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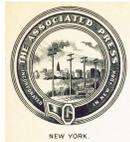
Connecting - May 04, 2017

1 message

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Thu, May 4, 2017 at 8:59 AM

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Connecting

May 04, 2017

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning!

Walter Mears was the byline on Associated Press stories that won the Pulitzer Prize for his coverage of the 1976 presidential campaign.

But 15 years earlier, he was a newbie in the Washington bureau, working the night shift when reports came in of a disturbance at the National Theater.

Mears tells the story of one of his early bylines in today's issue, which brings you first responses to our call Wednesday for the story behind your first byline. I hope your reading them will prompt you to send along your own story of what is a magical moment for many of us - seeing our name atop a story for the first time.

Does seeing your byline ever get old? I think not.

A celebration of **Jim Fitzgerald's** life will be held on Saturday, June 3, from 3-7 p.m. at 256 Pelhamdale Ave. in Pelham, NY. All are welcome to attend, said his wife, Ellen Nimmons, and their daughters, Bridget and Caitlin Fitzgerald. Ellen is AP's assistant international editor in New York.

Jim, a 45-year AP veteran writer and editor in New York, died April 17 at the age of 66 after he fought leukemia for more than a year and a half. He helped shape the AP's coverage of stories from terror attacks to the evolving landscape of aging during his AP service.



Paul

Your stories of that first byline

'NO PLAY FOR 16-YEAR-OLDS'

Teacher, 146 Students Walk Out of National

By **WALTER R. MEARS**
Associated Press Staff Writer

"This is no play for 16-year-olds," said the school principal from New Jersey after marching 146 teen-agers out of the National Theater during the opening of "Sunday in New York."

For a few minutes, last night's mass walkout stole the scene

Jay Cormody's Review of "Sunday in New York." Page A-10

from the Broadway-bound comedy.

Principal Margaret Walsh of Sayreville, N. J., who brought the youngsters to Washington on their senior class trip, told a reporter later, "We just came out because it was the right thing to do."

The exodus came about 10 minutes before the curtain fell on the first act of the show, a comedy about sex.

On the sidewalk outside, the principal told a show official, "It was my duty to bring them out . . ."

He said she was in tears. Nearby, some of the youngsters giggled and chattered as they boarded two chartered buses for the trip back to their hotel.

"I had no idea what the play was like," Miss Walsh said later. "I thought it would be a nice evening. I had called

the theater and they knew it was a school group coming. I'm sorry."

The walkout signal came after a scene in which Pat Stanley and Robert Redford embrace and talk about sex—while the stage lights go down until the theater is dark.

When the lights went on again, revealing Mr. Redford and Miss Stanley in bathrobes, the school children filed from the \$1.75, second-balcony seats.

The tramping startled the performers on stage, and they paused for a moment to see what was going on. After the brief lapse, they went back to the play.

But the audience, necks craned, turned and stared up to the balcony as the youngsters paraded out of the auditorium and down the long stairs to the exit.

They boarded the buses and the drivers were told to head for an ice cream and soda shop.

David Powers, press agent for the show, said dialogue after the blackout scene reveals that nothing really happened while the lights were off.

"It's the most normal little sex comedy you've ever seen in your life," he said. "Something like 'The Moon Is Blue.'"

ale said:

23 BOSTON RECORD AMERICAN, WED., NOV. 22, 1961

in the HARVARD CRITICISM, COLLEGE

Walter Mears (Email) - My first A wire byline for the AP was in 1956 when I was assigned to report from a hospital where survivors of the Andrea Doria disaster off Nantucket had been taken, outside Boston. It was a story about the youngest victim/survivor of the shipwreck.

My first major Washington byline is more interesting. I was new to the bureau and working the night shift when there were reports of a disturbance at the National Theater. I went there and found a crowd in the lobby still trying to figure out what had happened. There had been a mass exodus, disrupting the play - Sunday in New York - and leading the cast to stop performing, fearing a fire or other disaster. There was none. No one could explain the episode and eventually the play went on. I asked the manager if there were any clues to what had happened, and he said the upper balcony had been the scene of the disruption and a walkout that had seemed to involve only young people and he had heard one of them mention New Jersey. That was it.

A one graf story - disturbance but no problem. So I went back to the bureau. I set about calling the hotels where visiting high school classes were likely to stay - the lower cost tourist hotels. After a few tries with no hits, I got a hotel manager who said they had a class of high school students from Sayreville, N.J. I was put through to their teacher/supervisor and asked if they had been at the National. They had and she had told her class to walk out of the second balcony near the end of the first act because the play was offensive.

It was a comedy about an airline stewardess defending her virginity against a pilot out to seduce her. The teacher/tour guide - name long forgotten - said "This is no play for 16 year olds." That was my lead.

The story took off, fanned by playwright-promoter David Merrick. He defended the play saying it was a harmless little sex comedy. He then took ads for it, featuring the line from my story - no play for 16 year olds.

Next day he flew to Washington for a news conference defending the play. Then he called Walter Winchell who threw a graf about me into his column - I was the rookie reporter with the Washington byline on the Broadway-bound story.

The play got a push from the teacher's one line review, lasted on Broadway for a while, then became a movie. I flatter myself to think it was at least partially because of me and the teacher's one line review.

My one flirtation with Broadway fame.

-0-



Hugh (Wyatt Earp) O'Brian, Bob Hope and Louis Clifford." ----1959 Cleveland Press photo

Larry Blasko (Email) - I got my first real-newspaper byline working as a summer intern on The Cleveland Press, then the dominant paper in 1966 Cleveland. Sent to cover vandalism at a West Side cemetery, I talked to the groundskeepers and wrote the story --which didn't make the cemetery owner very happy. He called the desk to complain and I watched nervously as the call was transferred to living legend city editor Louis Clifford, a silver-haired, hard-boiled taskmaster right out of Central Casting. Clifford heard the man out, all the while looking straight at me. Then he growled into the phone "Tell you what -- we'll run our newspaper and you run your God-damned cemetery!" and slammed the receiver back into the cradle. Whew!

-0-

Henry Bradsher (Email) - Not my first byline (which had been for my high school paper), but my earliest memorable one, was for United Press (before it became UPI).

In the spring of 1952, after I'd finished my journalism degree but was still completing a separate history degree at the University of Missouri, I took over as UP stringer in Columbia from someone going off to the Korean War.

One evening the national fad for "panty raids" reached Missouri, starting on sorority row. I was studying on the other side of the campus on fraternity row when I learned of the rumpus. Lacking a car or even bicycle to get quickly across the wide campus, I picked up secondhand reports of the male students' efforts to seize bras and panties from girls' quarters. But then the activists surged over to my area to raid the nearby all-girl Stephens College, which I could cover firsthand.

I phoned disjointed reports to UP's Kansas City bureau, where they put together and kept updating a story late into the night. I had seen Stephens girls resist with brooms, but sorority reports indicated less active resistance.

UP Chicago rewrote the story overnight for PMs, which included the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, a paper widely circulated in Columbia. Under my byline, the rewrite was hyped to be far more graphic than I had reported - especially on the role of sorority girls, making it sound as if they had been complicit, if not conspiratorial, in the raids, by comparison with Stephens.

Boy, did I catch hell from sorority friends! I tried to blame UP Chicago, but they weren't buying that. We all graduated a few weeks later, but I continued to hear about this for some time.

-0-

Bob Haring ([Email](#)) - I got my first byline before i even knew what a byline was (I was 5 or 6 years old).

We were living in Columbia, Missouri, and my dad took me to a University of Missouri baseball game (he had played for Missouri as a college student). I was so impressed I wrote something about it. He showed it to a friend who was a printer for the Columbia Tribune, who showed it to an editor who published it (on the front page as I recall). It was many years before I got another front page byline.

-0-

Gene Herrick (Email) - I do not remember my first byline, but I do remember my most significant.

That byline was not even expected. I was aboard the battleship USS Missouri in the Sea of Japan in the fall of 1950. They were preparing for an amphibious attack on Wonsan, on the eastern shore of North Korea.



I had been in Tokyo to have a rotting toenail removed when COB Russ Brines told me to get out of bed, catch a bus to Sasebo, and then go aboard the "MO." He said, "You are a photographer, but you can write, so we need you on that command ship just in case. The other correspondents will be aboard another ship (USS Mt. McKinley)," he said. "If anything happens, send us some copy." Brines closed.

A few days later, the ship let loose with her 16-inch guns and bombed a town just some 100 miles from Vladivostok, Russia. There were no picture possibilities it was dark. I sought out details and wrote a story of about 600 words. I gave me copy to a young Navy courier. I asked him how much this would cost. He replied, "Sir, I think it is 5-cents per word." I did a mental calculation and decided New York would probably kill me. I then wrote some 500 words for the next publishing "cycle." I didn't know how bad things had to be before NY would fire me for spending all of

that money, especially when I knew the other correspondents on the Mt. McKinley would also be filing.

However, it wasn't until much later that I found out that all of the other ships in that part of the fleet, including the communications ship, were on radio silence!

The next night after my filings, I received a radiogram. It read: "KX FOR FRISCO (RELAY TOKYO) HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS GENE HERRICK'S BOMBARDMENT BEAT WHICH AGAIN EMPHASIS VERSATILITY OUR FRONT LINE TEAM. FX: APPEC. MESSAGE KEY INFO OBTAINABLE ON CIRCUMSTANCES ETC FOR LOG. NY (AJG). OCT 12 B B 1015AES"

That cable came from AP President and General Manager, Alan J. Gould.

I was not only surprised, but also proud. I later found out that not only did AP give me a byline on the stories, but they moved on Wirephoto a picture of me. Later there were glowing wire advisories, and Log notations. Following Brines' directions, AP had an 8-hour world-wide beat on the bombardment story.

In the days of my career, from the early 40's, to the early 70's, photo bylines were extremely rare. Photographers, like me, who handled their own film, captions, and transmission, virtually never got a byline. I, and the others like me, were only acknowledged as "AP Wirephoto."

I had other bylines, but this was the granddaddy of all for me.

-0-

John Kuglin (Email) - I received my first byline when I was a 22-year-old rookie reporter in 1963 for The (Colorado Springs) Free Press. The story with my first byline boldfaced was displayed under a screaming two-line headline on Page 1: ``Youth Tumbles 275 Feet To Death Off Garden Of Gods Gateway Rock." A subhead said: ``Fatal Slip Descending East Face."

Henry Taggart Taylor, 17, was descending from a sandstone formation called the Kissing Camels when he slipped near the summit on a patch of snow. K.S. Chang, the crusty wire editor, said I'd written a ``fairly decent" story and deserved a byline. He also noted that when there was confusion about how to spell the victim's middle name, I called his parents to ask if it was Taggart or Taggert.

The next day I collected an armload of unsold papers at the loading dock and mailed a copy of the front page to everyone I knew, including my parents and high school English teacher in Chicago.

Like the unfortunate Taylor, I was a rock climber and liked to climb sandstone pinnacles, including ones in the Garden of the Gods, a city park. A few years earlier, when I was in college, I was leading an attempt to make a first ascent of a pinnacle we named Caterpillar Rock in Arizona's Monument Valley. I was about 110 feet off the ground and about to pound a piton into a crack when something inside of it hissed at me. Startled, I took a swan dive and fortunately landed on sand. Some of my climbing companions thought I was dead, but it knocked the wind out of me. Someone else offered to lead the route and we left a summit register on top.

The Free Press wasn't a shopper. It cost a dime and took UPI. Sadly, The Free Press is no more. It was sold and renamed The Sun. Later it ceased publication. Its former competitor, the Gazette-Telegraph is still in business.

-0-

Cynthia Rawitch ([Email](#)) - This one is a bit of a stretch to believe, but it is true:

My first byline--on the front page, no less--was as a 12-year-old at Joseph Pulitzer Junior High School in Jackson Heights, Queens. The newspaper was "The Pulitzer World," put out by my 9th grade class. I have both a copy of the story, about three girls becoming the president, vice president and treasurer of the student body for the first time in school history, and my press pass.

In case there is any doubt, the experience is what made me want to become a reporter.

Connecting mailbox

Hancock story reminds of first time she met a woman in journalism

Sylvia Wingfield ([Email](#)) - I apparently just missed Bill Hancock's first byline (Wednesday's Connecting), but his dad's paper gave me my first personal role model in journalism.

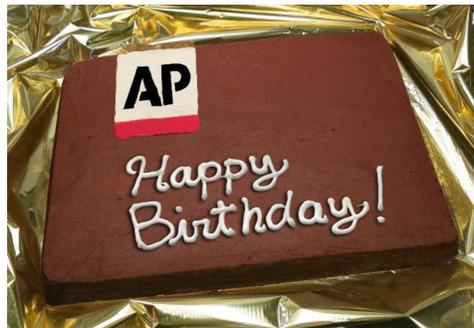
My family moved to Hobart (Oklahoma) in 1959 and subscribed to the Democrat-Chief. I was in fourth grade, and my father was a military investigator at Clinton-Sherman Air Force Base.

The Democrat-Chief's Clara Neal came to our house to interview my parents for a feature story. She was the first news reporter I had met and the first woman I knew who was working in journalism.

A pet peeve? 'No problem'

Joe McKnight ([Email](#)) - Chuck McFadden's comments in May 1 Connecting on the evolving English language calls to mind a pet peeve of mine -- "No Problem." Where did that come from? For more than half my life, when I said "thanks" to anyone, the normal reply would be "you're welcome." Nowadays the response is "no problem." This suggests there was more than the standard effort involved in whatever task is being addressed, If I thought there was any problem in whatever task was at hand, I would say more than "thanks." I like "you're welcome." if is concise, polite, impersonal. Bring it back.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



A day late, to...

Betsy Blaney - ecblaney@gmail.com

Stories of interest

Journalism accreditor fires back at Northwestern after university opts out of review (Poynter)

The accrediting body for journalism schools on Wednesday essentially accused Northwestern University of fudging the facts in exiting the nonprofit overseer's once-every-six-years accreditation process.

The Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications responded to the surprise move by The Medill School of Journalism, Media and Integrated Marketing Communications with a diplomatic but firm rebuke of the school's rationale and honesty.

"Each school makes its own decision, and the Council is respectful of those decisions," it declared in a letter. "But a series of public comments made by the Medill dean earlier this week - in interviews with media outlets and in an email to alumni - contain factually incorrect and misleading statements. In the spirit of thorough, objective, fact-based journalism, we write to set the record straight."

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word

The Phones We Love Too Much (New York Times)

We have an intimate relationship with our phones. We sleep with them, eat with them and carry them in our pockets. We check them, on average, 47 times a day - 82 times if you're between 18 and 24 years old, according to recent data.

And we love them for good reason: They tell the weather, the time of day and the steps we've taken. They find us dates (and sex), entertain us with music and connect us to friends and family. They answer our questions and quell feelings of loneliness and anxiety.

But phone love can go too far - so far that it can interfere with human love - old fashioned face-to-face intimacy with that living and breathing being you call your partner, spouse, lover or significant other.

The conflict between phone love and human love is so common, it has its own lexicon. If you're snubbing your partner in favor of your phone it's called phubbing (phone + snubbing). If you're snubbing a person in favor of any type of technology, it's called technoference. A popular song by Lost Kings even asks: "Why don't you put that [expletive] phone down?"

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - May 4, 2017



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, May 4, the 124th day of 2017. There are 241 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 4, 1942, the Battle of the Coral Sea, the first naval clash fought entirely with carrier aircraft, began in the Pacific during World War II. (The outcome was considered a tactical victory for Imperial Japan, but ultimately a strategic one for the Allies.)

On this date:

In 1776, Rhode Island declared its freedom from England, two months before the Declaration of Independence was adopted.

In 1830, the Edward Bulwer-Lytton novel "Paul Clifford," with its famous opening, "It was a dark and stormy night...", was first published in London.

In 1886, at Haymarket Square in Chicago, a labor demonstration for an 8-hour work day turned into a deadly riot when a bomb exploded.

In 1904, the United States took over construction of the Panama Canal from the French.

In 1916, Germany, responding to an ultimatum from President Woodrow Wilson, agreed to limit its submarine warfare. (However, Germany resumed unrestricted submarine warfare the following year.)

In 1932, mobster Al Capone, convicted of income-tax evasion, entered the federal penitentiary in Atlanta. (Capone was later transferred to Alcatraz Island.)

In 1959, the first Grammy Awards ceremony was held at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. Domenico Modugno won Record of the Year and Song of the Year for "Nel Blu Dipinto Di Blu (Volare)"; Henry Mancini won Album of the Year for "The Music from Peter Gunn."

In 1961, the first group of "Freedom Riders" left Washington, D.C., to challenge racial segregation on interstate buses and in bus terminals.

In 1970, Ohio National Guardsmen opened fire during an anti-war protest at Kent State University, killing four students and wounding nine others.

In 1980, Marshal Josip Broz Tito, president of Yugoslavia, died three days before his 88th birthday.

In 1994, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO leader Yasser Arafat signed an accord on Palestinian autonomy that granted self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

In 2001, Bonny Lee Bakley, wife of actor Robert Blake, was shot to death as she sat in a car near a restaurant in Los Angeles. (Blake, accused of Bakley's murder, was acquitted in a criminal trial but found liable by a civil jury and ordered to pay damages.)

Ten years ago: A tornado destroyed most of Greensburg, Kansas, killing at least 11 people. A judge sentenced hotel heiress Paris Hilton to 45 days in the Los Angeles

County jail for violating probation in an alcohol-related reckless driving case by driving with a suspended license. (Hilton ended up serving three weeks.)

Five years ago: The U.S. and China outlined a tentative deal to send Chen Guangcheng (chehn gwahng-chung), a blind legal activist, to America for study and potentially bring a face-saving end to a delicate diplomatic crisis. (Chen left China on May 19, 2012.) Adam Yauch, 47, the gravelly-voiced rapper who helped make The Beastie Boys one of the seminal groups in hip-hop, died in New York. Game show producer Bob Stewart, 91, died in Los Angeles.

One year ago: Sipping filtered city water to show it was again drinkable, President Barack Obama promised to ride herd on leaders at all levels of government until every drop of water flowing into homes in Flint, Michigan, was safe to use. The last man standing in Donald Trump's path to the Republican nomination, Ohio Gov. John Kasich (KAY'-sihk), ended his campaign, making Trump the party's presumptive nominee. Former U.S. Sen. Bob Bennett, R-Utah, a lawmaker who shied from the spotlight but earned a reputation as someone who knew how to get things done in Washington, died in Arlington, Virginia, at age 82.

Today's Birthdays: The former president of Egypt, Hosni Mubarak, is 89. Katherine Jackson, matriarch of the Jackson musical family, is 87. Jazz musician Ron Carter is 80. Rock musician Dick Dale is 80. Pulitzer Prize-winning political commentator George Will is 76. Pop singer Peggy Santiglia Davison (The Angels) is 73. Actor Richard Jenkins is 70. Country singer Stella Parton is 68. Actor-turned-clergyman Hilly Hicks is 67. Irish musician Darryl Hunt (The Pogues) is 67. Singer Jackie Jackson (The Jacksons) is 66. Singer-actress Pia Zadora is 65. Rhythm-and-blues singer Oleta Adams is 64. Violinist Soozie Tyrell (Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band) is 60. Country singer Randy Travis is 58. Actress Mary McDonough is 56. Comedian Ana Gasteyer is 50. Actor Will Arnett is 47. Rock musician Mike Dirnt (Green Day) is 45. Contemporary Christian singer Chris Tomlin is 45. TV personality and fashion designer Kimora Lee Simmons is 42. Rock musician Jose Castellanos is 40. Sports reporter Erin Andrews is 39. Singer Lance Bass ('N Sync) is 38. Actress Ruth Negga is 36. Rapper/singer Jidenna is 32. Actor Alexander Gould is 23. Country singer Raelynn is 23. Actress Amara (uh-MAH'-ruh) Miller is 17.

Thought for Today: "When your work speaks for itself, don't interrupt." - Henry J. Kaiser, American industrialist (1882-1967).

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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