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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this July 13, 2023,

Recently published reflections on Jimmy Carter's presidency, occasioned by his move to hospice care, include his controversial decision to order US Navy ships to pick up Vietnamese "boat people" fleeing from communist rule in the early post-Vietnam War years.

Today as we see headlines about desperate people risking their lives on rickety boats attempting to cross the Mediterranean Sea seeking refuge in Greece and Italy, it's worth recalling Carter's response to the exodus of the thousands of "boat people" from Vietnam, and the role that the late AP photographer **Eddie Adams** played in encouraging the president's actions with his exclusive picture series, "The Boat of No Smiles". Adam's uniquely personal account of the plight of a boatload of Vietnamese refugees pushed back into the ocean when they attempted to land on a remote beach in Thailand won him the 1977 Overseas Press Club Robert Capa Gold Medal award, an award Eddie valued much more than the Pulitzer Prize for war reporting he had won nine years earlier.

To find out why, read our colleague **Peter Arnett's** account below.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Eddie Adams died in 2004 at the age of 71. Click [here](#) for his obituary. His legacy lives on with the [Eddie Adams Workshop](#), a tuition-free four-day seminar for aspiring photojournalists held in Upstate New York.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy, live it to your fullest.

Paul

Remorse and Redemption: The Saga of Eddie Adams and 'The Boat of No Smiles'



Eddie Adams took this picture on November 30, 1977, after jumping aboard a decrepit Vietnamese refugee boat as a Thai Marine police craft cast it adrift in the Gulf of Thailand. Fifty refugees were aboard the boat and had attempted to land at the Thai waterfront at Khlong Yai seeking asylum after a fleeing communist Vietnam. Adams portfolio of photographs and accompanying story won smash play in American newspapers and was influential in gaining Congressional support for immigration measures that eventually led to President Carter's decision on July 5, 1978, ordering U.S. Navy ships in Southeast Asian waters to pick up boat people. (This picture was displayed across two pages in the book "Eddie Adams: Vietnam".

[Peter Arnett](#) - I befriended photographer Eddie Adams in Vietnam during his three tours of duty covering the war there in the 1960s and saw a lot of him during my reassignment to New York in the 70s as a Special Correspondent for the AP. Eddie had quit the AP for Time Magazine in 1972 but had returned as an AP Special Correspondent a few years later and had the pick of photo assignments. We'd sometimes talk of working overseas together again if the right story came up, and one afternoon in late autumn, 1977, it seemed it had. It was a news tip on a tragedy unfolding on remote beaches of Thailand where desperate Vietnamese boat people were seeking sanctuary.

An old friend, CIA operative Barry Broman, then stationed at the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok and who I had phoned November 1977 on a personal matter, told me Thai police were pushing Vietnamese refugee boats back into the Gulf of Thailand where pirates were known to be preying on them. Broman was an aspiring news photographer in his pre-CIA years and as a rookie had assisted photographers Horst Faas in Southeast Asia and with Eddie Adams in New York. He was sympathetic to the boat people and emphasized that the story was well worth doing.



Eddie Adams in Vietnam covering U.S. military actions south of Danang in 1967. From 1965 to mid-1968 Adams made three extended photo assignments to the war theater.

A news photographer of renown, Eddie was also a patriotic former US Marine, who was on hand on Red Beach in Danang Bay in March 1965 to photograph his beloved arriving U.S. Marines as American combat troops entered the Vietnam war. I knew that Eddie had expressed discomfort with the consequence of his AP Vietnam war

coverage that was capped in 1968 by his Pulitzer Prize-winning war photograph of the street execution of a Viet Cong in Saigon by the chief of police. The photograph came to symbolize the brutality of the war and the futility of the American effort. Eddie came to believe that the disgraced police officer, General Nguyen Ngoc Loan was just doing his job, and even sought out the officer and apologized for humiliating him. I didn't agree with Eddie's continuing remorse over his picture's impact, and I often told him so.



Eddie Adams' "Boat with no Smiles" 1977 assignment took place long before the publication of the magnificent photo book "Eddie Adams: Vietnam" in 2009, by his wife Alyssa Adams and Hal Buell. That book explored the full measure of Eddie's anguish over what he saw as the exaggerated influence of his Pulitzer Prize winning photograph of the public execution of a Vietcong agent by South Vietnam's police chief, General Ngen Ngoc Loan, during the 1968 Tet Offensive.

This complementation of photographs taken by Eddie before, during and after he took his execution picture were part of a series that appeared in the "Eddie Adams: Vietnam" book. Top left: Captured Viet Cong official Nguyen Van Lam with Saigon military police on February 1, 1968. Top right: VC captive is taken to General Loan at a Saigon Street corner. Bottom left: General Loan executes Viet Cong official. Bottom right: General Loan holsters his pistol as VC body lies on street.

When I approached him with the boat people story in November 1977, I wondered if Eddie was as fed up with his Vietnam experiences as he often said he was and would turn it down. I was wrong. Eddie embraced the opportunity to take what would be "different, more humane" pictures of the Vietnam War's turbulent aftermath. He invited me to join him on the project. AP management didn't approve my participation, arguing that "it's only a picture story", so Eddie set off alone with his

case of cameras on what would become a classic example of his ingenuity, his professional skills, his humanity, and let's face it, his luck.

The saga of desperate Vietnamese boat people fleeing their communist overlords in crowded, unseaworthy vessels was just beginning to be known to the world as Eddie Adams arrived in Bangkok in November 1977. Thailand and other independent Southeast Asian nations had been catering to arrivals in boats and on foot from Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia in the immediate aftermath of the takeover of all three countries by communist forces two years earlier and had established refugee camps supervised by international aid organizations. But the numbers were relatively modest as communist authorities strengthened border controls in the countries they had conquered.

But then, in early 1977, a seemingly spontaneous exodus of Vietnamese people of all ages and occupations emerged in small boats from the country's river mouths, coastal villages and beaches, heading across the South China Sea and the Gulf of Thailand seeking new lives in the neighboring countries of Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia.

In Eddie's briefing at the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok soon after his arrival, the CIA's Barry Broman told him the boat people situation was in crisis. New arrivals were facing hostile receptions wherever they were trying to land, particularly on the beaches of Thailand and Malaysia. As many as 100,000 had survived the dangerous sea journey on overcrowded boats but possibly 30 percent of those who had embarked on the perilous journey were estimated to have died because of bad weather and the attacks of vicious sea bandits known to have seized refugee boats and killing everyone on board for their valuables.

Eddie was told that the last refugee boat allowed to dock in Thailand had berthed on November 19, a just few days before he had arrived. The 16 persons aboard had been arrested by Thai police but were freed with help from U.S. Embassy officials who were working on their emigration papers to the United States. There was no immediate information available on the numbers of other boats denied entry or where that may have happened in the days that followed.



Eddie Adams took this last photograph of "The Boat with No Smiles" that was packed with 50 desperate men, women and children who had been fleeing Vietnam and had been denied entry to Khlong Yai port in southern Thailand. Eddie had boarded the boat several hours earlier but had been ordered off by Thai Marine Police after it had been towed out to sea. This photo was printed across two pages in the book "Eddie Adams: Vietnam".

Eddie Adams turned to AP Correspondent Denis Gray's Bangkok Bureau for help in fulfilling the promise of his assignment: photographing a desperate, crowded refugee boat denied permission to come ashore. The challenge was enormous. Thailand at that time had just begun to develop its tourist industry based on the dozens of idyllic beaches scattered along both coasts of the Gulf of Thailand. But the famous beaches known to an international clientele today were just indentations on maps in the 1970s, distant and remote. An exception was the resort of Pattaya 100 miles southeast of Bangkok with its two popular beaches favored by foreign visitors.

With the help of local AP photographer Mang Kom as guide and interpreter, Eddie worked his way down the east coast of the Gulf of Thailand, calling in at Thai marine police stations beginning at Pattaya, and requesting, even begging for information. They drove on south to Rayong and then to Chanthaburi, coastal provinces with potential refugee landfalls. As the days passed - no luck. Finally on November 30 they drove to Trat, the small most south easterly Thai gulf province that became a narrow strip of land as it merged into the Cambodia border. They drove into the small seaside village of Khlong Yai. They had been on the road six days and had covered 250 miles of country roads. They were running out of beaches. They checked into the local police station. "Well yes" an officer said. "A refugee boat has just pulled in. We're about to tow it back out to sea."

Here's how Eddie recalls the moment, as noted in the book: "Eddie Adams: Vietnam". "I remember running to get to the area and here was this boat, a thirty-foot fishing boat with 50 people aboard. And they had been at sea for five days and they had just landed. They had been there for about thirty minutes and the Thai marine police, their patrol vessel just offshore, were tying ropes to the refugee boat and getting ready to tow it back out to the sea. I talked to some of the Vietnamese who spoke very good English. So I ran up to the police and I said 'wait, wait, they say they have no fuel or anything' and I ran into the village and purchased 100 dollars' worth of gasoline and rice. I gave it to the refugees, and I asked if I could go with them. They said yes, they'd accept me. The Thai police tried to prevent me, then relented. And I was aboard with them on the boat as we were towed out to sea."



Eddie Adams photographed many of the 40 refugees on "The Boat with No Smiles" looking as a Thai Police Launch towed them back into the Gulf of Thailand after denying them entry.

Eddie sat on the deck among the 50 men women and children with the afternoon sun beating down. They held the only umbrella on board over his head as he watched the coastline disappear. The Thai police boat detached its 300-foot tow rope and motored off, warning that if the boat returned to Thailand, guns would be waiting. Eddie knew that the success of his quest was a professional opportunity of a lifetime. But it came with a sobering reality. He later wrote, "And we were out there, and I'm wondering

what the hell am I doing here. I have no idea where we're going or what we're doing. At that time Thai pirates were blowing up everybody and robbing them and drowning people and the first thing I can think of is 'Where can I take a pee.'" Most of the 14 adult men and 11 women had broken into tears when Thai officials ordered them back to sea. Eddie wrote that the Vietnamese were happy to have him, believing that if an American was aboard at a future landing their chances of being accepted were better.

Eddie the experienced photographer soon took over. There were 25 children aboard and he photographed them all, including the naked littlest ones crawling on the floor of the tiny fish hold. The youngest person aboard was a girl born in the fish hold a few days earlier on November 24 to the 20-year-old Nguyen Ti. Her 21-year-old husband Nguyen Na had delivered the baby, skills he had learned as a medical corpsman in the South Vietnamese navy and trained by the U.S. Navy at San Diego, CA.

Eddie filled his notebooks with quotes as he filled his camera bag with cannisters of exposed film. "The stars and the sun have guided us this far because we have no compass or map," a former Vietnamese navy seaman said. "We don't know how long our luck will hold, but this is only the beginning. More and more will escape from Vietnam no matter what it costs. Only the very rich can survive now in Vietnam." A young woman said as the police launch had pulled away, "If we must die, we must. It's better than to live under communism. If we return to Vietnam, we would all be killed."



A Vietnamese woman uses a blanket to shelter herself and her child from the hot sun aboard "The Boat with No Smiles". Eddie Adams photo

Eddie had been on board the refugee boat several hours as sunset approached, and he watched another Thai police launch come near. Eddie remembers: "A loudspeaker blasts in English, 'You are coming off that boat' and as it comes alongside the loudspeaker blasts again 'You are coming off that boat.' I had mixed feelings about getting off. I really wanted to get off. But I didn't want to get off because I felt I didn't have all my story. But the Thai meant business and off I went." Eddie's AP colleague

Mang Kom was on the police launch and told him the order had come from Thai Marine headquarters in Bangkok to get him off the boat. On the Thai police launch as it moved away Eddie lost sight of the refugee ship in the darkness, but he heard machinegun fire in the distance and wondered about the fate of those on board.

Back in the AP Bangkok bureau, Eddie processed his pictures, and with local staffers wrote the captions and the accompanying story. Eddie chose the title "Boat of No Smiles" because, he said, in his previous experience covering wars and social conflicts, he found that children always smiled when the camera was pointed at them. "But this was the first time in my life that nobody smiled, not even the children. And I'm three feet away, right next to them, and I'm aiming my camera."

The first graf in Eddie Adams' Khong Yai datelined story read: "I will die! I will die!" screamed the aged Vietnamese woman aboard the boat of no smiles. Forty-nine other sick or hungry refugees, half of them children, sat in silence or wept uncontrollably on the deck of the weather beaten 30-foot fishing boat. The story described how their hopes of freedom as they arrived in Khlong Yai harbor were dashed when Thai Marine Police forced them to leave. The drama of the written copy was reflected in Adams portfolio of accompanying photographs that were published in front pages of newspapers across America.

Arriving back home, with distressing memories of the refugees he was forced to abandon, Eddie encouraged AP promotion staff to send photo packages to congressional committees handling immigration issues. The book "Eddie Adams: Vietnam" says the pictures made it to the desk of President Carter and influenced his decision in July 1978 to not only require American registered ships to pick up boat people, but also to guarantee to South East Asian ports that refugee cases would be quickly processed by Immigration and Naturalization officers and that refugees would soon be on their way to where they had chosen to be resettled. In researching this subject, I noticed in his 2020 biography of President Carter, author Johnathan Alter wrote about how Rosalind Carter and vice president Walter Mondale were both influenced by the flow of boat people photographs that led to their championing of Carter initiatives that eventually allowed hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese boat people to be resettled in America.

'Someone protected us' 'Boat people' find safe U.S. harbor

By Peter Arnett

ADRIAN, Mich. [AP]—They survived. The odds seemed terribly against it five months ago, 12,000 miles from this prosperous city of trees and large, white houses.

Then the 50 of them—14 men, 11 women, 25 children—were aboard a weather-beaten, 30-foot fishing boat that arrived at Khlong Yai, Thailand, after five stormy days at sea. They were among a multitude of Vietnamese boat people fleeing their Communist-run country.

They had no fuel, no water, no food—finally, no hope. The Thais had toughened their policies. The Vietnamese would not be given refuge.

THAT'S WHEN the world saw the boat people through a camera's lens. Photographer Eddie Adams, an Associated Press special correspondent, found them and went aboard their leaky craft. But he was ordered off by Thai police, and as he reluctantly left, the Vietnamese started weeping and shouting in fear. An old woman pounded her head with her open palm and cried, "I will die, I will die, I will die."

A mother of five, Nguyen Thi Yen, cradled a sick child in her arms and pleaded for help.

Ellen Kinh Tieu Vien, once a Saigon teacher, saw Adams as a guarantee the refugees would get help. Once he was gone, police towed their small craft out to sea. Adams watched the boat disappear, a white shirt fluttering at its bow as a flag of truce.

ADAMS' PICTURES and story on the "the boat with no smiles" were in American newspapers last winter. He

her husband, who stayed behind for lack of money, is alive in Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon.

And last Sunday, Ellen sat in Christ the Redeemer Church in Adrian and sang hymns. "They are not Christians," sponsor Margaret Jean Sparks said of Ellen and her family, "But they appreciate our feelings about religion and come to church with us. They say they believe our God protected them and helped get them here."

THE FRIGHTENING adventure was described by Ellen in an interview. It began with the adults paying about 25 ounces of gold each to be smuggled from Saigon. Then came a trail of country roads to Viet Nam's southern coast, a surreptitious trip to Phuoc Quoc Island, and finally the dash to Thailand crammed into the tiny boat.

"We had been warned of pirates but didn't meet any until after the Thai police had dragged us back into the ocean," said Ellen. It was then that four armed men aboard a motor launch ordered them to stop.

"I could tell they were pirates," said Ellen. "They screamed obscenities at us. . . . The leader was strong and slim, about 40 years old, with dark glasses and wearing an old U.S. Army jacket. They were Thai, but some spoke a little Chinese and Vietnamese."

THE PIRATES demanded gold but didn't get enough. They threatened to kill all aboard.

"We cried, we begged, I knelt down on my knees," said Ellen's then-fiance, Cuong Chiem. "We had heard pirates were killing boat people. We pleaded for

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See full page image or
microfilm.

Nguyen Thi Yen and Hvang as they are today—alive and well in the

The Chicago Tribune edition of June 23, 1978, published this Peter Arnett-bylined story about the survival of the Vietnamese refugees aboard Eddie Adams' "Boat with No Smiles". All 50 refugees including the 25 children aboard the fishing boat had waded ashore to Thailand after scuttling their boat, and eventually qualified for sponsorship in the United States. In 1978 they were arriving in communities from Florida to Michigan.

Five months after Eddie Adams filed his Boat with No Smiles picture portfolio, I learned that the desperate men, women and children the world had met through his camera lens had courageously survived their ordeal and had qualified for immigration sponsorship in the United States. I met one of the survivors, Ellen Kinh Tieu Vinh, in June 1978, after Sunday service with her family at Christ the Redeemer Church in Adrian, MI, a historic community founded in the early 19th century southwest of Detroit. Their sponsor, Margaret Jean Sparks, said of Ellen and her family, "They are not Christians, but they appreciate our feelings about religion and come to church with us. They believe our God protected them and helped them get here."

Ellen Vinh said she was a schoolteacher in Saigon, and that she and her husband paid 25 ounces of gold each to be smuggled down country roads to a fishing vessel on Vietnam's southern coast. They had been at sea or five days and were losing hope, she said, when Eddie Adams and his cameras arrived to join them. "We were so grateful. We saw him as a guarantee that we would get help" she said. His forced departure shocked them. And the next day the pirates arrived, four young Thais with guns who stepped from their motor launch demanding money. "They were angry they didn't get enough. They threatened to kill all on board," Ellen said. "We cried, we begged. I knelt down on my knees," said husband Cuong Chiem. "We heard pirates were killing people. We pleaded for our lives."

The leader was unexpectedly merciful. "Maybe because there were mostly children aboard," Cuong said. "He told us the only way to get refuge ashore was to scuttle our boat and throw ourselves at the mercy of the authorities." Several hours later around midnight, about one mile off the Trak province coast, the refugees punched holes in the bottom of the boat and abandoned ship. Ellen said they found the water was up to their chests and the seabed was rocky. They have deep scars on their legs from wounds they suffered as they stumbled and fell as they waded ashore with children in their arms. Cuong said the Thai police were at first angry but later sheltered the group in a camp, including the newborn baby Adams had photographed on board that had been named freedom in hopes that the voyage would end with that.

I titled this essay REMORSE AND REDEMPTION, and as the book, "Eddie Adams: Vietnam" clearly states, the success of his boat people assignment helped him restore his faith in the power of his war photography to achieve positive goals. To Eddie, his boat people photographs were "good pictures" destined to assist thousands of Vietnam war victims to secure decent lives in America. To the many who over the years continued to inquire about his regretted 1968 "Execution Picture" Eddie would refer them to his boat people portfolio, "the most important pictures I have ever taken."

Death of Sergei Shargorodsky

[Jim Heintz](#) - Kyiv photographer Efrem Lukatsky says he's been informed of the death of Sergei Shargorodsky by his widow.

Sergei was an AP correspondent in Jerusalem, Moscow and Kyiv, leaving AP sometime in the early 2000s. Records show he was transferred to Moscow in 1992 and became head of the bureau in Kyiv in 2000.

I crossed paths with him only for a few months in Moscow, so I can't add much to humanize the news. Some other old-timers may have some anecdotes. I found him to be a really skilled writer, especially notable since English was not his native language.

Rest in peace, Mark Barnett, I already miss you



From left: Jim Suhr, Mark Barnett, Mike Wardlow (former Joplin Globe editor and designer)

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Former AP staffer Mark F. Barnett was killed a few days ago after being hit by a truck in St. Louis. He served as the AP day supervisor in the Louisville bureau from 2001 to 2003, after earlier working at The Joplin (Mo.) Globe. Our colleague Jim Suhr remembers him.)

Jim Suhr - To me, Mark Barnett was always "the Bearded Freak." I bestowed that moniker on him in the early 1990s, when we both were at The Joplin Globe -- me as a reporter, he as an editor. That can make for a fractious relationship in a newsroom, but that was never the case with us. In equal measure, we had a passion for words, wordsmithing and wordplay. For good journalism. For simply telling a story. Engaging a reader.

It's one of the many reasons why I always respected Mark. Why he was always a brother. In 2003, I was blessed to be asked by him to be in his wedding to his soulmate, Sarah.

So it goes without saying that my heart broke and tears welled when Sarah called me this morning to inform me that Mark is gone, fatally injured when the scooter he was riding home from work was hit by a truck in a St. Louis intersection. Mark had the green light.

Fitting, because he always lived with the green light.

So many things can be said about Mark. One could call him a bit eccentric, given his proclivity for bow ties, berets and eyeglasses with the tiniest of round lenses that one might expect of an operating neurosurgeon. Sure, he flaunted convention. But his

heart was true and big. He loved home brewing and cats, and I never held the latter against him. He was perpetually inquisitive. Crazy smart.

Because he was always one of the best friends I've had, I loved him. And as Sarah told me this morning, he loved me, I guess I may have known that, but hearing it gives me comfort.

These reflections don't do Mark justice, but there was a simplicity to Mark. He treated people the right way. He was loyal to friends, family and his federal governmental job he always insisted he could never discuss to this longtime AP guy paid to uncover things. I pressed him so often about it that it became a running joke, given that each time I inquired he shut me down with unflinching ease. Long story short, he schooled me.

One of his colleagues at that secretive job shared with me today an eloquent way of encapsulating Mark: "I can also honestly say that I don't know anyone who didn't like him; if I ever had, I'd have wondered what was wrong with `them.'"

Perfectly put.

So rest in peace, you irrepressible Bearded Freak. I already miss you. I always will, because pure-hearted people like you don't come around all that often. Brew a batch of heavenly stout. We'll clink glasses again some day. And what stories we shall tell.

A trust's purchase of Maine newspapers

[Clarke Canfield](#) - I thought there might be interest in this story about the National Trust for Local News purchasing the company that owns five dailies and many weeklies in Maine. Click [here](#).

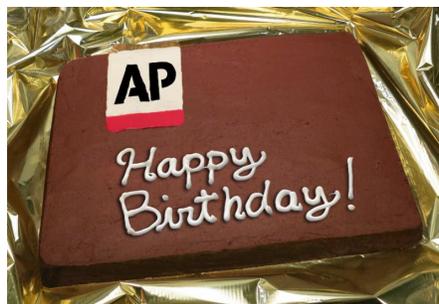
I worked for the Press Herald for many years before joining the AP, and this is good news for the Press Herald and the other papers. They've barely been hanging on in recent years.

An AP Offspring Wedding



Jodi Perras - I thought the Connecting world might be interested to see the news of my son Kevin Kusmer's marriage to Alyssa Fanara at the Indianapolis Children's Museum on July 8. Kevin, 31, is the son of current AP newsman Ken Kusmer and former AP newswoman Jodi Perras. We met in the Indianapolis bureau in 1985 and were married in 1987, producing Kevin as our only offspring in 1991 while both of us were working at the Indy bureau. There were lots of folks with young kids in the bureau at that time, and we had a lot of support from our co-workers and Bureau Chief Andy Lippman. Although Ken and I divorced 20 years ago, we are both exceedingly proud of Kevin and his bride. They live nearby in Carmel.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Doug Anstaett

[Devlin Barrett](#)

Stories of interest

Opinion / How does anyone make a living writing about what they love these days? (Poynter)

By: Pete Croatto

A few months ago, Serena Coady, a London-based journalist, wrote on Twitter that she was courted by an editor at an entertainment news site that “rhymed with Green Pant.” That wasn’t newsworthy; it was the limbo champion rates, which Coady shared.

The rates, via a screenshot. Coady now limits who sees her tweets. She did not respond to my Twitter direct message requesting an interview. (Screenshot/Twitter)

My disgust — what the hell are “Super Features”? — soon hardened into indifference. I’ve been a full-time freelance writer since 2008. Inspired by Roger Ebert’s annual “Movie Yearbooks” and Entertainment Weekly during its smart, snarky mid-’90s heyday, a healthy chunk of my career was spent trying to be an entertainment writer. I saw gigs like this, built on speed and clicks and being kind of, sort of, not really adjacent to showbiz, all the time.

I had some of them. I wrote posts for an entertainment blog for \$6 a pop. I profiled actress Rose Byrne, who was lovely, for the unpleasant rate of \$12. This personal essay on dating shows fetched me nothing.

I’ve written about my travails as a movie reviewer before. The balcony isn’t just closed; I fear it’s bricked solid.

Coady’s post caused me to summon these gigs in a wave of hot shame and a thought: How does anyone make a living writing about culture these days? That was the shanty of a pitch I sent my editor. I talked to four first-rate culture writers (including Soraya Roberts and Chris Vognar) who were chatty and honest. Will Harris, an excellent celebrity interviewer who has written for The A.V. Club and Vanity Fair, has lost so many clients this year, he’s had to sell blood plasma. (When we talked in early June, he was considering substitute teaching.)

Read more [here](#).

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A former Trump supporter who got caught up in a January 6 conspiracy theory sues Fox News (AP)

BY RANDALL CHASE AND DAVID BAUDER

DOVER, Del. (AP) — A former Donald Trump supporter who became the center of a conspiracy theory about Jan. 6, 2021, filed a defamation lawsuit against Fox News on Wednesday, saying the network made him a scapegoat for the U.S. Capitol insurrection.

Raymond Epps, a former Marine who said he was forced from his Arizona home because of threats, is asking for unspecified damages and a jury trial.

He filed his lawsuit in Superior Court in Delaware, the same court where Dominion Voting Systems sued Fox for lies broadcast following the 2020 presidential election. Shortly before a trial was to begin this spring, Fox agreed to pay Dominion \$787 million to settle the charges.

Fox did not respond to texts, phone calls and emails seeking comment on Epps' lawsuit.

The suit also says the Justice Department told Epps in May that he faces criminal charges for his actions on Jan. 6, and blames that on "the relentless attacks by Fox and Mr. Carlson and the resulting political pressure."

Read more [here](#).

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White House warns reporter Simon Ateba about his press-room outbursts (Washington Post)

By Paul Farhi

Escalating its feud with an assertive reporter, the White House on Tuesday issued a formal warning to Simon Ateba that he is at risk of losing his entry pass if he continues to disrupt daily press briefings.

The warning — a first for President Biden's press office — followed run-ins between press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre and the journalist from Cameroon who has interrupted her briefings to demand that he be recognized to ask a question.

Jean-Pierre has declined to call on Ateba for months and has repeatedly admonished him for speaking out of turn. Ateba, the owner and White House correspondent of a news site called Today News Africa, has portrayed himself as a victim of "racism and discrimination" by the administration.

In an unsigned letter, the White House press office told Ateba that he was at risk of losing his "hard" pass — the credential that enables reporters to enter the White House grounds at will — if he continues to disrupt briefings.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Pizac.

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Inside the college newspaper investigation that got a football coach fired (Washington Post)

By LAURA WAGNER

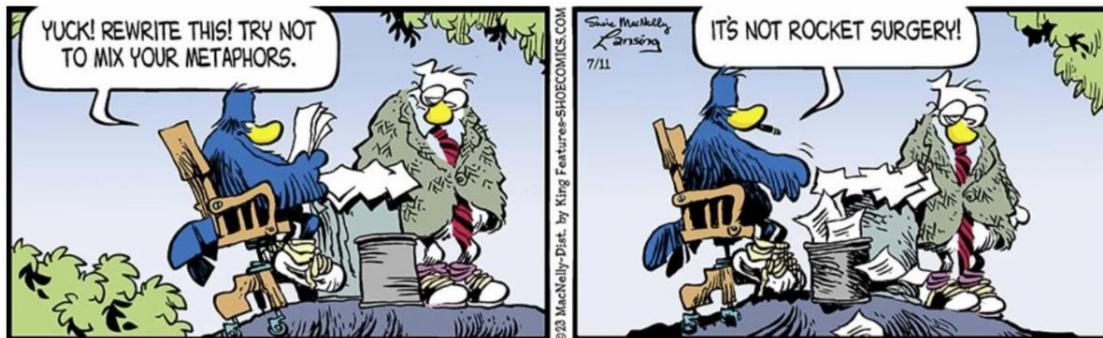
It acknowledged that an investigation found evidence to support a complaint about hazing within the football program but provided few details — except that university officials strongly disapproved and changes would be made. Released on a summer Friday, nearly two months ahead of the season, it drew minor media attention, and the story easily could have ended there.

But reporters for Northwestern's student newspaper wasted no time digging into what they saw as holes in the administration's announcement.

By Monday night, systemic hazing within the Northwestern football program was a national news story, the university had divulged shocking details from its investigation — and Pat Fitzgerald, a revered coach entering his 18th season at the helm of the team he once played for, had been fired outright.

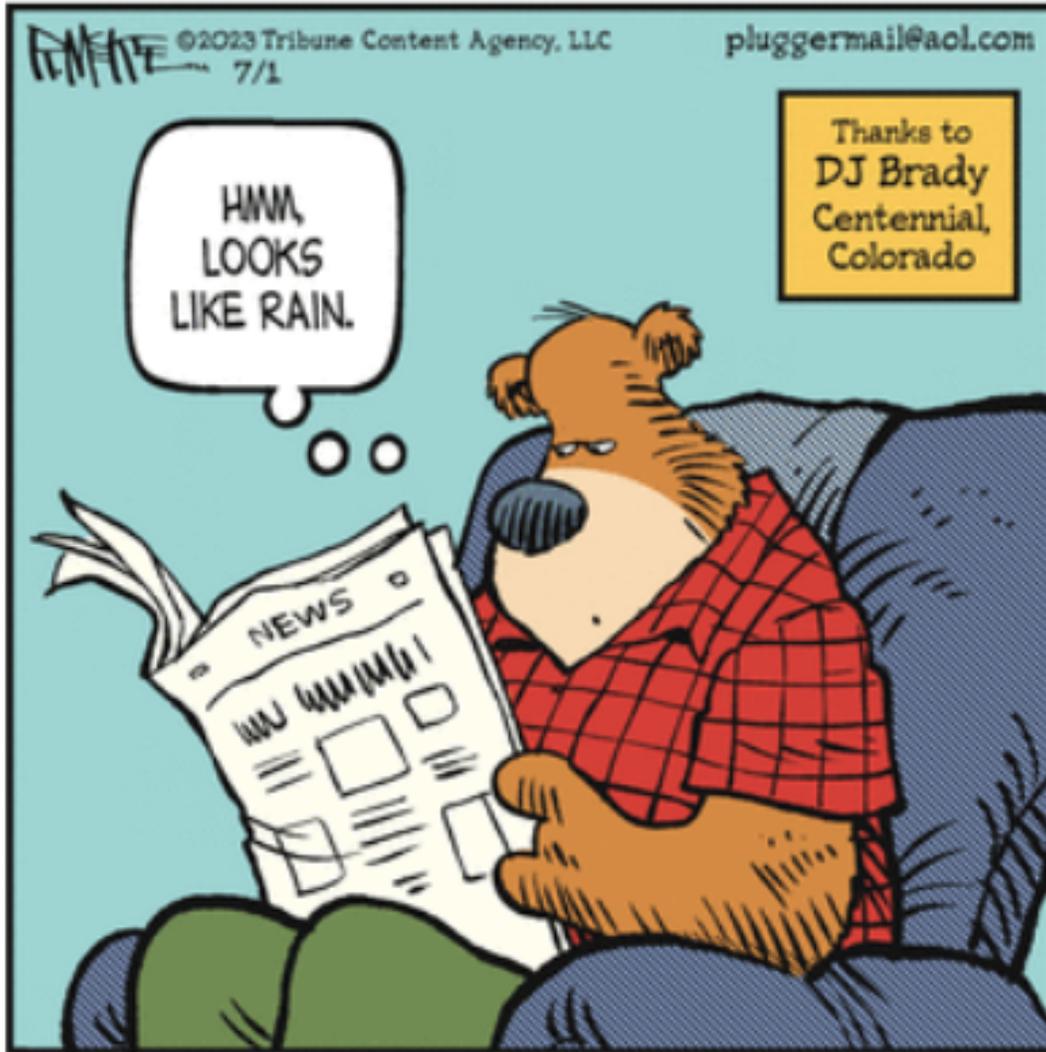
Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad, Richard Chady.

The Final Word



Shared by Doug Pizac

Pluggers by Rick McKee



A plugger still consults the newspaper to get the weather report.

Shared by Len Iwanski

Today in History - July 13, 2023



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, July 13, the 194th day of 2023. There are 171 days left in the year.

Today's highlight

On July 13, 1960, John F. Kennedy won the Democratic presidential nomination on the first ballot at his party's convention in Los Angeles.

On this date

In 1863, deadly rioting against the Civil War military draft erupted in New York City. (The insurrection was put down three days later.)

In 1923, a sign consisting of 50-foot-tall letters spelling out "HOLLYWOODLAND" was dedicated in the Hollywood Hills to promote a subdivision (the last four letters were removed in 1949).

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson nominated Thurgood Marshall to be U.S. Solicitor General; Marshall became the first Black jurist appointed to the post. (Two years later, Johnson nominated Marshall to the U.S. Supreme Court.)

In 1973, former presidential aide Alexander P. Butterfield revealed to Senate Watergate Committee staff members the existence of President Richard Nixon's secret White House taping system.

In 1974, the Senate Watergate Committee proposed sweeping reforms in an effort to prevent another Watergate scandal.

In 1985, "Live Aid," an international rock concert in London, Philadelphia, Moscow and Sydney, took place to raise money for Africa's starving people.

In 1999, Angel Maturino Resendiz, suspected of being the "Railroad Killer," surrendered in El Paso, Texas.

In 2006, Israel imposed a naval blockade against Lebanon and blasted the Beirut airport and army air bases; Hezbollah fired dozens of rockets into Israel.

In 2011, California became the first state in the nation to add lessons about gays and lesbians to social studies classes in public schools under a measure signed by Gov. Jerry Brown.

In 2016, Theresa May entered No. 10 Downing Street as Britain's new prime minister following a bittersweet exit by David Cameron, who resigned after voters rejected his appeal to stay in the European Union.

In 2020, Washington's NFL franchise dropped the "Redskins" name and Indian head logo amid pressure from sponsors; the move followed decades of criticism that the name and logo were offensive to Native Americans. (The team was eventually renamed the Commanders.)

Ten years ago: A jury in Sanford cleared neighborhood watch volunteer George Zimmerman of all charges in the shooting of Trayvon Martin, the unarmed black teenager whose killing unleashed furious debate over racial profiling, self-defense and equal justice. Actor Cory Monteith, who had shot to fame in the hit TV series "Glee" but was beset by addiction struggles, was found dead in a hotel room in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada; he was 31. Attorney Leonard Garment, 89, a friend and adviser to President Richard Nixon, died in New York.

Five years ago: A grand jury indictment, sought by special counsel Robert Mueller, alleged that the Russian government was behind a sweeping conspiracy to interfere in the 2016 U.S. presidential election. The grand jury indicted 12 Russian military intelligence officers on charges that they had hacked Hillary Clinton's campaign and the Democratic Party, releasing tens of thousands of stolen and politically damaging communications. President Donald Trump wrapped up a turbulent 30-hour visit to England, dropping by Windsor Castle for tea with the queen and lavishing praise on Prime Minister Theresa May after earlier questioning May's leadership in an interview. Thousands crammed the streets of London to vent their anger over Trump's first official visit to Britain.

One year ago: President Joe Biden, opening his first trip to the Middle East, offered anxious Israeli leaders strong reassurances of his determination to stop Iran's growing nuclear program, saying he'd be willing to use force "as a last resort." A former CIA software engineer accused of causing the biggest theft of classified information in the agency's history was convicted at a New York City retrial. A judge rejected a request from actress Amber Heard to set aside the \$10 million judgment awarded against her in favor of her ex-husband, Johnny Depp.

Today's Birthdays: Game show announcer Johnny Gilbert (TV: "Jeopardy!") is 95. Actor Patrick Stewart is 83. Actor Harrison Ford is 81. Singer-guitarist Roger McGuinn (The Byrds) is 81. Actor-comedian Cheech Marin is 77. Actor Daphne Maxwell Reid is 75. Actor Didi Conn is 72. Actor Gil Birmingham is 70. Singer Louise Mandrell is 69. Rock musician Mark "The Animal" Mendoza (Twisted Sister) is 67. Actor-director Cameron Crowe is 66. Former tennis player Anders Jarryd is 62. Comedian Tom Kenny is 61. Country singer-songwriter Victoria Shaw is 61. Bluegrass singer Rhonda Vincent is 61. Actor Kenny Johnson is 60. Roots singer/songwriter Paul Thorn is 59. Country singer

Neil Thrasher is 58. Actor Ken Jeong is 54. Singer Deborah Cox is 50. Actor Ashley Scott is 46. Rock musician Will Champion (Coldplay) is 45. Actor Fran Kranz is 42. Actor Aya Cash is 41. St. Louis Cardinals catcher Yadier Molina is 41. Actor Colton Haynes is 35. Actor Steven R. McQueen is 35. Soul singer Leon Bridges is 34. Actor Hayley Erin ("General Hospital") is 29. Actor Kyle Harrison Breitkopf is 18.

Got a story or photos to share?

Connecting is a daily newsletter published Monday through Friday that reaches more than 1,800 retired and former Associated Press employees, present-day employees, and news industry and journalism school colleagues. It began in 2013. 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.

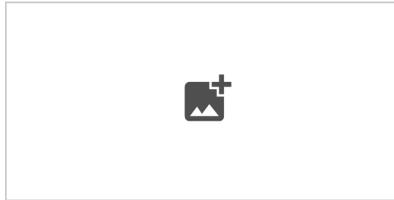
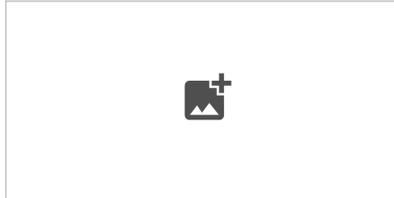
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

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

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