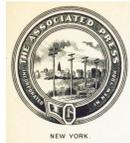


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**From:** stevenspl@live.com on behalf of Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 28, 2014 10:40 AM  
**To:** stevenspl@live.com  
**Subject:** CONNECTING - March 28, 2014

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# Connecting

March 28, 2014



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Colleagues,

Editor-at-Large **Darrell Christian** is retiring from the AP after more than four decades of service. His last day at AP will be April 18.

Mike Oreskes, vice president and senior managing editor, shared this news with AP staff on Thursday:

After more than four decades with the AP, Darrell Christian is retiring next month. Darrell would demand a lead that simple. There are few journalists who have done more to sharpen our writing or raise our standards. He would also demand specifics (below) and sourcing (this is all from his admiring colleagues). He made one thing clear. Good writing, which he demanded, was no substitute for great reporting, which he insisted on.



During his career, Darrell has done it all: He's been sports editor, business editor, managing editor and editor at large. He created and managed the AP's Top Stories desk from 2008 to the present. He also has been a member of the AP Stylebook team.

Darrell, a fine wordsmith, has played an instrumental role in editing many of the greatest

stories of our times. Always, he insisted on well-crafted leads, on clarity and vivid language, on the primacy of news. He sought to draw the reader into a story to not only inform, but also engage. In an age of short attention spans the lessons of Darrell Christian are as vital today as they have ever been.

When the Stylebook team was faced with drafting a new entry that was likely to be controversial, the writing job was often given to Darrell. With clarity and precision, he crafted entries that broke new ground for the industry while always reflecting AP's high standards for balance and objectivity.

A native of Henderson, Ky., Darrell began his newspaper career while still in high school as a sports writer at the Henderson Gleaner in 1964 and was sports editor in 1966. He worked for two summers at AP's Charleston, W. Va., bureau before serving in the Navy from 1969 to 1972. He then joined AP in Indianapolis in 1972 and became news editor there in 1975. He moved to the Washington bureau as a supervising editor in 1980 and in 1981 was named deputy sports editor in New York before being promoted to sports editor four years later.

He was managing editor from 1992 to 1998, and chairman in 1995 and 1996 of the Pulitzer Prize investigative jury. He was founding director from 1998 to 2000 of AP MegaSports, an online sports service offering stories, photos, audio, statistics and realtime scores. He was business editor from 2000 to 2004. As managing editor, Christian directed AP's day-to-day news report and supervised various editorial departments.

During his tenure as sports editor he coordinated and directed AP's coverage of the 1988 and 1992 Winter and Summer Olympics, as well as virtually every major sports event. He oversaw the expansion of baseball box scores and centralized editing of AP sports copy from around the country. He was named editor at large in 2006.



We will miss his wisdom, his candor -- and yes, his irascibility. He may miss us, too. But we will know where to find him. Playing golf in southern California under sunny skies.

I know you join me in thanking Darrell for his dedicated service to the AP and wish him and his wife Lissa the very best in retirement - and many happy rounds.

Oh, and by the way, Darrell read this note and ruled it wasn't good enough to get the IMPACT tag. He also said the lead needed more sweep.

**Mike Oreskes**

-0-

I know you all join me in congratulating Darrell - who recently joined Connecting - on a fine career and in wishing him the best for a long, happy, 4-under-par retirement. (Photo of Darrell packing up his office by **Rich Kareckas**.)

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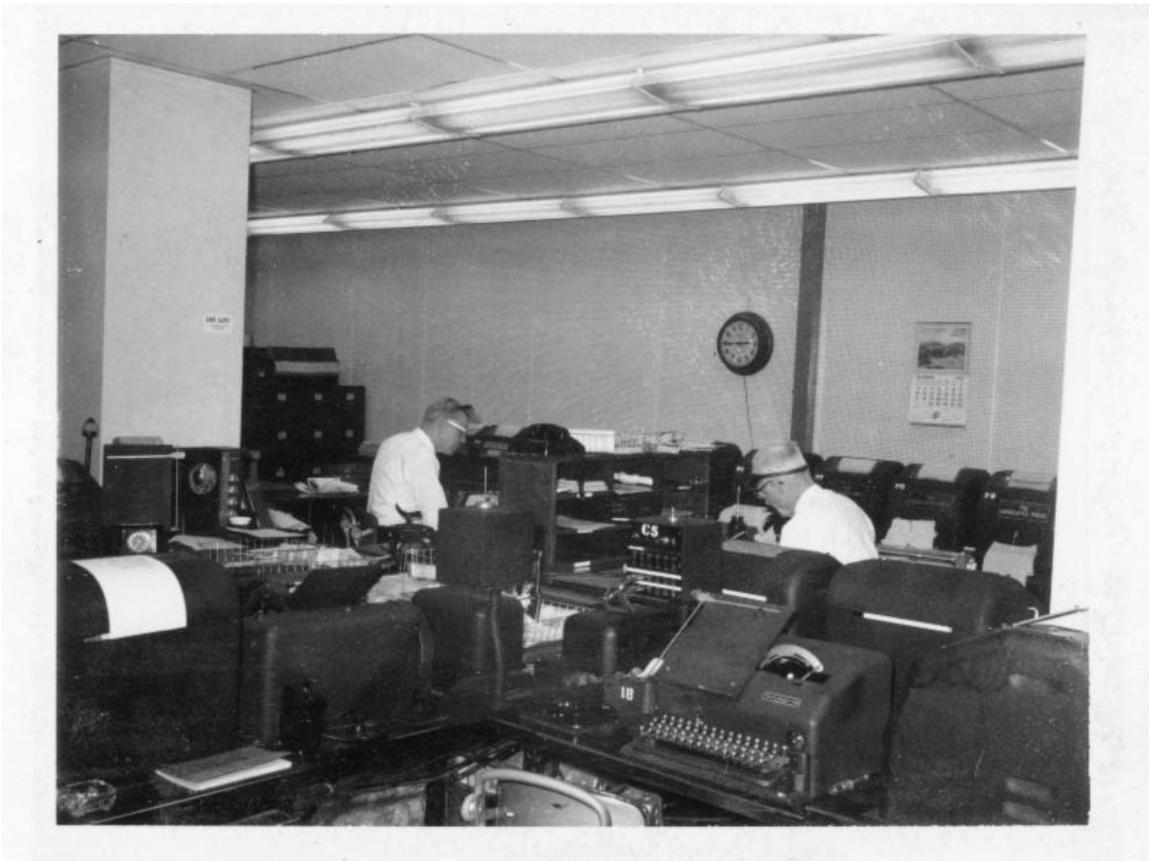
### **Griffith covers missing plane story**

Sydney-based photographer Rob Griffith, far left in photo below, took on the temporary role of reporter while on board a U.S. Navy P-8 Poseidon that was flying above the southern Indian Ocean to search for the missing Malaysia Airlines.



### **Connecting mailbox**

**Larry Hamlin**, recently retired Oklahoma City technician, wrote: I ran across this picture (below) while going through 50 years of AP "stuff". Thought I would pass it along in case there is someone out there who might remember these two guys. I took the picture while on leave from the Army in December 1967. The location is the Oklahoma City AP office and shows Editors Bill Sansing on the left and Andy Anderson on the right. Even if no one remembers the men, they will probably have a flash-back of what AP offices looked like back then.



## Stories of interest

### **Guild: AP proposed dead-end positions to handle news work** (Mark Mittelstadt)

News Media Guild: The Associated Press on Thursday proposed a new dead-end editorial unit classification that would turn over newspaper work to a group of people with little experience who would work for no more than two years.

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### **New Mexico governor seeks to dismiss records case** (Paul Colford)

Gov. Susana Martinez is raising constitutional arguments in defending against a lawsuit by The Associated Press. The news organization is seeking public records about her travel and work schedules as well as cell phone calls by the governor and her staff. In documents filed Monday in state district court, the governor's lawyer said a court injunction sought by the AP to enforce the public records law would violate the

constitutional doctrine of separation of powers.

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### **The newsonomics of NYT Now**

Ken Doctor: The product is compelling and a big step forward for The New York Times in a number of ways. But can a \$2-a-week iPhone app compete with the free and open web?

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### **Reuters weighs into photo licensing with new e-commerce site**

Reuters on Monday launched a new photo and video e-commerce site, Reuters Access, in a revenue bid that follows the likes of The Associated Press and Getty Images.

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### **Journalists, media under attack from hackers: Google researchers**

(Reuters) - Twenty-one of the world's top-25 news organizations have been the target of likely state-sponsored hacking attacks, according to research by two Google security engineers. While many internet users face attacks via email designed to steal personal data, journalists were "massively over-represented" among such targets, said Shane Huntley, a security software engineer at Google.

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### **Tribune's profit declines 43%**

Profit at Tribune Co., the parent of the Los Angeles Times and other newspaper, radio and television properties, fell sharply last year amid a further decline in newspaper advertising and a significant drop in earnings at its broadcast division.

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### **Cable's Next Big Threat: Loss of Ad Dollars To YouTube, AOL**

It turns out that cord-cutting isn't the only threat facing cable channels. Several of the big ad-supported online video outlets, including Google's YouTube, AOL and others, plan this upfront season to target some of the ad dollars that currently flow to cable channels, industry executives say.

### **ONA prepares a DIY ethics code**

The Online News Association is working on "Build Your Own Ethics Code," a toolkit to

help news outlets, bloggers, and journalists decide on ethical guidelines that match their own ideas about reporting and journalism.

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### **The Growth in Digital Reporting: What it Means for Journalism and News Consumers** (Bob Daugherty)

At a time when print newsrooms continue to shed jobs, thousands of journalists are now working in the growing world of native digital news-at small non-profits like Charlottesville Tomorrow, big commercial sites like The Huffington Post and other content outlets, like BuzzFeed, that have moved into original news reporting. In a significant shift in the editorial ecosystem, most of these jobs have been created in the past half dozen years, and many have materialized within the last year alone, according to this new report on shifts in reporting power.

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### **Huffington Post Editor Named Director of U.S.C.'s Journalism School**

LOS ANGELES - Willow Bay, a Huffington Post editor and veteran TV news anchor, was named director of the University of Southern California's journalism school on Wednesday.

**AND**

### **Poynter deletes reference to Willow Bay's husband, Disney CEO Bob Iger**

Poynter's post about Willow Bay being named director of USC's Annenberg School initially mentioned that she's married to Disney CEO Bob Iger. He was later scrubbed from the post. Read the discussion about that on my Facebook page.

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### **Charting the years-long decline of local news reporting**

The Manassas News & Messenger survived Reconstruction, multiple recessions and depressions, assorted wars and the dismantling of Jim Crow laws throughout Virginia and the South. But the Internet was another matter.

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### **China needs Bloomberg way more than Bloomberg needs China**

Earlier this week, a veteran Bloomberg News editor revealed that he resigned in early March, saying he did so because his company "unilaterally spiked" an investigative piece on China. (Backstory here.) The piece, which was allegedly quashed last November, was written by the same team that exposed the family wealth of now-president Xi Jinping in

June 2012, which prompted the Chinese government to block Bloomberg's website. That looked especially bad given that last week the chairman of Bloomberg LP implied that potential sales opportunities for its data terminal business in the Chinese market would trump editorial considerations.

## Editorial Talking Points

week through

March 23, 2014

**RIKERS ISLAND DEATH:** AP's Jake Pearson reported exclusively on the death of a mentally ill inmate in an overheated cell at the Rikers Island jail in New York, driving it home with one official's indelible description: "He basically baked to death." The exclusive came from beat reporting. Pearson had written several stories detailing problems at Rikers when an official tipped him off about a "really horrible" death.

Pearson found out from sources that the inmate, Jerome Murdough, 56, died in a 100-degree cell, apparently the result of faulty heating equipment. He was on anti-psychotic and anti-seizure medication that may have made him more vulnerable to heat. Murdough also apparently did not open a small vent in his cell to let in cool air.

Pearson talked to his family, visited the location of his arrest and spoke with nearby residents and homeless people. At Murdough's last-known address, a neighbor located his 75-year-old mother. In a late-night phone call, Pearson told Alma Murdough her son was dead and how he died. Murdough's mother said her son was ill and had "beer problems" but was "a very lovely, caring guy."

The AP scoop was a top-clicked story on AP Mobile, Yahoo and MSN. Local New York media all credited AP. Mayor Bill De Blasio promised reforms. The Opinion Pages blog on NYTimes.com praised Pearson's reporting. He was interviewed by CBS and others. NY1 asked Alma Murdough how she learned of her son's death. Her answer: from "a nice reporter named Jake."

<http://yhoo.it/1kIXJmC>

**MISSING PLANE:** The story of the missing Malaysian airliner continued to dominate the global news agenda. AP's multi-format reporters explored the many facets of this fascinating and enduring story.

Working from half a dozen nations, they showed AP's breadth and depth of reporting. The main story was anchored in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur. There, Eileen Ng reported on how Malaysia's usually divided ethnic groups joined in prayer for the passengers. Chris Brummitt reported on the political fallout in Malaysia. From Canberra, AP wrote about the possibility of pilot suicide. From Wellington and Sydney, we examined the scenario in which the plane is never found. From Hong Kong, we explored Asia's aviation boom.

There were great video stories from Malaysia and Beijing. The most notable: a Chinese relative who was forcibly removed from an area where the press was being briefed by a Malaysian official. Our piece captured the drama as she was dragged away, and ranked second on Teletrax with

265 hits on 70 stations. Another piece captured the anger of the relatives in Beijing against Malaysia Airlines and the Malaysian government.  
<https://vimeo.com/89589745>

Paul Stevens  
Connecting newsletter  
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