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Connecting

June 4, 2014

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Ongoing construction west of AP headquarters in New York. The \$20 billion Hudson Yards will fill 28 acres between the Hudson River and Tenth Avenue with 14 skyscrapers after completely covering the train yards with a platform foundation. (AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews)

Colleagues,

The Associated Press headquarters on New York City's West side is losing its million-dollar views.

As reported late last week by AP's **Verena Dobnik**, developers with much deeper pockets have big plans for the city's "Gritty 'Wild West.'" The 16-story pyramid-shaped building housing AP's world headquarters will be dwarfed in the next several years by skyscrapers being erected through the marvel of modern engineering and technology over vast expanses of railroad tracks on both sides.

Since moving 10 years ago to West 33rd Street, AP workers have enjoyed a nearly unobstructed look to the west at the Hudson River and northern New Jersey. From the 14th to the 16th floors, and especially AP's rooftop basketball court overlooking 10th Avenue, it is possible to see for miles up and down the river that forms Manhattan's western border as well as the New Jersey cities of Hoboken, Union City and beyond. Down below, Long Island Rail Road commuter trains crawled in and out of a sprawling LIRR rail yard, disappearing underneath the building as they moved to Penn Station three blocks to the east. That vantage point has yielded numerous AP images, including some of the first when US Airways Flight 1549 made an emergency landing on the Hudson in January 2009.

To the east, an opening over busy commuter railroad tracks provided clear views of the city's 102-year-old post office and the Empire State Building. Over the years, AP has provided space on its 15th floor deck for television cameras seeking a landscape shot of midtown and Madison Square Garden.

Dobnik reports that a cluster of 20 new buildings -- 17 of them high-rises -- is planned for immediately west of AP. The buildings will be so tightly packed that the project "has earned a new, not always complimentary, nickname: 'Hong Kong on the Hudson,'" she wrote.

The \$20 billion Hudson Yards combined with an adjacent \$4.5 billion Manhattan West complex comprise the city's most ambitious private real estate ventures since Rockefeller Center -- AP's home for 66 years -- was constructed in the 1930s. The nearly half-century old building housing AP will be sandwiched between the two developments. It is due for its own \$200 million renovation.

When fully completed in 2024, the two projects will offer more than 22 million square feet of space, including about 6,000 residential units -- more footage than the rebuilt World Trade Center in lower Manhattan. "That is being accomplished, in part, through a feat of engineering: the construction of massive concrete platforms that allow the buildings to rise above and around active railroad tracks and rail yards," Dobnik reported. "Amtrak and New Jersey Transit trains will keep running from New Jersey and other locations to Penn Station, used by about 700,000 people daily."



The Brookfield Manhattan West project east of AP being built over rail tracks used by commuter trains at Penn Station. A giant crane spans the width of the tracks between 33rd and 32nd Streets to lift 16 concrete spans into a \$300 million platform completely covering the tracks. (AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews)

AP News

AP kicks off World Cup coverage in Brazil

The eyes of the world will turn to Brazil for the 2014 FIFA World Cup from June 12 - July 13, and The Associated Press will be there to capture the triumphs, defeats and of course, the enthusiastic fans. AP journalists from around the world will cover all 64 matches from 12 venues around the country, producing thousands of stories in video, text and photos. They'll also join local staff from AP's bureaus in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo to cover the business, environmental and political aspects of the tournament, as they have since Brazil won the right to host the World Cup seven years ago.

AP lawyer: No jail time for NYT's Risen?

Federal prosecutors want to force New York Times reporter **James Risen** to testify about his sources at the criminal trial of a former CIA officer, but Attorney General **Eric Holder** suggested in a meeting with journalists last week that the Justice Department could find a way to defuse the situation and not subject Risen to time in jail should he refuse to testify as ordered.

Romenesko: No sh*t, this AP lede is a winner!



The gadfly media blogger says he was told by AP **Doug Esser** wrote the story.

Connecting Mailbag

Dale Leach _ Thought I'd mention some prominent air time for AP on Sirius XM Radio Classics last week as part of the station's Memorial Day tribute. An episode of Words at War, originally broadcast in July 1943, was based on the writings of AP Correspondent **Clark Lee**. Radio Classics re-aired the program Wednesday, May 28, 2014, with Lee (or an actor playing him) providing the narration from his book, "They Call it Pacific." The broadcast mentions other AP folks, including then-General Manager **Kent Cooper**. Sirius XM subscribers can register to hear the program [here](#).

APME 2-for-1 Membership Offer

The Associated Press Media Editors, created in 1933 to provide feedback to AP executives on the news cooperative's services, has a BOGO membership drive in JUNE: join APME at the usual \$150 and add another editor or broadcast news leader free. The 2-for-1 offer is a limited-time special good until June 30. Members receive a discount for APME's first joint conference with the American Society of News Editors and the Associated Press Photo Managers Sept. 15-17 at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Chicago. [Click here to sign up.](#)

D-Day Anniversary

[AP touts D-Day photo, video collections ahead of 70th anniversary](#)

On June 6th, 1944, 7,000 Allied ships crossed the English channel and landed along the Normandy coast, marking a pivotal turning point in World War II. Search images and video clips of D-Day on AP Images and AP Archive. Also find curated image collections of global D-Day commemorations on APImages.com.

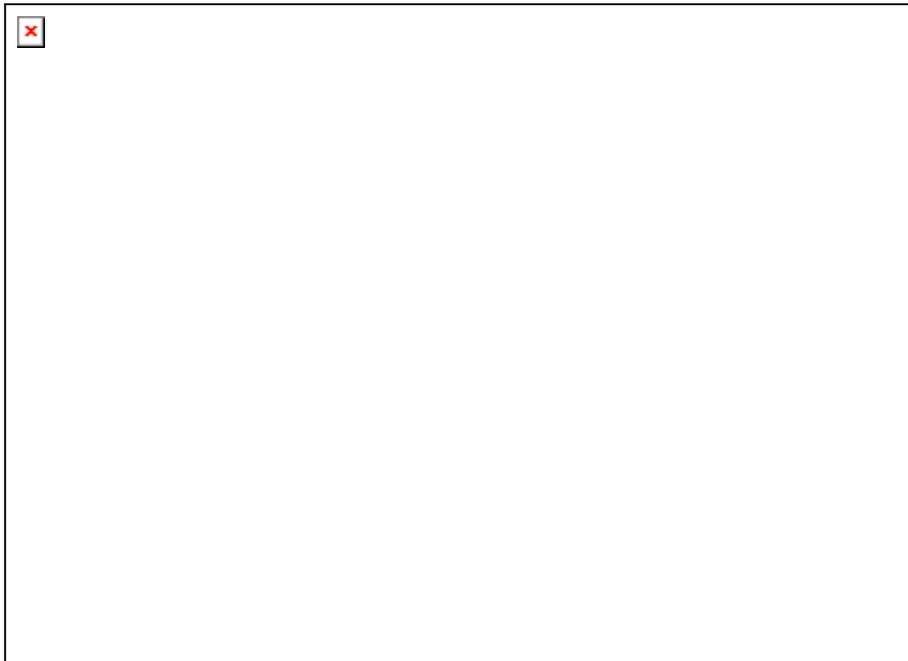
[Then and Now: D-Day landings scenes interactive](#) (shared by Scott Charton)

Peter Macdiarmid has taken photographs of locations in France and England to match archive images taken before, during and after the D-day landings. In this stunning slide show, the archival images are displayed first. Simply click on the image for the "now" view.

Stories of Interest

[Gender at the New York Times: Female bylines appear on about one-third of all stories](#)

Here are the results based on 21,440 articles published online from October 23, 2013, to February 25, 2014.



[OC Register announces layoffs, mandatory furloughs, and severance packages](#)

The wheels are coming off Aaron Kushner's grand experiment with the Orange County Register -- and fast. On Friday, the Orange County Business Journal broke the story that Kushner's Long Beach Register daily would turn into a weekly. Today, we can report the cuts are even more severe: mandatory two-week furloughs effective immediately through June and July at the OC Register, layoffs in the sales department (called a "restructuring"), and the offering of voluntary severance packages to reporters.

Ohio governor's aides scrub businessman's gripe from newspaper story before posting it

From the New Philadelphia (OH) Times-Reporter story on Ohio Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor's visit to Dover Hydraulics.

No "Welcome Back!" signs for Brian Tierney at Philadelphia's newspapers

Brian Tierney has returned the Philadelphia Inquirer as the publisher's adviser and, according to reports, staffers aren't holding up "Welcome Back!" signs. Two reasons why: As CEO of Philly's newspapers, Tierney paid himself a \$350,000 bonus while his Inquirer and Daily News were struggling; and he once asked the bankruptcy court to dismiss a \$50 million payment due the pension fund of the Newspaper Guild of Greater Philadelphia.

Comedian rallies 45,000 'Net neutrality comments to FCC

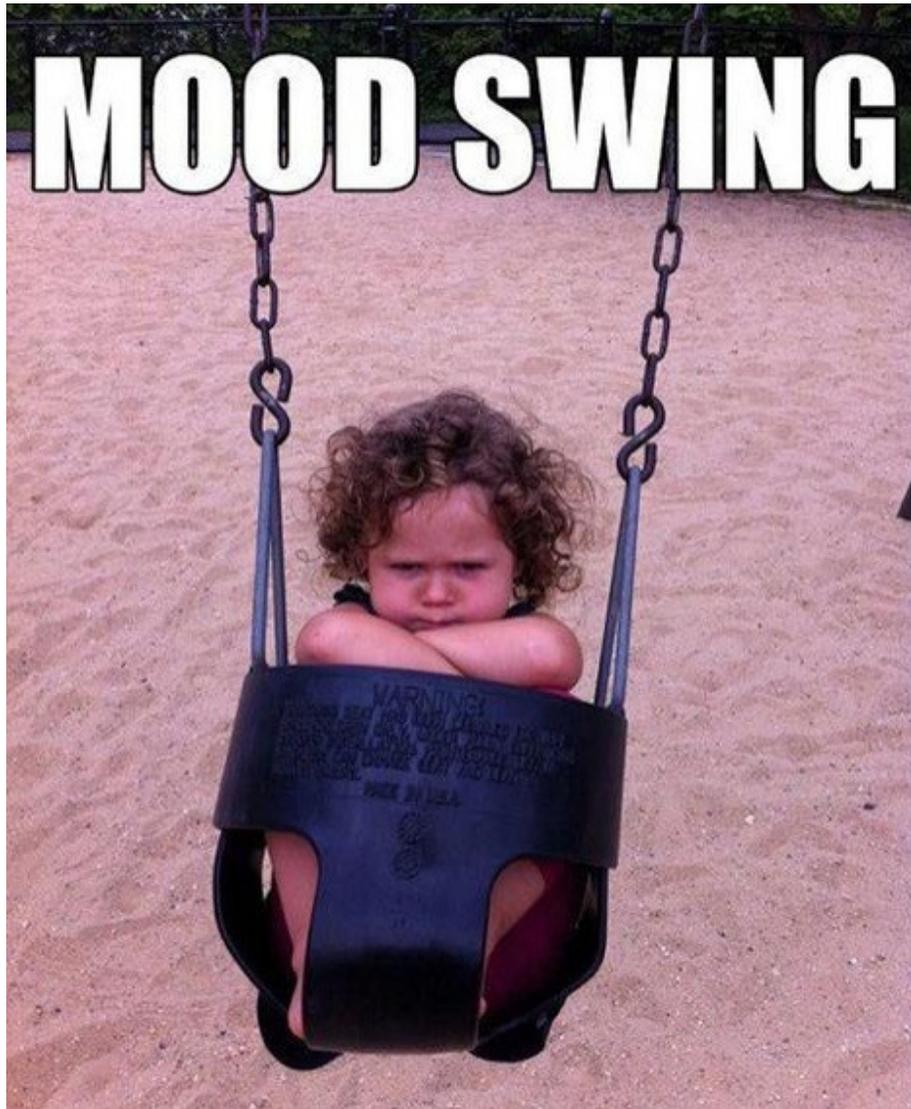
Things are running smoothly now, but the Federal Communications Commission's public commenting system was so waylaid by people writing in on Monday that the agency had to send out a few tweets saying "technical difficulties" due to heavy traffic affected its servers.

FERPA law too often hides what public should know about universities and athletics programs

Universities use the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) as a kind of invisibility cloak to wrap around their athletics programs. The University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill has pulled it particularly tight around the now years-long scandal involving academics and athletics. It has repeatedly cited the law to deny even basic requests.

The story behind that widely-distributed "mood swing" photo

If you Google "mood swing," the first image you'll see is my daughter. She's in a playground swing, her face scrunched up in a grumpy pout. She is playing for the camera. It's an impersonation of anger. But most of the millions of people around the world who've seen the photo think she's genuinely pissed off, and I imagine this makes them love the image more, and, I imagine, makes them want to share it more, and so our daughter continues to make her way around the Internet, a cycle that repeats itself.



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