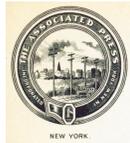


**From:** markmittelstadt@yahoo.com on behalf of Mark Mittelstadt [markmittelstadt@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2014 12:22 PM  
**To:** stevenspl@live.com  
**Subject:** CONNECTING - February 13, 2014

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# Connecting

February 13, 2014



Good Morning,

Today's Connecting leads with several **Associated Press** items, including word that the West Side building AP has called home the past nine years is about to get a major makeover. A [Wall Street Journal story](#), shared by **Lou Boccardi**, explains the building at 450 W. 33rd Street "that has had its Brutalist architecture softened over the years is about to undergo a \$200 million overhaul to revive its mojo and integrate the 1969 structure into a complex of planned office and residential towers planned in the Hudson Yards area." Executives at Brookfield Properties Group Inc. plan to re-do the exterior in a "pleated-glass design," upgrade mechanical systems and revamp the interior. "The new features will include unobstructed floor-to-ceiling windows and large collaborative space favored by New York's expanding technology sector," the story said. The work is scheduled to start this spring. There's no word on the fate of that AP roof-top basketball court.



*A rendering of Brookfield Property's building at 450 W. 33rd St. depicted after it gets a \$200 million overhaul. Brookfield Office Properties*

Also, be sure to check out **Beat of the Week** at the end of today's Connecting.



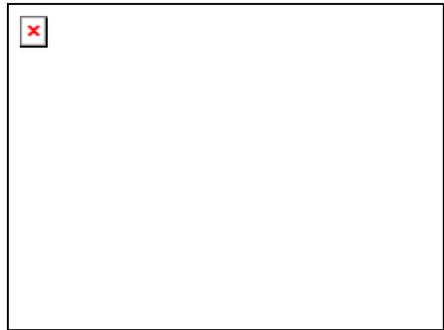
*Specialists prepare the ski tracks of the jump slope. (AP Photo/Gero Breloer)*

**Ted Anthony** is at the Winter Games and shared this [first-person account](#) by **John Leicester** about climbing to the top of the ski jump hill with an Olympic official. There they watched athletes leave the chute, accelerate to 55 miles per hour in about 5 seconds, launch into the air at the end of the jump and fly close to 100 meters before

landing with a loud snap below. "The women jumpers, cool cats that they are, were perfectly at home here at the top of the ramp, clipping on ski boots, adjusting helmets and shooting the breeze without the slightest regard for the intense, giddy drop-off below our feet," Leicester wrote. "And me? Well, I gripped the hand rail for dear life. Ugh." The story includes a [sound clip](#) of a ski-jumper taking off.

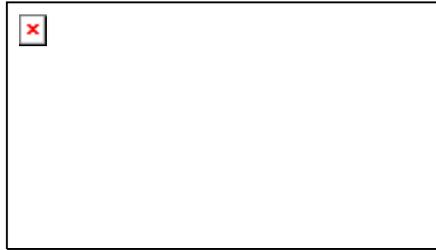
AP journalists are experts at multi-tasking, the latest proof being **David Ake**, who was caught by **Michael Giarrusso** shooting images while also editing photos at Sochi. The image was posted on Instagram [here](#).

Connecting's **Paul Stevens** caught up with veteran newsman and broadcast executive Brent Kallestad in Tallahassee yesterday and shared this photo from breakfast at a hotel. "His first year anniversary of retirement is this April 1 and he looks great, keeps his hand in helping AP a bit with FSU sports and relays a hearty hello," Paul wrote. "Brent has been here since 1986. Two of his four kids live here, the other two are in Tokyo (NCIS) and Venice, Fla."

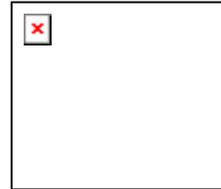


*Brent Kallestad, Paul Stevens.*

Yesterday's featured headline from the Star-Tribune of Minneapolis brought this note from retired AP lawyer **Dave Tomlin**: "That Strib headline reminds me of one the San Antonio Express News ran when the KGB drove dumptrucks through a 'decadent' art exhibition on Red Square. Our headline said 'Dumpfucks Break Up Art Show.' A reader wrote in to say he was sure it was a typo and that we'd meant to say 'Dumbfucks.'" Speaking of the Strib headline, a recently laid-off online editor tweeted a new Valentine heart (shared by Bob Daugherty via Romenesko.):



Washington newsman **Jesse Holland** took to Facebook yesterday to announce that after five years of covering the Supreme Court, he will now be reporting on race and ethnicity issues from Washington. "This will be the first time in years that I won't be covering a specific government agency like the White House, Congress or Supreme Court, so I'll now have to think up some good stories on my own. That should be so much fun!" he posted. I'm also expanding my portfolio by adding on more social media responsibility in the bureau so I should be pretty busy in the coming years. Luckily, all of this dovetails into the same subjects I want to write my next books about, so it seems like things are coming together quite nicely. Yay!" Jesse is also the subject of a [wonderful profile](#) on the alumni site of his alma mater, Ole Miss.



Business writer **Anne D'Innocenzio** is diversifying, trying her hand at standup comedy.

**Susan Clark** shared on Facebook an [audio link](#) of Anne's recent debut at Caroline's comedy club in New York City. Anne responded that while she finds standup fun, she won't be quitting her day job.

### **Connecting welcomes a new member**

**Dudley**, our canine mascot, welcomes newest Connecting member **Karol Stonger**. (Like many members of this list, Dudley is working from his North Carolina home where he appears to be welcoming a lot of white stuff.)



### **The Connecting mailbox is snow-covered but open...**

While **Paul Stevens** is away, send tips, stories, photos to [apconnecting@yahoo.com](mailto:apconnecting@yahoo.com).

### **Items of Interest...**

[An analysis of the huge Comcast-Time Warner deal](#)

[Why Comcast CEO Roberts is the best deal-maker in media](#)

[FCC quietly backing off study of newsroom editorial practices](#)

[SI's "bad journalism" that has everyone convinced the NFL isn't ready for a gay player](#)

[Four things Pulitzer winners have in common](#)

[Al-Monitor news service offers its own take on the Mideast, partners with PBS](#)

[Following Brokaw news, how other journalists have shared their cancer stories](#)

## **Winter Games**

[Franchise lost? On Day 2 of the Olympics, "GMA" beats "Today"](#)

[Sochi postcard: Reporter's stray dog is missed](#)



[Is Sochi the Peace Corps of the Olympics?](#)

[How laid-off journalists can stay afloat as the industry moves on](#)

[How Larry Kramer will more than double USA Today's circulation this year](#)

[Nine in 10 Americans: get money out of politics](#)

[US Court uses First Amendment to find "Choose Life" license plate unconstitutional](#)

[Maine city's ban on panhandling violates First Amendment, judge rules](#)

## **AP Beat of the Week**

Tokyo correspondent **Yuri Kageyama** started gathering data in early 2010 on U.S. military sex crime cases in Japan. She wanted to know how many Japanese women had been assaulted by American servicemen and how the cases were handled in the wake of several well-publicized cases that had set off protests in Japan.

What she ended up with, almost four years later, was a very different story, the deepest look yet into military justice (or lack of it) in sex crime cases.

The data and records she eventually obtained covered a seven-year period. Kageyama, international investigative reporter **Richard Lardner** and Asia enterprise editor **Leon Keith** found that there were many more American victims than Japanese, and that most service members found culpable never went to prison but instead were fined, demoted, restricted to base or removed from the military. In about 30 cases, the only punishment was a letter of reprimand.

Getting the records was an excruciating process that involved multiple Freedom of Information Act requests, a rejection, and an appeal that AP won. By late 2012 Kageyama had several hundred cases. When Keith joined the project, the two created a dozen spreadsheet sheets, keying in the data by hand. Meanwhile, more than 600 cases from the Naval Criminal Investigative Service arrived in early 2013

and were much more complete than those that had been provided by the other military branches.

Still, the story had yet to crystalize.

"Many of the cases, of course, were shocking, but when we were done, we weren't quite sure what we had," Keith said.

Viewed from a Japanese perspective, the AP data didn't break new ground. The numbers were pretty much the same as those reported by the Pentagon's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office. "I was a bit discouraged," Keith said.

Fortunately, in the fall of 2013 the new international investigations team was launched to help nurture global projects and those overlapping with Washington. This was the perfect story to test the concept.

International investigations editor **Trish Wilson** asked Lardner, who has a long background covering the military and Congress, to work with Kageyama and Keith to analyze the material.

It was at this point that Kageyama, Lardner and Keith developed a strategy to use the cases to tell a tale of judicial chaos, focusing not on the Japanese victims but on the role of the commanders and the nature of the judgments. They had to overcome the fact that all the names in the files had been blacked

out, so it took even more time to track down victims, offenders and the commanders. In addition, the people in these stories were all over the world, which sent our all-formats journalists on a global search.

The result was a story that went straight to the heart of the debate over whether the military justice system was tough enough on perpetrators of sex crimes.

The story went live on Sunday. The all-formats package included APTN, U.S. and online video, photos from Tokyo, Washington and Oklahoma, an interactive of annotated cases and a link to 600 never-before-published military sex crime reports for readers to see for themselves.

The play was huge, with 96,000 hits on AP mobile on Sunday alone, the front pages of at least 26 Monday newspapers in the U.S., strong play in Asia, particularly in Japan, which ran TV and text in Japanese, a good ride on Twitter and more than 7,000 hits online.

By Monday, **Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand**, D-N.Y., jumped on the findings. She had been arguing for some time that commanders should be relieved of their authority over sex crime cases. To see if the AP findings in Japan could be replicated elsewhere, she demanded that the Pentagon release the same sort of records for the largest military bases in the United States.

For following their reporting instincts to an expose four years in the making, and for providing an important new element to the military

sexual assault debate in the U.S., Kageyama, Lardner and Keith win this week's \$500 prize.

Others whose work impressed the judges:

\_ **Michael Biesecker**, newsman, Raleigh, N.C.; **Mitch Weiss**, newsman, Charlotte, N.C., and **Gerry Broome**, photographer, Raleigh, for coverage of a coal ash spill at a Duke Energy power plant on the Dan River. While utility and state officials were playing down the effects of the spill and other outlets waited at the plant, Biesecker and Broome took a canoe onto the river to find that the water had turned a deathly looking gray. Weiss, meanwhile, looked at how the state was trying to shield the utility from federal lawsuits over its coal ash sites.

\_ **Jerome Delay**, photographer, Johannesburg, and **Andrew Drake**, APTN cameraman, Rabat, Morocco, for eyewitness coverage of the slaying of a suspected rebel in the capital of the Central African Republic just after the interim president called on soldiers to help bring order to the country. Delay and Drake ignored great personal danger to produce compelling photos and video of soldiers stabbing and stomping the man to death. They also provided a text story with vivid narrative.  
<http://bit.ly/1g3i98v>

\_ **Karl Ritter**, chief of bureau, Stockholm, and the AP Olympics staff for an exclusive story showing that much-touted security measures banning liquids from carry-on baggage weren't being enforced and that liquids were getting through on the eve of the games in Sochi, Russia.

\_ **Tom Murphy**, business writer, Indianapolis, and **Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar**, national health care reporter, Washington, for reporting that the Obama administration was considering allowing people to keep individual insurance policies that don't comply with the federal health care law for up to three years. Murphy caught mention of the proposal during a routine earnings call with Aetna, and he and Alonso-Zaldivar confirmed.

\_ **Nataliya Vasilyeva**, business reporter, Moscow, and photographer **David Goldman**, Atlanta, for confirming that Russians were shown a rehearsal reel instead of the live feed of the Olympic opening ceremony, when a glitch prevented one of the five Olympic rings from functioning properly. Vasilyeva pursued social media accounts hinting at the two versions, and Goldman's photographs helped the duo confirm that even Russian President **Vladimir Putin** hadn't seen the error.

\_ **Ron Blum**, sports writer, New York, for an 11-minute beat on **Alex Rodriguez** dropping his lawsuit against baseball and its players union and accepting his one-year suspension for using performance-enhancing drugs. Not even the New York Yankees had heard the news when Blum called for comment.

\_ **Ivan Moreno**, Statehouse reporter, Denver, for exposing flaws in the number of background checks reported for private and online firearm sales since a new law took effect in Colorado. Moreno worked

off a source tip and confirmed that the figures were inflated because they included gun show background checks conducted long before the law took effect.

\_ **Matthew Brown**, correspondent, Billings, Mont., for an APNewsBreak on proposed changes to the Endangered Species Act. Brown got word of the proposal four days early as a result of nearly a year of following U.S. Rep. Doc Hastings' listening sessions. Hastings' staff called Brown first with the news.

\_ **Kareem Copeland**, newsman, Tallahassee, Fla., for an exclusive interview in which Heisman Trophy winner Jameis Winston said he plans to play two more years at Florida State despite being eligible for the 2014 NFL draft. The story was picked up by every major national outlet \_ and all credited AP, including ESPN.com, Yahoo Sports, nytimes.com and nbcnews.com.

\_ **Nigel Duara**, newsman, Portland, Ore., for disclosing efforts in 14 states to curtail law enforcement powers to monitor and track citizens, a backlash to National Security Agency surveillance and frustration over outdated digital privacy laws. Duara spotted the legislation in Oregon and did some quick reporting to find out it was happening elsewhere.

\_ **Patrick Condon**, newsman, St. Paul, Minn., for a comprehensive look at how states running their own health insurance exchanges are struggling to become self-sufficient by a 2015 deadline. Condon picked up on the debate among Minnesota lawmakers and expanded it into a national story showing the steps states are considering to make ends meet next year.

\_ **Jocelyn Noveck**, national writer, for an iPhone photo showing **David Beckham** taking a selfie with his toddler daughter as he and his children attended wife **Victoria Beckham's** fashion show. With the AP photographer stuck on a riser to shoot the clothing, Noveck's quick reaction seconds before the lights went down gave AP an image it likely would have missed. Instead it got thousands of clicks.

\_ **Eddie Pells**, sports writer, Denver, for reporting simultaneously with NBC's "Today" that U.S. Olympian **Shaun White** was withdrawing from the slopestyle event to focus on his signature halfpipe event, and following that up with an exclusive interview after hanging out at practice for three hours. Pells also got video provided by White with a shout-out to fans and brief comments the day before his unsuccessful attempt to win a third straight gold medal in the halfpipe.

## **Mike Oreskes**

Mark Mittelstadt  
Connecting newsletter  
[apconnecting@yahoo.com](mailto:apconnecting@yahoo.com)

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