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Connecting - April 20, 2017

1 message

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Thu, Apr 20, 2017 at 9:00 AM

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Connecting

April 20, 2017

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Colleagues,

The Associated Press has released its annual report for 2016 - and we lead today's issue with highlights and an AP story that summarizes it.

You may access the report, released Wednesday during the AP annual

meeting in New York, by [clicking here](#).

There are four sections in the report:

* The chairman and CEO letter provides an overview of AP's 2016 accomplishments and briefly touches on areas of focus for 2017.

* A selection of AP stories provides a peek behind the scenes of the world's most trusted news source and demonstrates the depth and breadth of AP's news report.

* 'AP by the numbers' offers a look at 2016 through AP stats and figures.

* The 2016 financials document AP's fiscal data for the year.



**AP Chairman Steven Swartz (left)
and AP President/CEO Gary Pruitt**

The AP also announced election of four new directors at the annual meeting.

Memorial services for **Jerry Nachtigal**, former AP journalist who died Sunday, will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 22 at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls. Visitation will be from 5-7 pm on Friday, April 21 also at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. Memorials may be directed to the SDSU Foundation for a scholarship fund in Jerry's name.

Paul

Newspaper decline continues to weigh on AP earnings



NEW YORK (AP) - Earnings at The Associated Press shrank substantially last year compared with 2015, when the news organization enjoyed a large tax benefit that skewed its results. Revenue also edged downward, reflecting continued contraction in the newspaper industry and a stronger U.S. dollar that reduced the value of overseas sales.

Net income last year shrank to \$1.6 million from \$183.6 million in 2015, a 99 percent decline. The 2015 profit figure was bolstered by a one-time, \$165 million tax benefit. AP's 2014 net income of \$140.9 million was also boosted by a large non-recurring gain from the sale of a stake in a sports data company. In 2013, net income at the AP - a not-for-profit news cooperative - was \$3.3 million.

Although AP's 2016 profit was slightly less than half that of 2013, AP chief financial officer Ken Dale said last year brought the company's net results "back to more normal levels."

Dale said he was focused on other measures of the company's financial health. "We feel like we're financially stable, we have no debt and we continue to generate positive cash flow," he said. AP ended 2016 with \$24.7 million in cash and equivalents, down from \$50.6 million the year before.

Revenue at AP, which reported its earnings Wednesday, dropped 2 percent to \$556.3 million in 2016. The news agency gave some papers lower rates in

exchange for longer contracts, Dale said. The number of U.S. newspaper customers didn't change much.

AP's annual revenue peaked in 2008 at \$748 million, and has mostly fallen since then, battered by the shift to online media and the decline of newspapers. The news agency, which sells other media organizations subscriptions to its print stories, videos and photos, has worked to make up the shortfall by investing more in video and focusing on new overseas customers.

Revenue related to the 2016 presidential election offset some of the decline. AP charges TV networks and newspapers extra for its vote-counting services. The agency's international video division also showed marginal growth. AP expects further growth in video revenue, particularly from the Middle East and Asia.

Nearly half of AP's revenue comes from TV broadcasters. Newspapers account for 23 percent of revenue. U.S. papers make up the bulk of that, contributing 19 percent of total revenue. Internet companies like Yahoo and Microsoft contribute about another 10 percent. AP also gets money from other agencies and radio stations.

Expenses rose nearly 2 percent last year to \$562.7 million, a sum that included \$16.6 million in costs related to the move of AP's headquarters to lower Manhattan from midtown. That move is expected to save the company \$10 million annually going forward. AP also laid off some news staffers last year.

AP held its annual meeting in New York Wednesday. Four new directors were named to the organization's 21-member board: Emily Barr, president and CEO of Graham Media Group, which owns seven local TV stations; Lisa DeSisto, CEO of MaineToday Media, which publishes newspapers in Maine; William Lewis, CEO of News Corp.'s Dow Jones and publisher of The Wall Street Journal; and Michael Newhouse, director and senior executive of Advance/Newhouse, a magazine and newspaper publisher with cable interests.

Vice chairman Steven Swartz, the president and CEO of newspaper and magazine publisher Hearst Corp., was named chairman of AP's board, succeeding Lee Enterprises Inc. executive chairman Mary Junck.

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

Memories of Jim Fitzgerald

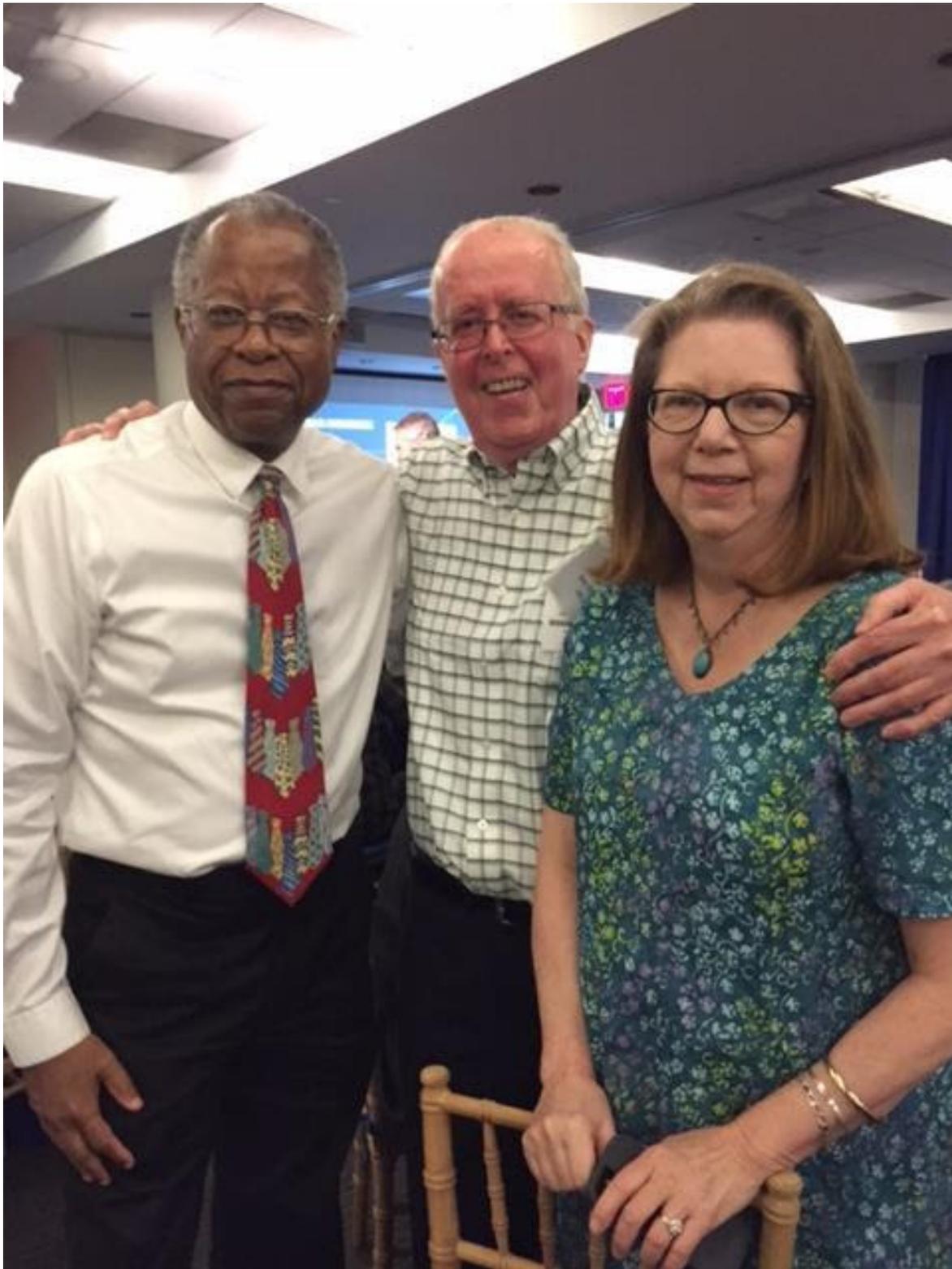
'Gentleman Journalist'

Richard Pyle ([Email](#)) - If the Associated Press had ever added a "Gentleman Journalist" to the list of awards it bestows annually on staffers deserving of special recognition, it might well have been retired years ago with the name of Jim Fitzgerald etched on it.

This thought crossed my mind upon learning in a phone message (from ex-AP staffer Larry McShane) last Monday AM that Jim, our former NYC bureau day editor and northern suburban correspondent had lost his stubborn battle with leukemia.

All of us who over the years worked with Jim knew him as an exemplar of the craft we all practice _ or at least did before our unique wire service world started to become something different. Professionally, Jim Fitzgerald was all-AP in every way, and will be remembered by his former colleagues with great affection and respect.

Deepest condolences to his wife, AP editor/manager Ellen Nimmons, and daughters Bridget and Caitlin.



Brenda Smiley shares this photo of Jim and Ellen with Jack Stokes (left), retired AP executive, at last year's 25-Year Club reception in New York.

He never lost his cool

Marty Steinberg (Email) - I'm so saddened by Jim Fitzgerald's passing. I worked with him through many extraordinarily stressful situations and he always kept his cool. Never lost it - no exaggeration. He was truly dedicated to the team. It was an honor to work with him and to learn only a fraction of his immense patience, loyalty and dedication. Farewell to a real gentleman. Deepest sympathies to Ellen Nimmons and the girls and the rest of the Fitzgerald family, including AP.

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It was difficult to leave NY because of people like Jim and his wife Ellen Nimmons

Lindel Hutson (Email) - I was very sad to learn of the death of Jim Fitzgerald. Jim is one of the fondest memories of my New York years. I worked with him often when he served as national editor on the General Desk. I always admired his stewardship of the news report. He was a true professional and treated everyone courteously and fairly. He welcomed everyone with a pleasant smile, a friendly demeanor and his signature, "How are you? Me? Never better."

It was difficult to leave New York because of people like Jim and his wife, Ellen Nimmons, who also in those days worked on the General Desk. Jim's contributions to the AP go back 45 years. His legacy will continue for a long, long time. My condolences to Ellen and the family.

Connecting mailbox

Looking forward to seeing 'The Promise' - but journalism, not celebrity, is AP's way forward



John Lumpkin (Email) - Re the lede on "The Promise," (Wednesday's Connecting) many of us remember the quips that AP stood for "Anonymous Press," and there was actually some truth in that. In the hometown of an AP bureau staffer, there was rarely if ever a byline in those days, if even now. Your friends and relatives who didn't understand journalism culture wondered if you really were doing any reporting, even you were covering the most important breaking news of the day in your state or nation.

Then there was and still is the problematic "From wire service reports," which is often a cop out. Or "From Staff and wire reports," which could mean a true attempt to localize but more likely an addition of a local reax quote or some file info in a superficial change that eliminates the AP logo and disguises to the reader the source of the information.

And then there was the joke about whether we worked for a grocery store, the brand of which is now history.

Looking forward to seeing "The Promise," but I also think that AP's tradition of brandishing the journalism and not the cult of personality is the way forward in the current tumult about journalism's role in our society.

AND

Dave Lubeski (Email) - "...he's just a touch more glamorous than most in the AP newsroom." The reference to Christian Bale portraying an AP reporter on the big screen. I laughed out loud when I read it.

Was that line meant to be tongue in cheek? And how is the writer (Jake Coyle) defining "glamorous" in describing Christian Bale? I don't know where else you would find such an assortment of diverse and colorful characters than in an AP newsroom. I've worked alongside a few of them. Some of the nicknames they've gone by include "Gator" "Snake" "Hoffa" (don't ask) "Psycho" "Study" "Kukla" and "Man-Child" just to name a few. I've worked on assignments with AP colleagues

through the years who are now legends. "Marvelous Marv" "Bear" "Fast Eddie" and one who couldn't remember names, so he called everyone "Mersh."

And all of them made names for themselves. Not for their monikers, but for the job they did as AP reporters.

That said, I'm sure Christian Bale will do the AP proud in *The Promise*.

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Former Chattanooga Times Publisher (and former AP director) Ruth Holmberg dies



Ruth Holmberg, Chattanooga civic leader and former publisher of *The Chattanooga Times*, died Wednesday at her home. She was 96.

Holmberg was the granddaughter of Adolph Ochs, the 19th-century patriarch of *The Chattanooga Times* who rose to world prominence as publisher of *The New York Times* in the early decades of the 20th century.

Over time, Holmberg was deeply involved in Chattanooga civic life, serving in leadership roles in the Chattanooga Symphony & Opera Association, the Hunter Museum of American Art, the Chattanooga Urban League and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. She was named Tennessee Woman of the Year in 2003.

"She had a spectacular life," said her son Michael Golden, vice chairman of *The New York Times*. "On behalf of her children, we are extremely proud of the leadership role that our mother played in Chattanooga in education, civil rights, beautification and the arts."

Holmberg was also active in the upper echelons of the newspaper industry, serving on the board of directors of both *The New York Times Co.* and *The Associated Press*. She was a past president of the Southern Newspaper Publishers Association.

Read more [here](#). (Ruth Holmberg served on the AP board of directors 1987-1996.)

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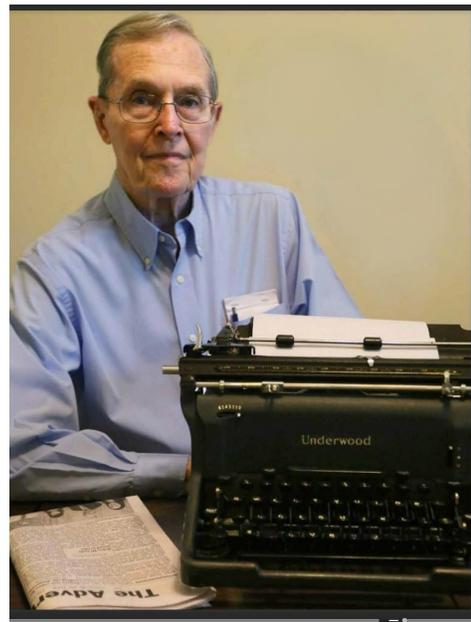
Memories of the Harveys, The Advertiser-Gleam and the 'dead dog in the road' photo

Ed Williams ([Email](#)) - Thinking a lot these last two days of my good friend Sam Harvey and his dad Porter Harvey and all the Harveys and their great newspaper The Advertiser-Gleam (of Guntersville, Alabama).

No remembrance would be complete without mentioning the "dead dog in the road" photo.

Sad that Sam is gone, but this great photo always makes me smile.

I shared the photo in the classroom at Auburn many times during the 30 years that I talked about community journalism.



The Harveys understood community journalism. I told my students The Gleam was the best community newspaper in Alabama ... maybe in the world.

RIP Sam. Thanks for all the great stories.

LONGTIME EDITOR PASSES - Sam Harvey, the editor of the Advertiser-Gleam for 47 years and part of the family that owned the paper for many years, died Tuesday morning, April 18, 2017. He was 86. [Click here](#) for a link to his obituary.

People still ask us about this photo, which ran in 1978.



A paving machine striped right over this dog in 1978.

The most famous picture we ever ran

It was 10 years ago that the Advertiser-Gleam ran a photograph that caused more comment than any other picture that's ever been in the paper.

It showed a dead dog in the road, with a center-line stripe that had been painted over him. It was on Hwy. 431 at Claysville, when that was a 2-lane road.

Several readers wrote in to protest that we shouldn't have printed such a gross picture. Others said we were right. They said it was something that happened and that we should

have let people know about it. We still get asked about it pretty often. Good many people have asked if we have extra copies of this issue. We don't.

The picture here isn't quite as clear as the one in 1978. That's because we had to reprint this one from the paper, rather than from the photograph itself. There was only one copy of the picture because it was a Polaroid. The editor's son sent it off to the National Lampoon hoping they would pay him \$15 for running it in their magazine. They didn't use it and he didn't get the picture back.

Some people have heard that the picture was sent to papers all over the country by the Associated Press, but that wasn't the case. About the same time that we ran this picture, we ran a picture of a wavy stripe in the middle of Gunter Avenue. A photographer from the Birmingham Post-Herald made a picture of the same wavy stripe, and that was the one that was sent around the country. It didn't have a dog in it.

THE ADVERTISER-GLEAM
Guntersville, Ala., July 19, 1989

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Advice to students: Don't just be a stenographer. What's a stenographer?

Hal Bock ([Email](#)) - For your post AP career collection:

After 40 years of covering every big sports event on the calendar and working for some terrific sports editors like Wick Temple and Terry Taylor, I decided to try something else -- teaching.

I became Journalist in Residence at Long Island University's Brooklyn campus and was teaching a News Writing class. I started to lecture on interpretive journalism, how to explain the meaning of stories and good stuff like that, I remember distinctly saying ``Don't just be a stenographer." And then I realized that this generation of students had no idea about stenographers. C'est la vie.

AP announces 4 new directors, 5 incumbents at annual meeting

NEW YORK -- Four new directors and five incumbents were named to The Associated Press board of directors, it was announced at AP's annual meeting today at its New York headquarters.

Joining the AP cooperative's board as new directors are Emily Barr, president and CEO of Graham Media Group; Lisa DeSisto, CEO of MaineToday Media; William Lewis, CEO of Dow Jones and publisher of The Wall Street Journal; and Michael Newhouse, director and senior executive of Advance/Newhouse.

Barr joined Graham Media Group, the television broadcasting division of Graham Holdings Company, in July 2012. The group owns seven local stations in top-70 markets, as well as Social News Desk, which provides social media management tools to newsrooms. Barr had previously been president and general manager of ABC7 Chicago (WLS-TV) since April 1997.

DeSisto joined MaineToday Media, the state's largest media company, in November 2012, leading a turnaround strategy for the company and overseeing its smooth

transition to new owner Reade Brower. Previously DeSisto served as chief advertising officer for The Boston Globe and general manager for Boston.com.

Lewis was appointed to his current position in May 2014 after serving as chief creative officer for News Corp., responsible for the company's creative strategy and developing new commercial opportunities. Lewis joined News Corp. in 2010 as group general manager of U.K. news. Previously he was editor-in-chief of Telegraph Media Group.

Newhouse is a director and senior executive at Advance/Newhouse, a privately-owned group of media companies publishing newspapers in more than 25 U.S. cities, as well as websites and other digital products. The company's other operations include Conde Nast, American City Business Journals, 1010data, Inc. and POP, Inc. It is also the majority owner of Reddit, Inc.

DeSisto, Lewis and Newhouse were elected to the board by members and Barr was appointed by directors.

The four incumbents re-elected to the board are:

- Terry Kroeger, president and CEO of BH Media Group.
- Robin McKinney Martin, owner of the Santa Fe New Mexican and the Taos News.
- James Moroney, chairman, president and CEO of A.H. Belo Corporation.
- David Paxton, president and CEO of Paxton Media Group.

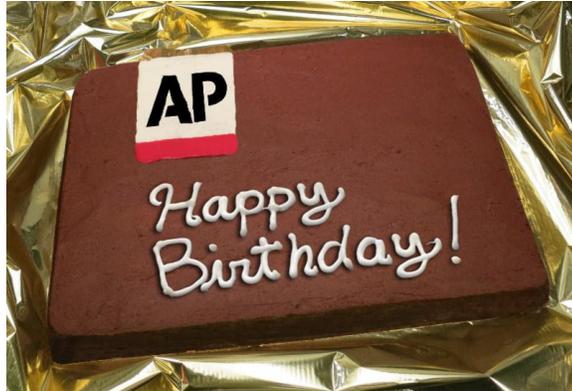
Rob King, senior vice president of Sports Center and News for ESPN, was reappointed to the board.

Vice Chairman Steven R. Swartz, president and CEO of Hearst Corporation, becomes chairman of the AP Board of Directors. Swartz was elected to the AP board in 2009. He succeeds Mary Junck, executive chairman of Lee Enterprises, Inc., who has completed a five-year term as chairman. Junck joined the AP board as a director in 2004.

The AP board has 21 directors. Directors are elected by members, or appointed to the AP board by directors.

Each director is eligible to serve up to a total of nine years, although the chairman is exempt from that rule.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Ron Thompson - rmthomfla@aol.com

George Zucker - glzucker@aol.com

Stories of interest

Alex Jones And The Dark New Media Are On Trial In Texas (Buzzfeed)

AUSTIN - Halfway through the second official day of his 10-day civil custody trial, Alex Jones reclined in his chair and mopped sweat from his brow while watching a shirtless, pantsless version of himself hawk male vitality supplements on a courtroom television screen. It was hardly the most outlandish moment of the afternoon.

Indeed, the first full day of Jones' battle to retain custody of his three young children was filled with bizarre allegations - claims that Jones took his shirt off during a joint family counseling session and once blamed his inability to recall basic facts about his children during a pretrial deposition on having "had a big bowl of chili for lunch."

The news from the Travis County courtroom - breathless tweets from a gaggle of journalists covering the trial - bled across the internet instantly. Since Sunday evening, when the Austin American Statesman broke the news that Jones' attorneys planned to defend his custody on the grounds that his two-plus decades of conspiracy theorizing has been "performance art," Alex Jones' name and reputation have unexpectedly become one of the biggest stories in the country.

Read more [here](#).

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Huffington Post invited the student journos who busted their principal to the White House correspondents' dinner (Washington Post)

Since this year's White House correspondents' dinner is all about journalism, and not about the celebrities who have in recent years threatened to overrun the event, who qualifies as a VIP "get" of a guest at the black-tie affair?

The Huffington Post is bringing a table full of the Kansas high school journalism students who made headlines of their own this month for busting their school's principal for faking her educational credentials. HuffPo has long courted buzzy celebs to invite to the event, and this year it decided that the team of student investigative journos from the Booster Redux at Pittsburg High School were the perfect of-the-moment guests.

Read more [here](#).

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Newseum: Let Us Now Praise Silicon Valley Oligarchs Who Abet Chinese Censorship &

Oppose Religious Freedom Statutes (Washington Free Beacon)

Last night the Newseum gave its second annual "free speech award" to Apple CEO Tim Cook. The honor was just one of several "Free Expression" awards that "recognize those who exhibit passion for and dedication to free expression." I can't be the only person who found this ironic.

It was only a few months ago that Apple removed the New York Times app from the Chinese version of the App Store. "The move limits access to one of the few remaining channels for readers in mainland China to read The Times without resorting to special software," the paper reported. Nor was this the first time Apple had accommodated the communist dictatorship in its quest to deny Chinese readers an independent media. "Apple has previously removed other, less prominent media apps from its China store." When the Times asked Apple what was going on, the global corporation, with a market cap of some \$700 billion, said it was merely complying with the request of the Chinese authorities. Funny: a year earlier Tim Cook had self-righteously refused to comply with an FBI request to unlock the iPhone of the San Bernardino terrorists. Some authorities must be more authoritative than others.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

Today in History - April 20, 2017



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, April 20, the 110th day of 2017. There are 255 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On April 20, 1977, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Wooley v. Maynard*, ruled 6-3 that car owners could refuse to display state mottoes on license plates, such as New Hampshire's "Live Free or Die." The Woody Allen comedy "Annie Hall," co-starring Diane Keaton in the title role, went into general release.

On this date:

In 1792, France declared war on Austria, marking the start of the French Revolutionary Wars.

In 1861, Col. Robert E. Lee resigned his commission in the United States Army. (Lee went on to command the Army of Northern Virginia, and eventually became general-in-chief of the Confederate forces.)

In 1889, Adolf Hitler was born in Braunau am Inn, Austria.

In 1912, Boston's Fenway Park hosted its first professional baseball game while Navin Field (Tiger Stadium) opened in Detroit. (The Red Sox defeated the New York Highlanders 7-6 in 11 innings; the Tigers beat the Cleveland Naps 6-5 in 11 innings.)

In 1914, the Ludlow Massacre took place when the Colorado National Guard opened fire on a tent colony of striking miners; about 20 (accounts vary) strikers, women and children died.

In 1916, the Chicago Cubs played their first game at Wrigley Field (then known as Weeghman Park); the Cubs defeated the Cincinnati Reds 7-6.

In 1947, Denmark's King Christian X, a popular symbol of resistance to German occupation during World War II, died at age 76, ending a reign of 35 years.

In 1968, Pierre Elliott Trudeau was sworn in as prime minister of Canada.

In 1972, Apollo 16's lunar module, carrying astronauts John W. Young and Charles M. Duke Jr., landed on the moon.

In 1987, the United States deported Karl Linnas to the Soviet Union, where he had been convicted in absentia of Nazi war crimes and faced a death sentence. (Linnas, who maintained his innocence, died of heart disease in Leningrad the following July.)

In 1999, the Columbine High School massacre took place in Colorado as two students, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, shot and killed 12 classmates and one teacher before taking their own lives.

In 2010, an explosion on the Deepwater Horizon oil platform, leased by BP, killed 11 workers and caused a blow-out that began spewing an estimated 200 million gallons of crude into the Gulf of Mexico. (The well was finally capped nearly three months later, on July 15.)

Ten years ago: The family of Virginia Tech gunman Seung-Hui Cho (sung-wee joh), who shot and killed 32 people and himself, told The Associated Press they felt "hopeless, helpless and lost," and "never could have envisioned that he was capable of so much violence." A disgruntled worker, William Phillips, shot and killed NASA employee David Beverly at the Johnson Space Center in Houston before barricading himself with a hostage and then killing himself. (The second hostage escaped with minor injuries.)

Five years ago: A judge ruled that George Zimmerman could be released on \$150,000 bail while he awaited trial on a charge of murdering 17-year-old Trayvon Martin during a Feb. 2012 confrontation in a Sanford, Florida gated community. (Zimmerman was acquitted.) In Pakistan, a Bhoja Air Boeing 737-200 crashed while on approach to the main airport in Islamabad, killing all 127 people on board.

One year ago: Five former New Orleans police officers pleaded guilty to lesser charges in the deadly shootings on the Danziger Bridge in the days following Hurricane Katrina in 2005. ESPN fired former Red Sox pitcher Curt Schilling as a baseball analyst after comments he'd made on Facebook that were critical of transgender rights. Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew announced that Harriet Tubman, an African-American abolitionist born into slavery, would be the new face on the \$20 bill, replacing President Andrew Jackson. Pro wrestler Chyna (Joan Marie Laurer) was found dead in her Redondo Beach, California, apartment; she was 46.

Today's Birthdays: Retired Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens is 97. Actor Leslie Phillips is 93. Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., is 81. Actor George Takei is 80. Singer Johnny Tillotson is 79. Actor Ryan O'Neal is 76. Bluegrass singer-musician Doyle Lawson (Quicksilver) is 73. Actress Judith O'Dea (Film: "Night of the Living Dead") is 72. Rock musician Craig Frost (Grand Funk; Bob Seger's Silver Bullet Band) is 69. Actor Gregory Itzin (iht-zihn) is 69. Actress Jessica Lange is 68. Actress

Veronica Cartwright is 68. Actor Clint Howard is 58. Actor Crispin Glover is 53. Actor Andy Serkis is 53. Olympic silver medal figure skater Rosalynn Sumners is 53. Actor William deVry is 49. Country singer Wade Hayes is 48. Actor Shemar Moore is 47. Actress Carmen Electra is 45. Reggae singer Stephen Marley is 45. Rock musician Marty Crandall is 42. Actor Joey Lawrence is 41. Country musician Clay Cook (Zac Brown Band) is 39. Actor Clayne Crawford is 39. Actor Tim Jo is 33.

Thought for Today: "If anyone tells you something strange about the world, something you had never heard before, do not laugh but listen attentively; make him repeat it, make him explain it; no doubt there is something there worth taking hold of." - Georges Duhamel, French author (1884-1966).

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:

- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.
- **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.

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

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