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**From:** Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 04, 2014 9:37 AM  
**To:** stevenspl@live.com  
**Subject:** CONNECTING - April 4, 2014

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# Connecting

April 4, 2014



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## Tragedy strikes AP family

Colleagues,

Sad news reaches us this morning from Afghanistan with the death of one of AP's finest photographers, **Anja Niedringhaus**, and the wounding of reporter **Kathy Gannon**.

Here is the AP story:

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) - A veteran Associated Press photographer was killed and an AP reporter was wounded on Friday when an Afghan policeman opened fire while they were sitting in their car in eastern Afghanistan.

**Anja Niedringhaus**, 48, (at right) an internationally acclaimed German photographer, was killed instantly, according to an AP Television freelancer who witnessed the shooting.

**Kathy Gannon**, the reporter, was wounded twice and is receiving medical attention. She was described as being in stable condition and talking to medical personnel.

"Anja and Kathy together have spent years in Afghanistan covering the conflict and the people there. Anja was a vibrant, dynamic journalist well-loved for her insightful photographs, her warm heart and joy for life. We are heartbroken at her loss," said AP Executive Editor **Kathleen Carroll**, speaking in New York.

The two were traveling in a convoy of election workers delivering ballots from the center of Khost city to the outskirts, in Tani district. The convoy was protected by the Afghan National Army and Afghan police. They were in their own car with a freelancer and a driver.



According to the freelancer, they had arrived in the heavily guarded district compound shortly before the incident.

As they were sitting in the car waiting for the convoy to move, a unit commander named Naqibullah walked up to the car, yelled "Allahu Akbar" - God is Great - and opened fire on them in the back seat with his AK-47. He then surrendered to the other police and was arrested.

Medical officials in Khost confirmed that Niedringhaus died.

Gannon, 60, is a Canadian journalist based in Islamabad for AP. She has covered war and unrest in Afghanistan and Pakistan for three decades.

In a memo to AP staff, AP President **Gary Pruitt** remembered Niedringhaus as "spirited, intrepid and fearless, with a raucous laugh that we will always remember."

"Anja is the 32nd AP staffer to give their life in pursuit of the news since AP was founded in 1846," he wrote. "This is a profession of the brave and the passionate, those committed to the mission of bringing to the world information that is fair, accurate and important. Anja Niedringhaus met that definition in every way."

Afghan President Hamid Karzai expressed his deep sadness over Niedringhaus' death and the wounding of Gannon.

"These two AP journalists had gone to Khost province to prepare reports about the presidential and provincial council elections," a statement from Karzai's office quoted him as saying. It added that Karzai instructed the interior minister and the Khost governor to assist the AP in every way possible.

Niedringhaus covered conflict zones including Kuwait, Iraq, Libya, Gaza and the West Bank during a 20-year stretch, beginning with the Balkans in the 1990s. She had traveled to Afghanistan numerous times since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion.

Niedringhaus, who also covers sports events around the globe, has received numerous awards for her works.

She was part of an AP team that won the 2005 Pulitzer Prize in breaking news photography for coverage of the war in Iraq, and was awarded the Courage in Journalism Award from the International Women's Media Foundation. She joined the AP in 2002 and had since been based in Geneva, Switzerland. From 2006 to 2007, she was awarded a Nieman Fellowship in journalism at Harvard University.

Niedringhaus started her career as a freelance photographer for a local newspaper in her hometown in Hoexter, Germany at the age of 16. She worked for the European Press Photo Agency before joining the AP in 2002, based in Geneva. She had published two books.

Gannon, 60, is a Canadian journalist based in Islamabad who has covered Afghanistan and Pakistan for the AP since mid-1980s.

She is a former Edward R. Murrow Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York and the author of a book on the country, "I Is for Infidel: From Holy War to Holy Terror: 18 Years Inside Afghanistan."

After the attack, Gannon underwent surgery in Khost. The operation was described as successful and Gannon's condition was said to be stable.

In the run-up to Saturday's vote, Afghan security and electoral officials have vowed not to let the Taliban and other militant derail the elections while conceding it is impossible to prevent the Islamic militants from waging acts of violence.

The militants have also increasingly been targeting Westerners. In recent weeks, the Taliban also have claimed responsibility for attacks in the capital, Kabul, against a luxury hotel, a foreign guest house, a Swedish journalist and a Lebanese restaurant popular with foreigners.

The 51-year old Swedish reporter, Nils Horner, had worked for Swedish Radio since 2001 as a foreign correspondent. He was killed by a shot in the head as he was reporting on Afghanistan's election on a street in Kabul in early March. It was a rare assassination of a foreigner in the capital. An extremist Taliban splinter group later claimed responsibility for his death.



In this photo by Anja, a German soldier sits next to candles lit to celebrate his 34th birthday, during a long term patrol in Yaftal e Sofla, in the mountainous region of Feyzabad, east of Kunduz, Afghanistan, on September 16, 2009.

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### [AP PHOTOS: Afghan women lawmakers fight for rights](#)

Anja produced this story and photos for the AP report just a week ago. Click [here](#).

Here are several links to Anja's photography:

Click [here](#) for her portfolio.

Click [here](#) for a Guardian gallery published this morning of Anja's work.

Click [here](#) for an Atlantic gallery of her work from November 2013.

We invite Connecting members who knew Anja to share their memories. Meantime, our hearts go out to Anja and Kathy and their loved ones.

## **Photographs that changed the world**

**Mark Mittelstadt** spotted this site, TheRichest.com, on Facebook and shares with fellow members of Connecting.

It appears to be a start-up but thought we would share with you since its feature on the "10 Influential War Photographs that Changed the World" includes some AP images - including the No. 1 image that the site incorrectly attributes to Kim Ut - instead of AP's **Nick Ut**.

Four of the photographs selected by the web site were taken by photographers working for The Associated Press. They include **Joe Rosenthal's** photo of the flag raising at Iwo Jima, **Malcolm Browne's** shot of the immolation of a Buddhist monk, **Eddie Adams'** image of a South Vietnamese general executing a Viet Cong prisoner on the street in Saigon and **Nick (yes, Nick) Ut's** powerful photo of a girl fleeing her North Vietnamese village, her clothes burned off by napalm dropped by opposing forces. Click [here](#) for a link to the site.

The four photos:







## Connecting mailbox

[Steve Buttry](#) wrote this in his blog after losing his job Wednesday when Digital First Media announced it would dismantle its central newsroom, known internally as Project Thunderdome. I thought our Connecting colleague wrote with class and style:

I learned a long time ago that news was a tough business. I learned it before I watched the death of the [Des Moines Tribune](#) and before I experienced the death of the [Kansas City Times](#). I learned it before I was fired as editor of the [Minot Daily News](#) and before [TBD imploded](#). So I wasn't surprised when the [ax fell again today](#).

I'm exploring (and interested in learning about) opportunities in the news business and beyond. But I don't know yet what my next stop will be. Here's what I do know:

- I've enjoyed my time with Digital First Media.
- I'm deeply grateful to [Jim Brady](#), [Jon Cooper](#) and [John Paton](#) for the [opportunity to work at Digital First \(and Journal Register Co. before it became DFM\)](#).
- I leave with no regrets.

- I knew the risks in 2011 when I went to work for a company owned by hedge funds. And I knew the risks in 2012 when I turned down an attractive offer from a family-owned newspaper company to stay with the company owned by hedge funds.
- Anyone who says Thunderdome failed is wrong. As I said about TBD, you can't fail unless you were given a chance to succeed.
- I will do everything I can to help in the job searches of my DFM colleagues who lost their jobs today. These are extraordinary journalists who will provide great value for their next news organizations.
- I wish all the best for my DFM colleagues who will remain with the company. We've worked hard together and come a long way. I hope that the company prospers and that this is the last cut. I've enjoyed working with them and know they will continue doing great journalism.

No denial or sugarcoating here. I don't agree at all with today's decision to cut Thunderdome or with the company's new direction. But neither of those calls was mine to make and I'm not going to criticize them or waste time discussing them. I'll post some links here to coverage of what's happening at Digital First, but won't comment on the accuracy of the reporting or the insightfulness of the analysis.

As I've said before, [bitterness is like wreaking revenge on yourself](#). I'm too busy looking for my next opportunity to dwell on how this one ended.

[Doug Pizac](#) notes, regarding the Fort Hood shootings: Outside media scoured through the digital archives of a newspaper and lifted a photo WITHOUT permission of soldier Ivan Lopez the paper did a story on four years ago. This was a different Ivan Lopez than the Lopez who shot/killed people at Ft. Hood yesterday. Thus the danger of get it first versus the old get it right motto. And thus the danger of the media thinking they can steal and use as they please, and probably under the disguise of Fair Use. Click [here](#) for the story on what happened.

[Dave Tomlin](#): Seeing the reference yesterday to Linda Ellerbee's celebrated misfire to state broadcast lines of an embarrassing private letter composed on her bureau CRT reminded me that not many people probably know she got a sort of official forgiveness many years later. I learned several years ago while I was still working at AP that Ms. Ellerbee spends part of the year in Puerto Vallarta in a house just a couple of blocks from where we now live. As a goodwill gesture, I persuaded then-CEO Tom Curley to sign a greeting card that said: "Linda, come home. All is forgiven." I packaged it up with a complimentary copy of "Breaking News," and wangled an invitation from her for cocktails, where I presented it. She didn't show any sign of having been longing for absolution, but she accepted it gracefully. I think I heard she sent Tom a thank you note afterward.

[Joe McKnight](#) writes: Paul -- Re your "Connecting" post today: AP attempts to explain differences in its poll, Washington Post-ABC News poll on Obamacare : It jogged my memory. Some years ago I was taking a course at The Ohio State University on statistics. One of the professor's lectures had to do with polls. He started out by saying, and I paraphrase: Any poll taker worth his salt starts out

with two questions: Who is paying for the poll and what does he/she want it to show. I've had a prejudice about polls ever since. I wonder every month how gullible all media might be in reporting employment/unemployment polls. That one is put together by minions of a federal bureaucracy run by a political appointee. Enough said.

[Dale Leach](#) shared this photo from a business in South Padre Island, where the Texas APME is meeting this weekend. Talk about feeling welcomed!



## Welcome to Connecting



[Beth Harpaz](#) -

AP travel, lifestyles and fashion writer, New York

## Stories of interest

### [AP ENPS removes boundaries to news production](#)

The Associated Press will showcase the new look and improved functionality for the mobile version of AP ENPS, the world's most popular multiplatform news production system, at the NAB Show in Las Vegas next week.

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### [Star-Ledger cuts 167 jobs, including 40 newsroom positions](#) (Charlie Monzella)

In a grim day of reckoning at the state's largest newspaper, the owners of The Star-Ledger today said they were eliminating the jobs of approximately 167 people, including 25 percent of the newsroom.

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### [Guardian staffers win top IRE prize for NSA series](#)

The Investigative Reporters & Editors medal for 2014 goes to Glenn Greenwald, Laura Poitras, Ewen MacAskill and others for the Guardian's reports on the NSA, which "revealed a story that continues to reverberate in the United States and across the globe," the judges say. (Greenwald and Poitras now work for Pierre Omidyar's First Look Media.)

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### [What went wrong at Digital First Media - and what's next?](#)

The announced shutdown of Digital First Media's national newsroom Wednesday and the probable sale of its 75 daily newspapers later this year is a significant jolt to those who believe a viable business model for rapid transformation of legacy operations is close at hand.

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### [News revenue declines despite growth from new sources](#)

Total revenue supporting American journalism has declined by one-third since 2006, according to a new analysis by Pew Research Center. The sources of the estimated \$63-\$65 billion dollars supporting print, online and broadcast news have also shifted, with advertising dollars declining and audience payments, in the form of subscriptions, for example, comprising a bigger share.

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### [Meet the local paper that's 'raising hell' to keep government open](#) (Bob Daugherty)

The Jacksonville-based Florida Times Union is a rare outlier these days, a mid-sized regional paper willing to fight big open-government battles even as most media organizations cut back on the resources they devote to forcing officials to do their work in public

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### Report: Men still outnumber women in media

Women are still outnumbered by men in the media, a new report shows, despite women making larger strides in the industry such as becoming heads of newsrooms and network evening news anchors.

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### Ex-State Department adviser Stephen J. Kim sentenced in leak case

A former State Department arms expert who leaked classified information to a Fox News reporter was sentenced Wednesday to 13 months in prison after a pointed courtroom debate about the Obama administration's aggressive pursuit of unauthorized disclosures of top-secret information.

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### **APME UPDATE - April 3, 2014**

#### **SAVE THE DATE**

**April 4,** Early Bird Registration Ends for ASNE-APME Conference

**April 7,** Deadline for APME Journalism Excellence Awards

**April 25-26,** NewsTrain, Vancouver

**Sept. 15-17,** ASNE-APME Conference, Chicago

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#### **TODAY FROM APME**

**DEADLINE EXTENDED:** Monday, April 7, is the final deadline for APME's Journalism Excellence Awards

There are nine categories this year:

Innovator of the Year for newspapers, Broadcast Innovator of the Year, College Innovator of the Year, Al Neuharth Award for Innovation in Investigative Journalism, Best Mobile Platform, First Amendment Awards, Public Service

Awards, Digital Storytelling and International Perspective Awards.

Best Mobile Platform is new and will honor a news organization that produced or made significant improvements to a mobile application or platform in 2013.

Four of the categories offer monetary awards: Innovator of the Year for newspapers, Best of Show in the Public Service category, Al Neuharth Award for Innovation in Investigative Journalism and the Tom Curley Sweepstakes Award in the First Amendment category.

The awards will be presented at the ASNE/APME Conference Sept. 15-17 in Chicago, and are linked on the APME website.

To enter: [https://www.omnicontests4.com/Default.aspx?comp\\_id=1265](https://www.omnicontests4.com/Default.aspx?comp_id=1265)

### **EARLY BIRD SPECIAL ENDS FRIDAY**

Don't miss the early bird registration for the ASNE-APME conference Sept. 15-17 at the Hyatt Regency in the heart of downtown Chicago. The Associated Press Photo Managers will also be part of the conference.

The early bird registration fee of \$199 is available to members of APME and ASNE till Friday, April 4.

This will be the first joint conference of the nation's top editors. The theme: ASNE/APME 2014: Fast Forward

Lively and topical conference sessions will explore key issues newsroom leaders are tackling, showcase innovations and provide practical takeaways in such areas as improving content on mobile, increasing audience engagement and reach, and developing partnerships for greater impact.

APPM will focus on innovation and digital storytelling with workshops on multimedia storytelling, onsite sports picture editing and social media approaches. It will partner with APME for a joint session on interactive story form and how multiple layers of words and visuals play a role in the digital experience.

Other conference highlights:

\* We will celebrate winners of the APME Journalism Excellence Awards and ASNE Awards at a special lunch Tuesday. On Wednesday, we will meet again for lunch with a keynote speaker. Tickets to both lunches can be purchased at registration.

\* We'll party together Monday night at the opening reception and auction at the historic Tribune Tower, sponsored by the Chicago Tribune. The silent and live auctions will offer sports tickets, vacation retreats, jewelry, autographed books

and much more.

Two entertainment events are offered Tuesday night. You can:

\* Cruise the Chicago River and enjoy the beautiful skyline at a reception on the Mystic Blue, sponsored by the Illinois Press Association and the Illinois Associated Press Media Editors.

\* Or take in a baseball game with other editors and see the Chicago Cubs play the Cincinnati Reds at Wrigley Field.

We are working on organizing pre-conference workshops Monday morning, Sept. 15, and post-conference workshops Thursday, Sept. 18. Details to come.

Register now: Early bird registration is available at \$199 for members of APME and ASNE until Friday, April 4. After that, the registration fee will be \$250 for members of APME and ASNE and \$350 for nonmembers. There are special rates for APME's Regents, retired editors, spouses and students. Click: <http://www.apme.com/event/2014convention>.

Book your hotel room:

A block of rooms is reserved at the Hyatt Regency until Aug. 29 for only \$189 per night. Make a reservation online: <https://aws.passkey.com/event/10816539/owner/2135/home>. Or call the hotel directly at 312-565-1234 and mention the block of rooms reserved for APME and ASNE.

For details, go to: <http://www.apme.com/?page=2014Convention>

## FROM AP

[Beat of the Week](#): Pearson

[Best of the States](#): Caruso

## WATCHDOG REPORTING

**AP:** Health overhaul sign-up ends

**Miami Herald:** Soccer stadium deals mixed bag for U.S. cities

**Fort Worth Star-Telegram:** Texas landowners fear worst from oil pipeline

**Atlanta Journal-Constitution:** State wastes millions in food stamp errors

**St. Louis Post-Dispatch:** Missouri no longer nation's meth capital

**Kansas City Star:** Gov't friends help Motorola achieve telecom supremacy

**Boston Globe:** Cases of newborns with addictions soaring

**Portland Press Herald:** Maine lawmaker walks fine line

**Fort Lauderdale Sun Sentinel:** Florida gang spreads crime cross U.S.  
**Newark Star Ledger:** Archdiocese owes state taxes on for-profit business  
**Akron Beacon Journal:** Over 100 Ohio charter schools won't say who's in charge  
**Austin American-Statesman:** Most online predator cases focus on one county  
**Post Crescent:** State cops can track residents' cellphones

Read more [Watchdog Reporting](#)

## INDUSTRY NEWS

Miami photojournalist offers 25-year retrospective  
Loyola offers journalism class for high schoolers  
Rouse named publisher of Daily Statesman  
Ohio newspaper: Military police detain journalists  
NY's Newsday names Gordon McLeod publisher  
Ky. owes newspaper lawyers \$300K in records fight  
Ex-newspaper printing facility becoming market  
Ex-TV anchor Willow Bay new head of USC journalism  
Judge: Reporters to testify at Hankton's hearing  
Report: Digital sites bring momentum to news  
Former political reporter named as California's state librarian  
UN body notes upward trend in journalist killings

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