

From: Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 03, 2014 9:21 AM
To: stevenspl@live.com
Subject: Connecting - December 3, 2014

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Connecting

December 3, 2014

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February 3, 1986



AP LaserPhoto by Bruce Weaver

A Disaster Unfolds

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^PM-Space Shuttle
^BULLETIN<
  CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) - Shuttle Challenger rocketed away
  from an icicle-laden launch pad today, overcoming finicky weather
  and faulty equipment to carry aloft a New Hampshire schoolteacher
  as NASA's first citizen in space.
^MORI=
AP-NY-01-28-86 1136EST<

^PM Space Shuttle
^BULLETIN
  CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) - Space shuttle Challenger exploded
  today as it carried schoolteacher Christa McAuliffe and six crew
  members into space today.
^MORI=
AP NY 01 28 86 1141ES <

^PM-Space Shuttle, 1st add
^URGENT<
^CAPE CANAVERAL<
  There was no indication of the fate of the crew but it appeared
  there was no way they could survive.
  It was the first such failure in 26 such U.S. man in space
  missions.
AP NY 01 28 86 1143EST<
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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning!

The AP Log was as much a part of the DNA of The Associated Press as anything I experienced during my career - and I am sure the same is true for many of you.

As a news staffer, I looked forward to each week's issue to see what my colleagues were doing elsewhere in the world - and, selfishly, to see if I got mentioned for a story I did.

As a chief of bureau, I thought the AP Log was a great resource to let our members know what the AP was doing, how we justified their membership, especially since it reached not only editors but the publishers and owners who controlled the

purse strings.

Ye Olde Connecting Editor asked Charlie Monzella, who edited the AP Log from 1980 until his retirement in 1996, to recount the history of the AP Log. With a big assist from AP Corporate Archives, here is his story:

The AP Log: Telling AP's story week after week

By **Charles Monzella**

Most AP people have had a close relationship with the AP Log for their entire careers. For me, beginning in 1953, the AP Log was placed on a clipboard in the bureau for each staffer to initial after reading it.



Monzella

"Hitting the ground running" is a cliché that pretty much describes what I faced when I became editor of the AP Log in December 1980. My first issue had to deal with the assassination of Beatle John Lennon in front of The Dakota apartment complex in New York City.

From then on, I felt it was my responsibility to let our staff and members know how AP covered the world's major events. I imagine many staffers cringed whenever I called or messaged them asking for article for the AP Log, but I can't remember any of them refusing my request. We all knew how important it was to give a behind-the-headline account of AP's news and photo coverage.

That's exactly what the AP Log had been about since its beginning. An issue in 1951 carried this notation: "The Weekly AP Log. A Staff Analysis of AP News and Photo Coverage - with Notes and Comments by the Executive Editor"

Thanks to information provided by **Valerie Komor** and **Francesca Pitaro** in the AP Corporate Archives, I learned that the AP Log grew out of the AP Interoffice publication that **Alan J. Gould** began in 1941. The name The AP Log was adopted in 1943 (its name became The AP Weekly Log or just AP Log over time). Between 1943 and 1947, it was published on a regular basis by Gould, **Paul Mickelson** and **Al Resch** or "anyone else who could find the time," according to an article in AP World in 1969.

Robert D. Price became the first full-time editor in 1947 and held the post until 1965, when **A.I. (Abe) Goldberg** took over. The 1969 AP World article introduced the new AP Log editor, **Charles A. (Chuck) Welsh**. It described the AP Log as a mimeographed publication mailed each Wednesday to AP bureaus, managing editors of some newspapers and journalism schools.

"Each issue tells how AP gathered the news and pictures of the past week, and how AP made out competitively," the article said. "It praises AP folk for their

successes; recounts their failures."

After Welsh retired, **William Fitzgerald** served as editor until I took over. From the beginning, the publication remained under the responsibilities of the Executive Editor.

From the mimeographed issues on legal-size paper, the AP Log began using a folded format in 1973. For a number of years, there was only text in each issue. The first photo appeared in 1969; photos became a great way to promote the work of AP photographers.

In March 1981, we used a three-photo spread by AP Washington photographer **Ron Edmonds** showing the assassination attempt of President Ronald Reagan.

It was during my tenure that the first color photo was used. The front page contained the dramatic photo by AP photographer **Bruce Weaver** of the explosion of the space shuttle Challenger in January 1986.

Our goal was not only to promote what staffers had done but also to highlight upcoming articles. There was an entire Enterprise page in each issue devoted to AP Newsfeatures stories sent a week or two before their Sunday release dates.

In the early 1990s, the decision was made to expand the AP Log into a tabloid format. The logistics of producing this much copy and photos for each issue made it impossible to continue publishing on a weekly basis. By the time I retired in 1996, there was no actual schedule. The date of the final issue was Feb. 4, 1998.

With AP staffers later able to post blogs using the internet, the need for the AP Log declined and it stopped publication on Feb. 4, 1998.

NOTE to Connecting colleagues:

AP Corporate Archives does not have a complete set of AP Logs prior to 1980 and would appreciate donations if anyone has a stash of early issues. It also would be interested in obtaining State Logs and any International Logs, both also a great source of history for our company. If you have anything to share, please drop a note to Francesca Pitaro at fpitaro@ap.org

Connecting mailbox

'Breaking News' translated into Japanese

Kazuo Abiko ([Email](#)) - Re "Breaking News," I translated the book into Japanese, and the Japanese edition was published in June 2011 by Japan Press Research Institute, a not-for-profit, public-interest incorporated foundation. Copies were distributed by the institute to news organizations, educational institutions and

public libraries.



Kaz Abiko is shown during a "book break" event at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan several months after the Japanese edition was published. The almost identical English and Japanese editions are shown side by side.

As an AP man, I wanted to translate it as accurately as possible, so I asked many questions to many of the authors. Richard Pyle, an author of two chapters who used to be Asia news editor when I was a newsman, helped me a lot by answering many of the questions. He also kindly forwarded my other questions to other authors I did not know personally. Chikako Yatabe, former senior photo editor for Asia, helped me greatly by proofreading my original manuscripts, chapter by chapter. I also asked her to translate captions of the photos in the book, since I was tied up with translation of the entire text.

To illustrate a degree of meticulousness in the efforts, a sister or brother needs to be defined either a younger or older sister or brother in the Japanese language, perhaps because Japan is a seniority society. A simple description like "his sister" does not work. So I emailed Denis Gray in Bangkok to ask if his sister mentioned in an episode about his family getting out of Czechoslovakia in 1951 is a younger or older sister.

Going through these fact-checking processes, I found a number of errors in the original book. Valerie Komor confirmed that some errors had already been pointed out by others. With AP's permission, I incorporated those corrections in my translation, so I'm proud to say that the Japanese edition of the book is more accurate than the original.

Through email discussions with Valerie and Kelly Tunney, who encouraged me to undertake this translation work, we asked Tom Curley to write a brief remark for

the Japanese edition, partly referring to the earthquake and tsunami disaster that devastated eastern Japan a few months before the book was published. His thoughtful remark was printed on the inside fold of the front cover. It read:

This new, Japanese edition of the first history of The Associated Press since 1940 arrives at a horrific and tragic moment -- the aftermath of an earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster of historic proportions. When the magnitude-9.0 quake struck on March 11, 2011, Tokyo staffers -- augmented by AP news people around the world -- struggled to describe indescribable scenes of suffering. "Entire communities, coastlines smashed covered with mud, houses cars bridges bodies scatter -- God have mercy," an AP reporter tweeted five days after the quake.

The AP has had a vital presence in Japan since 1894, when it deployed John Whitney Hall as its first correspondent in Yokohama. Over the generations, the AP's staff in Japan has covered times of trouble, war and cataclysm; in the chaos after the 1923 earthquake that killed more than 100,000, a week passed before correspondent George Denny could file a full dispatch. But the AP has also reported on Japan's rebound from its struggles to take its place as a modern nation, roundly admired. And we will be there to tell the story of how Japan recovers and prospers again -- as it most assuredly will.

Thomas Curley
President and CEO
The Associated Press

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Margy McCay ([Email](#)) - Sandy Johnson's comments about getting "A Torch is Passed" at an estate sale reminds me how I got my copy.

I was in 6th grade when JFK was assassinated and was fascinated, horrified and confused by the tumultuous events. When our hometown paper (AP member Peoria Journal-Star) offered the book to its readers, my mother bought three copies.



(The other copies were for my two sisters. My parents always bought things of possible historic importance - mint JFK half-dollars, Project Mercury first-day-of-issue 4-cent stamps - in triplicate.)

It now lives on a bookshelf with other AP-related volumes, including many of those mentioned in yesterday's Connecting, plus a few style books and a copy of those top-bound, up-datable, fake leather-covered bureau directories.

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Charles Hanley ([Email](#)) - Our good buddy Richard Pyle referred yesterday to failures to produce an AP history book before Breaking News. But let us not forget, particularly for those with wrists too fragile to wrestle with 4.5 pounds and time too short to chew on 120,000-plus words, that though unmentioned on its title page the 1998 book *Flash! The Associated Press Covers the World* offers an AP history that's easily digestible in a half-hour's read. Pix, too! And available for a song on Amazon.

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Adolphe Bernatos ([Email](#)) - ...and in an obverse of unusual newspaper names, North Port, Fla., has a street named Toledo Blade.

AP Accused of Bias Against Israel

By Adam Kredo
The Washington Free Beacon

The Associated Press is pushing back against charges leveled by one of its former Israel-based reporters that the global news agency is systematically biased against Israel and specifically makes editorial choices meant to portray the Jewish state in negative terms.

The article by former AP reporter Matti Friedman accused the organization's Jerusalem bureau staff, as well as other reporters who cover the issue, of having an innate "distaste for Israel."

Friedman, who worked for the AP from 2006 to 2011, claims that these reporters choose and write stories about Israel based on "a belief that to some extent the Jews of Israel are a symbol of the world's ills."



The article, published Sunday in the *Atlantic*, follows on an August article by Friedman making similar claims about deep-rooted anti-Israel biases at the AP and other major news outlets.

This prejudice, Friedman wrote, even impacts editorial decisions about who to talk to. In the AP's case, "explicit orders" were given to reporters around 2008 "to never quote" the pro-Israel research organization NGO Monitor, or its founder, Gerald Steinberg.

"In my time as an AP writer moving through the local conflict, with its myriad lunatics, bigots, and killers, the only person I ever saw subjected to an interview

ban was this professor," Friedman wrote.

The AP on Monday vehemently denied these charges when approached by the Washington Free Beacon and claimed that Friedman has been promulgating "distortions, half-truths, and inaccuracies" about the news outlet.

Friedman's "suggestion of AP bias against Israel is false," Paul Colford, the AP's director of media relations, told the Free Beacon in a statement.

"It is misleading and disingenuous to selectively pick examples of our work to promote narrow viewpoints," Colford said. "The AP is proud of its staff on both sides of the border for producing a broad, independent, and comprehensive report in such adverse conditions."

Asked specifically to address the charge that AP reporters were ordered not to speak to NGO Monitor or Steinberg, Colford called the claim "demonstrably false."

"A claim that AP ordered reporters not to use Gerald Steinberg and his NGO Monitor as sources in AP stories after the Gaza war of 2008-2009 is demonstrably false, as shown in an array of more than a dozen stories in recent years quoting Prof. Steinberg by name and mentioning the group," Colford said.

NGO Monitor's Steinberg says he was not shocked to learn of the AP's purported ban on his group.

"Matti Friedman's revelations regarding the efforts to censor NGO Monitor and me as its president are not entirely surprising," Steinberg wrote Monday on the organization's website. "Based on our experience in publishing detailed research on over 150 NGOs claiming to promote human rights and humanitarian objectives, we are aware of the intense efforts to maintain the NGO 'halo effect' and prevent critical debate. While the AP censorship was explicit, we have experienced similar silencing from other media platforms."

Steinberg has further petitioned the AP to prove its claim that NGO Monitor was not banned during the 2008-2009 war in Gaza by providing a list of stories mentioning the group and the date they were published.

When asked about Steinberg's request, the AP's Colford provided to the Free Beacon six stories published since June 2009 that mention Steinberg and his organization.

Only one article is from the disputed time period, and its focus is on Hamas war crimes, not crimes regarding the Israeli side. The AP routinely publishes reports authored by NGOs critical of Israel.

In addition to his claims about NGO Monitor, Friedman recounts multiple examples of stories that he says the AP declined to publish because they did not fit

the conventional narrative about Israel and the Palestinians.

In one case, news outlets including the AP declined to cover a Nazi-style rally by militants that was held on the campus of the Palestinian Al Quds University, according to Friedman.

The rally only received attention when outlets such as the Free Beacon published photos showing students dressed in military gear and giving the traditional Nazi salute.

Friedman writes that examples "show the way in which the pipeline of information from this place is not just rusty and leaking, which is the usual state of affairs in the media, but intentionally plugged."

The AP countered that it has tried to cover all sides of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, often putting reporters in dangerous situations.

"In covering the Gaza war, the AP aimed, as always, to present a fair and accurate picture," Collard said. "Like other media covering this story, we dealt with numerous obstacles, including Hamas intimidation, Israeli military censorship, anti-media incitement on both sides of the border, Hamas rocket fire, and intense Israeli airstrikes that made it difficult to get around Gaza during the fighting."

Jonathan Schanzer, a Middle East expert and vice president for research at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD), said that reporters often find themselves in over their heads once they enter the region.

"The coverage of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict has been a circus for as long as I can remember," said Schanzer. "My sense has been for a long time that a lot of people are dropped into the conflict or arrive without the requisite context. As a result they find themselves completely beholden to fixers and to bought contacts, particularly in the Palestinian arena."

Due to language barriers and safety issues, reporters become "beholden to others who steer them to certain people and findings," Schanzer said. "As a result, real stories get hidden and lost and often times, misleading stories get published."

This entry was posted in Culture and tagged Media. Bookmark the permalink.

Click [here](#) for a copy of the story. *Shared by Paul Shane.*

AP Statement on Mideast coverage

Over the past three months, in one media forum after another, Matti Friedman, a former reporter in the Jerusalem bureau of The Associated Press, has eagerly offered himself as an authority on international coverage of Israel and the Palestinian territories, repeatedly referencing the AP. His arguments have been

filled with distortions, half-truths and inaccuracies, both about the recent Gaza war and more distant events. His suggestion of AP bias against Israel is false. There's no "narrative" that says it is Israel that doesn't want peace; the story of this century-long conflict is more complicated than that.

In covering the Gaza war, the AP aimed, as always, to present a fair and accurate picture. Like other media covering this story, we dealt with numerous obstacles, including Hamas intimidation, Israeli military censorship, anti-media incitement on both sides of the border, Hamas rocket fire and intense Israeli airstrikes that made it dangerous and difficult to get around Gaza during the fighting.

Courageous AP staffers worked around the clock in Gaza, often at the risk of great personal harm. Intense Israeli airstrikes literally shook the high-rise building housing the AP's office. Two AP employees were ultimately killed in Gaza, and a third critically wounded and maimed. Our body of work included images and stories about Hamas rocket fire from civilian areas, the suffering of the residents of southern Israel living under the threat of rocket, mortar and tunnel-based attacks, Hamas' summary executions of suspected collaborators, the fears of Gazans to criticize the group, Hamas' use of civilian areas for cover and the devastation wreaked on Gazan civilians by Israeli airstrikes and artillery attacks.

Regarding a few specific issues that Mr. Friedman has raised most recently:

- The AP published numerous photos and TV footage of rockets being launched from Gaza City. AP's Josef Federman and Hamza Hendawi collaborated on an investigation into Hamas' use of civilian areas for rocket launches, comparing maps obtained from Israeli military intelligence to facts on the ground.

- In the early days of the war, armed militants entered the AP's offices in Gaza to complain about a photo showing the location of a specific rocket launch. The AP immediately contacted Hamas, which insisted the men did not represent the group. The photo was not withdrawn and the men were never heard from again. Subsequent videos similarly showed rocket launches from within the urban area. Such intimidation is common in trouble spots. The AP does not report many interactions with militias, armies, thugs or governments. These incidents are part of the challenge of getting out the news -- and generally not themselves news.

- _ The AP looked into the earlier Al-Quds University incident with the Nazi-like salute and the Jerusalem bureau worked together with the AP's Boston bureau to produce a story about Brandeis University severing its ties with the Palestinian university over the incident. It bears noting that the Palestinians deny the gesture is meant as a Nazi salute and it is used elsewhere in the region.

- There was no "ban" on using Prof. Gerald Steinberg. He and his NGO Monitor group are cited in at least a half-dozen stories since the 2009 Gaza war.

- The repeated allegation that AP suppressed the story and details of Prime

Minister Ehud Olmert's offer for a very significant Israeli pullout from the West Bank is also demonstrably false, as AP ran stories about it in the weeks after it was supposedly made. The very notion that a major news operation would put aside a credible scoop on the details to prevent Israel from looking generous is ludicrous.

It is misleading and disingenuous to selectively pick examples of our work to promote narrow viewpoints. The AP is proud of its staff on both sides of the border for producing a broad, independent and comprehensive report in such adverse conditions.

Paul Colford
Director of Media Relations
The Associated Press

Click [here](#) for a copy of the statement.

Here's how to celebrate a birthday!



Our friend **Nancy Shipley** ([Email](#)) (at right) knows how to celebrate a birthday in style. She was joined Tuesday by former AP colleagues **Evelyn** and **Rob Dalton** for dining at the Le Jules Verne in the Eiffel Tower in Paris. Now what does she do for an encore! All three are Connecting colleagues as well!

Stories of interest

Naomi Halperin dies at age of 55

Mark Mittelstadt ([Email](#)) shares the obituary for Naomi Halperin from the Allentown (Pennsylvania) Morning Call.

Mark notes that Naomi was very active in the Associated Press Photo Managers group that met annually with the Associated Press Managing Editors, now Associated Press Media Editors, serving various roles including as president. She also was one of the key people in organizing its annual convention program and other APPM events. Mark said, "She was a bundle of energy and a lot of fun to work with. She had been sick for some time. Very sad."

Halperin, Naomi M.



Naomi M. Halperin, 55, of Allentown, passed away on December 2, 2014 at Lehigh Valley Hospital. Born in Allentown, she was the daughter of Marion Halperin and the late Edward F. Halperin. She graduated from Syracuse University, where she obtained her Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts. Naomi worked as a photographer at the Morning Call. She also served as Director of Photography at The News-Journal in Wilmington, DE. She was an award-winning photographer and served on several prestigious panels selecting other photographers to be honored. Naomi always sought to help others, trained her pets to be therapy dogs and generously volunteered her time. Naomi was a vibrant, fun loving person who filled the room with her laughter and sense of humor. She nurtured a wide circle of deep and loving friends. Survivors: Mother, Marion Halperin of Allentown; Sister, Dr. Marcia S. Halperin and her husband Norman M. Monhait; Brothers, David and Alan and his wife, Lauren; Nieces and Nephews, Laurie, Jeff, Ben and Eden; Loving and devoted Companion, Marc Gerson. Services: 1pm, Wednesday, Dec. 3, at Congregation Keneseth Israel, 2227 W. Chew St., Allentown, PA 18104. Interment to follow in Keneseth Israel Cemetery. Arrangements made by Bachman, Kulik & Reinsmith Funeral Home, Allentown. Contributions: Donations can be made to Congregation Keneseth Israel, Humane Society of Lehigh County, 640 Dixon St., Allentown PA 18103, or JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation)www.jdrf.org

Click [here](#) for a link to the obituary.

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[If the U.S. military is expanding in Iraq, why isn't it embedding journalists?](#) (Bob Daugherty)



The U.S. military will have more than 3,000 troops in Iraq sometime soon, part of an increase aimed at training up to 45,000 Iraqi soldiers to defend against Islamic State militants. But at least one major element of the Pentagon's involvement in Iraq is missing so far now: embedded independent journalists.

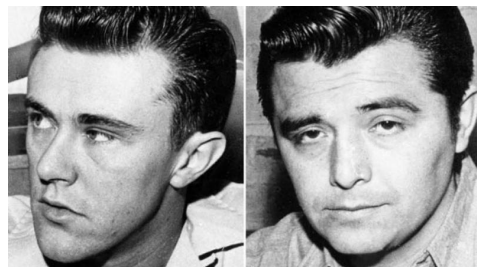
The modern media embed program in Iraq began in 2003, with 692 journalists embedding during the U.S. invasion of the country that March and the subsequent fall of Baghdad, according to a September 2004 assessment produced for the Defense Department by the Institute of Defense Analyses. The program's early goals were to dominate media coverage of the war, counter third-party "disinformation" and to nurture U.S. and international support, the report said.

Thousands of journalists have embedded with U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan since. For civilian journalists like me, the assignments provide immersive learning in the dangers that Americans and civilians alike face in war zones, the complexity of military operations and the proud, complicated culture of the service members who carry them out. Embedding can be scary at times, but it also can lead to powerful journalism that explores how a military campaign is going and what the troops prosecuting it think and feel.

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[Judge allows publication of 'In Cold Blood' files; may contradict Capote masterpiece](#)

The son of a Kansas law enforcement officer who helped investigate the 1959 killings that inspired the book "In Cold Blood" can publish his father's field notes that he says substantially contradict the account found in Truman Capote's literary masterpiece.



In a ruling made public Monday, Shawnee County District Court Judge Larry Hendricks said he made an error when he initially blocked publication of the criminal investigation files in 2012. His decision means that Ronald Nye of Oklahoma City can use his father's files for a book he plans about the slayings of prominent farmer and community leader Herbert Clutter, his wife and two children in Holcomb.

The Kansas attorney general's office had sued Nye to keep him from publishing the files. Nye had planned to auction the records, but later decided to write a book with author Gary McAvoy. Nye and McAvoy can now work with agents and find a publisher for their book.

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[The fight to get Google to pay for news continues in Europe](#)

BERLIN - The European Union's new commissioner for digital affairs didn't waste any time. Days before starting the job at the end of October, Günther Oettinger (his official title is commissioner for digital economy and society) announced plans to reform European copyright law in 2015. That could mean introducing a levy on search engines when they show results for European companies, he said - a contested issue that's been pushed by large news media companies from across Europe in recent months.

Oettinger has announced few details of his plans for copyright reform. But in an interview with the German daily newspaper Handelsblatt, he made it clear that he wants to tackle Google's profits from listing European companies in search results. "If Google takes intellectual property from the EU and works with that, then the EU can protect that property and demand Google pay for that," he said.

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[New York Times buyout watch, 2014](#) (Victor Rocha)

With a looming deadline for New York Times buyout applications, details about employees who have taken the package-or are believed to be strongly considering it-are starting to trickle out.

For starters, Capital has learned of two top business-side executives, Yasmin Namini and Tom Carley, who have opted for the buyout.

We've also confirmed that some buyout packages in the newsroom have already been accepted. Sources wouldn't specify names or numbers, but talk of potential or likely takers is spreading among their colleagues.

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[Finance media's hottest club is Ello](#)

By now, you've probably heard of Ello, the anti-Facebook social networking site founded by a handful of graphic designers. Though initially meant to be a closed experiment in network building, Ello grew popular due to its anti-advertising, anti-data mining stance. As Kyle Chayka wrote for Gizmodo not long ago, Ello also fits into the Web 1.0 trend, driven both by nostalgia for the aesthetic of decades old web design and a desire for respite from the age of massive social platforms. From

Chayka's story:

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[David Carr on the state of media: 'The consumer is making out really well'](#)

From media columnist David Carr's perch at The New York Times, it's a good time to be in publishing. In local news, as he pointed out in a recent column, the Texas Tribune is evidence of a thriving site. He has celebrated Vice's commitment to hard news. In old medialand, Jeff Bezos has brought "confidence and financial stability" to The Washington Post, aided by "strong journalistic leadership." (He did, however, allow that things aren't so rosy for the rest of the newspaper industry.)

In a conversation, lightly edited, he explains why, even though digital publishing strains to find a workable business model, staffs continue to shrink and media outlets are increasingly at the mercy of the platforms, he's still upbeat about the future of publishing.

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[Bezos on 'the thing we're changing' at The Washington Post](#)

Amazon chairman and C.E.O. Jeff Bezos is optimistic about the future of The Washington Post, which he bought last year, because the Beltway news institution is growing its digital audience while repositioning itself as a national and global brand.

"The Post was always, even though it had a national and global reputation, the product was local and that was by design," Bezos said Tuesday during an interview with Henry Blodget at Business Insider's 2014 Ignition conference.

"For a time, it was a good strategy, and as a business it was super successful for decades, but that is what we're changing," Bezos continued. "The Post has the good fortune of being the newspaper of the capital city of the United States of America, and that's a good starting point to be a national and even global publication, so that's the thing that's changing."

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[Ailing U.N. News Service Gets \\$25 Million](#)

GENEVA - Media enterprises have not figured on the list of billion-dollar deals backed by the Hong Kong-based investor Jho Low in recent years, but his family's charitable foundation is putting up \$25 million to save an ailing United Nations-owned news service that is in the business, he says, of saving lives.

Integrated Regional Information Networks, or IRIN, has operated for nearly two

decades under the wing of the U.N. office that coordinates humanitarian aid, reporting online about disasters and development to a small audience drawn mostly from aid groups, academia and the U.N.

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[When it comes to free speech, journalists should be activists](#)

No major news organization has done a better job of covering China lately than the New York Times, as attested by its Pulitzer Prize for an investigation into the wealth acquired by leaders' relatives. China's response has been, in part, to make life difficult for Times journalists and to avidly censor the journalism-part of the regime's ongoing and, it appears, escalating blockade of websites and other digital information services.

Last month, the Times took a tough stand. It had objected before, but this was a virtual declaration of independence. In an editorial the paper said it had "no intention of altering its coverage to meet the demands of any government-be it that of China, the United States or any other nation."

The writers framed this as a journalism issue: the right of a news organization to report what its journalists believe is the truth. They were also standing up for a wider freedom: people's ability to get the information they wanted from the sources they chose. Because of China's policy, both stances were a direct challenge to Beijing's censorship-and a notable contrast to the way some other western news organizations have behaved.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 3, the 337th day of 2014. There are 28 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 3, 1984, thousands of people died after a cloud of methyl isocyanate gas escaped from a pesticide plant operated by a Union Carbide subsidiary in Bhopal, India.

On this date:

In 1810, British forces captured Mauritius from the French, who had renamed the island nation off southeast Africa "Ile de France."

In 1818, Illinois was admitted as the 21st state.

In 1828, Andrew Jackson was elected president of the United States by the

Electoral College.

In 1833, Oberlin College in Ohio - the first truly coeducational school of higher learning in the United States - began holding classes.

In 1925, George Gershwin's Concerto in F had its world premiere at New York's Carnegie Hall, with Gershwin at the piano.

In 1947, the Tennessee Williams play "A Streetcar Named Desire" opened on Broadway.

In 1960, the Lerner and Loewe musical "Camelot" opened on Broadway.

In 1964, police arrested some 800 students at the University of California at Berkeley, a day after the students stormed the administration building and staged a massive sit-in.

In 1967, surgeons in Cape Town, South Africa led by Dr. Christiaan Barnard performed the first human heart transplant on Louis Washkansky, who lived 18 days with the new heart. The 20th Century Limited, the famed luxury train, completed its final run from New York to Chicago.

In 1979, 11 people were killed in a crush of fans at Cincinnati's Riverfront Coliseum, where the British rock group The Who was performing.

In 1991, radicals in Lebanon released American hostage Alann (cq) Steen, who'd been held captive nearly five years.

In 1994, AIDS activist Elizabeth Glaser, who along with her two children were infected with HIV because of a blood transfusion, died in Santa Monica, California, at age 47.

Ten years ago: It was announced that Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld was staying on the job. Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson resigned, warning as he left of a possible terror attack on the nation's food supply. The Ukraine Supreme Court ordered a rerun of the head-to-head presidential contest, setting off rejoicing by supporters of Western-leaning Viktor Yushchenko, who ended up the winner.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama hosted a White House-sponsored jobs forum, where he said he'd heard many "exciting ideas" and proposals and expressed hope some could be put into action quickly. Pope Benedict XVI and visiting Russian President Dmitry Medvedev agreed to upgrade Vatican-Kremlin ties to full diplomatic relations. Comcast and GE announced joint venture plans, with Comcast owning a 51 percent controlling stake in NBC Universal. British actor Richard Todd died in Little Humby, Lincolnshire, England, at age 90.

One year ago: Seeking to regroup from his health care law's disastrous rollout, President Barack Obama insisted the sweeping overhaul was working and warned Republican critics that he would fight any efforts to strip away its protections. A federal judge ruled Detroit could use bankruptcy to cut employee pensions and relieve itself of other crushing debts, handing a defeat to the city's unions and retirees and shifting the case into a delicate new phase. The Illinois Legislature approved a historic plan to eliminate the state's \$100 billion pension shortfall.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Jean-Luc Godard is 84. Singer Jaye P. Morgan is

83. Actor Nicolas Coster is 81. Actress Mary Alice is 73. Rock singer Ozzy Osbourne is 66. Actress Heather Menzies is 65. Rock singer Mickey Thomas is 65. Country musician Paul Gregg (Restless Heart) is 60. Actor Steven Culp is 59. Actress Daryl Hannah is 54. Actress Julianne Moore is 54. Olympic gold medal figure skater Katarina Witt is 49. Actor Brendan Fraser is 46. Singer Montell Jordan is 46. Actor Royale Watkins is 45. Actor Bruno Campos is 41. Actress Holly Marie Combs is 41. Actress Liza Lapira is 39. Actress Lauren Roman is 39. Pop-rock singer Daniel Bedingfield is 35. Actress Anna Chlumsky (KLUHM'-skee) is 34. Actor Brian Bonsall is 33. Pop/rock singer-songwriter Andy Grammer is 31. Actress Amanda Seyfried is 29. Actor Michael Angarano is 27. Actor Jake T. Austin is 20.

Thought for Today: "The well of Providence is deep. It's the buckets we bring to it that are small." - Mary Webb, Scottish religious leader (c.188

Paul Stevens
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