



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

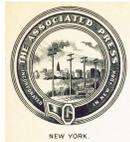
Connecting - April 06, 2017

2 messages

Paul Stevens <paulstevens46@gmail.com>
Reply-To: paulstevens46@gmail.com
To: pjshane@gmail.com

Thu, Apr 6, 2017 at 9:04 AM

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Connecting

April 06, 2017

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AP's first managing editor: Jack Cappon



AP Managing Editor Rene J. Cappon is pictured at his desk at the Associated Press headquarters (50 Rockefeller Plaza) in New York City, March 29, 1966. (AP Photo/Jacob Harris) (Photo courtesy of AP Corporate Archives)

Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning!

Brian Carovillano has joined some rather august company with his appointment as managing editor of The Associated Press.

The position was initiated at the AP in 1964 by then-General Manager Wes Gallagher. He selected Rene J. "Jack" Cappon as the first AP managing editor, and Carovillano is the 11th to hold the position. That list includes some of the best and brightest in AP history.

The eagle-eyed among our Connecting colleagues caught an error in the AP lead on Carovillano's appointment story Tuesday that called it a "new position." One of them, retiree Larry Blasko, said, "That first graf would surprise Connecting colleagues who held that job." Indeed, there are five Connecting colleagues who once served as managing editor.

The structure of a single managing editor who was second in command and deputy to the executive editor was last in place eight years ago, until Mike Silverman retired as managing editor in 2009. At that time, executive editor Kathleen Carroll appointed John Daniszewski and Michael Oreskes as senior managing editors and named a number of other managing editors, each responsible for different parts of the report.

Sally Buzbee, Carroll's successor as executive editor, restored the title of a single managing editor in her fourth month in the job.

Wes Gallagher created the position effective June 15, 1964, with Cappon assigned to work under general news editor Sam Blackman.

Cappon, formerly supervising editor of AP Newsfeatures, returned to AP to take the managing editor position after 21 months as editor of the Anchorage (Alaska) News. He left his earlier AP post after his father-in-law, the owner of the Anchorage News, suffered a heart attack.

At the same time, Gallagher appointed Nate Polowetzky as supervising editor of AP Newsfeatures.



AP news leaders, in 1969, from left: Nate Polowitzky, Lou Boccardi, Jack Cappon and Sam Blackman. (Photo courtesy of AP Corporate Archives)

General Desk leaders at the time were: Sam Blackman, General News Editor; Rene J. Cappon, Managing Editor; Mercer Bailey, day supervisor; Herb Barker, night supervisor; Edward J. Dennehy, early supervisor, and relief supervisors Sam Mindell, Marvin Beard, Martin Sutphin, Al West and Ray Stephens.

Boccardi succeeded Cappon as managing editor in 1969 and served in that position until 1973. Boccardi went on to become AP executive editor, a position that had been left vacant since the retirement of the legendary Alan Gould, and served as president and chief executive officer of the AP from 1985 to 2003.

Managing editors who followed were:

Bob Johnson, 1973-77
 Burl Osborne, 1977-80
 Wick Temple, 1980-85
 Bill Ahearn, 1985-88
 Marty Thompson, 1989-92
 Darrell Christian, 1992-98
 Jon Wolman, 1998-2000
 Mike Silverman, 2000 - 2009

Where are our former managing editors today?

One of them is still working fulltime - Jon Wolman, who is editor and publisher of The Detroit News.

Four have died - Wick Temple (in 2003), Jack Cappon (2007), Bob Johnson (2007) and Burl Osborne (2012).

Bill Ahearn moved to Bloomberg News where he worked from 2002 to 2012.

Lou Boccardi, Marty Thompson, Darrell Christian and Mike Silverman are retired.

Want to bring automation to your newsroom? A new AP report details best practices

By JOSEPH LICHTERMAN, Nieman Lab

In 2014, the Associated Press began automating some of its coverage of corporate earnings reports. Instead of having humans cover the basic finance stories, the AP, working with the firm Automated Insights, was able to use algorithms to speed up the process and free up human reporters to pursue more complex stories.

The AP estimates that the automated stories have freed up 20 percent of the time its journalists spent on earnings reports as well as allowed it to cover additional companies that it didn't have the capacity to report on before. The newswire has since started automating some of its minor league baseball coverage, and it told me last year that it has plans to expand its usage of algorithms in the newsroom.

"Through automation, AP is providing customers with 12 times the corporate earnings stories as before (to over 3,700), including for a lot of very small companies that never received much attention," Lisa Gibbs, AP's global business editor, said in a report the AP released Wednesday.

The AP's report - written by AP strategy and development manager Francesco Marconi and AP research fellow Alex Siegman, along with help from multiple AI systems - details some of the wire's efforts toward automating its reporting while also sharing best practices and explaining the technology that's involved, including machine learning, natural language processing, and more.

Read more [here](#).

That time I played golf with the future president



In this 2002 file photo, Donald Trump talks with Annika Sorenstam of Stockholm, Sweden, during the LPGA Tour Championships ProAm round as they wait to tee off on the 15th tee at the Trump International Golf Club in West Palm Beach, Fla. (AP Photo/Marta Lavandier)

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

AUGUSTA, Georgia (AP) - I played golf with Donald Trump in November 2002 when he was just a billionaire developer who loved golf.

Rounding out our pro-am foursome at Trump International in West Palm Beach, Florida, were Annika Sorenstam and Jim Palmer, the former Baltimore Orioles

pitcher. At the time, Sorenstam was the best in the world, and Trump had made sure she was in his group.

Me? I was just along for the ride.

On the last hole, Sorenstam hit her tee shot about 10 yards past mine, and that was all the future president, known for trash talk on the links, needed.

"Did you see how far she hit it past you? And you hit that one good!" he said mockingly.

"Yes, well, she is No. 1 in the world," I replied.

"Yeah, but you're a big, strong guy and she's 20 yards past you!"

The next day I was watching Sorenstam in the first round and when she missed a putt, I realized I was standing next to Trump.

"I hope we didn't ruin her yesterday," I said.

He looked over, saw me and said, "Hey there! Man, I cannot believe how far she hit it past you on the 18th yesterday." That's when I knew he hadn't let it go.

Days later, when I was to interview him for a story on golf course development, he even wanted me to tell his employee who brought me to our meeting.

"Tell him how far Annika hit her drive past you," he said.

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



Doug Ferguson

Ron Fournier doesn't miss covering the White House

By **JAMES WARREN, Poynter**

Yes, you can go home.

If you labor in the self-regarding echo chamber of Washington, D.C., leaving can be difficult. The issues in the capital are important, the spotlight intense and enervating, the proximity to power is alluring to many and the professional benefits can be ample.



"I cover the White House," you can perhaps tell the world, even if it means you served largely as a stenographer at daily briefings and staged events. Your "insider" tales can be of ample dinner-table fascination to outsiders, even if they relay facts and rumors you found reason not to actually write.

Ron Fournier, 53, left that behind last year after experiencing the full breadth of the capital experience. Upon his arrival in 1992, Fournier covered the Clinton White House after covering them in Arkansas for The Associated Press. That followed a post-college stint with the Hot Springs, Arkansas Sentinel-Record and work at the Arkansas Democrat.

He didn't become AP Washington bureau chief until 2008 and later moved to Atlantic Media properties, including The Atlantic and National Journal. While at Atlantic Media, he adapted well to the new world of the internet and social media, becoming not just an editor but also an often-provocative analyst.

Now, he is editor-publisher of Crain's Detroit Business and, he says, happy as can be. I caught up with him to find out about his transition.

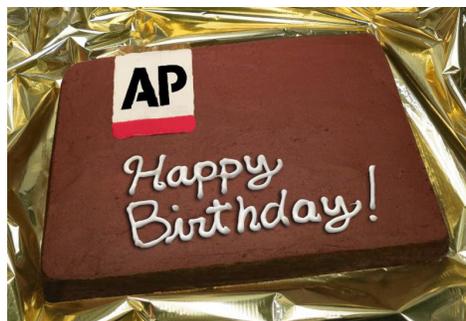
Read more [here](#). Shared by Bob Daugherty.

Nick Ut Day in Los Angeles County



Newly retired AP-Los Angeles photographer **Nick Ut** ([Email](#)) was recognized by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors for his 51-year career with the Associated Press by declaring Tuesday as Nick Ut Day. Photo/Raul Roa

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Kia Breaux - kbreaux@ap.org

Kent Ford - kford@socket.net

Mike Tharp - buckharp33@aol.com

Stories of interest

New Pittsburg, Kan., High School principal resigns after student journalists question her credentials (Kansas City Star)



Photo by Emily Smith, Pittsburg High School

Days after student reporters at Pittsburg High School in Kansas dug into the background of their newly hired principal and found questionable credentials, she

resigned from the \$93,000-a-year job.

"She was going to be the head of our school, and we wanted be assured that she was qualified and had the proper credentials," said Trina Paul, a senior and an editor of the Booster Redux, the school newspaper. "We stumbled on some things that most might not consider legitimate credentials."

Minutes into a closed special meeting Tuesday night of the Pittsburg Community Schools Board of Education, board president Al Mendez emerged to announce to a packed boardroom that Amy Robertson, the new principal, had resigned.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Bob Daugherty.

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RTNDA/F names Dan Shelley incoming executive director

RTDNA and RTDNF today announced that longtime Association member, former Chairman of the Board and current Foundation Secretary/Treasurer Dan Shelley has been named Incoming Executive Director of the two organizations. Shelley begins work immediately and will assume the role of Executive Director in September.

Shelley is a veteran Edward. R. Murrow Award-winning radio, television and digital media executive, serving in key news leadership positions with iHeartMedia, Radio One, CBS Television Stations and Journal Broadcast Group. He began his career at KTTS-AM/FM in Springfield, Missouri. He has been a member of the RTDNA/F board of directors for nearly two decades, serving terms as the Association's chairman in 2005-2006 and Foundation chairman the following year, as well as chairing the programs, awards and convention planning committees.



Read more [here](#). Shared by Scott Charton.

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If you publish Georgia's state laws, you'll get sued for copyright and lose (Ars Technica)

If you want to read the official laws of the state of Georgia, it will cost you more than \$1,000.

Open-records activist Carl Malamud bought a hard copy, and it cost him \$1,207.02 after shipping and taxes. A copy on CD was \$1,259.41. The "good" news for Georgia residents is that they'll only have to pay \$385.94 to buy a printed set from LexisNexis.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Paul Shane,

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Trump's War on Journalism (Los Angeles Times)

An EDITORIAL

In Donald Trump's America, the mere act of reporting news unflattering to the president is held up as evidence of bias. Journalists are slandered as "enemies of the people."

Facts that contradict Trump's version of reality are dismissed as "fake news." Reporters and their news organizations are "pathetic," "very dishonest," "failing," and even, in one memorable turn of phrase, "a pile of garbage."

Trump is, of course, not the first American president to whine about the news media or try to influence coverage. President George W. Bush saw the press as elitist and "slick." President Obama's press operation tried to exclude Fox News reporters from interviews, blocked many officials from talking to journalists and, most troubling, prosecuted more national security whistle-blowers and leakers than all previous presidents combined.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mike Holmes.

The Final Word

Grammar vigilante is correcting UK signs in nighttime strikes



LONDON (AP) - It's an urban myth come true - the presence of a man dedicated to ridding the English city of Bristol of grammatical errors in its shop signs.

He goes out at night with a self-styled device used to cover up misplaced apostrophes from street signs in the city 120 miles (195 kilometers) west of London. He uses stickers, not paint.

The man has not been identified but he told BBC in a report broadcast Monday that he doesn't consider his alterations of the signs and store fronts to be a crime. He says the real crime is putting apostrophes in the wrong places to begin with.

It's not a new obsession - he's been at it for 13 years.

[Click here](#) for a link to this story. Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

Today in History - April 6, 2017



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, April 6, the 96th day of 2017. There are 269 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 6, 1917, the United States entered World War I as the House joined the Senate in approving a declaration of war against Germany that was then signed by President Woodrow Wilson.

On this date:

In 1830, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized by Joseph Smith in Fayette, New York.

In 1886, the Canadian city of Vancouver, British Columbia, was incorporated.

In 1896, the first modern Olympic games formally opened in Athens, Greece.

In 1909, American explorers Robert E. Peary and Matthew A. Henson and four Inuits became the first men to reach the North Pole.

In 1947, the first Tony Awards were held in New York; this event, focusing on individual achievement rather than specific works, honored Ingrid Bergman, Helen Hayes, Jose Ferrer, Fredric March and playwright Arthur Miller, among others.

In 1954, Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, R-Wis., responding to CBS newsman Edward R. Murrow's broadside against him on "See It Now," said in remarks filmed for the program that Murrow had, in the past, "engaged in propaganda for Communist causes."

In 1965, the United States launched Intelsat I, also known as the "Early Bird" communications satellite, into geosynchronous orbit.

In 1971, Russian-born composer Igor Stravinsky, 88, died in New York City.

In 1980, 3M introduced its "Post-it Notes," a re-branding of a product formerly known as "Press 'n Peel."

In 1992, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled a Nebraska farmer had been entrapped by postal agents into buying mail-order child pornography. The four-year siege of Sarajevo by Bosnian Serb forces began. Science-fiction author Isaac Asimov died in New York at age 72.

In 1998, country singer Tammy Wynette died at her Nashville home at age 55.

In 2014, actor Mickey Rooney, 93, died in North Hollywood.

Ten years ago: British sailors and marines back home after being freed by Iran said they were blindfolded, isolated in cold stone cells and tricked into fearing execution while being coerced into falsely saying they had entered Iranian waters. A suicide bomber smashed a truck loaded with TNT and toxic chlorine gas into a police checkpoint in Ramadi, Iraq, killing 27 people.

Five years ago: Five black people were shot, three fatally, in Tulsa, Oklahoma; Jake England and Alvin Watts, who admitted targeting the victims because of race, pleaded guilty to murder, and were sentenced to life in prison without parole. A Navy F18 Hornet jet whose pilots were forced to eject crashed in a spectacular fireball into

a big apartment complex in Virginia Beach, Virginia; miraculously, no one died. Fang Lizhi (fahng lee-juhr), 76, who was one of China's best-known dissidents, died in Tucson, Arizona. Painter Thomas Kinkade, 54, died in Monte Sereno, California.

One year ago: A federal judge in Charleston, West Virginia, sentenced former coal executive Don Blankenship to a year in prison for his role in the 2010 Upper Big Branch Mine explosion that killed 29 men in America's deadliest mining disaster in four decades; Blankenship maintained that he had committed no crime. Country giant Merle Haggard died in Palo Cedro, California, on his 79th birthday.

Today's Birthdays: Nobel Prize-winning scientist James D. Watson is 89. Composer-conductor Andre Previn is 88. Actor Billy Dee Williams is 80. Actor Roy Thinnes is 79. Movie director Barry Levinson is 75. Actor John Ratzenberger is 70. Actress Patrika Darbo is 69. Baseball Hall of Famer Bert Blyleven is 66. Actress Marilu Henner is 65. Olympic bronze medal figure skater Janet Lynn is 64. Actor Michael Rooker is 62. Former U.S. Rep. Michele Bachmann, R-Minn., is 61. Rock musician Warren Haynes is 57. Rock singer-musician Frank Black is 52. Actress Ari Meyers is 48. Actor Paul Rudd is 48. Actor-producer Jason Hervey is 45. Rock musician Markku Lappalainen (mar-KOO' lap-uh-LAN'-en) is 44. Actor Zach Braff is 42. Actor Joel Garland is 42. Actress Candace Cameron Bure (buhr-RAY') is 41. Actor Teddy Sears is 40. Jazz and rhythm-and-blues musician Robert Glasper is 39. Actress Eliza Coupe is 36. Folk singer-musician Kenneth Pattengale (Milk Carton Kids) is 35. Actor Bret Harrison is 35. Actor Charlie McDermott is 27.

Thought for Today: "To be really cosmopolitan, a man must be at home even in his own country." - Thomas Wentworth Higginson, American clergyman-author (1823-1911).

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!

Here are some suggestions:

- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.

- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.



- **"A silly mistake that you make"** - a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.

- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing 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.

- **Life after AP** for those of you who have moved on to another job or profession.

- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

Paul Stevens
Editor, Connecting newsletter
paulstevens46@gmail.com

Connecting newsletter, 14719 W 79th Ter, Lenexa, KS 66215

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Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>
Draft To: **Paul Stevens** <paulstevens46@gmail.com>

Wed, Apr 12, 2017 at 4:51 AM

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