29, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, June 29, the 180th day of 2022. There are 185 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 29, 1613, London's original Globe Theatre, where many of Shakespeare's plays were performed, was destroyed by a fire sparked by a cannon shot during a performance of "Henry VIII."

On this date:

In 1520, Montezuma II, the ninth and last emperor of the Aztecs, died in Tenochtitlan (tay-nohch-TEET'-lahn) under unclear circumstances (some say he was killed by his own subjects; others, by the Spanish).

In 1767, Britain approved the Townshend Revenue Act, which imposed import duties on glass, paint, oil, lead, paper and tea shipped to the American colonies. (Colonists bitterly protested, prompting Parliament to repeal the duties — except for tea.)

In 1776, the Virginia state constitution was adopted, and Patrick Henry was made governor.

In 1927, the first trans-Pacific airplane flight was completed as U.S. Army Air Corps Lt. Lester J. Maitland and Lt. Albert F. Hegenberger arrived at Wheeler Field in Hawaii aboard the Bird of Paradise, an Atlantic-Fokker C-2, after flying 2,400 miles from Oakland, California, in 25 hours, 50 minutes.

In 1946, authorities in British-ruled Palestine arrested more than 2,700 Jews in an attempt to stamp out extremists.

In 1967, Jerusalem was reunified as Israel removed barricades separating the Old City from the Israeli sector.

In 1970, the United States ended a two-month military offensive into Cambodia.

In 1972, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a trio of death sentences, saying the way they had been imposed constituted cruel and unusual punishment. (The ruling prompted states to effectively impose a moratorium on executions until their capital punishment laws could be revised.)

In 1978, actor Bob Crane of "Hogan's Heroes" fame was found bludgeoned to death in an apartment in Scottsdale, Arizona, where he was appearing in a play; he was 49.

In 2006, the Supreme Court ruled, 5-3, that President George W. Bush's plan to try Guantanamo Bay detainees in military tribunals violated U.S. and international law.

In 2009, disgraced financier Bernard Madoff received a 150-year sentence for his multibillion-dollar fraud. (Madoff died in prison in April 2021.)

In 2018, the Annapolis Capital Gazette newspaper in Maryland kept its promise to put out the day's paper, despite the shooting deaths of five people in its newsroom a day earlier.

Ten years ago: A day after the House voted to find Attorney General Eric Holder in contempt of Congress, the Justice Department said Holder's decision to withhold information about a bungled gun-tracking operation from Congress did not constitute a crime. The younger brother and business partner of disgraced financier Bernard Madoff pleaded guilty to charges of doctoring documents, but Peter Madoff insisted he knew nothing about his brother's massive Ponzi scheme. (Peter Madoff was later sentenced to 10 years in prison; he was released from home confinement in August 2020.) The U.S. Anti-Doping Agency filed formal charges against Lance Armstrong, accusing the seven-time Tour de France winner of using performance-enhancing drugs throughout the best years of his career. (The USADA ended up stripping Armstrong of all his Tour de France titles and issued a lifetime ban from cycling.)

Five years ago: A scaled-back version of President Donald Trump's travel ban took effect, stripped of provisions that brought protests and chaos at airports worldwide; the new rules tightened already-tough visa policies affecting citizens from six Muslim-majority countries.

One year ago: Former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld died at the age of 88 in New Mexico; he had been Pentagon chief during the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan that

toppled the Taliban regime following the 9/11 attacks, and also at the start of the long and costly Iraq war in 2003. Former South African President Jacob Zuma was sentenced to 15 months in prison for defying a court order to appear for questions about allegations of corruption; his jailing would spark violent rioting in which more than 330 people died.

Today's Birthdays: Songwriter L. Russell Brown is 82. Singer-songwriter Garland Jeffreys is 79. Actor Gary Busey is 78. Comedian Richard Lewis is 75. Actor-turned-politican-turned-radio personality Fred Grandy is 74. Rock musician Ian Paice (Deep Purple) is 74. Singer Don Dokken (Dokken) is 69. Rock singer Colin Hay (Men At Work) is 69. Actor Maria Conchita Alonso is 67. Actor Kimberlin Brown (TV: "The Bold and the Beautiful") is 61. Actor Sharon Lawrence is 61. Actor Amanda Donohoe is 60. Actor Judith Hoag is 59. Violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter is 59. R&B singer Stedman Pearson (Five Star) is 58. Actor Kathleen Wilhoite is 58. Producer-writer Matthew Weiner is 57. Actor Melora Hardin is 55. Actor Brian D'Arcy James is 54. Actor Christina Chang is 51. Rap DJ and record producer DJ Shadow is 50. Actor Lance Barber is 49. Actor-dancer Will Kemp is 45. Actor Zuleikha Robinson is 45. Rock musician Sam Farrar is 44. Actor Luke Kirby is 44. Singer Nicole Scherzinger is 44. Comedian-writer Colin Jost (johst) is 40. Actor Lily Rabe is 40. R&B singer Aundrea Fimbres is 39. NBA forward Kawhi Leonard is 31. Actor Camila Mendes (TV: "Riverdale") is 28.

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
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