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# Connecting

June 27, 2014

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## National Press Club honors Gannon, Niedringhaus

The National Press Club will present its President's Award to the AP's **Kathy Gannon** and **Anja Niedringhaus**.

Niedringhaus (right) was killed while covering the lead up to elections in Afghanistan on April 4. Gannon was injured in the same attack. According to NPC, "the President's Award is presented only on special occasions by the Club president with the approval of the Club's Board of Governors."



The club announced the winners of its 2014 National Press Club Journalism contest and a complete list can be found by clicking [here](#). The award winners will be honored at a dinner at the National Press Club on Wednesday, July 30.

Niedringhaus, from Germany, was a winner of the 2005 Pulitzer Prize in breaking news photography as part of an AP team that covered the war in Iraq. Gannon, from Canada, has reported from Afghanistan and Pakistan for nearly three decades.

Niedringhaus was killed in Afghanistan, and Gannon was wounded in the same attack April 4 when an Afghan police commander opened fire on them as they sat in a car that was part of a convoy traveling to eastern Afghanistan's city of Khost under protection of security forces to cover the elections. The two had worked together repeatedly in Afghanistan since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion, often focusing on the war's impact on Afghan civilians. Gannon continues to recover from her injuries, said AP spokesman Paul Colford.

An exhibition of Niedringhaus' photos will be on display in the Club lobby at the end of July to coincide with the awards dinner, being held July 30.

Also being honored at the dinner are an Illinois reporter, Joseph Hosey, of Patch.com, fighting prosecutorial pressure to disclose the identity of a confidential source and a Bahraini freelance photographer, Ahmed Humaidan, sentenced to a decade in jail effectively because he did his job. They are the winners of the National Press Club's 2014 John Aubuchon Press Freedom Award.

Each year, the Club honors two recipients of the award, one foreign and one domestic, who have demonstrated through their work the principles of press freedom and open government. The award is named after the late John Aubuchon, a former NPC president who championed press freedom.

## Connecting mailbox

### Lou Boccardi: Proud after a visit to 50 Rock

[Lou Boccardi](#) - I was in NYC over the weekend and had a break between meetings in midtown, so I wandered over to Rockefeller Plaza. Naturally, I couldn't resist stepping inside the lobby of our old home. Very different. Turnstiles at the elevators and a serious-looking security desk at the left in the lobby. The female guard on duty gave me a classic New York "whaddya want?" look, and I assured her that I came in peace. "I used to work here," I said. "What company?," she asked. "The AP," I replied. She turned rapturous. "Oh, they were such nice people," she said. "I've worked here for 25 years, and they were just wonderful."



I thanked her and left. I didn't ask for her name, and I didn't tell her what my name used to be. I walked out onto the Plaza feeling very good (and proud) about an awful lot of people.

**On Tom Kent's blog about impartial reporting in Thursday's Connecting:**

[George Krinsky](#) - I thought Tom Kent did a masterful job of explaining/defending impartial reporting as practiced by the AP for well over a century.

I ran into so much of the "no-one-is-impartial" argument while training journalists abroad that I almost despaired for the future of news. What amazed me was that these critics refused to recognize the value of hard factual reports they regularly and eagerly sought from western news media.

I came to realize that many overseas reporters were simply not accustomed (or trained) to gather and report news without passing personal (or their employer's) judgment on it. And, frankly, in some cases, it was just too much work to do the research, interview multiple sources, and keep one's ego out of the story. (Why do I do this if I can't tell people how to think about it?)

Neutrality isn't sexy, but it's still necessary.

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[Terry Anderson](#) - Thanks for sharing Tom Kent's piece. I agree wholeheartedly, and would add only that being impartial also does not mean not caring - about the people or the subject you're writing about. In fact, without passion for the job, why on earth would we be doing it?

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[Marty Thompson](#) - Tom Kent is a treasure.

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[Craig Klugman](#), editor, The Journal Gazette, Fort Wayne, Indiana - Regarding Tom Kent's essay, over the years, I have been on both sides of the objectivity debate and have listened to many people argue the objectivity-is-bullshit point of view.

Given my own beliefs and those of some people close to me who make that argument, I suspect those who want writers to flaunt their biases are mostly liberal. It pains me to say that, but it's what I've seen. They think that only if writers would be allowed to say what they think, the world would be a better place.

Those liberals ought to be goddamn careful what they wish for. Not everyone in this profession and related ones is liberal. I know a reporter who is adamantly anti-abortion, adamantly opposed to right-to-die legislation, and not very sure about same-sex marriage. Some copy editors I know think America reached its greatest heights when Reagan was re-elected.

Just a thought. A long one, perhaps, but a thought. Kent wrote it well.

### **Identifications on the Atlanta bureau photo from the early 1950s**



**Arlon Southall** - who began his AP career in 1949 in Atlanta and left in 1952, returning in 1970 until his retirement in 1994 - files this report:

First row, seated, from left: Joe McKnight, Archie Martin, Burgess Damron, Bob Brunelle, Jim Laxson, Lew Hawkins (bureau chief), Paul Simmons, Ralph Johnson, Bob Moorefield and Price Howard.

Second row, standing, from left: Vernon Butler, Sterling Slappey, O.P. Hanes, Ed Holman, Unidentified, Moe McGriff, Lamar Mathews, Hugh Schutte, Jack Sims, Roy Hutchins, Jim Thomasen, Unidentified, and Mercer Bailey.

### **And from Atlanta, Charlotte bureaus of today**

Skip Foreman and Michelle Williams were among those recognized recently for their AP service. Skip, the Breaking News



supervisor in

Charlotte, was honored for 35 years with the AP. Michelle, Atlanta chief of bureau with responsibility for Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina and South Carolina and the South regional director, is one of the new members of the AP's 25-year club.

## **Video: The AP covers the Great War, 1914-1918**

"Great Britain and Germany went to war tonight," wrote the AP's Robert Collins on August 1, 1914, from London, noting that "all Europe is now in arms." The Associated Press had covered war before, but not since the Napoleonic wars a century earlier had so many armies battled over so great an extent. This was the Great War, called "the European War" or "the World War" by contemporaries. Ten million combatants would die before it ended with Germany's defeat on Nov. 11, 1918.

Click [here](#) for the video, one of six videos that the AP Corporate Archives has created since 2013 for viewing by the AP Board. Shared by Valerie Komor.

**AND**

## **AP PHOTOS: A photographic look back at World War I**

NIEUWKERKE, Belgium (AP) - A century after the start of World War I, Belgium and France are still scarred by over 1,000 graveyards, countless bomb craters, rusting gas shells, bunkers and trenches that tore apart the Western Front for four years.



The 1914-18 conflict was so unprecedented in its scope and savagery that it became known simply as "The Great War." The front line of death and destruction burned through the Alps, Central Europe, the Balkans and Russia, spilling into present-day Turkey and reaching beyond to the Middle East and as far as China.

World War I claimed some 14 million lives - 5 million civilians and 9 million soldiers, sailors and airmen from 28 countries, from India to South Africa to the United States. At least 7 million troops were left permanently disabled.

The Associated Press has pulled key moments from its vast archive of World War I photographs and assembled them into a 100-photo timeline, beginning with the steps Archduke Ferdinand took with his wife shortly before he was assassinated to major troop deployments and the early battles in Belgium and France in 1914.

The selection shows the scope of the battles and destruction, from the Eastern Front to the Western Front to Gallipoli, from the Battle of Jutland to the horrors of Verdun, the Somme and the muddy, bloody fields of Passchendaele. It reflects technological changes such as tanks, artillery, airpower and the poisonous chemical gas that came to define WW1.

It ends with the deployment of American troops in 1917 and, after four years of fighting and exhaustion, the Armistice in 1918.

Click [here](#) to view the photos.

***Photo above - In this June 28, 1914 file photo, the Archduke of Austria Franz Ferdinand, center right, and his wife Sophie, center left, walk to their a car in Sarajevo. This photo was taken minutes before the assassination of the Archduke and his wife, an event which set off a chain reaction of events***

*which would eventually lead to World War One. (AP Photo, File)*



## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday

To

[Mike Holmes](#)

## Stories of interest

### [Survey: Journalists tend to publish first, check facts later](#)

An international survey by Dutch firm ING indicates most journalists publish stories first and check their facts later. Just 20 percent of journalist respondents said they always fact-check before publishing. In sum, the report says, "'Publish first, correct if necessary' is the order of the day":

(Shared by Connecting colleague **Claude Erbsen**, who noted, "Whoever took the survey obviously did not talk to AP people.")

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### [GE becomes legitimate online news publisher](#)

After a very entertaining stunt with Jimmy Fallon, GE, an early adopter of content marketing, has been putting a focus on hard news of late.

GE has used sites like The Economist and Quartz for native advertising to promote itself as a supporter of innovation. But its biggest and most visible effort to date came in March with the introduction of Pressing, a policy news hub that pulls in content from millennial-aimed Vox, where Pressing made a splash as a launch sponsor.

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**Make No Mistake, the Risen Case Is a Direct Attack on the Press** (Bill Beecham/Facebook)

On June 2nd, the Supreme Court rejected New York Times reporter James Risen's appeal of a 4th Circuit decision that ruled the government can compel him to reveal his source under oath. The case, one of the most important for reporter's privilege in decades, means that Risen has exhausted his appeals and must now either testify in the leak trial of former CIA officer Jeffrey Sterling, or face jail time for being in contempt of court. Risen has admirably vowed to go to prison rather than comply.



This is the latest victory of the Obama administration in their crackdown on sources, and in turn, investigative journalism. As the New York Times again reminded us, they have "pursued leaks aggressively, bringing criminal charges in eight cases, compared with three under all previous administrations combined.

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**TNR's Scott Walker cover story owed a deep debt to some great local reporting** (Latrice Davis/Facebook)

DETROIT, MI - It goes like this: a local reporter digs deep and turns out a substantive story. Then a national reporter swoops into town for a few hours or a day, with little knowledge or experience of the community. To meet a tight deadline, he or she borrows facts from the local reporting, but misses a cringe-worthy amount of context. When the national piece is published for a large audience (often not crediting local media), it is full of errors and distortions.

This is parachute reporting, and it has a bad name in journalism circles. But parachute reporting can be done right, and it's an inevitable and even essential part of the American media landscape. A couple recent works of journalism about Wisconsin show the symbiosis between local and national reporting-and how strong local coverage can inform the national political conversation.

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**Matt Lauer Asks GM CEO If She Can Run The Company And Be A Good Mom**

Matt Lauer drew fire on Thursday after he asked General Motors CEO Mary Barra if she could run the company and be a good mother at the same time. "You said in an interview not long ago that your kids said they're going to hold

you accountable for one job, and that is being a mom," he asked Barra, the first female CEO of the auto giant. "Given the pressure at General Motors, can you do both well?"

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### [Aaron Kushner's Wrecking Ball](#) (Doug Pizac)

They glumly marched into the third-floor newsroom of The Orange County Register's Santa Ana headquarters on June 9: editors, reporters, bureau chiefs, sales reps, the copy desk, photographers-almost the entire staff, gathering to hear their fate. Nearly two years to the day, Boston businessman Aaron Kushner had bought the paper and its parent company, Freedom Communications, and quickly made national news with a bold strategy: hire reporters instead of laying them off. Increase page counts instead of cutting back. Focus on print instead of digital. Start new dailies and acquire others instead of shedding them. More than 350 new hires, including about 170 on the editorial side, signed onto his vision, invigorating the Register in a way that veterans say recalled the glory days of the 1990s, when Pulitzers were won and the Sunday edition was thick enough to crush a cat.

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### [Can the New York Times kill its blogs without losing the soul of blogging in the process?](#)

The New York Times has been gradually shutting down some of its blogs over the past year or so, including its environmentally-focused Green blog, and this week the newspaper company confirmed that it plans to shut down or absorb at least half of its existing blogs, including its highly-regarded breaking news blog, The Lede. As the Times describes it, the plan is not to get rid of blogging altogether but rather to absorb and even expand blogging-related skills and approaches within the paper as a whole. But will something important be lost in the process?

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### [Canadian Broadcasting to cut at least 1,000 jobs in push for more digital news](#)

The Canadian Broadcasting Company/Radio-Canada announced today that it plans to cut between 1,000 and 1,500 jobs by 2020 as it transitions to a digitally focused news strategy. The cuts, which the company says will "transform the corporation from the traditional to the modern," will be paired with emphasis on distributing their content digitally in order to "be even more local, at a reduced cost."

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## [Rebekah Brooks Says She Is 'Vindicated' By Acquittal In Phone Hacking Trial](#)

Rebekah Brooks told a crowd of journalists on Thursday that she feels "vindicated" and "grateful" to the jury that acquitted her of a string of charges related to the phone hacking scandal. Brooks spoke outside her home. Her husband Charlie, who was also acquitted in the trial, stood next to her. "I am innocent of the crimes that I was charged with and I feel vindicated by the unanimous verdicts," she said.

## **Best of the States** (Shared by Valerie Komor)

It was a vague, 80-word press release from the Arizona Department of Corrections that piqued the reporting instincts of Arizona Statehouse Correspondent Bob Christie. The release said an inmate had assaulted an employee at a prison, but had no specifics about the victim, the nature of the attack, or what actions were being taken by the prison in the response to the incident.

Christie immediately called the Corrections Department demanding answers. But the department would only provide the name of the attacker and say the victim was a teacher. Christie promptly filed a public records request seeking investigative files and details about disciplinary action and security changes following the assault.

Two weeks passed; the department kept stonewalling. He filed a second records request. He then filed another seeking information about the attacker, ultimately obtaining a 100-page report about his criminal past and a recent rape he had committed.

Juggling the story along with the demands of a busy Arizona legislative session, Christie reached out to former workers at the prison. He found the recently retired former director of the unit where the attack occurred, and he became a key source who helped fill in the details of the attack.

The agency belatedly turned over to Christie the investigative file from the attack, and the results were shocking: The teacher was left alone in a room full of sex offenders with no guard nearby as she administered a high school equivalency exam to the inmates. The attacker waited until the other prisoners left the room and then overpowered the teacher, stabbed her with a pen and raped her. When the assault was over, he let her call a guard for help and was subsequently arrested.

Christie uncovered more startling findings. The prison did not discipline any staff in the attack, and said the assault is a risk that comes with the job of overseeing violent inmates.

Officials also said that not having a guard on-hand in classrooms was in line with accepted prison practices across the country, despite Christie's reporting from experts in other states that showed the contrary. Christie also reported exclusively that the Corrections Department was installing cameras in classrooms in response to the attack and that staff were being given pepper spray.

The piece received front-page play in Arizona papers and was featured prominently on MSN.com. It was the most-viewed story on AP mobile and among the top-trending stories on the websites of several major members such as The New York Post.

The story was a classic example the AP serving as the leader in accountability journalism at the state level. Had Christie not pushed and fought back against a reluctant state agency, the story of a tragic rape and security breakdowns at the prison may have never been told.

For his enterprising and exclusive journalism, and for enhancing the AP's, Christie wins this week's \$300 Best of the States prize.

### **Brian Carovillano**

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Connecting newsletter  
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