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Connecting - March 25, 2015

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Connecting

March 25, 2015

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Remembering Dorman Cordell; seeker of talent, member advocate, teacher in life, 'a good boss'

At May 1981 awards dinner, Texas Chief of Bureau Dorman Cordell (third from left) presents the Jordan-Flaherty Award for the top broadcast station to Amarillo radio station managers Tom Higley (far left) and Chuck Wieger (right). Broadcast Executive Doug Kienitz is between Higley and Cordell. (Photo shared by Doug Kienitz)

Sally Hale (E-mail) _ When **Dorman Cordell** hired me in Dallas in 1979, he was presiding over a Texas operation full of incredible talent: **Kathleen Carroll**, Assistant Chief of Bureau **Tom Slaughter,** legendary Fort Worth Correspondent **Mike Cochran** and many others, including **Kristin Gazlay** a couple years later.

I learned so much from all of them, but the best thing I learned from Dorman was how to deal with angry member editors, a skill that continues to serve me well. He also gave me the opportunity to branch out on the marketing side of the business, letting me edit the Texas Roundup that we mailed to newspapers.

Dorman liked to throw parties, and one year he gathered the staff at a mall ice skating rink before a holiday dinner at his home. He told us we had to skate if we wanted to eat dinner. Not being particularly athletic, I gamely clung to the railing as I made my wobbly way around the rink exactly once, earning my holiday meal. After leaving Dallas, I didn't hear from Dorman until many years later, when I was named assistant bureau chief in Philadelphia, and he sent me a lovely letter of congratulations.

Dorman Cordell (left) at his retirement gathering in the suburban Dallas home of Doug Kienitz, April 1982. Marcus Wilson is at his side. (Photo shared by Doug Kienitz)

Marcus Wilson (E-mail) _ **Dorman Cordell** hired me as a vacation relief staffer in Denver immediately after I'd graduated from the J-school at the University of Colorado.

That summer, the Denver bureau installed computers (and laid off its great team of operators). I spent much of my time on the radio desk, filing broadcast summaries. The janitor for the third floor of the Denver Post building was a gigantic guy who seemed to communicate only by angry grunts. He always seemed very angry.

He'd come into the bureau at about 3:15 p.m. every day wielding a big push broom. He'd bang the broom repeatedly against the computer (it sat on the floor), and three out of four times whatever was on the computer screen would disappear into the upper right hand corner, never to be seen again.

This happened repeatedly just before we were scheduled to send the Colorado afternoon drive-time broadcast summary. Whoever was on the broadcast desk had to desperately reconstruct what was supposed to be one of the main news summaries of the day.

No one dared confront the janitor.

Frankly, he was scary. We'd rather re-write the news summary in a panic than

confront the scary-looking, non-communicative janitor. We speculated, half kiddingly, that he'd just been paroled after serving a prison term for beating victims with a push broom.

Dorman learned of the problem, and asked why we didn't just ask the janitor to not bang his broom against the computer. "We're all too scared of him." That was the universal voice of news editor **Rob Dalton**, broadcast editor **Jim Spehar**, and night broadcast editor **James R. Hood**. "I'll take care of it," Dorman said with his Kentucky drawl.

The next day, when the janitor showed up with his broom/war club, Dorman asked the janitor into the COB's office. We could see him talking earnestly to the janitor, and we could see the janitor nodding in agreement. They both left the office smiling.

The janitor was ever-after very careful around the computer equipment, which Dorman had described as very expensive and sensitive technology. "Just remember, you can talk to anyone. Don't be afraid of outward appearances," Dorman told us.

It was one of many good life lessons I learned from Dorman.

After working as a staffer in Little Rock (for **John Robert Starr**), in Chicago (for **Tom Dygard**), and Boise (for COB **Bill Wertz**), Dorman recruited me back into his team, and I became Dorman's ACoB in Texas. I was there when he left the AP, a sad day.

In recent years, I called Dorman once or twice a year. His health hadn't been good. He said he had been misdiagnosed with dementia, but a bright young doctor had finally correctly identified the problem as water on the brain. A shunt had cleared up most of the problems. He always wanted to know about the news industry, especially anything to do with his AP family.

He was a gentle soul who will be missed. He could talk to anybody.

Terence Hunt (E-mail) _ Dorman Cordell also was bureau chief in Louisville in the late 60s. I know that because he hired me -- drove to Lexington to give me the test while I was at the University of Kentucky and immediately gave me a job as a summer replacement. He was a good boss.

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How we stay in shape

Dick Lipsey (E-mail) _ I retired from AP-Kansas City in 2008 and moved to Colorado, where I live in a multi-level house on a dead-end road on the side of a mountain at 8,600 feet. That alone ensures a certain degree of fitness.

I usually spend two or more hours a day, two to four days a week, either cutting firewood for my wood stoves or shoveling snow, depending on the season.

Dick Lipsey

I began long-distance running during the "running boom" of the 1970s and eventually ran about 40 marathons. However, because of undiagnosed heart problems, I found it increasingly difficult to run during my last five years before retiring. In 2009, I got a cardiac pacemaker, worked my way up to completing a marathon a year later, and since then have run 10 marathons, three 50Ks, two 50-mile races, and many shorter events. My goal race after getting the pacemaker was the 50th running of the JFK 50-mile, in 2012, which I completed. My current goal is to complete a marathon or longer race in all 50 states. I have 10 states to go.

My exercise routine is more for fitness than for competition, but I run or walk briskly almost every day that I'm not cutting firewood or shoveling snow.

In good weather I often run at the high school track or on the bike path around town. I run and walk an average of 30 to 35 miles a week year-round.

In the winter, I usually run on my home treadmill or ride my stationary bike or lift weights. I typically do a long run of 18 miles (often on the treadmill) and several long walks of four hours or more around town before a marathon.

My wife and I enjoy the ambiance at the races I go to, many of them trail runs in scenic areas, and we've found them an enjoyable way to see the country and meet interesting people. I turn 70 next month, and I'm usually somewhere just behind the middle of the pack even though I'm among the oldest. In my last race, a trail run in South Carolina, I was the second-oldest of 125.

I have races scheduled for Idaho, Minnesota, and Montana in the coming months.

I don't so much compete anymore as just participate. I plan to continue participating as long as I can meet the time cutoffs in the races.

The attached photo is from the JFK 50-mile run in November 2012. I'm wearing a KU faculty-staff running club shirt. I'm still a member of the group and still run with it when we're in Kansas.

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Rosalie Fox (E-mail) _ As I write this, I think I've finally recovered from doing the Los Angeles Marathon, held Sunday, March 15 in brutal 90-degree heat. That's the sort of thing I've been doing to stay in shape since I left the AP three years ago. I did the L.A. Marathon last year, too.

Though you'll never confuse me with an elite runner, I've run and power-walked off and on throughout my adult life. I did a lot less of it during the 15-and-a-half-years I was with the AP because work -- and driving to and from work -- consumed so much time. Sometimes I'd go months without exercise.

Rosalie Fox pre-exercise (l) and with L.A. Marathon finisher medal

I've attached two photos. One shows me obviously in the no-exercise phase. Former AP Radio Entertainment Editor **Michael Weinfeld**, who retired last summer, just sent it to me. It shows us at the Oscars sometime in the early 2000s. The other photo was taken March 15, a few hours after the L.A. Marathon. I'm proudly showing off my finisher medal.

As an aside, I have a fellow radio reporter to thank for pushing me into organized running and walking many years ago, long before I worked for the AP. As a general assignment radio reporter at KFI and then, at KLAC, in Los Angeles, I would run into **Bob Scott** of KNX Newsradio while we covered the same stories. He was an avid runner and would nag me about joining a training group he founded called the L.A. Leggers. I eventually joined and fell in love with it. The L.A. Leggers now bills itself as "Southern California's premier running and walking club."

As they say at Leggers: see you on the pavement.

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Gerald Jackson (E-mail) _ Like **Paul Shane**, we have a dog. He is a Scottie puppy, who seems to want to walk 10 miles each day. However, my biggest event keeping me active is the fastest growing sport in America, Pickleball. Or, the boomers new tennis. I play at least two hours, three or four times a week. I played tennis my entire life, but have found this sport much more active and fun to play. We have over 400 people playing here in our semi-retirement community, and I highly recommend fellow retirees to check this sport out.

Gerald Jackson, Pickleball

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Mark Mittelstadt (E-mail) _ We have a lab-pit mix who takes me on a two- to three-mile walk daily. Despite her age (14), she is insistent about getting outside come rain, snow or summer heat, and occasionally as I try to finish that morning's Connecting or other e-mail she'll use her nose to nudge my hands off the keyboard so we can get our morning exercise. That's good as it keeps both of us in shape.

On the weekends, my walks also include not-so-leisurely strolls around soccer fields as a referee. I likely don't cover the approximately seven miles per game averaged by referees at the highest levels, but certainly three or four miles per match with two or three matches in a row. My wife and I also love to hike woodlands in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, and mountain trails in Arizona.

Mark Mittelstadt and son, Matt, hiking

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What do you do to keep in shape? Feel free to share your response with Connecting colleagues by sending it to Paul Stevens at stevenspl@live.com. It may just inspire someone on the exercise fence to get moving.

And as a reminder, here are other topics to which you can contribute:

- "My boo boos - A silly mistake that you make"- here's a chance to 'fess up with some of your more memorable mistakes in your journalistic career.
- Multigenerational AP families - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.
- Volunteering - many have told me they benefited from others' volunteer stories with ideas on such work they can do themselves.
- First job - How did you get your first job in journalism?
- Connecting "selfies" - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.
- Recollections of your most memorable saloon, bar, watering hole--and explain why - foreign and domestic.
- Life after AP for those of you who have moved on to another job or profession.
- Most unusual place a story assignment took you.

But don't let this list limit you.

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Connecting mailbox

Marv Schneider was a central part of the whole NY Broadcast vibe

Brad Kalbfeld (E-mail) _ **Marv Schneider** was a wonderful colleague, and **Hal Bock's** eulogy captured him perfectly. Marv's voice -- more than that, his whole way of expressing himself -- were an important part of the whole feel of the New York Broadcast Department at 50 Rock.

Back in the 70s, he and **Charlie Morey** were the two regular Broadcast sports writers. They worked at the same computer terminal. In those days, each terminal had its own "alpha" -- the letter that started the file number of each item saved from that terminal. The Sports terminal always generated files that started with the letter

H.

The Sports terminal faced the hallway, away from the desk. That hall was the main artery from the NY Sports desk all the way down to the General Desk. Entering the floor from the elevator lobby, Marv's computer (behind the rippled glass) was the first thing you saw. So a certain decorum was expected of us.

Marv would sit there, typing away, his sleeves rolled up, his tie loosened, the stub of his cigar clenched between his teeth. And whenever he closed a file, he would stand up, pull the cigar from his mouth, turn toward the desk, and shout, "I got an H!" To this day, the recollection of that battle cry makes me smile and brings back vivid memories of a very special group of people.

Memory of Hal Boyle's futile attempt to clean his messy desk

George Bria (E-mail) georgebria@gmail.com _ At my age, 99, I find myself often dwelling on the Past more than the Present (drat the Future.) And that Past, of course, is studded with AP memories. (The AP haunts my dreams, too, desperate efforts to get a story out of town.)

One memory I'd like to share is that of the immortal Hal Boyle. (For you younger folk, Hal was our great columnist in World War II and after.) As a columnist, he had a desk of his own in the immense newsroom on the fourth floor of 50 Rock. And that desk was renowned as the untidiest in Creation, piled high with his stuff and merchandise admen sent him hoping for a mention in the column.

Periodically, he would make an effort to clear the desk. Well, one day I saw the corpulent Hal ambling up the room in the direction of the Foreign Desk. He was carrying a box, which he deposited on my desk, saying, "Here, George (I'm Italian), is something I'm sure you'd like." It was a box of Ronzoni spaghetti.

The Model 15 printer

Dave Tomlin (E-mail) _ **George Zucker's** rumination on the days of the Model 15 (Tuesday Connecting) reminded me of something that happened when I was working for him in Pittsburgh.

Newspapers were putting in their first newsroom computer systems and asking us to take out their now useless printers and reperforators. Our technicians, Rudy Tessitore and Phil Henkel, ran out of storage for all this greasy old equipment, so it began piling up in the bureau.

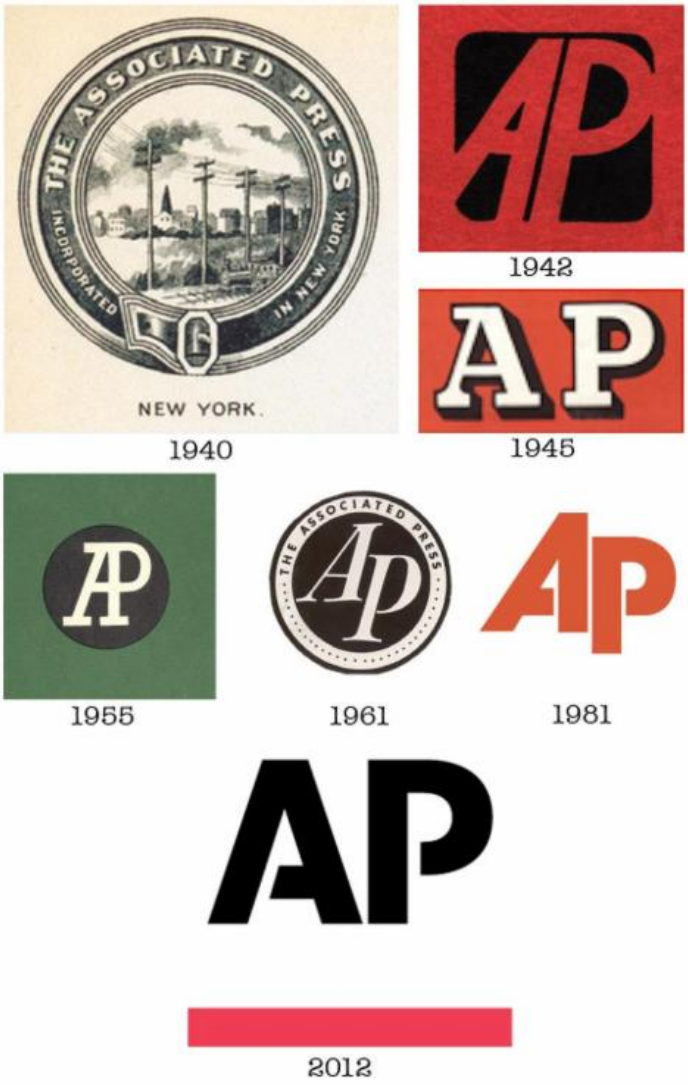
We were in an decrepit building on Liberty Avenue, and our office on its best day wasn't much to look at. But as the gear piled up, we found ourselves working in a junkyard.

One day sports writer Gary Mihoces brought his brother up to the bureau for a visit. "Holy sxxx," the brother said as he walked in the door. "I came up here expecting to see 'Lou Grant' and instead I'm getting 'Sanford and Son.'"

Connecting volunteers

Bob Daugherty (E-mail) _ I make an annual visit to the Hamilton County, Ind., youth detention center in Noblesville. I present a slide show to the inmates who are studying the Cold War. The 30 or so students are attentive and their armed escort is in attendance to ensure order. No doubt about it, it's a captive audience.

What's your favorite logo?



Karol Stonger (E-mail) karol.stonger@gmail.com _ Sorry, but I have three logo likes for different reasons:

1940. Excellent. Old School. Should be resurrected for use on official note cards and executive office invitations.
1961. Practical because it spells out who we are. No more "Oh, you mean A & P?"
Now: Yes, we need a modern logo not weighted down with history and fuss and such. I prefer 1981 because it is a little quieter and conforms to many of the earlier designs.

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Dave Lubeski (E-mail) _ 1981. The classiest of them all and the one I worked under for 28 of my 35 AP years.

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Paul Shane (E-mail) _ I prefer the 1981 logo. I think the latest logo makes no sense and I've heard it cost many thousands of dollars. I suppose going digital was

a motive for the latest change.

-0-

Sibby Christensen (E-mail) _ My vote for favorite logo goes to (opening envelope): The one that hasn't yet been designed.

First, the examples shown aren't full logos. In designer parlance, they are "buttons."

Full disclosure here. I organized a logo kit for the 1981 version, aimed at standardizing its use and accompanying typefaces to appear on stationery, ads, etc. One of the reasons was to protect it as a registered trademark.

The "AP" letter symbol and the longer full logo were created by a promotion department artist. I didn't particularly like them, but they did have some good design principles. The crossbars on the two initial letters (a big, fat Helvetica face) align horizontally, and the verticals are exactly parallel. When the legend line "Associated Press" in a smaller medium-weight Helvetica was added, it in turn was aligned with the crossbars on the letter symbol. That was the logotype.

There were problems. The main color (PMS 180) for the letter symbol was supposed to be a subtle brick red, but it often came out looking like a bowl of maraschino cherries, especially online or on television.

The 1942 and 1955 versions you show sort of look like a pair of sots, staggering and leaning on each other after a bender. The 1940 'button is something to hang in your parlor.

The current logo button is inoffensive, but it doesn't really convey the history and value of AP.

How about another try?

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Larry Hamlin (E-mail) _ My favorite AP logo has to be 1961. It's the one in use when I started and I personally think it outshines all the others. And not just because one of the colors was silver. It had both the company name and initials on it and when it stood alone anyone could immediately tell who it was. When the 1981 and 2012 logos stand alone, anyone outside the business probably wouldn't have a clue what it stands for. Example: At one point in my career I drove a company vehicle that didn't require the company name on it so I had 1981 AP logo stickers surrounded by an outline of the state of Oklahoma on the rear windows. One day at a gas pump a guy asked me if I worked for Allied Petroleum. I told him no, Al's Plumbing.

Powerful read: AP uncovers slavery in fishing industry

The Associated Press notified the International Organization for Migration about men in this story, who were then moved out of Benjina by police for their safety. Hundreds of slaves remain on the island, and five other men were in the cage this week.

[AP investigation: Are slaves catching the fish you buy?]

Workers from Myanmar load fish onto a Thai-flagged cargo ship in Benjina, Indonesia. (AP Photo/APTN)

BENJINA, Indonesia (AP) - The Burmese slaves sat on the floor and stared through the rusty bars of their locked cage, hidden on a tiny tropical island thousands of miles from home.

Just a few yards away, other workers loaded cargo ships with slave-caught seafood that clouds the supply networks of major supermarkets, restaurants and even pet stores in the United States.

Here, in the Indonesian island village of Benjina and the surrounding waters, hundreds of trapped men represent one of the most desperate links criss-crossing between companies and countries in the seafood industry. This intricate web of connections separates the fish we eat from the men who catch it, and obscures a brutal truth: Your seafood may come from slaves.

Connecting birthday

Mary Pennybacker

Stories of interest

[Fournier: Five ways to end Hillary Clinton's war on the media]

Hillary Rodham Clinton is smart enough to know that she's got a lousy relationship with the journalists covering her second presidential bid. The question is whether she's willing to fix it. Clinton took a self-effacing stab at resetting the relationship Monday by joking to a group of Washington journalists, "No more secrecy. No more zone of privacy. After all, what good did that do me?" Lurking beneath the surface of her lament is nearly four decades of scar tissue. While her coverage in Arkansas and Washington ranged from fawning to viciously unfair, Clinton took the positive attention for granted and internalized the negative. The worst of it festered and grew into a culture of opacity, mendacity, and pugnacity.

Cillizza: Hillary Clinton promised a new relationship with the media. She was kidding

"I am all about new beginnings," Hillary Clinton said at event honoring the late New York Times Robin Toner Monday night in Washington. "A new grandchild, another new hairstyle, a new e-mail account. The relationship with the press. So here goes: no more secrecy. No more zone of privacy. After all, what good did that do me?" Clinton made clear that her change of heart was decidedly tongue-in-cheek, adding: "Before I go any further, look under your chair, you'll find a simple non-disclosure agreement my attorneys drew up. Old habits last." ZING!

First Amendment, 'patron saint' of protesters, is embraced by corporations
(Shared by Sibby Christensen)

Liberals used to love the First Amendment. But that was in an era when courts used it mostly to protect powerless people like civil rights activists and war protesters. These days, a provocative new study says, there has been a "corporate takeover of the First Amendment." The assertion is backed by data, and it comes from an unlikely source: John C. Coates IV, who teaches business law at Harvard and used to be a partner at Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, the prominent corporate law firm.

Obama names former reporter Shailagh Murray as new senior adviser

President Barack Obama will name Shailagh Murray, a former Washington Post and Wall Street Journal reporter, to serve as his new senior adviser, and has tapped Jason Goldman, a Silicon Valley veteran, to become the White House's first-ever chief digital officer. Murray replaces Dan Pfeiffer as a member of the president's core team of advisers, and Goldman will take over and expand Pfeiffer's role overseeing digital outreach by heading up an amped-up Office of Digital Strategy. Both moves reflect Obama's efforts to stay a central part of the nation's political conversation in his final two years even as public focus shifts to the 2016 presidential campaign.

New York Times' public editor thinks earlier criticism of part of paper's Ferguson coverage was "substantially flawed"

In the heat of a very hot news moment last summer, I criticized a Times story about the shooting death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo. Now, with the benefit of hindsight, I want to acknowledge that I misjudged an important element of that story. In my post, I found fault with what I saw as "dubious equivalency" and the vaguely described anonymous sourcing in an article that led the paper on Aug. 20.

Facebook may host news sites' content

Nothing attracts news organizations like Facebook. And nothing makes them more nervous. With 1.4 billion users, the social media site has become a vital source of traffic for publishers looking to reach an increasingly fragmented audience glued to smartphones. In recent months, Facebook has been quietly holding talks with at least half a dozen media companies about hosting their content inside Facebook rather than making users tap a link to go to an external site. Such a plan would

represent a leap of faith for news organizations accustomed to keeping their readers within their own ecosystems, as well as accumulating valuable data on them.

Buttry: Lots of precedent for media dependence on Facebook, including cautionary tales

Part of my initial response to skepticism about the wisdom of getting into bed with Facebook would have been to note that newspapers have been dependent on (at the mercy of?) other businesses my whole career. Other media are dependent, too, but I will focus here mostly on newspapers. Part of my argument would have noted that the dependency on Facebook was likely to cause problems (as it has before), but I was probably going to come down on the side of saying I might be exploring or testing such a relationship myself if I were the New York Times, BuzzFeed or National Geographic, the companies apparently in such discussions with Facebook.

Yahoo launches its 12th digital magazine, Yahoo Politics

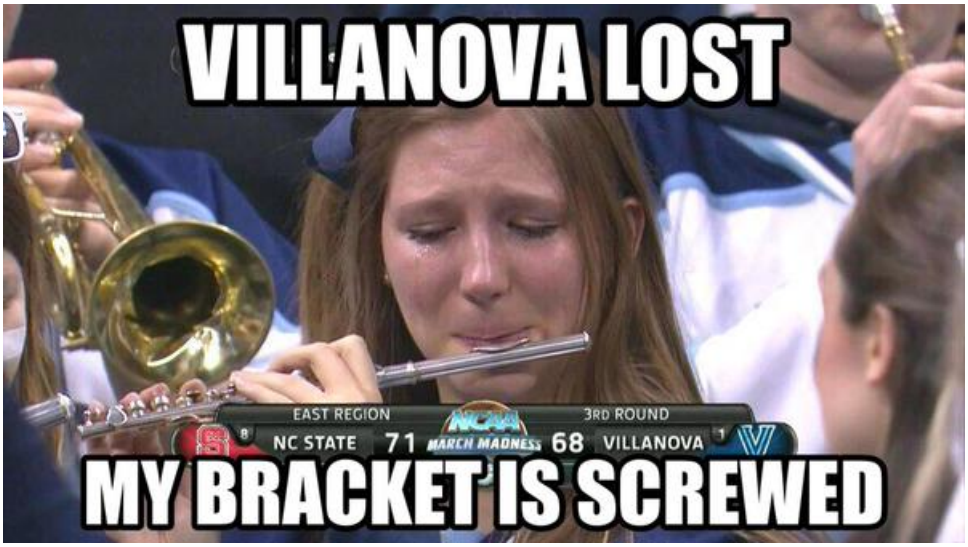
Yahoo launched its 12th digital magazine Tuesday, Yahoo Politics, and the site enters the crowded race among news outlets covering the political field just as candidates have begun formally announcing their bids for the 2016 elections. How will Yahoo Politics distinguish itself from competitors like The Washington Post, The New York Times, ABC News, CNN, Politico, Buzzfeed-and everyone in between? "We'll certainly cover personalities, we'll certainly profile candidates ... but we're approaching [2016] more thematically, and less in the sort of trail-embed way," said Megan Liberman, an architect of the new magazine and the editor in chief of Yahoo News.

Can a media correction every really match the mistake? (shared by Bob Daugherty)

On Jan. 26, Shawn Usman, a 31-year-old employee of the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, lost control of his drone in downtown Washington, D.C. It crashed on the White House lawn, prompting a security alert and front-page headlines around the world. Last week, prosecutors closed the case, declining to file charges against Usman. The media coverage, though, irks him.

The Final Word

Millions of television viewers who watched No. 8 North Carolina State upset top-seeded Villanova in the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament Saturday caught the heart-tugging view of a piccolo player battling tears as she played the Wildcats' fight song. As the Internet is wont to do, the image (click here for the original) became an online sensation, turning into a "meme" with various PhotoShop creations, two of which are included below. Overnight, the player, Roxanne Chalifoux, became famous, even if people did not know her name or if the edited image was less than flattering.



While her basketball team lost, Chalifoux ended up a big winner. Jimmy Fallon's staff sought her out and on Monday night she appeared on The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon. As a special treat, she sat in with Fallon's studio band, The Roots, and played a special rendition of 'Nova's fight song. The host also presented her with a gift basket that included tickets to see her favorite artist, Taylor Swift.

"Villanova Piccolo Girl" Sits In With The Roots

Today in History, March 25, 2015

Today is Wednesday, March 25, the 84th day of 2015. There are 281 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight:

On March 25, 1965, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. led 25,000 people to the Alabama state capitol in Montgomery after a five-day march from Selma to protest the denial of voting rights to blacks. Later that day, civil rights activist Viola Liuzzo, a white Detroit homemaker, was shot and killed by Ku Klux Klansmen as she drove a black volunteer to the airport.

On this date:

In 1306, Robert the Bruce was crowned King of Scots.

In 1634, English colonists sent by Lord Baltimore arrived in present-day Maryland.

In 1776, Gen. George Washington, commander of the Continental Army, was awarded the first Congressional Gold Medal by the Continental Congress.

In 1865, during the Civil War, Confederate forces attacked Fort Stedman in Virginia but were forced to withdraw because of counterattacking Union troops.

In 1911, 146 people, mostly young female immigrants, were killed when fire broke out at the Triangle Shirtwaist Co. in New York.

In 1915, the U.S. Navy lost its first commissioned submarine as the USS F-4 sank off Hawaii, claiming the lives of all 21 crew members.

In 1924, the Second Hellenic Republic was proclaimed in Greece.

In 1947, a coal mine explosion in Centralia, Illinois, claimed 111 lives.

In 1954, RCA announced it had begun producing color television sets at its plant in Bloomington, Indiana.

In 1975, King Faisal of Saudi Arabia was shot to death by a nephew with a history of mental illness. (The nephew was beheaded in June 1975.)

In 1985, "Amadeus" won eight Academy Awards, including best picture, best director for Milos Forman and best actor for F. Murray Abraham.

In 1990, 87 people, most of them Honduran and Dominican immigrants, were killed when fire raced through an illegal social club in New York City.

Ten years ago: Losing still more legal appeals, Terri Schiavo's father, Bob Schindler, said his severely brain-damaged daughter was "down to her last hours" as she entered her second week without the feeding tube that had sustained her life for 15 years. An ailing, silent Pope John Paul II appeared to the faithful via video for Good Friday services at the Vatican.

Five years ago: Osama bin Laden threatened in a new message to kill any Americans al-Qaida captured if the U.S. executed Khalid Sheik Mohammed, the self-professed mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks, or other al-Qaida suspects. Defense Secretary Robert Gates approved new rules easing enforcement of the "don't ask, don't tell" ban on gays serving openly in the military. Daisuke Takahashi gave Japan its first men's title at the World Figure Skating Championships in Turin, Italy.

One year ago: Following a two-day security summit in The Netherlands, President Barack Obama declared that the gathering had taken "concrete steps" to prevent nuclear material falling into the hands of terrorists even though Russia and China failed to sign an agreement to beef up inspections.

Today's birthdays: Movie reviewer Gene Shalit is 89. Former astronaut James Lovell is 87. Feminist activist and author Gloria Steinem is 81. Singer Anita Bryant is 75. Singer Aretha Franklin is 73. Actor Paul Michael Glaser is 72. Singer Elton John is 68. Actress Bonnie Bedelia is 67. Actress-comedian Mary Gross is 62. Actor James McDaniel is 57. Former Sen. John Ensign, R-Nev., is 57. Movie producer Amy Pascal is 57. Rock musician Steve Norman (Spandau Ballet) is 55. Actress Brenda Strong is 55. Actor Fred Goss is 54. Actor-writer-director John Stockwell is 54. Actress Marcia Cross is 53. Author Kate DiCamillo is 51. Actress Lisa Gay Hamilton is 51. Actress Sarah Jessica Parker is 50. Former MLB All-Star pitcher Tom Glavine is 49. Olympic bronze medal figure skater Debi Thomas, M.D., is 48. Actor Laz Alonso ("The Mysteries of Laura") is 44. Singer Melanie Blatt (All Saints) is 40. Actor Domenick Lombardozzi is 39. Actor Lee Pace is 36. Actor Sean Faris is 33. Auto racer Danica Patrick is 33. Actress-singer Katharine McPhee is 31. Singer Jason Castro ("American Idol") is 28. Rapper Big Sean is 27. Rap DJ/producer Ryan Lewis is 27. Actor Matthew Beard ("The Imitation Game") is 26. Actress-singer Aly (AKA Alyson) Michalka is 26. Actor Kiowa Gordon is 25. Actress Seychelle Gabriel is 24.

Thought for today: "Scratch a pessimist, and you find often a defender of

privilege." - Lord Beveridge, British economist (1879-1963).

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