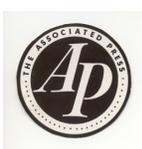


From: Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]
Sent: Friday, December 19, 2014 9:20 AM
To: stevenspl@live.com
Subject: Connecting - December 19, 2014

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Connecting

December 19, 2014

Click [here](#) for sound of the Teletype



Bidding farewell to an AP legend



Colleagues,

Linda Deutsch ([Email](#)), one of the top journalists in AP's long and proud history, has announced plans to retire Monday from The Associated Press after a career spanning nearly five decades.

The Los Angeles-based courts reporter is a Connecting colleague, and she shares the following with all of us:

"I would like to say I'm grateful to the AP, to the world of journalism and to the amazing American justice system for providing me with great stories, great friends and the chance to write history as it was happening. Some prescient AP editors many years ago thought that a very young woman reporter with a lot of ambition could handle some of the biggest stories they could throw at her. To name them all would take too long, but you know who you are. You were in many ways the architects of my career.

"I also would like to thank all those brave souls with fleet fingers who took my dictation from so many phones outside the courtrooms at countless trial sessions. No one works alone in this business and certainly not at the AP. I got by with a little help from my friends.

"You may ask, 'What now?' The answer is that I am already working on a memoir of my life in newsrooms and courtrooms for a half century. I don't plan to abandon my twin passions of journalism and justice as I move forward, I already have a couple of speeches booked, one at a law school, and I anticipate that lecturing will be part of my future. Other things may fall into my lap just as court reporting did years ago. I can't wait to see what happens."

Here is the AP story that moved Thursday. If you would like to share any memories of your work with Linda, send them along to me.

Congratulations, my friend. You make us all proud.

Paul

Veteran AP trial reporter Linda Deutsch to retire

By JOHN ROGERS
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Linda Deutsch, whose decades-long tenure as an Associated Press courts reporter made her a witness to some of the most sensational trials

in U.S. history, is ending a career that saw her report Charles Manson's murder conviction, O.J. Simpson's acquittal and countless other verdicts involving the famous and the infamous.

Deutsch, who wraps up a 48-year career with the AP on Monday, was a young general assignment reporter in 1969 when she was thrust onto the court beat. A rag-tag band of young hippies, influenced by a petty criminal who had reinvented himself as their guru, broke into two upscale Los Angeles homes on successive nights and killed seven people, including actress Sharon Tate.

When Manson and his followers went on trial, Deutsch was sent to an LA courtroom to back up a veteran AP reporter. The trial became a huge story, with Manson's followers carving Nazi swastikas into their foreheads and disrupting the courtroom with chanting and singing. At one point, Manson himself leaped over a defense table and tried to stab the judge with a pencil.



"I thought, 'Oh, this is really something. I didn't know trials are like this,'" Deutsch recalled recently.

By the time Manson and his followers were convicted, Deutsch was the AP's trials expert. She would eventually earn the title "special correspondent" as she traveled the country reporting on the most prominent court cases of the day - everything from the 1976 trial of newspaper heiress and kidnap-victim-turned-bank-robber Patty Hearst to the negligence trial of the captain of the tanker Exxon Valdez, which caused one of the worst oil spills in U.S. history.

After Michael Jackson was acquitted of molesting a teenage fan, he called Deutsch for an exclusive interview. When the "Night Stalker," Richard Ramirez, was sentenced to death for a series of murders that terrorized Los Angeles in the mid-1980s, Deutsch was the first reporter out of a packed courtroom, running down a hallway to corral a handful of jurors who told her the survivors' testimony of being raped and witnessing murders had given them nightmares for months.

"She's just extremely ethical, extremely professional and very, very honest," said high-profile defense attorney Thomas Mesereau, who watched Deutsch work as he successfully defended Jackson on the child molestation charge and actor

Robert Blake on a murder charge. "If she tells you something is off the record you can bet your life that it is. She also has a great belief in the importance of her profession as an honorable, valuable institution in society."

Deutsch had been covering trials for 25 years when the public finally put a face with the veteran AP reporter's byline. After one of America's most beloved sports stars, O.J. Simpson, was charged with killing his wife and her friend, Judge Lance Ito made her the pool reporter during jury selection. She went on to appear on television every day to summarize what had transpired.

Then, after the yearlong trial ended, Simpson tracked her down while she was vacationing and called to give his side of the story. It was the first of many conversations over the next 13 years that would lead to exclusive interviews with the fallen football hero.

After retiring from AP, Deutsch, 71, plans to write a memoir recapping those moments and others in her life.

"Linda leaves an incredible legacy," said Traci Carl, who as AP's West editor oversees 13 states. "For five decades, she bore witness to some of the most sensational trials in U.S. history. She cherished her role as the public's eyes and ears at these events, and never wavered in her commitment to accurate and objective reporting."

She was also a barrier-breaking pioneer. When Deutsch joined the AP's Los Angeles bureau, she was its only woman.

"She persevered and her work has inspired countless journalists, male and female," Carl said.

It was just last month that her final AP exclusive came when she broke news that Manson, now 80 and serving a life sentence, is planning to marry a 26-year-old follower.

"It's as if everything has come full circle," she said, shaking her head. "Somebody said there's a dark symmetry in there."

How I got my first job in journalism



Kevin Noblet ([Email](#)) - While in college in the early 70's, I got 25 cents a column-inch and \$15 a photo from the Willimantic (CT) Chronicle to cover the outlying village of Ashford. I mostly attended various town board meetings, a terrific introduction to small-town issues and democracy, and to the role a local paper plays in it. (I especially liked the Zoning Board of Appeals meetings. Really. If there's anything people get passionate about, it's their property, and their next door neighbor's.)

I'd go back to my student hovel and typewrite my story and then drive to the paper, often at 1am or 2 am, to leave my story in a big mailbox. I'd get up the next morning, go to classes and then pick up a copy of the paper to see my byline. In a good month I made \$250.

Woodsy and sleepy, Ashford hadn't had anyone covering it for something like a year, at least not regularly like I did. So my stories, while very straightforward reports, stirred up local politics, giving townspeople something to argue about. One member of the Board of Selectmen hated me for that. I'd come into the meeting and he'd sneer, "Here comes Woodward. Or is it Bernstein?" I was green as could be, and too shy to reply. But I kept reporting and eventually he quit. A small victory for democracy in a very small town.

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Kent Zimmerman ([Email](#)) - It all started with two newspaper delivery gigs, and then an after-school job running an Addressograph in the Circulation Department of my hometown newspaper, the Edwardsville, Ill., Intelligencer during the winter and summer when the tennis team didn't have practices. Then it was time to get out of the small town, and I headed down the road 100 miles to study journalism at Southern Illinois University, where I worked on the student newspaper, The Egyptian, and edited the monthly newsletter of the National Peach Council. After my last semester as editorial page editor, I went looking for a job in the real world and was hired after my first interview at - you guessed it - my hometown newspaper. I moved to a couple more newspaper jobs after that, always staying in touch with Joe Dill, my former colleague on the student newspaper and then the AP's ACOB in Chicago. He finally convinced me to move to the big city and give it a try, so I joined him and the AP in Chicago in 1966.

Connecting mailbox

We need to seek out diverse voices

Michelle Morgante ([Email](#)) - Latin America Desk Editor in AP's Mexico City bureau - joined others in sharing her experiences in Wednesday's Connecting on landing her first job, and she offers some further thoughts on what she wrote:



If I can share a thought with you.... I was inspired to write my first-job story after reading the earlier entries and noticing that many of our colleagues landed their first jobs with help from someone they knew - a family member, a family connection to a paper. ... We in the news industry often wonder why there aren't more Latinos/Blacks/Asians/Native Americans in journalism, and whether we are ready to cover our changing readership demographics.

I've always felt that one of the reasons there aren't more Latinos (to refer to my personal background) is that young Latinos just aren't connected to the pipeline that leads to journalism jobs. Heck, we don't even know there is a pipeline. I happened to discover it only through luck.

I wanted to share my story in hopes that AP will understand that if we value diversity, and we should, we need to seek out these diverse voices. We can't just sit back and wait for resumes to come in over the transom. For the most part, they won't, because those kids don't know about the transom.

(Michelle, who had earlier assignments as Minneapolis chief of bureau and Miami assistant chief of bureau, was born in Lindsay, California, a farming community that is one of the state's economically poorest. Her mother's family emigrated from Mexico to work as migrant farm laborers. Her father was born in Lindsay, but his parents were from Mexico and southern Italy (thus, the Morgante name).)

Reinds sworn into Peace Corps



Jim Reindl ([Email](#)) - Thirty-one new Peace Corps volunteers were sworn in on Thursday by U.S. Ambassador to Ghana Gene A.Cretz, among them Jim and Graca Reindl who like the others are shown with their home-stay family, who surprised them with matching (very colorful) outfits. The ceremony was in Anyinasin, a small village where we trained for most of 10 weeks. Now we're off to 24 months of service in Wusuta in the beautiful Volta Region. We'll be a half hour walk from Lake Volta, world's largest man-made lake. We're 6km from the nearest paved road to anywhere. Come visit!

Remembering APME visit to Cuba

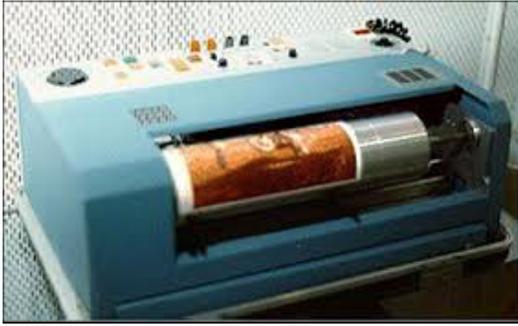


Mark Mittelstadt ([Email](#)) - Members of the executive committee of the Associated Press Managing Editors association made a three-day study trip to Havana in April 2004 to meet with government officials to discuss Cuba-U.S. relations and conditions in the island country generally. The trip included meetings with the wife of a jailed dissident plus a separate meeting with a frequent critic of the regime, and roundtable sessions with political, health and agricultural officials. Among other Cuban officials, the editors met with then Parliament chief Ricardo Alarcon. Alarcon was removed by new president Raul Castro in 2013 along with several other leaders of the Communist Party's Central Committee. Following the meeting with the APME leaders, Alarcon (center) posed for a photo with then APME President Stuart Wilk (third from left), then AP Havana Chief of Bureau Anita Snow, Lance Johnson, former editor of The Day, New London, Conn., and Mark Mittelstadt, former APME executive director (right).

That was a UPI transmitter, not AP

It seemed like such a simple, innocent item in Thursday's Connecting:

Larry Hamlin ([Email](#)) - I think I recall you mentioning in a previous Connecting, something about getting a recording of the AP WirePhoto sound. Click [here](#) for a one-minute clip I recorded from one of the old portable transmitters.



Problem was, as **Bob Daugherty** was the first to point out, the photo that went with it was misidentified as an AP transmitter. In fact, it was one operated by UPI. Several Connecting colleagues with sharp eyes and memories wrote to point this out. Highlights:

Brian Horton ([Email](#)) - Yes, Bob's right. The light blue on the cover is the giveaway. AP transmitters of that era and design were cream colored with a dark brown bottom. (See below, right) I think UPI called this the 16S. It was quite the envy of the AP staff because it was so much lighter than what we were using at that time. I think, too, that the audio is of a UPI transmitter. The speed of the beeps sounds odd to me and the start sounds like UPI's "rolling white" start to each transmission.

The AP portable transmitter which came along later looked similar but was more square. Basically, here's a rundown of the print-based transmitters we used domestically in the time I was either stringing in college or working for the AP.



Model 4000s and 6000s were gray metal boxes (no paint) about the size of a suitcase that also had separate power supplies with them. Really heavy equipment. These were the spinning drum transmitters where the print passed from right to left across a stationary light source.

Toho transmitters were upright imports from Japan that had a spinning drum except the light source moved across the print instead of the other way around. Smaller and a little lighter with no separate power supplies. These were the first of the more portable transmitters used domestically, though they were a rarity and only the larger bureaus had access.

LaserPhoto transmitters - these were the blue boxes that were quite heavy. Replaced all of the earlier equipment because the AP's transmission speed was changed for domestic use. Print was fed into a chute on top.

AP Portable Transmitter - very similar to the UPI 16S. About the size of a portable typewriter. Lightweight. Allowed a selection of domestic and international transmitting speeds and also could send color separations from a color print. Was a huge step forward in portability for the AP staff though UPI had their version for many years ahead of us.

From there, we got into the Leafax, etc.

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Bob Daugherty ([Email](#)) - I recall a 'secret' mission Hal Buell sent me on to MIT in Boston. I was not to contact the bureau and the prints were to be made at my home. The Laserphoto machines were under development by professors Troxell and Schribner in a WWII type building on the campus. I went through a pack of cigarettes blowing smoke into the red laser beam to make it visible to the camera. I came back through NYC to photograph the finished machines. To my surprise, they were wooden mock ups. Finally, there was to be a red 'laser' beam as a part of the AP brochure that was to be used for the announcement. In order to make the beam bold enough for the brochure production, I finally used a small flashlight, a red filter and a star filter. I later traveled to the Harris Corp. facility in Florida. There I saw workers comprised mostly of Hispanic women assembling the receivers.

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Cliff Schiappa ([Email](#)) - Who in their right mind would have a smile on their face listening to the high pitched sound of a photo transmitter? Me for one... and I'd wager there were many other Connecting readers who joined me in reveling in that blast from the past. Now I need to ask the other readers.... did it sound a little bit higher and faster than an AP drum transmitter? The photo included in your story looked like a UPI photo transmitter, and I can't recall if they operated on different cycle/speed/frequency than an AP transmitter.

I remember the very first time I tried transmitting a photo to AP. It was November of 1977 and I was a photo stringer in Columbia, Mo., while attending the J-School there. I covered an MU basketball game and had to drive back to the PM member newspaper, the Columbia Tribune, to process, print and caption the photo using the call letters of CBA. I couldn't use the darkroom at the Columbia Missourian, the city's AM paper operated by the J-School because it was a UPI client. The transmitter at the Tribune was pre-LaserPhoto, (techs, help me with the model number please!) a machine that had a clutch and drum. Well, after many repeated attempts to xmit, I had to go to plan B and wound up putting the photo on the Greyhound Bus to the St. Louis bureau. So much for making AM deadlines!

Perhaps somewhere there might be a one minute recording of the voice traffic on the photo network announcing upcoming photos and a final lineup. Wow,

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Mark Mittelstadt ([Email](#)) - We always loved it in the Des Moines bureau when Bob Jarboe would turn the sound up when transmitting so he could hear it back

in his dark room. It was a form of torture, I am sure, during state basketball and wrestling tournaments when there were a lot of images to print and transmit. The confidential secretary as they were called then, Connie Mekus, usually found that a good time to go downstairs to get coffee or to go run an errand.

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Neal Ulevich ([Email](#)) - The brief leading to a YouTube on the sound of wirephoto transmission of course was AM, the US domestic standard. Overseas for radiophoto we used the FM standard, more resistant to static and other forms of electronic noise, also more musical.

The YouTube piece you shared led me to this one. How Chevrolet ever got into explaining the nature of wire photo transmission I have no idea. Click [here](#) to view the video.

Doubling down on state government coverage

By **Erin Madigan White**

Building on The Associated Press' unmatched presence in all 50 U.S. statehouses, we are adding to our competitive advantage by creating a team of state government specialists.

As announced today to the AP staff, the specialists will collaborate with statehouse reporters, as well as on their own projects and stories focused on government accountability and strong explanatory reporting. Their over-arching goal will be "to show how state government is impacting the lives of people across the country," said **Brian Carovillano**, managing editor for U.S. news.



Tom Verdin, AP's administrative correspondent in Sacramento, will assume a new position leading the team of specialists full time. He's supervised a number of high-impact projects, including AP's coverage of the rollout of the Affordable Care Act.

Joining Verdin on the team will be National Writer **David Crary**, reporters **David Lieb**, **Ryan Foley** and **Christina Almeida Cassidy**, as well as Central Enterprise Editor **Tom McCarthy**.

The New York-based Crary is an expert on many of the social issues state governments are tackling, from gay rights to abortion and adoption, and he'll continue to focus on many of those issues. Lieb has owned the state government beat in Missouri. From Chicago, McCarthy has been Lieb's editor and partner on some of his best recent work, and he will serve as editor for many of the stories the State Government Team produces.

Cassidy has been AP's state government reporter in Georgia. And Foley, based in Iowa, is among AP's strongest watchdog reporters.

Here, Carovillano answers a few key questions about today's announcement:

How will the state government specialists differ from the AP reporters already assigned to all 50 statehouses and state bureaus?

The team will complement what our excellent state government correspondents do every day across the country and allow us to bring extra reporting firepower in on the most important stories. Let's say there's a trend emerging from several statehouses that our folks on the ground identify. The state government team will work with reporters in those states - and with the data team, if necessary - to bring depth and a national perspective to that issue and show how it's playing out across the country.

They'll be a resource to our statehouse reporters looking for help broadening the scope of their reporting, and a projects team that will partner with folks in the states to pursue bigger and more ambitious enterprise on the business of state government. And the focus really needs to be on how that impacts peoples' lives. We don't cover state government for the state government; we cover it for all the people of the state. The message here is that state government coverage is essential to AP and its members, and we are doubling down on that commitment, which should benefit the entire cooperative.

How else has AP expanded and strengthened state news coverage across the country?

We've hired 13 statehouse reporters over the past year. A few of those are new positions; a few filled positions that had been vacant. We are and will remain committed to staffing every statehouse. And we'll add about 40 additional contract reporters to cover legislative sessions next year, in addition to the permanent staff.

AP President and CEO Gary Pruitt has identified state news coverage as a companywide priority. What other steps are being taken to bolster AP's state news franchise?

Well, we have made some hires in key locations. I mentioned the 13 statehouse reporters we've hired this year. We've also made hires on some essential beats,

such as politics, immigration, courts/crime and education. Beyond that, we are really pushing our state bureaus to focus their time and effort on content that is exclusive to AP and that our members and subscribers can't get anywhere else. That needs to be our guiding principle. We do that exactly as we always have: by developing sources and breaking stories, being fastest on big breaking news, and by providing explanation, analysis and depth on the stories that have the biggest impact on peoples' lives.

To help the bureaus recommit to this kind of high-value content, we're setting up centralized operations in each region to handle "shared" news from the cooperative. These are the stories and images we pick up from one member and redistribute to the other members in that state. We're also going to be putting more resources into social media newsgathering, and especially user-generated content, in each of the four U.S. regions. This lets us be in a lot more places than ever before, but it's critical that we do it without compromising at all on the AP's reputation for accuracy and fairness.

The Associated Press just did something very smart

By Chris Cillizza, The Washington Post

(Chris Cillizza writes "The Fix," a politics blog for the Washington Post. He also covers the White House.)

Here's an announcement from the AP that you probably missed today:

Building on The Associated Press' unmatched presence in all 50 U.S. statehouses, we are adding to our competitive advantage by creating a team of state government specialists.

As announced today to the AP staff, the specialists will collaborate with statehouse reporters, as well as on their own projects and stories focused on government accountability and strong explanatory reporting. Their over-arching goal will be "to show how state government is impacting the lives of people across the country," said Brian Carovillano, managing editor for U.S. news.

This is a very, very good idea.

As I have written many times in this space, one of the undertold-but-massively-important stories of the shrinkage of mainstream media organizations over the last decade is the disappearance of really good state capitol coverage. Many state and regional newspapers who took as their prime mission covering the machinations - politically and from a policy perspective - of each of the state capitols have been forced to make deep cuts in their budgets for that sort of



reporting. And, for the most part - and the WaPo may well be an exception in the Jeff Bezos era - major national news organizations haven't been able to adequately fill that void.

The result? Not surprisingly, less coverage - and, as importantly, fewer reporters with deep institutional knowledge - of state capitols. That's particularly bad given how much is happening - particularly when it comes to policy incubation - at the state level of late, and how much it affects the national policy debate.

The AP never really left state capitol coverage. (They were all over Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback's problems in the state - and with his state legislature - over the last few years.) But, adding an entirely new team to elevate to do deeper explanatory and investigative work in state capitols shows that the AP understands just how much they matter not only to states but to the federal government.

And that's not even mentioning the fact that at least eight governors (or former governors) - Mike Huckabee, Rick Perry, Jeb Bush, Scott Walker, Chris Christie, John Kasich and Bobby Jindal for Republicans, Martin O'Malley for Democrats - are in some stage of considering a run for president in 2016. Given how drastically over-covered Hillary Clinton's expected presidential campaign will be - particularly given the small chance she will face a genuinely competitive primary - having more people in these state capitols to mine the records of the various governors running for the big office is a smart investment.

Then there is the intangible value of having reporting tentacles in a state. The Post provides a great example in its Virginia coverage. Roz Helderman's time spent in Richmond was absolutely integral to her series of stories that led to the conviction of Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell on 11 counts of corruption. The Post's commitment to Virginia also meant that T. Rees Shapiro was perfectly positioned to raise questions about Rolling Stone's story of a sexual assault at the University of Virginia or scramble dozens of reporters to the mass shooting at Virginia Tech in the middle of the last decade. Or that the Post can be all over the absolutely remarkable/appalling story of state Del. Joe Morrissey.

In our own small way, we here at The Fix have done what we can to preserve the importance of state capitol reporting with our annual list of the best state-based political reporters. (We last did this in 2013 and plan to update our list next year.) And the Post announced just today a partnership with the Texas Tribune, one of the best state-reporting models - ok, the best model - in the country.

State-level political journalism has taken a huge hit over the last 10 years. Let's hope the AP's move is the leading edge of a journalistic reinvestment in the states.

More great saves by AP staffers

By Tom Kent

Every few weeks we distribute to the AP staff examples of great saves by our staffers who protected us from hoaxes and inaccuracies. Here are some of the latest:

A SUSPECT SNIPER

The video looked like it had been shot on the front lines of Syria's civil war. It looked so real that the Islamic State group's official website posted it as a de facto event, which drove up its popularity. The footage opens with a young boy on the ground, apparently shot by a sniper as he attempts to save a nearby girl. The boy gets up after the first apparent gunshot wound and the viewer can hear distinct Syrian voices in the background celebrating the boy's survival. Then, as he gets up and runs toward the girl again, he is "shot" a second time, a cloud of smoke billowing from his midsection as he falls forward. As impossible as it sounds, he gets up again, takes the young girl by the hand and runs out of view of the camera as more shots are fired at his feet. Millions of YouTube viewers watched and shared the viral content. Some other news organizations picked up the video and treated it as authentic. The AP did not. When the video emerged, Jon Gambrell and Patrick Quinn in Cairo were skeptical. They noted the quality of the footage, the steady camera position, likely on a tripod, and the clear audio. There was a lack of blood and the miraculous nature of the boy's repeated survival. They decided to avoid the video. After the video had made its rounds, the BBC reported that the dramatic footage was actually shot in Malta, using professional actors, cameras and audio gear. The producers even employed Syrian refugees as the convincing voices in the background. The group that produced the film said they wanted to bring attention to children in war zones and presented it as real because they thought it would get more attention that way.

CALM DOWN, EVERYONE: PELE IS FINE

Soccer great Pele's health had been hospitalized for treatment of a urinary tract infection. Suddenly, the hospital released an alarming-sounding statement saying the 74-year-old Pele had suffered "clinical instability" and had to be transferred to a "special care unit." Some news outlets quickly filed stories saying that Pele's condition had worsened and hinted his life was in danger. AP's sports writer in Brazil, Tales Azzoni, decided to be careful with the hospital's badly worded statement, especially because it wasn't clear enough to allow us to say that Pele's condition had deteriorated significantly. Azzoni was able to contact one of Pele's spokesmen and it turned out that the former player was doing just "fine." After Pele was released from the hospital on Tuesday, doctors confirmed in a news conference that his life was never in danger as suggested by many reports. Pele was eventually transferred to an intensive care unit, but it wasn't because of any serious complications. Pele had already used his Twitter

account to calm fears over his health, and in the news conference he said the illness was "a scare" but he never feared for his life. One of Pele's agents wrote Azzoni an email saying that she was glad we reported it correctly to "calm everyone down!"

NOT A QUEEN PLOT

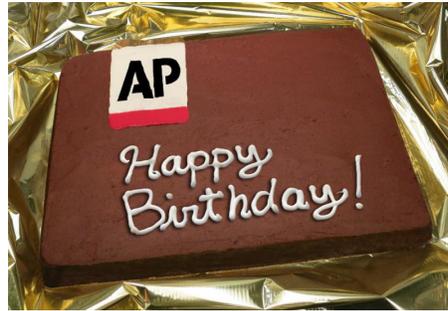
With Islamic State militants regularly threatening Western interests, the headlines seemed plausible enough: a plot against Queen Elizabeth II had been foiled in London and the suspects were in custody. It is true that the queen is a terrorist target, in general, and that she prefers light rather than intense security. It was also true that there had been terror-related arrests just days before the Queen was to lead a national ceremony honoring British armed forces members who had died in action. But it wasn't true that the two things were linked, as one British paper reported, and others quickly followed. The AP held off and instead started to make calls. London's acting chief of bureau, Greg Katz, contacted British intelligence sources at MI5, who told him that the reports were not true. The arrests, which we reported, may or may not lead to charges, and may or may not have been related to a plot on UK soil.

BEARLY REALISTIC

Caleb Jones at AP's New York Nerve Center spotted video that had been posted to Facebook by an outdoors group in New York state. In the video, a mountain biker wearing a GoPro camera sees a bear charging toward him. The man speeds off, looking over his shoulder periodically as the bear continues to chase behind him. Finally, he comes to some brush on the trail, hops off his bike and watches as the large bear appears to be spooked away by what sounds like gun shots. The video was dramatic, though Caleb was quick to determine that the video shows a brown bear, not native to New York, and expressed skepticism in his initial email. East Assistant Regional Editor Jeff McMillan concurred that it seemed fishy and suggested that someone on the video team check into it. Video Content Manager Walter Ratliffe spotted other videos on YouTube that appeared to possibly contain source video from which a fake edit might have been made. Social Media Editor Eric Carvin noted that lighting on the image of the bear did not appear to match its surroundings and there were other video artifacts present suggesting an edit. User-generated content specialist Hannah Cushman noted that it seemed highly unlikely that someone would get off his bike in this situation. And finally Walter again checked out the group's YouTube page and found a more obviously faked video of a puppy ice bucket challenge. The video has gone viral, but AP was quick to determine it is not real.

We salute these staffers for protecting AP's excellent record for accuracy.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

[Sibby Christensen](#)

Stories of interest

[Journalist sues over arrest at protest in Ferguson, Missouri](#)

(Reuters) - A Washington-based journalist has sued St. Louis County and one of its police lieutenants, saying his rights were violated when he was arrested while covering protests over the killing of an unarmed black teenager by a white police officer in Ferguson, court papers showed.

Gerald Yingst, a reporter and producer with News2Share, also accuses police of defaming him by announcing his arrest on Twitter and saying he had refused a commander's order to clear the street, damaging his professional reputation.

A St. Louis Police Department spokesman referred inquiries about the lawsuit to the St. Louis County counselor's office. No one answered calls placed there on Thursday evening.

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[Ken Doctor: "Rosewater," cascading censorship, and press freedom](#)

I remember the early summer day in Moscow well. I had one day to myself to explore a bit of the city after conducting a two-day workshop for Russian regional publishers. By late afternoon, I was ready to return to the hotel and prepare for the next morning's flight home. I braved the Moscow Metro, knowing that a single line could bring me close to the hotel without transfer. The subway offered little English and I hoped my matching up of the Cyrillic

station name on my notes and on the train would work.

It almost did, taking me close to the Tatiana Hotel, at 11, Stremyanniy Pereulok. While I splurged for an exorbitantly priced Russia data plan, Google Maps failed to locate me or my destination. Wandering the streets, looking for familiar buildings, I happened upon a beacon of hope - a Western-looking coffee cafe. I ordered and then asked for help. Two women behind the counter tried their best to figure out where the Tatiana might be, took their best guess, and then patiently and broadly gestured out a route. Believing I had the right direction in mind, I thanked them for their generous help and ventured out.

[The year in media errors and corrections 2014](#)

Correction of the Year

This New York Times correction combines Kimye, butts and a writer treating a fake news website and a fake radio station as real. Bravo:

An earlier version of this column was published in error. That version included what purported to be an interview that Kanye West gave to a Chicago radio station in which he compared his own derrière to that of his wife, Kim Kardashian. Mr. West's quotes were taken, without attribution, from the satirical website The Daily Curreant. There is no radio station WGYN in Chicago; the interview was fictitious, and should not have been included in the column.

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[Dallas Morning News names new editor: Mike Wilson, from ESPN's FiveThirtyEight site](#)

The Dallas Morning News today named Mike Wilson, managing editor of ESPN's FiveThirtyEight news site, as the newspaper's new editor starting Feb. 16.

He will succeed current editor, Bob Mong, who announced in August that he would retire in 2015 after being in that position since 2001. Mong joined The News as assistant city editor in 1979.

Wilson brings both digital and traditional print newspaper experience to help The News continue to navigate the fast-changing media landscape. He has been a reporter, editor and author in a journalism career spanning three decades.

"I was looking for someone with experiences leading a traditional newsroom's transition to the digital environment, and also someone who had the curiosity and courage to step out and lead a pure-play digital site that published important journalism," News publisher and chief executive Jim Moroney said in a statement. "In Mike, I found both."

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[Texas Cop To Reporter: 'You Act Like A Whore, You Get Treated Like One!'](#) (Shared by Bill Beecham)

A police officer in Austin, Texas was recently caught on tape making sexist remarks about the Ray Rice domestic violence case to a radio reporter.

Joy Diaz, a reporter at Texas NPR affiliate KUT, reported on Thursday that she was recently approached at a police union building by veteran officer Andrew Petrowski.

According to audio captured by Diaz, Petrowski offered an unprompted take on the case of NFL running back Ray Rice, who knocked out his then-fiancee in an elevator in February.

"I don't care who you are," Petrowski said on the recording. "You think about the women's movement today, [women say] 'Oh, we want to go [into] combat,' and then, 'We want equal pay, and we want this.'"

"You want to go fight in combat and sit in a foxhole? You go right ahead. But a man can't hit you in public here? Bullshit!" the officer continued.

"You act like a whore, you get treated like one!" he added on the tape.

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AP Best of the States

Mississippi has cut funding to its schools by \$1.5 billion since 2008. That fact alone is attention-grabbing, since the state's schools were already among the worst in the nation.

Jackson newsman Jeff Amy came to that startling total using figures provided by the state. But he decided to go a step farther and see what the consequences of the Legislature's decisions looked like on the ground. And he recognized at the outset a prime chance to offer members something they could localize. It's that extra effort that wins Amy this week's Best of the States citation.

To tell the story for a national audience, Amy took it hyper-local. He traveled with photographer Rogelio Solis to the tiny town of Durant, so rural that the closest Walmart is about 20 miles away.

What he found: Teachers scouring the Internet for classroom lessons because the school can't afford enough books to go around; no marching band, no AP classes, a leaking roof and crumbling ceiling tiles; administrators who had slashed teaching staff and taken pay cuts themselves, and who hired only

teachers fresh out of school, since they're cheapest.

To provide more value for members, Amy started with an advocacy group's district-by-district estimates of how much each had been shorted by the state. Then he researched every district to note which ones had raised property taxes to offset the state cuts, and by how much. (Some had raised them so high they couldn't legally go any higher.) He also calculated what percentage of each district's budget came from the state, giving members a complete picture of their districts' finances in one spot.

Amy's spreadsheet went out to members on a Tuesday, along with an advance copy of the unabridged story. An abridged version moved nationally five days later.

The story, edited by the South desk's Jacob Jordan, won outstanding play in-state: The (Jackson) Clarion-Ledger ran it on 1A, with six photos, the AP's 5 Things breakout and the paper's own sidebar. The (Biloxi) Sun Herald ran the story, two photos and the 5 Things inside A, and localized it with a story and another numbers box. The Commercial Appeal in Memphis (which covers north Mississippi) wrote a local story that was about half the AP's material, and used local numbers in a breakout. At least 10 other Mississippi papers used the AP's story, wrote their own off the numbers AP provided, or both.

Interest nationally was strong as well, with prominent placement on major portals such as Fox News and HuffPo, and full print play as far away as The Denver Post.

For spotting a statewide dataset that he could build on to create something exclusive for members, and for reporting it out in a way that showed its national significance, Amy wins this week's \$300 prize.

(Shared by Valerie Komor)

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Dec. 19, the 353rd day of 2014. There are 12 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 19, 1974, Nelson A. Rockefeller was sworn in as the 41st vice president of the United States in the U.S. Senate chamber by Chief Justice Warren Burger with President Gerald R. Ford looking on (in a first for the Senate, the proceeding was televised live).

On this date:

In 1777, Gen. George Washington led his army of about 11,000 men to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, to camp for the winter.

In 1813, British forces captured Fort Niagara during the War of 1812.

In 1843, "A Christmas Carol," by Charles Dickens, was first published in England.

In 1907, 239 workers died in a coal mine explosion in Jacobs Creek, Pennsylvania.

In 1932, the British Broadcasting Corp. began transmitting overseas with its Empire Service to Australia.

In 1946, war broke out in Indochina as troops under Ho Chi Minh launched widespread attacks against the French.

In 1950, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower was named commander of the military forces of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

In 1961, former U.S. Ambassador Joseph P. Kennedy Sr., 73, suffered a debilitating stroke while in Palm Beach, Florida.

In 1972, Apollo 17 splashed down in the Pacific, winding up the Apollo program of manned lunar landings.

In 1984, a coal fire at the Wilberg Mine near Orangeville, Utah, killed 27 people. Britain and China signed an accord returning Hong Kong to Chinese sovereignty on July 1, 1997.

In 1986, Lawrence E. Walsh was appointed independent counsel to investigate the Iran-Contra affair.

In 1998, President Bill Clinton was impeached by the Republican-controlled House for perjury and obstruction of justice (he was subsequently acquitted by the Senate).

(Stations: Al Goldstein entry, note title of magazine)

Ten years ago: In Iraq, car bombs tore through a Najaf funeral procession and Karbala's main bus station, killing at least 60 people and wounding more than 120 in the two Shiite holy cities. In Baghdad, three Iraqi election officials were killed execution-style by insurgents. Time magazine named President George W.

Bush its Person of the Year for the second time. Opera singer Renata Tebaldi died in San Marino at age 82.

Five years ago: A U.N. climate conference in Copenhagen ended with a nonbinding accord to show for two weeks of debate and frustration; the deal was brokered by President Barack Obama, who attended the conference on its final day. A snowstorm paralyzed much of the eastern U.S. on the last holiday shopping weekend.

One year ago: Discount retailer Target announced that data connected to about 40 million credit and debit card accounts had been stolen as part of a breach that began over the Thanksgiving weekend. The ceiling partially collapsed onto a packed audience at the Apollo Theatre in London, injuring almost 80 people, seven of them seriously. Al Goldstein, 77, the publisher of Screw magazine who smashed down legal barriers against pornography, died in New York.

Today's Birthdays: Country singer Little Jimmy Dickens is 94. Actress Cicely Tyson is 90. Former game show contestant Herb Stempel is 88. Rhythm-and-blues singer-musician Maurice White (Earth, Wind and Fire) is 73. Former South Korean President Lee Myung-bak is 73. Actress Elaine Joyce is 71. Actor Tim Reid is 70. Paleontologist Richard E. Leakey is 70. Musician John McEuen is 69. Singer Janie Fricke is 67. Jazz musician Lenny White is 65. Actor Mike Lookinland is 54. Actress Jennifer Beals is 51. Actor Scott Cohen is 50. Actor Robert MacNaughton is 48. Magician Criss Angel is 47. Rock musician Klaus Eichstadt (Ugly Kid Joe) is 47. Actor Ken Marino is 46. Actor Elvis Nolasco is 46. Rock musician Kevin Shepard is 46. Actor Derek Webster is 46. Actress Kristy Swanson is 45. Model Tyson Beckford is 44. Actress Amy Locane is 43. Pro Football Hall of Famer Warren Sapp is 42. Actress Rosa Blasi is 42. Actress Alyssa Milano is 42. Actor Jake Gyllenhaal (JIH'-lihn-hahl) is 34. Actress Marla Sokoloff is 34. Rapper Lady Sovereign is 29. Actor Iain de Caestecker (TV: "Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D") is 27.

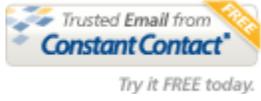
Thought for Today: "Worse than not realizing the dreams of your youth, would be to have been young and never dreamed at all." - Jean Genet (1910-1986).

Paul Stevens
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