

Connecting - November 16, 2015

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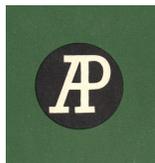
Paul Stevens <stevenspl@live.com>

Mon, Nov 16, 2015 at 9:33 AM

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Connecting

November 16, 2015

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning!

In the AP photo above, by **Daniel Ochoa de Olza**, a bird flies in front of the Eiffel Tower on Sunday, the first of three days of national mourning following the Paris attacks Friday that claimed 129 lives - the deadliest violence in France since World War II.

Today's Connecting leads with two remarkable stories - a New York Times Lens Blog interview with AP photographer **Jerome Delay** and an essay by our Connecting colleague, and longtime AP journalist, **Mort Rosenblum**.

We continue to keep the victims of the attacks - and the journalists covering them - in our thoughts and prayers.

And condolences go out to two of our Connecting colleagues - **Peggy Walsh** and **Kevin Walsh**, on the death of their mother, **Anne C. Walsh**, last week.

Paul

Riding to the Scene in the Paris Attacks



By JAMES ESTRIN
The New York Times

The photographer Jerome Delay covers West Africa for The Associated Press. He was in Paris Friday night during the terrorist attack that killed at least 129 people. After covering the attacks and today's reaction, he spoke to James Estrin about his experiences. The conversation has been edited.

Q.
What did you see last night?

A.
I went out very late. I hopped on my bicycle to go to the scene because I knew that it would be difficult by car. I could get there. I decided to work closer to the Bataclan, where all the wounded people were being triaged. It was quite disturbing to see French soldiers in full camouflage gear, running in the streets of Paris. I'm not used to seeing that here. I'm used to seeing that in the Central African Republic or in other places in the world, but certainly not here.

Q.
You went toward the Bataclan?

A.
I couldn't get as close as I wanted to, and then I went through a back way. Normally in Paris, the boulevards that I took to the scene are bustling with life on a

Friday night.

There was a very eerie feeling because there weren't many people in the streets or much traffic. The weather was quite nice. There are many cafes along the way but nobody was out smoking. It was just empty.

Q.

I saw your photo of a single covered body that ran in The Times.

A.

That was right between Bataclan and the triage center. I was making my way from one area to the next, trying not to get caught by the police. It was just one frame.

Q.

What was Paris like this morning?

A.

Paris was like any Saturday morning, fairly quiet and not much traffic. I noticed that some of the big markets were closed.

I didn't see any soldiers patrolling and there was no sense of Paris being under siege or Paris being at war. Far from it.

When I got in front of Le Carillon and Petit Cambodge restaurants where people were killed I was quite surprised that there was already access to the place. The investigators had already done their job there.

People came by the hundreds to put down flowers from early in the morning until when I left around 5:30 this afternoon. It was a very somber, very dignified meeting place. What I focused on in the pictures was the way people's faces, in a matter of seconds, would become very grave and very upset and then they would try to refrain from crying but they couldn't. It was quite moving,

These are extraordinary times in France, unseen since the Algerian war. For me, it still hasn't really sunk in. When something like this happens, you just do your job and go into autopilot.

When Charlie Hebdo happened in January, I was in South Africa and, I think, it hit me harder in a way because I was not able to be here and to do my job. Paris is my home.

Q.

You've seen terrible things all over the world - people killed and massacred. What was it like to see it in your home city?

A.

It hasn't quite sunk in yet, but in terms of doing my job, it was actually easier, because I know every corner of this town and there is no language barrier. All of a sudden I found myself fighting a war on my own turf, professionally speaking.

You just switch it off.

But I did not go inside the Bataclan and see all those bodies piled up. I have not been exposed to anything I'd find directly traumatic.

Q.

I remember Sept. 11, and everything in New York was completely altered. We're used to going to other countries to photograph tragedies on this kind of scale. Photographers who did the best after the World Trade Center attacks were often people who had photographed combat.

A.

At 3 this morning I ran into my friends I work with in Africa that we call the Bangui gang. We're all planning on heading to the Central African Republic in a matter of days to cover the pope there. And they were all out in the streets of Paris.

Q.

Why weren't you in South Africa? Were you here for Paris Photo?

A.

I've spent quite a bit of time here recently though I work mostly in West Africa these days. But I did spend the whole day at Paris Photo yesterday.

Q.

You mentioned seeing the soldiers in Paris. The last 18 hours must have been strange.

A.

It's not so different for me. Remember I live and work in Africa, and I used to live in Israel before that. My daughters were raised amid tear gas and buses exploding outside their schools. I've been doing this for years.

So you've got to have a bit of a level head when you get into a situation and not panic because you have a job to do. It doesn't mean I don't have any feelings.

Q.

It will probably take a while to process those feelings if you're going to be working.

A.

I'm more concerned about what's coming next. There are so many soft targets. What's next, the movie theater? The premiere of the James Bond movie? Does it mean that every time we go to the grocery store, we're going have to go through a metal detector? How far can we go to try to make our lives safe?

The fear in the street right now is that we don't know if all the terrorists involved were killed. Are some on the loose? Are others out there? They definitely knew their target very well.

Q.

Are there any precautions to take?

A.

You have to live. You're not going to live in a cage. As you could see with Charlie Hebdo, the French people are really resilient and really strong when it comes down

to it.

They don't take no for an answer, and don't let other people dictate how you live.

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

Paris is not burning

By **MORT ROSENBLUM**

DRAGUIGNAN, France - I was asleep among olive trees with a P.G. Wodehouse novel on my chest, blissfully unaware, when a friend called from Miami to make sure I wasn't a statistic up in Paris. A lifelong traveler with serious smarts, she knew that 8 million people in and around the French capital were unscathed. But terrorism, as it is designed to do, terrorizes.



So far, the main reaction is shocked disbelief. Young Anthony Martin came by to help whack away brush. He watched TV over my shoulder for a moment and then turned away in silence, eyes moist. Unable to compute monstrous inhumanity so alien to our hillside, he simply went to work.

A few shots echoed in the distance. It's wild pig season. Hunters had absorbed the news from Paris and were back at it, stalking a fat sanglier for dinner. Guns worry me in America. Here, if I don't wear brown and scruffle in the bushes, I trust guys with permits and small-bore carbines.

France does not scare easily. During four decades based in Paris, I've never figured out that shibboleth about French cowardice. Duplicity perhaps. Unlike in some brand-name countries, government here tends not to be hypocritical about its hypocrisy. Presidents, essentially elected monarchs, shape principles to suit the nation's interests. Yet when the need arises, French troops do much of the West's dirty work.

I often joke that U.S. policy in Africa is to fight bad guys down to the last Frenchman; it's not that funny. In Bosnia, when Americans held back, I stuck close to the French Foreign.

As a society, the French resist infringement on their rights and freedoms -- by authorities or anyone else. The Charlie Hebdo horror rattled Parisians 10 months

ago, but they had seen worse. Life soon relaxed back to its usual pace.

Yet now, at calamitous extremes in a post-9/11 world that it tried hard to move in a different direction, France faces its greatest challenge since Liberation in 1945.

The French know war too well to use the word lightly or to wage it without reason. Yet Francois Hollande, his voice quavering after police rushed him to safety from a soccer match, condemned "un acte de guerre." He pledged to respond mercilessly. The question is, against whom?

Hollande singled out Daesh, the Islamic State, which says it punished France for bombing its positions in Syria. But for many here, ISIS is as much a state of mind as a geopolitical entity. Beyond its own actions, it inspires other groups and loners.

If Hollande has declared an amorphous war on terror, as George W. Bush did in 2001, France could get ugly. Like some Sorcerer's Apprentice nightmare, each casualty creates countless more people who hate enough to kill.

Self-styled jihad is an outlet for dead-end frustration among young Muslims from immigrant families who see European societies not as melting pots but rather as mezzes of dishes that don't mix.

A certain Robin Hood appeal attracts a wide following. Friends tell me, among other instances, of three young Christian women they know in a prosperous town near Paris who sneaked off to Syria.

But the bulk of extremist support comes from impoverished housing developments like one near Paris, which prosecutors say produced at least one of the eight Friday the 13th assailants.

The French call these les banlieues. The term, a misnomer, means suburbs. Slum is not much better. They are multistory projects with such street names as Moliere and Monet meant to evoke the glories of France.

Some history is important here. When I came to France in the 1970s, Lebanon was in flames, and brushfires smoldered elsewhere. Terrorism was mostly sponsored by states. Moscow and Teheran, among others, adopted it as diplomacy.

French authorities allowed terrorist groups sanctuary as long as they operated elsewhere. Into the 1980s, as terror evolved into the poor man's weapon, tacit accords came unstuck. Police and intelligence agents struggled to keep the lid on.

Back then firearms were scarcer than decent jobs in the banlieues. Still, police were reluctant to confront unfocused hostility. One tough teenager told me, "There is nothing here, nothing. All we can do for fun is take the metro to Paris and beat up a Frenchman."

One Friday in the 1990s, I took note of the shoes piled high before prayer at an outdoor mosque: yellow Senegalese slippers, sandals of every sort, gleaming

Nikes, scuffed trainers, fancy French pumps. If anyone got to these disenfranchised young men of disparate background, it was their imam.

After 9/11, Bush used the word, crusade, and told the world that people were with us or against us. Many in the banlieues chose the latter. With open borders in Europe, guns came in at a fast clip. Israeli excesses in Gaza and the West Bank fed fiery rhetoric.

Tension spiked in 2003. During those months before the Iraq invasion, American correspondents in Paris fought with desks back home who wanted to know why France, true to its reputation, was too chicken to join in.

The French were ready, I told my editor, but first they wanted to hear from inspectors about Saddam's reported banned weapons. He asked why the France wasn't grateful for Normandy? It was, I said, and Americans ought to thank Lafayette for not having to drink tea every day at 4 o'clock. It is not that simple.

Torture pictures from Abu Ghraib made the difference. The banlieues turned sharply political. Extremist recruiters found eager listeners among committed zealots and rebels seeking a cause.

Eventually, and inexorably, France found itself in the thick of it. Embittered Sunni militants who survived American torture in Iraq created ISIS. A free-for-all conflict engulfed Syria. After the daily, Le Monde, revealed that Bashar al-Assad had used poison gas on civilians, Hollande ordered French jets to exact punishment. He stood them down when Britain and the United States demurred.

And now unholy warriors with a death wish and no regard for innocents have brought an unwanted war home to the Seine.

If the French hold onto what has kept their society solid, responding to the specific threat and not giving in to terror, the danger may well recede. If not, and excessive repression plays into the hands of fanatics, we are all in very serious trouble.

(Rosenblum joined AP at Newark in 1965. His international career began in 1967, when the AP sent him to cover mercenary wars in Congo. Since then he ran AP bureaus in Kinshasa, Lagos, Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta, Singapore, Buenos Aires, and Paris. From 1979 to 1981 he was editor of the International Herald Tribune but later returned to AP as special correspondent, based in Paris. Rosenblum left AP in 2004. He teaches International Reporting part-time at the University of Arizona, Tucson, and covers global stories from a base in France.)

(Shared by Arlon Southall)

Anne Walsh - mother of two former AP

bureau chiefs - dies at 93

Anne C. Walsh, the mother of two former AP bureau chiefs and whose husband once headed the AP Managing Editors Association, has died in Scottsdale, Arizona, at the age of 93.

Connecting colleagues Peggy Walsh ([Email](#)) and Kevin Walsh ([Email](#)) said their mother died last Tuesday, Nov. 10, and that a private family service will be held at a later date.

Anne, who once worked as a reporter for the Dallas Times Herald, was married for 52 years to Mason Walsh, longtime newspaperman and former publisher of The Arizona Republic and The Phoenix Gazette, who died in 1999. Mason Walsh was active in APME, serving as its national president in 1963.



Anne and Mason Walsh

"We were incredibly blessed to have Mom for 93 years," said Peggy, who was San Francisco chief of bureau during her AP career. "She was one of the strongest people I will ever know. Kevin speaks beautifully of her love of family, friends and the AP. She never lost her love of the news, reading papers daily and watching CNN all the time. She never wanted to miss anything. Mom had an amazing spirit, determination and love that will live on in all of us."

Kevin, who during his AP career served as AP bureau chief in Phoenix, Miami and Portland and was West Regional director when he retired in April, said his mother "was a beautiful individual who lived a long, joyous life. An amazing person, a pioneering woman in journalism, loving wife, great friend and fiercely loyal mother and grandmother.

"She was incredibly proud of her three children, her daughter-in-law and son-in-law. She adored her two grandchildren. Always the reporter, she acted as a central gathering point for family news until her final days. Mom loved the AP and everything it stands for. She gave birth to two AP bureau chiefs and some of her best memories of the industry involved AP people - before and after our father's service as an APME president."

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

Connecting mailbox

Call terrorism terrorism

Robert Weller - The AP used to have guidelines on what to call acts of political opposition. In some cases they went beyond seeking power at the ballot box to insurgencies. In some they were terrorism.

This isn't a case of well, it is one person's terrorism and another's liberation.

ISIS is not claiming to liberate people. And their choice of unarmed, non-military targets, in other countries, makes them terrorists. Not militants, either, though I understand that in some cases that is a useful word when writers do not even know who was killed or did the killing.

-0-

An AP reunion in western Maryland



Robert Reid - The Middle East Alumni Association in Western Maryland: From right to left -former international desk editor and later Mideast chief supervisor Marjorie Olster; Washington reporter and former Kabul correspondent Deb Riechmann; Marjorie Olster's husband Rachid El-Boukri and me...in Frederick, Maryland.

Connecting profile - Helen Mitternacht

Helen Mitternacht ([Email](#)) offers this profile: Helen Mitternacht joined the Associated Press Milwaukee bureau in 1981 upon graduation from Marquette University, where she caught the eye of the legendary Dion Henderson. She quickly became broadcast supervisor, in part because of her native talent and in larger part because Dion Henderson wanted to yank the chains of guild employees. Wildly unqualified to manage grizzled AP veterans, she immediately became a broadcast tyrant. The grizzled veterans - Pete Seymour, Jim Carlson, John Henderson - kindly let her live, and, during the course of numerous drinking sessions, taught her how to manage like a real human.

Mitternacht met and married AP reporter Dave Skidmore and the two moved with his transfer to the DC bureau. The marriage didn't survive, but the friendship did and the two have a 25-year-old daughter. Meanwhile, Mitternacht went to the dark side and became chief flack for a couple of politicians, the Humane Society of the United States and the American Diabetes Association, among others. In 2013, Mitternacht moved with her husband to Charleston, SC to follow her dream of

writing and to "get the jargon out" after so many years of flacking. She freelances for the *Post and Courier* and several magazines, and is working on her first novel, a mystery. She publishes several blogs including her own, "*Stilettos Not Required*," as well as a relationship/sex blog for Charleston Magazine's Grit, "*What's Love Got to Do With It?*" She also guest-blogs on actress Felicity Huffman's "*What the Flicka?*" lifestyle website.



Howard Graves - once the Unaclipper

Saturday's Connecting noted that Wednesday, Nov. 11, was the 89th birthday for former AP chief of bureau **Howard Graves**. Howard retired in 1993 after a 42-year AP career that included chief of bureau assignments in Albuquerque, Portland and Honolulu. He also served as national president of the Society of Professional Journalists.

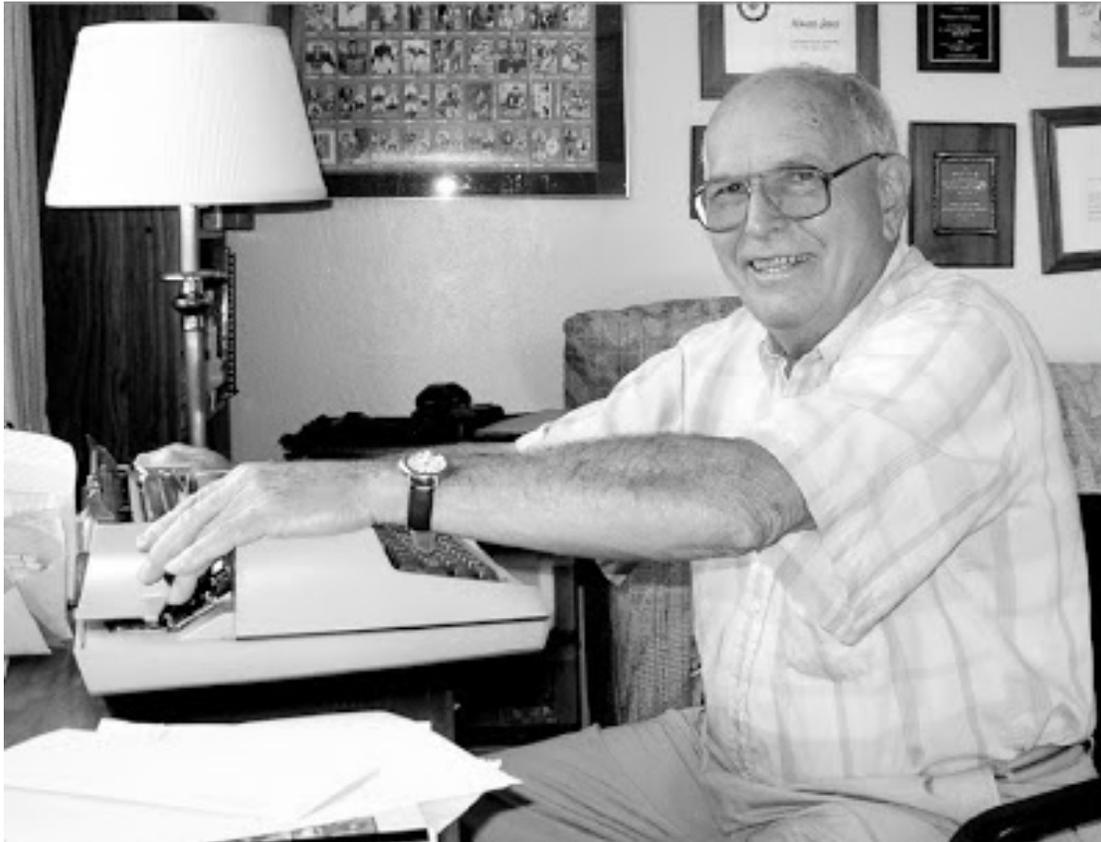
If you would like to drop Howard a belated birthday card or put him on your holiday mailing list, his address is:

Howard Graves
High Gate at Prescott Lakes
1600 Petroglyph Pointe Dr.
Prescott, AZ 86301

Ye Olde Connecting Editor came across this wonderful story on Howard from the Winter 2004 issue of AP's "Cleartime" and thought you would enjoy this blast from the past, written by **Steve Elliott**, then with AP but now director of digital news for the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University.

Many of us who were recipients of the AP story clippings that Howard sent regularly, on his own dime, were most grateful for seeing our staff's stories in print. Take a minute, and drop him a note. You couldn't start your week in a better way.

The Unaclipper



By Steve Elliott
Deputy Director for Content Development
Newspaper & New Media Markets

PRESCOTT, Ariz. - There's no computer, no e-mail, no fax machine at 670 Dragonfly Drive. Yet Howard Graves is connected to AP bureaus around the world.

Since retiring in 1993 as Honolulu chief of bureau, Graves has become a celebrity to many AP staffers using the seemingly forgotten medium of the U.S. mail.

He sends tearsheets from his home.

He sends tearsheets while on vacation.

He even sends tearsheets from newspapers his neighbors bring back from vacation.

To bureaus as near as Phoenix and as far away as Jakarta, Indonesia, envelopes bearing Graves' typewritten return address carry tearsheets from The Arizona Republic, The Daily Courier of Prescott and New Mexico's Gallup Independent, among other newspapers.

"We've gone from asking 'How'd it play in Peoria?' to 'How'd it play in Prescott?'" said John Shurr, chief of bureau in Columbia, S.C. "Howard Graves is the man with

the answer for us and dozens of other bureaus."

Lindel G. Hutson, chief of bureau in Oklahoma City, said, "I was handing out some Howard clips last week and one of the veterans quipped to a new staffer that you know you've arrived in the AP when you get a byline from Arizona."

That validation comes from the mile-high community of Prescott (it's pronounced press'-kit, not press'-kot, he'll remind you), about 90 miles north of Phoenix. It's here, amid the pines on a summer afternoon, that we catch up with the man who calls himself "The Unaclipper."

Returning from our lunch, Graves crosses the street to the mailbox and then picks up the Courier - an afternoon newspaper - from the driveway before heading inside.

"I'll be darned," he says, holding up a letter. It's from Foster Klug, a staffer in the Baltimore bureau. Klug thanks Graves for a tearsheet on a travel piece he wrote from Japan. Graves smiles. This will go into a stack of thank you cards and letters, several inches thick, in his office.

He then opens the Courier on the kitchen counter. An AP story from Idaho is a brief on page one. That'll go to Chief of Bureau Bill Beecham in Salt Lake City. A wildfire story with byline and photo will go to the Helena, Mont., bureau.

The Athens bureau will receive a tearsheet with a lengthy story on an inside page - Chief of Bureau Brian Murphy sends delightful thank you letters, Graves says.

With that aside, Graves sits down to face an obvious question from a grateful news agency.

Why?

"It's cheaper than playing golf," he laughs.

But seriously, it's because Graves remembers the uncertainty of sending wire stories into the void and the thrill staffers get from seeing their work in print.

"You just never know where these stories are going to get used and why they're going to use them," he says.

What started out as sending tearsheets to writers he knew has become over the past several years a hobby taking up five or six hours a week and requiring not-insignificant expenditures to the U.S. Postal Service.

Graves sends tearsheets to 25-30 domestic bureaus and around 20 international

bureaus.

What keeps him expanding this enterprise of tearing, stamping and mailing? The answer seems to lie in that stack of thank you notes.

There are letters, cards and postcards from Taipei and Nashville, Salt Lake City and Geneva, New Delhi and Minneapolis. Jakarta sent a baseball cap. Omaha sent envelopes and mailing labels. Many bureaus send stamps.

He pulls out a handwritten note from Angela K. Brown, correspondent in Fort Worth, Texas. "Thank you so much for sending me copies of newspapers that run my stories," she says. "I rarely get to see where my stories go."

"This is what a lot of the letters say," Graves says. "They're so pleased someone is thinking of them."

It's a fitting hobby for Graves, who turns 77 in November. He began his journalism career at a weekly newspaper in his hometown of Robinson, Ill., and spent more than 40 years with AP. His AP posts included chief of bureau in Portland, Ore., and Albuquerque, as well as more than a decade in Honolulu, where he supervised coverage of Hawaii and the central Pacific. He is a past national president of the Society of Professional Journalists.

His office is a portal of sorts back to Honolulu, where a Smith Corona typewriter similar to the one on Graves' desk once conveyed praise and blame to this reporter.

He has no computer and insists he never will. As long as he can buy ribbons, the staccato of his typing will ring through the house he shares with Audrey, his wife of 48 years.

On the desk, behind the typewriter and next to a scale and a photocopy showing current postal rates by the ounce, there are a half dozen or so open envelopes containing tearsheets. It's the beginning of the clipping cycle, it turns out. Graves mailed 20 envelopes the day before.

Graves opens a desk drawer containing stamps and envelopes sent by bureaus. He keeps them sorted by bureau and uses each bureau's stamps to send its tearsheets. If a bureau sends addressed envelopes, he'll take them on his vacations and mail tearsheets from the road.

He returns to the thank you notes. Nordic & Baltic News Editor Matt Moore recently sent a one-and-a-half page letter catching Graves up on AP operations in that region.

A note from Denver Chief of Bureau George Garties, who also sent stamps, says,

"Please keep them coming. We love it."

It's clear that he savors each one. "That's what it's all about."

Stories of interest

After the Paris Attacks: Live News Should Challenge Narratives, Not Desperately Try to Create Them (Common Dreams)

By Christian Christensen

As the events from Oslo on July 22, 2011 filtered through, TV news producers began to scramble. Many people had been murdered by a gunman, and they needed experts to give expert opinions. Fast. What followed was one of the most embarrassing examples of uninformed mass punditry in news history. This "must" have been Al Qaeda, most opined. Then, even after Breivik was identified and captured, a number of experts simply refused to believe reality and spun their earlier guesswork. I remember watching CNN's coverage of Oslo, and not once did an anchor challenge any of these experts. It was an exercise in throwing any half-baked opinion against the wall, hoping against hope that something might stick.

During horrific attacks such as the ones in Oslo and now Paris, there is a certain inevitability to people turning to large, mainstream TV news for information and updates. That's because TV is still the dominant news source for most citizens: size, trust and pure habit lead us to the places we know. Our personal media history matters. Social media, we are told, while superficially informative and occasionally entertaining, are ultimately dangerous during crises, laden with speculation, half-truths, untruths, hot takes and political points-scoring. However, what I saw when I flicked between BBC, CNN and other large-scale channels as I followed the events in France was little more than those things. In fact, the level of speculation and death-toll pornography on my TV screen more than equaled what I saw on my computer screen.

[Click here](#) to read more.

Today in History - November 16, 2015

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Nov. 16, the 320th day of 2015. There are 45 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On Nov. 15, 1945, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was founded at the conclusion of a conference in London. "The Lost Weekend," starring Ray Milland and Jane Wyman," was released by Paramount Pictures. "The Friendly Ghost," an animated short featuring the debut of Casper, was released by Paramount's cartoon division.

On this date:

In 1776, British troops captured Fort Washington in New York during the American Revolution.

In 1885, Canadian rebel leader Louis Riel was executed for high treason.

In 1907, Oklahoma became the 46th state of the union.

In 1914, the newly created Federal Reserve Banks opened in 12 cities.

In 1917, Georges Clemenceau again became prime minister of France.

In 1933, the United States and the Soviet Union established diplomatic relations.

In 1939, mob boss Al Capone, ill with syphilis, was released from prison after serving 7 1/2 years for tax evasion and failure to file tax returns.

In 1959, the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "The Sound of Music" opened on Broadway.

In 1960, Academy Award-winning actor Clark Gable died in Los Angeles at age 59.

In 1973, Skylab 4, carrying a crew of three astronauts, was launched from Cape Canaveral on an 84-day mission.

In 1989, six Jesuit priests, a housekeeper and her daughter were slain by army troops at the University of Central America Jose Simeon Canas in El Salvador.

In 1993, President Bill Clinton signed the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, making it harder for government to interfere with religious practices.

Ten years ago: Hoping to reverse the deterioration of pension plans, the Senate voted 97-2 to force companies to make up underfunding and live up to promises made to employees. (The bill, however, has yet to become law.) Vice President Dick Cheney joined the chorus of Republican criticism of Democrats who contended the Bush administration had manipulated intelligence on Iraq, an accusation Cheney called "one of the most dishonest and reprehensible charges ever aired in this city." "This Is Your Life" host Ralph

Edwards died in West Hollywood at age 92.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama presented the Medal of Honor to Army Staff Sgt. Salvatore Giunta, the first living service member from the Afghanistan and Iraq wars to receive the nation's top military award. U.S. Rep. Charles Rangel was convicted on 11 of 13 charges related to financial misconduct, prompting fellow lawmakers to censure the 80-year-old New York Democrat. The engagement of Prince William and Kate Middleton was announced in London. Hollywood publicist Ronni Chasen, 64, was shot to death in her car on Sunset Boulevard. (Police believe the killer was Harold Martin Smith, who took his own life when confronted by officers.) Roy Halladay of the Philadelphia Phillies unanimously won the NL Cy Young Award.

One year ago: The Islamic State group released a video featuring a masked militant standing over the severed head of Peter Kassig, a former U.S. soldier-turned-aid worker in Syria; President Barack Obama denounced the killing as one of "pure evil." President Obama returned to Washington following the conclusion of the Group of 20 economic forum in Brisbane, Australia. Erica Enders-Stevens won the Auto Club NHRA Finals in Pomona, California, to become the first woman to earn the Pro Stock world championship title.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Clu Gulager is 87. Journalist Elizabeth Drew is 80. Blues musician W.C. Clark is 76. Actress Joanna Pettet is 73. Actor Steve Railsback is 70. Actor David Leisure is 65. Actor Miguel Sandoval is 64. Actress Marg Helgenberger is 57. Rock musician Mani is 53. Country singer-musician Keith Burns (Trick Pony) is 52. Tennis player Zina Garrison is 52. Former MLB All-Star pitcher Dwight Gooden is 51. Jazz singer Diana Krall is 51. Actor Harry Lennix is 51. Rock musician Dave Kushner (Velvet Revolver) is 49. Actress Lisa Bonet (boh-NAY') is 48. Actress Tammy Lauren is 47. Rhythm-and-blues singer Bryan Abrams (Color Me Badd) is 46. Actress Martha Plimpton is 45. Actor Michael Irby is 43. Actress Missi Pyle is 43. Olympic gold medal figure skater Oksana Baiul (ahk-SAH'-nah by-OOL') is 38. Actress Maggie Gyllenhaal (JIHL'-ehn-hahl) is 38. Pop singer Trevor Penick is 36. NBA player Amare Stoudemire is 33. Actress Kimberly J. Brown is 31. Rock singer Siva Kaneswaran (The Wanted) is 27. Actor Casey Moss (TV: "Days of Our Lives") is 22. Actor Noah Gray-Cabey is 20.

Thought for Today: "An American who can make money, invoke God, and be no better than his neighbor, has nothing to fear but truth itself." - Marya Mannes, American critic (1904-1990).

Got a story to share?



Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

Paul Stevens
Editor
Connecting newsletter
stevenspl@live.com

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