

**From:** Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 15, 2015 8:56 AM  
**To:** stevenspl@live.com  
**Subject:** Connecting - January 15, 2015

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# Connecting

January 15, 2015

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning!

Connecting devotes much of today's issue to Charlie Hebdo, which - a week after gunmen stormed the newspaper's offices, killing 12 people - went on sale Wednesday, in five languages and in more than 20 countries, featuring a cartoon purporting to be Mohammed on its front cover a week after jihadist gunmen stormed the satirical weekly's offices, killing 12 people.

France 24 reported that the satirical weekly normally prints 60,000 copies a week and that this week's print run will be five million (up from three million announced on Tuesday), distributed over the next two weeks. It is a record for any French newspaper, with versions being printed in Spanish, Arabic, Italian, Turkish and English for the first time.

Click [here](#) to read more.

Several Connecting colleagues shared their thoughts on the controversy among news organizations around the world on whether to publish the front cover of Charlie Hebdo, which shows a turbaned man (not explicitly the Prophet Mohammed) shedding a tear and declaring that he too "is Charlie" - "Je suis Charlie" was the slogan of a huge outpouring of grief and solidarity in France in the days that followed the attacks. The front-page figure adds that "all is forgiven". Here are their thoughts:

**Mike Holmes** ([Email](#)) - These issues are never easy.

But when it comes to the Charlie Hebdo cartoon, I think a passage from the really good book about the Pentagon Papers fight ("The Papers and the Papers," by Sanford Ungar) applies.

At a pivotal moment in those discussions -- heavy stuff, national security vs. the First Amendment -- someone said:

"The only way to assert the right to publish is to publish."

Glad you did.

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**Joe McKnight** ([Email](#)) - Mine is a "voice in the wilderness," but I'm surprised -- and disappointed -- at news media reaction to the Charlie Hedbo horror in Paris. Media worldwide in all its forms would have done the civilized world a favor by widely publicizing the Hedbo cover that mindless terrorists found so offensive. The magazine, the Koran, the Bible -- all publications -- printed for whatever purpose are just publications, published for profit. People find the contents the basis for information, entertainment or personal worship.

Tom Kent's report on the reasoning why The AP did not offer its members certain material is a bit confusing and to me seemed defensive. I can understand the AP position

of not offering certain pictures because of their offensive nature. But an image that resulted in so much carnage, and world-wide reaction, demands attention. For the most part during my 41-year career, The AP position was to offer the news and news pictures, not to judge them. That was, and still is, the responsibility of the media which distributes it to the public. Publications which wanted to reproduce the cover of Charlie Hebdo at issue found ways to get it.

I have an old Wirephoto showing Actor Mickey Rooney, who was short of stature, leering eye-level at the covered breasts of a statuesque Actress Jane Mansfield. It's obviously comedy but I can understand why publishers might see it as offensive.

While working in Wichita, I offered two Wirephotos of a man who tried to shoot it out with police. The first showed him standing in snow in front of a house, naked except for jockey shorts and holding a gun; the second showed him sprawled in the snow, dead or dying of police gunshot wounds. The photo monitor in New York was concerned about my description and took both pictures in on a private call, then told me to send both on the network. Some editors may have found them offensive, but our job was only to send out the news.

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**Steve Graham** ([Email](#)) - As if the French didn't have enough sorrow these days, including a "snub of state" by Barack Obama, they now have to endure American TV talking heads mispronouncing Charlie Hebdo.

The 'h' is silent and the word comes from hebdomadaire, the French word for "weekly."

In other words, it's eb-DOH.

I'm sure, however, that our French friends gave up a long time ago. What can one do with a country that corrupts chaise longue into chaise lounge? Horrors.

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**Harry Cabluck** ([Email](#)) - Hope the Charlie Hebdo cover was not misunderstood, hereabouts.

It's satire, right?

In this country, perhaps, we might have the character say something like, "I am Charlie...Not!" We might headline it, "All is Forgiven...Not!"

Subtle...Not!

Conciliatory...Not!

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**Neal Ulevich** ([Email](#)) - Regarding Jim Lagier's ill-considered comment in Jan. 14 Connecting, Rick Gladstone and I worked together in the AP Beijing bureau in the 1980s. He is not an asshole.

## ***Other opinions on the publication controversy***

### **New York Times public editor Margaret Sullivan:**

Readers responded passionately, and in large numbers, to my post last week about The Times's decision not to publish the now-famous Charlie Hebdo cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad. (In fact, I've never had more comments on a post or column.)

A vast majority of readers were critical of The Times's decision, feeling strongly that both because of news value and in order to reinforce free speech and show solidarity with a publication under attack, The Times should have published them.

Just Monday, a new decision came along and The Times stayed with its earlier determination, showing no image of the new cover of Charlie Hebdo, which features a tearful Muhammad, holding a "Je Suis Charlie" sign, with a tagline that says "All is forgiven." Instead, a Times article described the cover image and linked to an article that showed the cover illustration.

But that's of little help to the print readers, who - if their only news source was The Times - could have gone through this whole tumultuous week without much sense of what the offending cartoons look like. That does them a disservice.

Click [here](#) to read more. (Shared by Sibby Christensen)

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### **Kansas City Star public editor Derek Donovan:**

A number of readers have contacted me to urge The Star to run the cartoons published by French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo that (at least ostensibly) that offended the gunmen who killed 12 and wounded at least 11 more on Jan. 7.

"It is (The Star's) duty as an upholder of the concept of free speech to show us what they were so mad about, and let us decide if it was a problem or not," said one caller.

Another reader wanted The Star to run another image likely to offend a different audience. "Why doesn't The Star publish one of that mag's more depraved images, the one showing a three-way sodomite party, with Jesus Christ, God the Father and the Holy Ghost as the main attraction?" he emailed.

Click [here](#) to read more.

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### **Politico's Dylan Byers:**

In the wake of the Paris terrorist attacks, both America's paper of record (The New York Times) and its network of record (CNN) have declined to show Charlie Hebdo's cartoons of the Islamic Prophet Muhammad on the grounds that they might offend Muslims. The decision to forgo publication of these highly relevant news images has sparked a robust debate about free speech, religion and media ethics. One question that seems to have been glossed over is whether or not the media have any obligations to the preferences of a religious group, or any group of people, in the first place.

As previously noted, the Times has a history of publishing artwork and cartoons that have offended both Jews and Christians. See its coverage of "Piss Christ" in 1999, which very much offended the Catholic League; an Iranian exhibition of "anti-Jewish art" in 2006; and an Iranian cartoonist's "anti-Jewish caricatures" in 2010. So, at least up until Dean Baquet's tenure as executive editor, which began last year, the Times' policy against "gratuitous insult" did not preclude offensive religious images.

The image of the prophet Muhammad, however, seems to occupy its own category, with its own rules. Last week, Baquet told me via email that as editor of the Times he had to consider "the Muslim family in Brooklyn who read us and is offended by any depiction of what he sees as his prophet." [sic] When I replied, "I just wonder about the Jewish family in Brooklyn," Baquet responded as follows:

I would really do some reporting --- I did -- to make sure these parallels are similar for the two religions. You may find they are not. In fact they really are not.

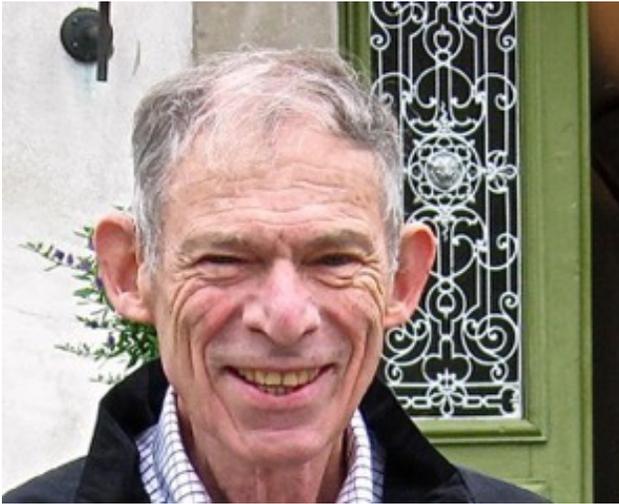
Click [here](#) to read more.

## **How I Got My Job: Hired, Fired, Rehired Twice, Then - Much Later -Lured Away**



**Mike Feinsilber** ([Email](#)) -

In 1956, when I was about to graduate from Penn State, I went to 50 Rockefeller Center for a job interview and was also interviewed at college by Al Stees, the assistant United Press eastern division manager. AP said it would circulate my application; Stees immediately offered a job in Pittsburgh: \$67.50 a week. I took it. After my first day at work, AP called with a job in Philadelphia. But I had 24 hours of loyalty to UP. So I stuck with UP. (It didn't become UPI until a few years later, when it merged with the International News Service.)



Near the end of the six-month probation period, during which I could be fired without cause or severance, the bureau manager sat down with me: We like your work, Feinsilber, he said, but damn it, you're draft bait. And if you got drafted and decided to come back after two years in the military, UP would have to pay you - and at third-year scale! So...

Word of this got to the Guild chapel chairman. He had a chat with the bureau manager. He may have made the point that firing someone because of his draft

status might be of questionable legality.

The bureau manager withdrew my firing. And a month later, the Selective Service board in my hometown sent me a post card. The boss had been prescient. I did get drafted. I served two years. I did reapply to what was now UPI. And UPI did rehire me, as the law required. At third-year scale, something like \$100 a week.

Skip to 1980. By then I'd worked for UPI in Pittsburgh, Columbus, Harrisburg, Newark, N.J. as bureau manager, New York as a feature writer/editor, Saigon, and mostly in Washington.

One sunny morning, a competitor, the late AP reporter Harry Rosenthal, coasting along his snazzy car, saw me walking down the street to catch a bus. He offered a ride. He said he had something in his desk that he suspected might interest me: An unhappy ex-UPI executive had filed suit against his former employer and the legal papers listed the salaries of all the top UPI honchos. Would I like to see them? Would any UPI reporter want to see what his bosses were paid? You bet.

So Harry parked and we walked to the AP bureau. Eyebrows rose. What's this? A UPI reporter in the AP bureau? What the hell was going on?

Walter Mears, who has just turned 80 and whose birthday reminded me of this piece of personal history, was bureau chief. Walter had gotten to know my work earlier, when he was head of the AP's Senate staff and I was one of the competition. Now he saw me

wandering around the AP bureau, keeping my eyes lowered and trying to shrink. Sitting in his glass-walled office, Walter waved me in. The conversation was brief:

Walter: How would you like to work for AP?

Mike: I would like to work for AP.

And thus my life was turned around and considerably improved. I spent the next 25 years at AP and another five or so as a part-time writing coach in the Washington bureau.

Years later, Walter enlisted me to write the civil rights chapter in "Breaking News: How the Associated Press Has Covered War, Peace, and Everything Else." It was a piece of writing I took much pleasure from. When the book came out in 2007, Walter inscribed my copy, "For Mike, my best decision as COB."

Well, I don't know about that, but I know that the wave of his arm years ago led to the best decision of my professional life.

## Connecting mailbox

### ***THE Walter Mears?***

**Brian Steffens** ([Email](#)) - on Walter recently celebrating his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday:

THE Walter Mears? The Washington Bureau Chief for the Detroit News while I was a lowly newsroom scrub flitting from job to job (picture editor, copy editor, assistant news editor, assistant graphics director) on the third floor of the Detroit News back in Detroit?

Back then "real" journalists lauded the Free Press and sometimes chided the News, and the Freep did have an outstanding Washington bureau ... but that TEAM couldn't beat Walter. He made the rest of us Newsies proud.

## **New guidelines issued for US news media leak investigations**

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Justice Department on Wednesday announced revised guidelines for obtaining records from the news media during leak investigations, removing language that news organizations said was ambiguous and requiring additional levels of review before a journalist can be subpoenaed.

The updated policy revises protocols announced last year amid outrage among news organizations over Obama administration tactics. It was released two days after the Justice Department formally abandoned its yearslong efforts to compel a New York Times reporter to testify in the trial of a former CIA officer accused of disclosing classified information.



"These revised guidelines strike an appropriate balance between law enforcement's need to protect the American people and the news media's role in ensuring the free flow of information," Attorney General Eric Holder said in announcing the new procedures.

The Justice Department had begun reviewing its own guidelines in 2013 and last February issued new rules designed to give news organizations an opportunity to challenge subpoenas or search warrants in federal court. But news organizations expressed concern that the protections applied only to journalists involved in "ordinary newsgathering activities" language they said was vague and could be exploited by zealous prosecutors.

That provision has been deleted in the new guidelines, which also require the attorney general to authorize subpoenas issued to members of the news media and for the Justice Department's criminal division to also be consulted.

"We are very pleased the Justice Department took our concerns seriously and implemented changes that will strengthen the protection of journalists for years to come, with the public being the ultimate beneficiary," said AP President and CEO Gary Pruitt.

AP General Counsel Karen Kaiser praised the changes for eliminating "potential ambiguity of what constitutes newsgathering and help provide consistency in how the guidelines are interpreted across investigations and administrations."

The Obama administration has been criticized for bringing more leak cases than all predecessors combined, with media organizations particularly critical of maneuvers they said were intrusive and needlessly aggressive. Under Holder, the department secretly subpoenaed telephone records from Associated Press reporters and editors during an investigation into a 2012 story about a foiled terror plot, and labeled a Fox News journalist as a "co-conspirator" and used a search warrant to obtain emails from him.

But in the last year, the twilight of Holder's six-year tenure as attorney general, the department has shown signs of modulating its approach in national security leak investigations. Holder has publicly expressed regret for the actions in the Fox News case and said several times that no journalist would go to jail under his watch for doing his or her job.

Last month, the Justice Department said it would stop trying to force New York Times

reporter James Risen to reveal his source in the trial of ex-CIA officer Jeffrey Sterling, which opened this week in Virginia. On Monday, prosecutors formally announced that they were abandoning all efforts to seek his testimony after Risen, in an unusual pretrial hearing, made it clear that he had no interest in helping their case.

"What they would lose in public perception would far outweigh what they would gain by forcing him to do something he's already made clear he wasn't going to do," said Jane Kirtley, a University of Minnesota professor of media ethics and law.

Lucy Dalglish, dean of the Philip Merrill College of Journalism at the University of Maryland, said any shift in Justice Department practice should not be mistaken as a newfound sign of benevolence for the news media. Instead, federal prosecutors are aware that a subpoena to a journalist inevitably causes prolonged court fights and a public-relations bruising, and so have looked for other ways to build criminal cases against leakers.

"It's time-consuming, it's expensive, it takes your attention away from what you're trying to accomplish," she said. "And I believe that, in recent years, they have become more confident that they can handle these cases without cooperation from journalists," she said.

But, she noted, "If they didn't think they had the tools to pull off these investigations, they wouldn't be giving the media a break."

## **AP's paginated sports previews get new look from GateHouse**

The Associated Press' paginated sports previews are getting a fresh new look for 2015. GateHouse Media's Center for News & Design will design and produce the pages, starting with the Super Bowl, set for release on Jan. 22.

Known as AP Sports Extra, the preview pages are popular among the news cooperative's newspaper members as they showcase AP's quality sports coverage, save newsroom time and resources, and provide an easy vehicle for local advertising sales.

GateHouse will oversee design and pagination of the pages in coordination with AP. They will be distributed through AP's delivery systems in Adobe InDesign, Adobe Illustrator and PDF formats.

"AP newspapers and their readers and advertisers will appreciate the new look and design of these easy-to-use pages," said Barry Bedlan, AP's deputy director of sports products. "GateHouse brings a fresh approach that will benefit all users of these pages."

The Center for News & Design, which opened last year in Austin, Texas, edits and designs

more than 175 newspapers and offers those services to publications outside GateHouse. It also is home to GateHouse's niche service, More Content Now, as well as content-processing teams for its newspapers and websites.

"Our pages are beautiful, snappy and are being featured in both small and large newspapers today," said David Arkin, vice president of content for GateHouse. "We believe AP members will find that readers will be huge fans of these pages as they are easy to read, look great and are on topics that are relevant to everyone."

Besides the Super Bowl, Sports Extra pages are available for major sporting events such as the PGA's Masters, NCAA men's basketball tournament, NFL draft, NASCAR Sprint Cup chase, and college football's bowl season, among others. The pages are provided in full broadsheet, half broadsheet and tabloid sizes to newspaper subscribers of AP Sports.

## Stories of interest

[Flocking to Buy Charlie Hebdo, Citizens Signal Their Support of Free Speech](#) (Shared by Sibby Christensen)

For people who are supporters of not just free speech but newspapers, too, the images of Parisians queued up at dawn Wednesday to get their hands on a printed artifact was heartening. The French distributors of the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo said the latest issue's initial printing of three million copies had been increased to perhaps five million, and there were reports that the now-precious editions were being auctioned on eBay for hundreds of dollars.

The image on the cover was of a weeping Prophet Muhammad, framed by two thoughts: "I am Charlie" and "All is forgiven." But the sentiment that drove the sales probably had less to do with those messages and more to do with the impulse to preserve a world in which the speech of the many cannot be held hostage by a few.

The overwhelming response to the special issue of the newspaper, which normally has a print run of 60,000, is a sign that the citizens buying it wanted more than just a totem memorializing the fallen journalists; they were making an affirmative, political act, a vote in support of free speech. Just last month, consumers had responded in large numbers to the opportunity to stream "The Interview," the Sony film that had been withdrawn from theaters after the studio was hacked by forces supported by the government of North Korea.

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### [Blasphemy Revisited](#)

My post last week in the immediate aftermath of the Charlie Hebdo murders received an unusual amount of favorable feedback from readers of varying persuasions, for which I'm grateful. It was also written in a mood that was perhaps not completely nuanced and

reflective, so I want to return to the issues now in the hopes of both clarifying and qualifying certain elements of the argument. This will be the first of at least two posts trying to do just that.

The original post made three broad points: First, that laws against blasphemy and offense-giving are generally a terrible idea; second, that cultural restraints (in various forms) on blasphemy and offense-giving are quite often reasonable and decent; and third, the kind of offense-giving that's often most worth defending or even embracing is the kind that's made in the face of, or in response to, lethal violence.

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### [Report: Detained Washington Post journalist indicted in Iran](#)

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) -- A Washington Post journalist detained in Iran for months has been indicted and will stand trial, Iran's state news agency reported Wednesday, without elaborating on what charges he faced.

The report by the official IRNA news agency came the same day as U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry met with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammed Javad Zarif before talks with world powers resume over the Islamic Republic's contested nuclear program.

It wasn't immediately clear if the two events were connected, though Zarif earlier said he hoped the case against reporter Jason Rezaian could be "resolved."



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### [A War Photographer Embeds Himself Inside a Video Game](#)



The Last of Us Remastered is a post-apocalyptic video game released earlier this year on PlayStation 4 with an in-game Photo Mode, which freezes the game and lets players shoot, edit and share photographs of their achievements.

TIME assigned conflict photographer Ashley Gilbertson to use the Photo Mode to document the game's protagonists as they fight to survive in a zombie-infested world. Gilbertson writes about his experience.

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### [Facebook Will Push Amber Alerts to Users' News Feeds](#)

Amber Alerts, which already buzz your cellphone, light up highway billboards and appear on television and radio broadcasts, will now start showing up in your Facebook feed, too.

About 200 Amber Alerts are put out by American law enforcement agencies every year to inform people about children who have been abducted and are at serious risk of death or injury. The authorities ask those getting the alerts to keep an eye out for the child or suspected abductor, and typically provide basic information, like a photo of the child and the license plate number of the car driven by the suspect.

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### [Utah opens new hub for GRAMA open-records requests](#) (Shared by Bill Beecham)

Utah has opened a central online location for people to submit open-records requests to state agencies.

The open-records portal at <http://openrecords.utah.gov> is an attempt to cut through some of the bureaucratic difficulties in locating who at a particular state agency would field the request and how to contact them.

"The portal is a central point for requesting access to records from state executive agencies," according to a Department of Administrative Services news release. "The portal will be expanded over the next two years to include local governments as well."

Impetus for creating the portal came from the Utah Transparency Advisory Board. Sen. Deidre Henderson, R-Spanish Fork, is the chairwoman of that panel and sponsored the authorizing legislation (SB70) last year.

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### [Newspaper in Israel Scrubs Women From a Photo of Paris Unity Rally](#) (Shared by Bob Daugherty)

**הטרור האסלאמי בראש סדר היום העולמי:**

# נשיא ארה"ב יוזם מפגש פסגה בינלאומי בוושינגטון שיעסוק בהתמודדות מול הטרור

איסי קורא לרפורמה באסלאם ■ גורמי מודיעין: "הפיגועים בפריז היו רק יריית הפתיחה" ■ קמרון:  
"הג'יהאד עוד ילווה אותנו שנים רבות" ■ מתקפות ואימים על מערכות עיתונים נוספים



**מאת יעקב א. לוסיגמן**

התנועה של אבאמה לטרור הטרור  
שה נכל רובי תוקלם, שר המסמכים  
האמריקאי, אריק תלוד, הדיע אהמול  
כי נשיא ארה"ב בוס אבאמה אירח  
בירוש הבא תיחד סמך בינלאומית,  
אילו יוזמה כל מטוני המיתות הידי  
זות של ארה"ב תועלת היסוד ב-18  
למדיאר בושינגטון.

החשש מפני המסור הטרור האס-  
לאמי הפך אהמול למוחסי יותר, עם  
מסומ דר חות מודיעינים שדברו  
לאחר ירוש והתמביות של  
בנידום באקל"ש ביטום הארונים  
מהתמביות עולה כי פהינו "מי  
דינה האסלאמית מתייחסים לשינויים  
בפריו כאל "יריית הפתיחה" בלבד,  
ושנינים כי ביטום הקרובים יסתחג  
מסמ של מתקפות טורר בנינים אירי  
מאות נוספות, עם רגש על ערים טר-  
כות ברובות רוסא, כי לט הריוונים  
הרגש כי למות ירוש והתמביות  
והבנות הכללית, לרגוני המודיעין  
אין עדיין מרע ספסיס על כוונה לבי-  
עץ מינוע בעיד מסוים באירופה.  
החשש ועידת הסמנה שיכנס אבאמה  
והאם היא תכלול גם עילות לשינוי  
התקנת הבינלאומית, או, למקרת

**הטרור האסלאמי הפך להיות נקיה לכל עולמית, מוביני העולם בעצרת בפריז אתמול**

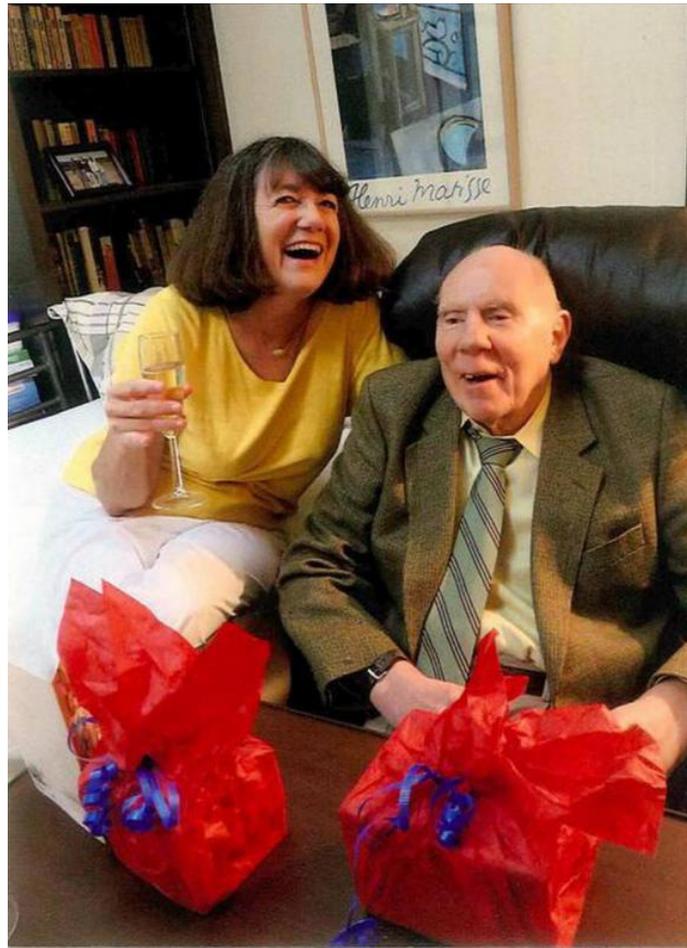
JERUSALEM - Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany was right there next to the president of France on Sunday, marching through the streets of Paris for all the world to see - all the world, that is, except the readers of an ultra-Orthodox newspaper in Israel.

The newspaper, HaMevaser, altered a third-page photograph of the march to remove Ms. Merkel and other female leaders, setting off snickers and satire on social media.

Ultra-Orthodox publications generally avoid pictures of women for reasons of modesty, and their intended audience has been known to scratch women's faces out of bus advertisements and to bar them from running for public office in their parties. But some people saw the deletions from the Paris photograph as a more serious sin.

### The Last Word

*Long, remarkably detailed obituary of Kansas City man was written by his widow with love*



In the fourth column of the English-born doctor's obituary Sunday it is stated: "David was a religion to his many friends."

By the time one reached the bottom of that long, fittingly long, memorial to David Cromwell Jenkins, one devoutly wished there'd been a chance to join that religion.

The obituary was unusual in its length, and rare in its ability to capture the little things of an extraordinary life lived among us.

For that reason - knowing that some readers might have been put off by the 3,311 words, suspecting wrongly that it was padded with a lifetime of awards and board positions - The Star has reposted the page in full on KansasCity.com (also, Sunday editions are available for a week at newsstands).

Jenkins' adoring wife, Debbie Borek, 61, wrote the piece, describing herself in it as "a passionate Anglophile since childhood, she felt she had met Lord Peter Wimsey (bon vivant British sleuth in a series of detective novels) in the flesh, and pursued him doggedly."

Click [here](#) to read more.

# Today in History

**By The Associated Press**

Today is Thursday, Jan. 15, the 15th day of 2015. There are 350 days left in the year.

## **Today's Highlight in History:**

On Jan. 15, 1865, during the closing months of the Civil War, the Second Battle of Fort Fisher near Wilmington, North Carolina, ended as Union forces captured the "Gibraltar of the South," depriving the Confederates of their last major seaport.

## **On this date:**

In 1559, England's Queen Elizabeth I was crowned in Westminster Abbey.

In 1777, the people of New Connecticut declared their independence. (The republic later became the state of Vermont.)

In 1862, the U.S. Senate confirmed President Abraham Lincoln's choice of Edwin M. Stanton to be the new Secretary of War, replacing Simon Cameron.

In 1919, in Boston, a tank containing an estimated 2.3 million gallons of molasses burst, sending the dark syrup coursing through the city's North End, killing 21 people.

In 1929, civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. was born in Atlanta.

In 1943, work was completed on the Pentagon, headquarters of the U.S. Department of War (now Defense).

In 1947, the mutilated remains of 22-year-old Elizabeth Short, who came to be known as the "Black Dahlia," were found in a vacant Los Angeles lot; her slaying remains unsolved.

In 1967, the Green Bay Packers of the National Football League defeated the Kansas City Chiefs of the American Football League 35-10 in the first AFL-NFL World Championship Game, known retroactively as Super Bowl I.

In 1973, President Richard Nixon announced the suspension of all U.S. offensive action in North Vietnam, citing progress in peace negotiations.

In 1989, NATO, the Warsaw Pact and 12 other European countries adopted a human rights and security agreement in Vienna, Austria.

In 1993, a historic disarmament ceremony ended in Paris with the last of 125 countries signing a treaty banning chemical weapons.

In 2009, US Airways Capt. Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger ditched his Airbus 320 in the Hudson River after a flock of birds disabled both engines; all 155 people aboard survived.

Ten years ago: Wilbert Rideau, an award-winning black journalist who'd spent nearly 44 years in Louisiana prisons for the 1961 death of a white bank teller, Julia Ferguson, was found guilty of manslaughter in a fourth trial by a racially-mixed jury and set free, his original sentence for murder reduced to time already served. Mahmoud Abbas was sworn in as Palestinian president. Michelle Kwan won her ninth title at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Portland, Oregon; Johnny Weir won his second straight men's title. Actress Ruth Warrick died in New York at age 88. Opera singer Victoria de los Angeles died in Barcelona, Spain, at age 81.

Five years ago: United Nations humanitarian chief John Holmes appealed for more than \$560 million to help 3 million victims of the earthquake in Haiti, calling it "a huge and a horrifying catastrophe." Washington Wizards star Gilbert Arenas pleaded guilty to carrying a pistol without a license in the District of Columbia, a felony. (Arenas was later sentenced to a month in a halfway house and suspended until the end of the season by the NBA.)

One year ago: In the latest in a series of nuclear stumbles, the U.S. Air Force disclosed that 34 officers entrusted with the world's deadliest weapons had been removed from launch duty for allegedly cheating - or tolerating cheating by others - on routine proficiency tests. A highly critical and bipartisan Senate report declared that the deadly Sept. 2012 assault on the American diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya, could have been prevented; the report spread blame among the State Department, the military and U.S. intelligence. A \$1.1 trillion spending bill for operating the government until just before the 2014 election steamed through the battle-weary House over tepid protests from tea party conservatives.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Margaret O'Brien is 77. Actress Andrea Martin is 68. Actor-director Mario Van Peebles is 58. Actor James Nesbitt is 50. Singer Lisa Lisa (Lisa Lisa and Cult Jam) is 48. Actor Chad Lowe is 47. Alt-country singer Will Oldham (aka "Bonnie Prince Billy") is 45. Actress Regina King is 44. Actor Eddie Cahill is 37. NFL quarterback Drew Brees is 36. Rapper/reggaeton artist Pitbull is 34. Actor Victor Rasuk is 30. Electronic dance musician Skrillex is 27.

***Thought for Today: "I refuse to accept the idea that the 'is-ness' of man's present nature makes him morally incapable of reaching up for the 'ought-ness' that forever confronts him." - Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968).***

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