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**Sent:** Thursday, September 11, 2014 9:53 AM  
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**Subject:** Connecting - September 11, 2014

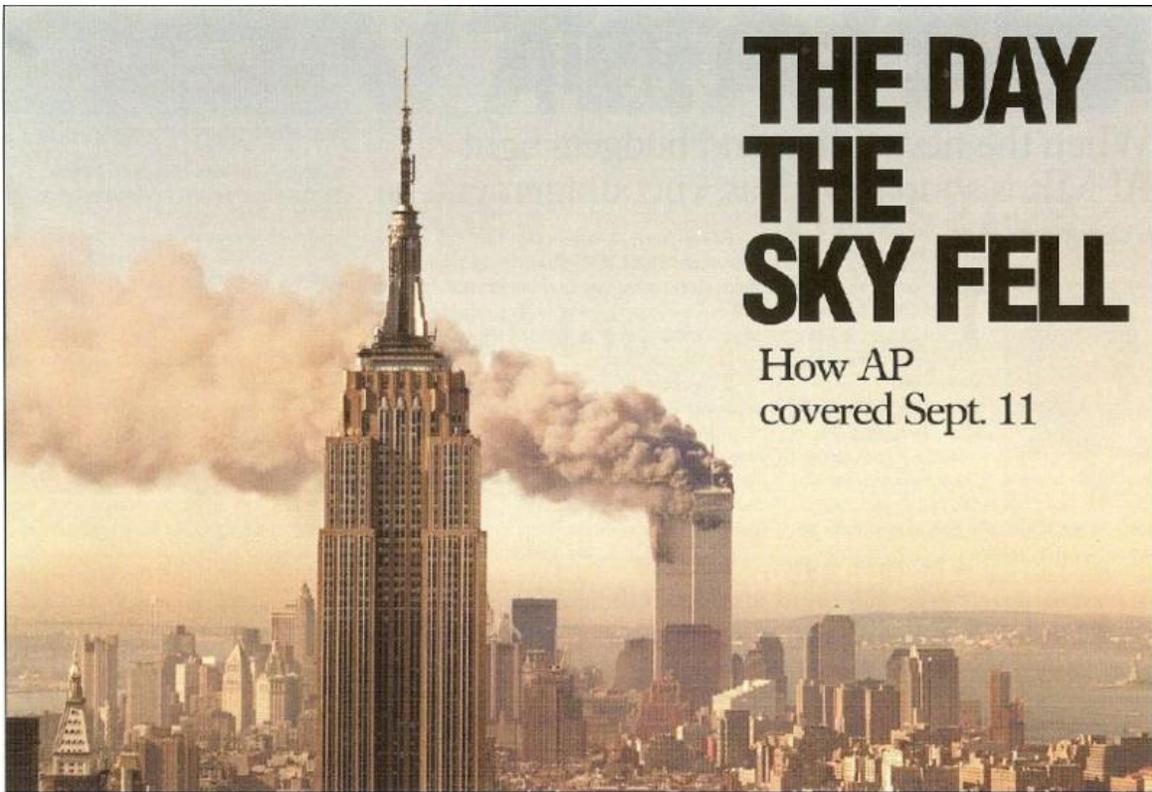
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# Connecting

September 11, 2014

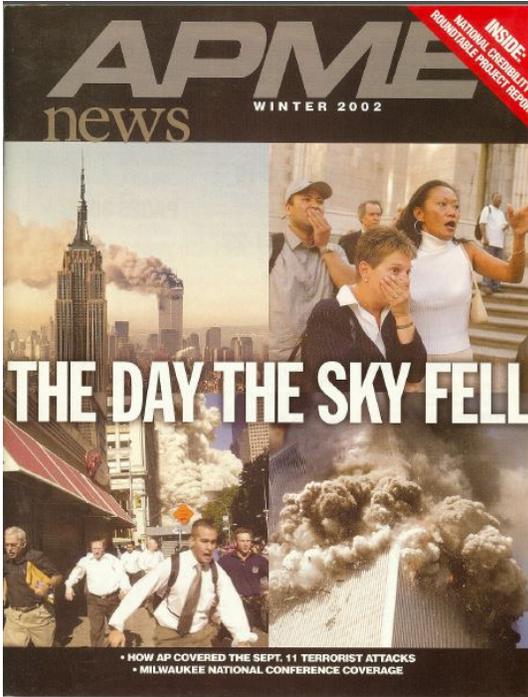
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Colleagues,

Today marks the 13th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks that changed our world.

Connecting thought it would be appropriate to commemorate the day by presenting you the special AP News Department takeout by our Connecting colleague [Mark Mittelstadt](#), then the APME liaison who was the link between the AP News department and the Associated Press Managing Editors. The account of how AP covered that fateful day was reprinted months later in the APME News magazine.



Mark recalls that Executive Editor [Jon Wolman](#) "asked me to pull that together after I got back to New York from the final planning visit to Milwaukee for the APME conference. Jody Calendar, the program chairman, and I had flown to Milwaukee the morning of Sept. 11 and knew nothing of the attacks until we got into a taxi at the Milwaukee airport.

"[Santos Chaparro](#) had flown out on another flight, and the three of us were 'stranded' in Milwaukee for a couple days after all flights were grounded in the wake of the attacks. We managed to get one of the first flights to the East Coast on Sept. 13. The New York airspace was still closed but we got a flight to Philadelphia and took a car service to our individual homes in New Jersey."

There were questions whether APME should go ahead with its national meeting four weeks later. It did, but with a substantially revised program focusing on terrorism.

The images above show the cover and at top, the iconic wire photo by AP photographer [Marty Lederhandler](#) that appeared on the first page of the article. (Marty died in 2010 at the age of 92; his 66 years with the AP made him the longest-serving AP staff member.)

Click on this link to see the entire edition:

[Mark Mittelstadt account of AP's Sept. 11 coverage.](#)

**NOTE: If you have any memories to share of your role in the coverage or where you were that day when the attacks occurred, send along to Connecting and we will use tomorrow.**

# AP Newsbreak: Source says Rice video sent to NFL

By **ROB MAADDI**, The Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) - A law enforcement official says he sent a video of Ray Rice punching his then-fiancee to an NFL executive five months ago, while league executives have insisted they didn't see the violent images until this week.

The person played The Associated Press a 12-second voicemail from an NFL office number on April 9 confirming the video arrived. A female voice expresses thanks and says: "You're right. It's terrible."

The law enforcement official, speaking to the AP on condition of anonymity because of the ongoing investigation, says he had no further communication with any NFL employee and can't confirm anyone watched the video. The person said he was unauthorized to release the video but shared it unsolicited, because he wanted the NFL to have it before deciding on Rice's punishment.

Click [here](#) to continue reading the story, shared by Max Thomson.

## As a result of the AP story, the following occurred:

AP: The NFL says former FBI director Robert Mueller (MUH'-lur) will conduct a probe into how the NFL handled evidence as it investigated domestic violence claims against former Ravens running back Ray Rice. NFL spokesman Greg Aiello says the investigation will be overseen by NFL owners John Mara of the New York Giants and Art Rooney of the Pittsburgh Steelers. NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell says Mueller will have access to all NFL records. The NFL's announcement came after a law enforcement official told the AP on condition of anonymity that he sent a tape of Rice striking his then-fiancee to an NFL executive in April."

**Rob Maaddi** has covered Philadelphia sports for The Associated Press since 2000, but there may be no greater scoop he produced than the one yesterday regarding the Ray Rice-NFL story, above.

According to his Twitter profile, Rob was born and raised in Philadelphia and is a graduate of Rutgers and Temple Universities. He's spent his entire life in the area and has covered the World Series, Super Bowl, Stanley Cup Finals, NBA Finals, as well as NCAA tournament and other major sporting events. Maaddi has been a national pro football writer for AP the last two seasons. He's president of the Philadelphia chapter of the Baseball Writers Association of America and author of a Mike Schmidt biography.



# Some great saves

By **TOM KENT**

**Deputy Managing Editor**

Every few weeks, I share with the AP staff some "great saves" by staffers who protected AP and its subscribers from hoaxes and inaccuracies. Here are some recent ones:

- Hours after an Air Algérie plane disappeared over Africa, Twitter blew up with claims that Mariela Castro, daughter of Cuban President Raul Castro and niece of Fidel Castro, was on the plane. The information came from a Facebook post by the airport in Burkina Faso where the flight began, and said Castro was on the manifest. Major newspapers in Argentina, Spain and the UK went with the story online, as did some U.S. outlets. AP Havana quickly reached a source close to Mariela Castro, who said she was not on the plane. Another source told AP she was at a conference at a Havana hotel. Newswoman Andrea Rodriguez drove to the hotel and persuaded a press official to crack open a door to the closed event: there was Mariela Castro speaking from a lectern.
- A tweet went out from "Glee" star Chris Colfer's verified account to his 2.5 million followers that said he was leaving the Fox show because of "personal issues." Retweets went out to millions more, and a series of news outlets soon reported the news. Not the AP, however. Even though the account was verified as being legitimate by Twitter, TV writer Frazier Moore followed AP policy that even tweets from verified and familiar accounts need to be confirmed before we report them. So Moore fired off immediate emails to representatives of "Glee," Fox and Colfer. Within a couple of minutes, Moore got his responses: Colfer wasn't going anywhere. The actor's account had been hacked and the tweet was bogus. Others sent corrections.
- On July 14, several news outlets carried stories with headlines like "It's a miracle! Dead child wakes up at funeral." The stories said a 2-year-old girl in the Philippines died but moved a finger and had a weak pulse at her funeral. The tale seemed too good to be true, and was just that. Manila correspondent Oliver Teves learned that others published the story without thoroughly investigating the claim. The girl was dead and had been buried. A health official had gone to her village and used a cardiac monitor to confirm there was no heartbeat, no breath and no pulse. She attributed the girl's lack of rigor mortis \_ one of the conditions that people cited to claim she was alive \_ to her small muscle mass. We stayed away from the story.
- It would have been big news. On July 17, several news organizations quoted an Israeli official as saying Israel and Hamas had agreed to a cease-fire deal that was to take effect at 6 a.m. the next day. We received several requests for the story. But AP staffers Karin Laub and Mohammad Daraghmeh decided to check further. Daraghmeh quickly got in touch with a top aide of Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal, who told him the report was baseless. Other news organizations soon had to backtrack.

## E making contact with aliens?

[Dave Tomlin](#) - Daughter Liz, or E as they call her sometimes, with Dave and wife Pam on an excursion from their summer home in Ruidoso, New Mexico, to the western part of the state. What is their daughter E doing in the photo, taken by Pam? Read on:



We took E to see the Very Large Array in western New Mexico, one of the world's largest radio telescopes. It receives signals from deep space that can be converted into images of structures and events billions of light years away and invisible to optical telescopes.

We told E to be one of the antennas. She is as likely to make "Contact" with aliens as Jodie Foster was when she pretended they were talking to her through earphones when the movie of that name was filmed at the VLA. The real VLA scientists don't use any earphones. They aren't even there. The computers that aim and coordinate the 27 85-foot dishes are miles away. But radio astronomers are certainly star-struck -- as you might expect -- and have papered the visitors' center with photos of Foster.

While we were taking this photo, somebody somewhere pushed a button and all the giant dishes began turning in unison. We told E she did it.

# Stories of interest

## [Thoughts on anonymity, identification, credibility and Fareed Zakaria's plagiarism accusers](#)

**Steve Buttry:**

If David Carr of the New York Times had documented more than a dozen incidents of apparent plagiarism by Fareed Zakaria, Zakaria probably would have lost his jobs with prominent media outlets.

But the accusations come from writers identified only by two odd-sounding Twitter handles. The substance of the accusations by @blippoblappo and @crushingbort in their blog Our Bad Media gets lost because we don't know the accusers.

Zakaria gave Politico a response to the initial accusations from Our Bad Media, denying any wrongdoing, but not addressing the substance of most of the 12 instances cited in a Aug. 19 post on Our Bad Media. I have not seen any response from him to their latest post, detailing six more instances of apparent plagiarism from his best-selling book, The Post-American World.

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## [Jay Carney joins CNN](#)

Former White House Press Secretary Jay Carney will join CNN as a political commentator, the network announced Wednesday.

He will start Wednesday night as President Barack Obama makes a prime-time statement about the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, Sam Feist, CNN's Washington bureau chief said in a statement.

"Jay's unique experience as both a journalist and a White House press secretary make him an invaluable voice for the network as we cover the final two years of the Obama Administration and look ahead to the coming campaigns," Feist said. "We're fortunate to have Jay on our air tonight to provide analysis and insight surrounding the President's address to the nation."

**AND**

## [CNN Raids Politico For Growing Digital Politics Team](#)

NEW YORK -- CNN hired three Politico journalists Wednesday as part of the network's bid to expand its digital politics team.

Politico Congress editor Steven Sloan has joined CNN Politics Digital as assistant managing editor for enterprise reporting and Politico deputy breaking news editor Jedd

Rosche is now the team's breaking news editor. Moving along with them is Politico Pro's Eric Bradner, who FishbowlDC reported Wednesday has joined as a breaking news reporter.

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### [White House doesn't believe slain U.S. journalist was 'sold' to Islamic State](#)

(Reuters) - The United States has no information indicating beheaded American journalist Steven Sotloff was "sold" to Islamic State militants by moderate Syrian opposition rebels, White House spokesman Josh Earnest said on Tuesday.

Sotloff family spokesman Barak Barfi told CNN on Monday night the family believed Islamic State paid up to \$50,000 to rebels who told the militant group the 31-year-old journalist had entered Syria.

"Based on the information that has been provided to me, I don't believe that is accurate," Earnest told a news briefing.

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### [Designer or journalist: Who shapes the news you read in your favorite apps?](#)

A new study looks at how engineers and designers from companies like Storify, Zite, and Google News see their work as similar - and different - from traditional journalism.

What are the ethics of platform design? One of the reasons that Facebook study on user emotions was so controversial is that it touched on the kinds of ethics we expect - or don't expect - from platform designers. The public debate was divided, right down to the words used to describe what happened: science, experimentation, customization, manipulation, effect, significance, consent, harm, algorithm, users, audiences. All these words mean different things to people depending on their experiences, training, values, and expectations. And the simple summary of ethics as the "study of what we ought to do" is often unsatisfying because it invokes hard questions about who is the "we" who does the deciding, what "oughts" are up for debate, and who bears responsibility. Journalists and news technology designers are increasingly finding themselves in the middle of this debate about how platforms should work.

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### [BBC goes local - and mobile - with experimental 'popup' bureaus](#)

For its latest coverage expansion, international news organization BBC is going local. Very local.

The broadcaster's latest effort, BBC Popup, is an experiment in so-called "mobile" reporting: Rather than create a permanent local bureaus, BBC is creating temporary "pop

up" offices in six U.S. cities over the next six months. The operation's first stop is Boulder, Colorado, where the BBC has already started crowdsourcing story ideas from the local community via town hall meetings.

While the focus on local coverage isn't a new one for local newspapers, it is a new and significant one for BBC, which, like any global news organization, is more likely to base itself out of major cities like New York and regional hubs like Chicago, as opposed to comparatively small ones like Boulder.

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### [Freelancing in a War Zone: Hazardous Work, Low Pay, Few Benefits](#)

The abductions and killings of James Foley and Steven Sotloff in Syria captured America's attention, but the dangerous conditions and low pay that today's freelance war correspondents face rarely make headlines.

These journalists and their advocates say that to save money, media companies have largely outsourced the newsgathering and reporting that takes place in the world's most strife-torn places. The result is that young, inexperienced journalists with little to no training, safety equipment or insurance wind up risking their lives in the hopes of selling a story - for which they might be lucky to earn \$100.

"Our safety needs to be funded," said Vaughan Smith, a former freelance video journalist and founder of the Frontline Club and the Frontline Freelance Register for freelance conflict journalists. "That cost is not being covered at the moment by an industry that has not reconciled itself with the dependence it has on freelancers," he said.

## **The Last Word**

Connecting editor **Paul Stevens** and his wife **Linda** visited the 9/11 Memorial earlier in the year. It is located at the site of the former World Trade Center complex and occupies approximately half of the 16-acre site. Before them is one of two enormous waterfalls and reflecting pools, each about an acre in size, set within the footprints of the original Twin Towers.



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