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Connecting - March 11, 2015

1 message

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Wed, Mar 11, 2015 at 9:49 AM

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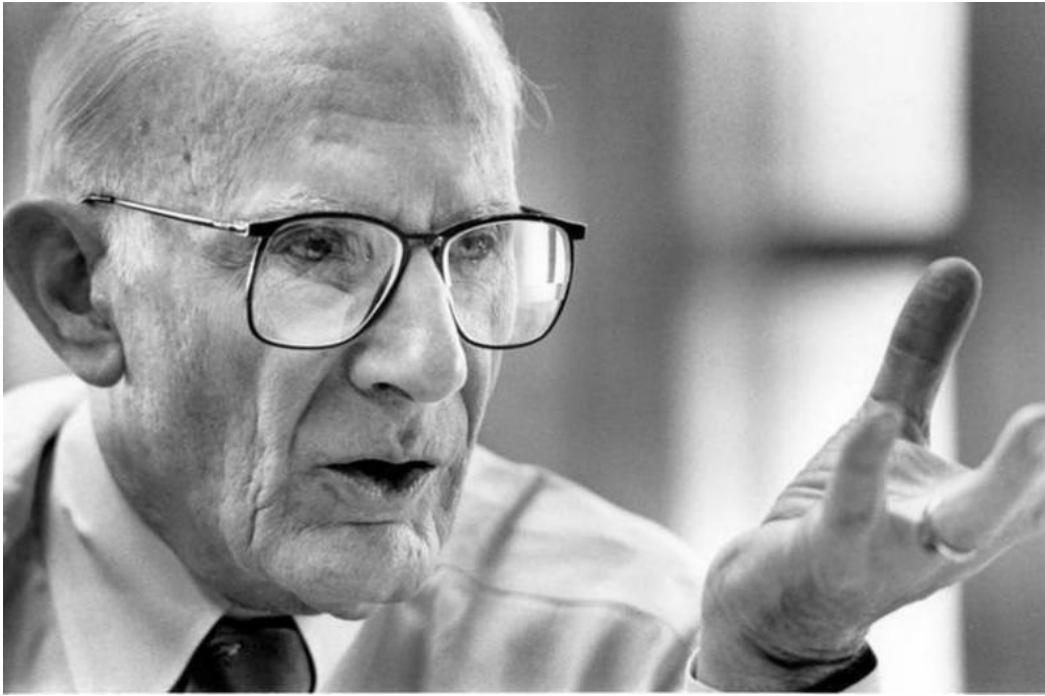


Connecting

March 11, 2015

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





Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning!

We mourn the passing of one of the country's most respected journalists, **Claude Sitton**, who died Tuesday at the age of 89.

One of our Connecting colleagues, **Frank Daniels Jr.**, was general manager of The News & Observer in Raleigh when his father and uncle hired Sitton, who earlier had a distinguished career as a reporter for The New York Times covering the civil rights movement.

Said Daniels, who served as chairman of The Associated Press board of directors, "Claude was one of the last editors of a large newspaper responsible for both news and editorial. He was passionate about people, readers, getting the information that we had and putting it in context. He truly believed it was our responsibility to speak for those who were less fortunate. North Carolina benefitted from his passion and ability with words in the '70s and '80s as the state went through integration and dramatic growth."

Paul

Claude Sitton, Pulitzer-winning journalist, former News & Observer editor, dies at 89

Claude Sitton, a forceful editor who led The News & Observer from 1968 to 1990, won the Pulitzer Prize as a columnist for the paper, and as a fearless reporter for The New York

Times set the standard for national coverage of the civil rights movement, died Tuesday in Atlanta. He was 89.

His years as Raleigh editor were marked by his aggressive direction of reporting and his determination to hold accountable those he thought were not acting in the public good.

Sitton was regarded as one of the best newsmen in American history for his work as a Times' Southern correspondent from 1958 to 1964. He crisscrossed the region, often risking his life to cover nearly every major civil rights story in those years, writing about the lunch counter sit-ins that began in North Carolina, the riot as the University of Mississippi was desegregated, the assassination of civil rights leader Medgar Evers, the church bombing that killed four schoolgirls in Birmingham, Ala., and the murder of three Freedom Riders in Philadelphia, Miss.



Sitton's direct, evocative and sometimes harrowing stories were a pipeline of truth from the front lines of the civil rights movement to the kitchen tables and living rooms of the rest of the nation.

Click [here](#) to read more.

And click [here](#) to read The New York Times story on Sitton.

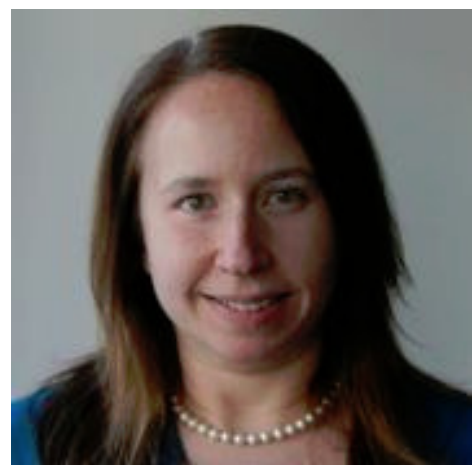
AP names Cara Rubinsky to bolster Europe leadership team

LONDON (AP) - The Associated Press is expanding its Europe leadership team with the appointment of Cara Rubinsky as associate Europe editor, as customer demand grows for a rich written report from the continent.

The appointment of Rubinsky, currently an assistant editor for the central United States, was announced Wednesday by Europe Editor Niko Price.

In the new role, Rubinsky will oversee the daily written report from Europe and manage the regional text editing desk in London. She will begin her new assignment in mid-April, reporting to Price.

"Cara Rubinsky has shown herself to be a strong news leader in AP's U.S. operations and we're excited about what she can do in Europe's dynamic news environment," Price said.



Rubinsky has been at the center of many top stories for the AP. She helped lead coverage of the Gulf oil spill, the Boston Marathon bombings and the Newtown school

shootings, and more recently planned and led on-the ground coverage of the grand jury decision over the deadly police shooting in Ferguson, Missouri.

As a manager on the Central Desk, she launched and ran a pilot project to increase the amount of content AP provides in its state reports and to free up time for bureau reporters to do more original reporting.

Rubinsky began her AP career as a desk editor and day supervisor in Hartford, Connecticut. She was part of the team that launched the regional desk for the southern U.S. and later served as assistant regional editor for the U.S. South. She spent three years leading the report in the six states of New England.

Rubinsky, 37, is a native of Pittsburgh and graduated from Northwestern University with a degree in journalism.

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

Connecting mailbox

Enjoyed Phil Sandlin's piece on Selma

Peggy Walsh ([Email](#)) - I really enjoyed Phil Sandlin's piece on Selma (in Tuesday's Connecting). It brought back memories of colleagues Jim Laxson (whom I didn't know was a photo editor - he was on the print side when I joined AP in 1975) and the infamous Joe Holloway, who could spin a yarn better than most and who took photos on things I covered as diverse as a Calder art exhibit and Jimmy Carter's unlikely run for the presidency.

Although I arrived in Atlanta in 1975 and was only 15 when the Selma march took place, I have always been outraged by discrimination against any group, race or gender. I spent most of my time on the overnight reading all the files (and cleaning up the filing system) and learned SO much about what had happened in the South over many years that I became the de facto encyclopedia.

Phil's description of how he felt reminded me of a time as Atlanta news editor when I sent a staffer to south Georgia to report on a corrupt sheriff. I told him not to wear good clothes. (He didn't have to worry about cutting his hair because he didn't have much.) And to check in with me on a regular basis. I remember the first call when he said something like "you weren't kidding." He had been "gently" reminded that he should leave by people in a pickup truck with a rifle in the back. Even in the late 70s, there were "segregated" records in courthouses.

One night after working the late shift another female staffer and I did probably the stupidest thing I've ever done. (Although I reserve the right to do something more stupid!) The Klan was having a meeting in Macon and we decided to drive down and see it firsthand. No one knew we were going. After we drove through a few fields to the site it crossed both of our minds that we probably shouldn't have gone. What struck me the most were the young people, decked in white robes as the cross burned and someone auctioned off a rifle which he suggested be used on Henry Kissinger.

We made it back but not the smartest thing I've ever done!

AP Images Spotlight:

Tokyo 1945 Firebombing Then and Now



It was not Hiroshima or Nagasaki, but in many ways, including lives lost, it was just as horrific.

On March 10, 1945, U.S. B-29 bombers flew over Tokyo in the dead of night, dumping massive payloads of cluster bombs equipped with a then-recent invention: napalm. A fifth of Tokyo was left a smoldering expanse of charred bodies and rubble.

Today, a modest floral monument in a downtown park honors the spirits of the 105,400 confirmed dead, many interred in common graves.

It was the deadliest conventional air raid ever, worse than Nagasaki and on par with Hiroshima. But the attack, and similar ones that followed in more than 60 other Japanese cities, have received little attention, eclipsed by the atomic bombings and Japan's postwar rush to rebuild.

Click [here](#) to view more images.

Stories of interest

[With more police wearing cameras, the fight over footage has begun in Florida](#)

MIAMI - As more police departments equip their officers with body-worn cameras, the question of who gets access to that footage-and at what cost-is fast becoming a new

frontier in open-records policy.

Here in Florida, with one of the strongest public-records laws in the country, that frontier may soon be shaped by a couple of factors. One is a lawsuit filed by a Sarasota attorney against the local police department over fees for release of video footage. The second is a bill in the state legislature that would create new exemptions in the public records law when it comes to body cameras. The details of the suit and the bill are unique to the Sunshine State. But in the wake of Michael Brown, Eric Garner, and the Justice Department's scathing report on biased policing in Ferguson, MO, as hopes for greater police accountability and improved community relations are pinned in part on wider use of the cameras, both warrant close attention.

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Is it excusable for reporters not to include links in articles?

A few days ago, I was browsing Twitter when I saw a tweet from Roll Call's politics editor Shira Center come through my feed. In it, she made a request that I've found increasingly common in the journalism world: that a reporter credit another reporter's work with a link:

In this case, BuzzFeed reporter Adrian Carrasquillo had actually credited Roll Call but had neglected to include a link (he later updated the piece to include link credit). I'll give Carrasquillo the benefit of the doubt that his omission wasn't deliberate, but the incident made me think about the inconsistent linking practices of mainstream news sites, and how even in 2015 it's still not commonly accepted within the industry that news articles should regularly link to outside sources.

To illustrate this inconsistency, I visited the front pages of the New York Times, Washington Post, and USA Today and began opening articles at random to see how quickly I could find three articles at each newspaper that didn't include a single link to an outside website (I didn't include internal links). For every newspaper, I stumbled across an article here or there that included links, but for the most part the articles I opened didn't carry any (New York Times: 1, 2, 3; Washington Post: 1, 2, 3; USA Today: 1, 2, 3).

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Finalists for 2015 Shadid ethics award announced

MADISON- The Center for Journalism Ethics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison has named five finalists for the 2015 Anthony Shadid Award for Journalism Ethics.

Fox 31 Denver for the decisions it made about including specific cases in reporting on Medicaid "super utilizers."

The Chicago Tribune for its sensitivity toward sources while reporting on the harsh treatment of juveniles held in detention.

The Pittsburgh Tribune Review for pursuit of an apparent cover-up of the killing of civilians by an American in Iraq.

Pro Publica for placing raw Medicare data in context in its "Treatment Trackers" project.

The Tulsa World for its aggressive, yet sensitive, coverage of a botched execution by the state of Oklahoma.

"While the world often focuses on journalistic sins, we were impressed with the thought and care these organizations gave to serving the public interest responsibly," says Jack Mitchell, chair of the Shadid Award selection committee and professor emeritus at the UW-Madison School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

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Comics-loving boy's 'shithole' remark to Indiana editor has been played 140,000 times
(Shared by Bob Daugherty)

In his Monday column, Bloomington (IN) Herald-Times editor Bob Zaltsberg revisits the story of the boy who complained in a voicemail about his favorite comics getting canceled. (The kid called Zaltsberg and his colleagues "shitholes," "jerks" and "idiots" for yanking the strips.)

Zaltsberg says he knew after I called last Monday that the "the H-T's 8-year-old critic was going to become an Internet sensation - and I would be a very well-known (naughty name) for a few days."

He writes in today's paywalled column:

Within 36 hours after Romenesko picked up the story - which we had posted on HTO and distributed on Twitter and Facebook - we'd also heard from People.com, CNN.com, Fox.com, the New York Daily News, New York Magazine and radio stations in New York and Indianapolis.

Digital heavyweights Gawker, BuzzFeed and the Huffington Post had run the story, as had The Independent of London, the Irish Times and various other digital publications. Within 72 hours, the audio had been played more than 140,000 times.

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Hackers attack US reporters for Ethiopian TV service

More than a year after researchers revealed an electronic eavesdropping campaign aimed at D.C.-area journalists, the hackers are at it again.

Internet watchdog group Citizen Lab said in a report published Monday that hackers who attacked a U.S. employee of Ethiopian Satellite Television in 2013 have recently launched a new round of attacks using upgraded espionage software.

Citizen Lab, which is based at the University of Toronto's Munk School of Global Affairs, says the hackers used three booby-trapped emails sent out in November and December. The broadcaster's executive director, Neamin Zeleke - one of those targeted by the malicious messages - says it didn't take a genius to figure out the same actors were at work.

"They didn't even bother to change the email address," he said.

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Why Media Startups Need a Guide to Navigating the Law (Shared by Mark Mittelstadt)

When I launched J-Lab in 2002, the best piece of advice I received was to have a lawyer draft a Memorandum of Understanding outlining the relationship between my center and its soon-to-be home, the University of Maryland.

The agreement detailed how I would support my startup, who owned the intellectual property, how much the university would charge for administering my incoming grants - and how I might spin the center into its own 50s(c)3 or affiliate with another fiscal agent in the future.

Thanks to that MOU, when U-MD changed its rules for grant-supported centers, I was able to seamlessly transition to American University. The MOU basically served as a pre-nup agreement.

I never really expected to need the MOU - until I did. So, too, are new media startups finding themselves in situations where they need to know about, and plan for, an array of legal issues. Many of these issues particularly affect digital-first news sites.

The Final Word

As I have grown older, I've
learned that pleasing
everyone is impossible,
but pissing everyone off is
a piece of cake .

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, March 11, the 70th day of 2015. There are 295 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 11, 1865, during the Civil War, Union forces under General William T. Sherman occupied Fayetteville, North Carolina.

On this date:

In 1861, the Constitution of the Confederate States of America was adopted by the Confederate Congress in Montgomery, Alabama.

In 1888, the Blizzard of '88, also known as the "Great White Hurricane," began inundating the northeastern United States, resulting in some 400 deaths.

In 1915, during World War I, Britain enacted a sweeping, long-distance blockade aimed at disrupting trade to and from German ports.

In 1935, the Bank of Canada began operations, issuing its first series of bank notes.

In 1942, as Japanese forces continued to advance in the Pacific during World War II, Gen. Douglas MacArthur left the Philippines for Australia. (MacArthur, who subsequently vowed, "I shall return," kept that promise more than 2 1/2 years later.)

In 1955, Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of penicillin, died in London at age 73.

In 1965, "I Lost It at the Movies," a collection of film criticism by Pauline Kael, was first published by Little, Brown and Co.

In 1977, more than 130 hostages held in Washington D.C. by Hanafi Muslims were freed after ambassadors from three Islamic nations joined the negotiations.

In 1993, Janet Reno was unanimously confirmed by the Senate to be attorney general.

In 2004, ten bombs exploded in quick succession across the commuter rail network in Madrid, Spain, killing 191 people in an attack linked to al-Qaida-inspired militants.

In 2011, a magnitude-9.0 earthquake and resulting tsunami struck Japan's northeastern coast, killing nearly 20,000 people and severely damaging the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power station.

In 2012, sixteen Afghan villagers - mostly women and children - were shot dead as they slept by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Robert Bales, who later pleaded guilty and was sentenced to life in prison without parole.

Ten years ago: A judge, court reporter and sheriff's deputy were shot to death at an Atlanta courthouse; Brian Nichols, who killed them as well as a federal agent, surrendered a day later at the apartment of Ashley Smith, a woman he'd taken hostage. (Nichols was later convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison.)

Five years ago: A federal appeals court in San Francisco upheld the use of the words

"under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance and "In God We Trust" on U.S. currency. In an address at Tel Aviv University, Vice President Joe Biden said "good faith negotiations" could recognize Israeli security needs and the Palestinian goal for a viable state. Sebastian Pinera was sworn in as Chile's new president on a day when the country was peppered with a dozen significant aftershocks from a February earthquake. Pro Football Hall of Famer and former television actor Merlin Olsen died in suburban Los Angeles at age 69.

One year ago: In an extraordinary public accusation, the head of the Senate Intelligence Committee, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., declared the CIA had interfered with and then tried to intimidate a congressional investigation into the agency's possible use of torture in terror probes during the Bush administration. Swedish Radio reporter Nils Horner was shot dead in Kabul, Afghanistan, in an attack claimed by a Taliban splinter group. Dallas Seavey ran a blistering pace and took the lead just hours before the finish to win the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.

Today's Birthdays: Media mogul Rupert Murdoch is 84. ABC News correspondent Sam Donaldson is 81. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia is 79. Musician Flaco Jimenez (FLAH'-koh hee-MEH'-nez) is 76. Actress Tricia O'Neil is 70. Actor Mark Metcalf is 69. Rock singer-musician Mark Stein (Vanilla Fudge) is 68. Singer Bobby McFerrin is 65. Movie director Jerry Zucker is 65. Actress Susan Richardson is 63. Recording executive Jimmy Iovine (eye-VEEN') is 62. Singer Nina Hagen is 60. Country singer Jimmy Fortune (The Statler Brothers) is 60. Singer Cheryl Lynn is 58. Actor Elias Koteas (ee-LY-uhs koh-TAY-uhs) is 54. Actor-director Peter Berg is 53. Actor Jeffrey Nordling is 53. Actress Alex Kingston is 52. Country musician David Talbot is 52. Actor Wallace Langham is 50. Former U.S. Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr., D-Ill., is 50. Actor John Barrowman is 48. Singer Lisa Loeb is 47. Neo-soul musician Al Gamble (St. Paul & the Broken Bones) is 46. Singer Pete Dinklage is 46. Actor Terrence Howard is 46. Rock musician Rami Jaffee is 46. Actor Johnny Knoxville is 44. Rock singer-musicians Benji and Joel Madden (Good Charlotte; The Madden Brothers) are 36. Actor David Anders is 34. Singer LeToya is 34. Actress Thora Birch is 33. TV personality Melissa Rycroft is 32. Actor Rob Brown is 31. Actor Anton Yelchin is 26.

Thought for Today: "Perhaps it is better to wake up after all, even to suffer, rather than to remain a dupe to illusions all one's life." - Kate Chopin, American writer (1851-1904).

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