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Connecting - February 15, 2018

1 message

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Thu, Feb 15, 2018 at 9:14 AM

Reply-To: paulstevens46@gmail.com

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Connecting

February 15, 2018

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Students are evacuated by police from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., on Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2018, after a shooter opened fire on the campus, killing 17. (Mike Stocker/South Florida Sun-Sentinel via AP)

Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning, on a day when our hearts go out to the victims of the Florida school shootings and their families.

Remember that to receive the latest on this story, or any other, click on Top AP News and Top AP photos in the masthead of each edition of Connecting.

Memories of your coverage of Winter Olympics past continue to dominate Connecting today - and the photos and stories we have received are outstanding. And we have more of your pet stories - even a horse whinnied into the picture.

What's on your refrigerator?



Claudia DiMartino (Email) - sends this picture of hers and says: "I've got fun images from Neal Ulevich, a picture of where I'd like to be, thank you notes and a wedding invitation. There are a number of magnets I made with a glue gun; some I bought and on the practical side, a magnet with measurement equivalents for cooking."

She, and Ye Olde Connecting Editor, invite you to share a photo of yours, along with a description.

Paul

Connecting mailbox

Just the bear facts

Norman Abelson (Email) - Sometime back in the 50's, when I was an Associated Press reporter, the folks on the New York features desk were pushing for us to come up with "brites." These were brief, unusual or humorous pieces, often used to fill in spaces at the bottom of newspaper columns.

There is one in particular I recall clearly that received wide coverage. It was called in to me at the Concord, N.H., AP office, by my buddy, Jack Teehan, a reporter on the paper that printed it. (The names, lost to me these 60-odd years later, are made up.) Here's the complete story, as remembered.

"The following is a society-page item, as it appeared in its entirety in a New Hampshire daily newspaper:

"Mrs. John Smith was visited recently by her sister, Mrs. Joseph Jones, and two nieces. Among other entertainments, she took her family for a stroll in the woods to collect honey. They came upon a bear. All were frightened."

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Meyers' newspaper movie recalls a National Lampoon classic

John Brewer ([Email](#)) - I loved Seth Meyers' newspaper-movie parody (Connecting, Feb. 13; see the video at [this link](#).)

Especially enjoyed the cliché shot of bundles of newspapers getting tossed from the back of a truck, a fixture (along with rolling presses) in every newspaper movie.

I'm not sure why, but this wonderful "trailer" brings to mind the 1978 Sunday newspaper parody that National Lampoon magazine published.



It included real regular sections with advertising (including classified with back-shop sabotage in the liners), color comics, a Sunday magazine called "Pomade" and more. One of my favorites was a story in the lifestyle section headlined, "Is your child a dip?"

Unfortunately, my copy that I have coveted over the years has been lost. But here is an image found online.

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AP poorer for ending policy of promoting from within

Joe Edwards ([Email](#)) - When I was hired by AP in 1970, I was told several times that the company promotes from within - without exception. And it was true.

It was an incentive to do well. And The AP is kind of "specialized" work that requires learning a certain way to do things. Remember night leads? And -95- messages?

This hallmark has passed. I think the AP is poorer because of it.

Your stories of Olympics coverage



Snowboard competition at 2018 Winter Olympics. AP Photo/Kin Cheung

Richard Chady (Email) - As the news editor in Albany in 1980, I was thrilled to get up to the games in the tiny Adirondack hamlet of Lake Placid. I had a great time despite the cold and logistical screw-ups at the start. Several times I walked the better part of a mile from the Press Center at the high school out to the motel, because the few buses ran inconveniently.

Before the games, Albany's Larry Lopez and I had much fun covering a security rehearsal at the empty stadium, with state police roaring in with guns, lights, sirens and dogs, while others rappelled down from a helicopter.

One day several of us were antsy to get out to the airport to cover the arrival of the Russians. But the German photo editor wouldn't dispatch his two photographers (Hans and Dieter?) until he was sure of the arrival. "I won't have my people just sitting around" he barked. Eventually, the Russians swept in with a sea of colorful coats and fur hats, but said nothing. A Russian-American "fixer" from Brooklyn ran interference for them and told us a few things.

Although for most of the games I was in the bureau taking dictation from the sportswriters at the venues, I got out to some events when I was off. I really enjoyed seeing both the athletes and the journalists from around the world. I got a pin from Mr. Xia of Xinhua, the Chinese news agency.

There was an AP sportswriter from London named Geoffrey (?), whose silver hair and pinstriped suits gave him the appearance of an MP and the nickname of "Lord Geoff." He was a sharp contrast to the casually dressed US crew. Just saying.....

On the night the US beat the Russians in the hockey "Miracle on Ice," I did a local reaction story, including some good quotes gathered by Albany photographer Jim McKnight, who was out in the delirious crowds.

Because of the constant crowds and confusion, one late night after work, Syracuse Correspondent Mike Hendricks and I went back to the motel and just sat out on the dock for a while, enjoying the still beauty of the scene.

A final word of credit to Lopez, who did a marvelous job with many previews despite the organizers' stonewalling and his having to write on a tiny computer called a Teleram. Today's smartphones would be preferable.

Enjoy the games, everyone in PyeyongChang! Collect those pins.

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Mark Duncan (Email) - Wonderful stories of favorite moments covering the Olympics in Wednesday's "Connecting" from Hal Bock, Doug Pizac and Barry Sweet.

It's hard to choose the top moment from the games I covered for the AP in 1988 (Calgary and Seoul), 1992 (Barcelona), 2000 (Sydney), 2004 (Athens), 2006 (Torino) and finally 2012 (London).

The first is certainly special as well as recording historic World Record performances, working with colleagues from around the world, getting an introduction to Korean barbecue from Jim Palmer, and getting to play with the newest technology like the remote robotic cameras in London. But the one that stands out had nothing to do with the competition.

For the 1988 Seoul games the language barrier was the most pronounced. While in Europe many speak English (some better than we Americans), not many do in Korea. We were given a "cheat sheet" with the all venues as well as the Main Press Center and other locations listed in English with the Korean translation.

Early in the games several of us who had the day off traveled to Itaewon to do a little shopping and the sheet worked like a charm getting us there and back by taxi. Later, the late Ed Reinke and I had a day off and he wanted to go the shopping district.

We got Itaewon with no trouble, but the return to the MPC became an adventure...the cabbie could read the Korean translation of Main Press Center but had no idea where it was! Since I had been there before (once) Ed thought I should be able to guide our driver back home (I was not so convinced).

After driving around quite a bit I finally recognized a landmark from the previous visit and after much gesturing and pointing we finally made it back a main boulevard that went past the MPC and we arrived safely.

One little vignette along the route sticks out when we saw a line of workers "mowing" a grassy median with hand shears that were little more than scissors. Full employment in Seoul, I guess.

Looking forward to reading stories from others...there has got to be hundreds of stories out there.

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1980 Lake Placid winter Olympics Mt. Van Hoevenberg venue team outside the AP Photos trailer. From left, Tom diLustro, Photo Editor, New York; Robin ???, Editorial Asst, New York; Guy Palmietto, Darkroom Technician, New York; Peter Leabo, Photographer, Dallas; "Chigi" Photographer, Tokyo; Tom Smart, Photographer (freelance), Salt Lake City.

Peter Leabo ([Email](#)) - "I can edit. I just can't walk." - Tom diLustro

My first winter Olympics was 1980 in Lake Placid, NY. As the newcomer and relative youngster (23 years old), I was assigned to one of the less "glamorous" venues, Mt. Van Hoevenberg for the bobsled, luge, biathlon, and cross country. But that was a blessing in disguise. With that less "glamorous" assignment came a bit less pressure and the ability to take more chances to get that different perspective and truly unique image. It also gave me the opportunity to work for the late, great, Tom diLustro, a legendary photo editor and one of the most talented, inspirational, encouraging, and caring photo editors I've ever known.

Two stories I will never forget:

1) A few days into the Olympics, Tom arrived at the AP Photos trailer at Mt. Van Hoevenberg with his back pulled so badly that he was in severe pain and could barely walk. We had to help him into the trailer. With a full day and evening of events ahead of us, we urged him to call for another editor and go seek some attention and rest. He responded, "I can edit. I just can't walk." Then he instructed us to clear one of the editing tables and help him up to lay on his back. He had us fasten an editing lightbox overhead. Tom proceeded to edit all the events that day and evening without a complaint, and he didn't miss a frame!

What an inspiration.

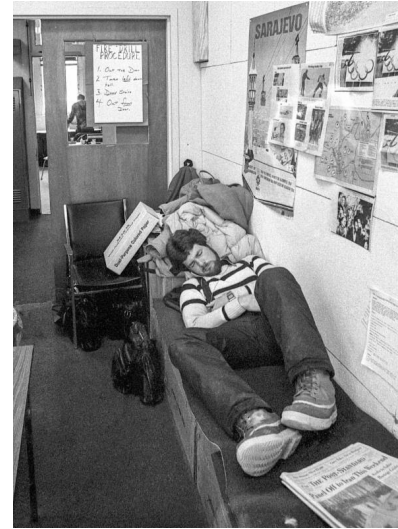


AP Photos night desk at the Main Press Center at Lake Placid High School. Jim McKnight, Albany, NY, at left on the photo network; Tokyo photographer "Chigi" with a photo editor from Tokyo known as "Jackson"; I believe the person seated at the desk in the plaid shirt is a photo editor from London; unknown person standing in dark shirt; and I believe the person at far right is Norm Whelton, AP New York.

2) After working for eight 12+ hour days in a row, six at the Mt. Van Hoevenberg venue, we finally had a day at the venue with no evening events. Tom called me into the trailer and told me he had two tickets to that evening's hockey game between the USA and USSR. He said I could have the night off and have his tickets if I invited, "that cute bobsled course attendant you've had your eyes on." (Tom didn't miss a thing.) When we returned to the AP Photos HQ at the Main Press Center, I was summoned and told to go cover the medals ceremony on the lake that evening. Tom stepped in and said, "No. I've given Peter the night off. You can find someone else ... or if you can't, then I'll go do it." I kept my date to watch the "Miracle on Ice."

What a class act.

Footnote: That course attendant and I tried to make plans to get together after the Olympics, but we lost touch and it was not to be. Ironically, four years later in Sarajevo, I was having pizza in a smoke-filled night spot before the start of the Olympics. I turned around to see who was speaking English behind me. It was her! She explained that she hadn't meant to disappear, but she was severely injured in an awful auto accident shortly after the Lake Placid Olympics. Her love of luge became a part of her rehabilitation, and life ... so much so that she was in Sarajevo as a competitor! Small world.



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Bruce Lowitt ([Email](#)) - The Soviet Union boycotted the 1984 Los Angeles Summer Olympics in response to the United States boycott of the 1980 Moscow Games. Romania was the only Eastern bloc nation to send athletes to LA.

I secured an interview at the start of the competition with Romanian middle-distance runner Maricica Puică (she ended up winning a gold medal in the 3,000 meters) and after a few softball questions I asked, through a translator, if she was at all concerned with her safety or reputation back home because Romania was defying the Soviet boycott.

Her answer sounded to me sort of like: "Быстрая коричневая лиса Communista перепрыгнул через Americanskiy ленивая собака politicalsky," except it was a lot longer.

The translator then said, "She is very happy to be here competing and she hopes to win a medal for her country."

I thanked them, left the interview and threw away my notes.

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Dave Lubeski (Email) - Lake Placid, 1980. Best known for the Miracle on Ice and speedskater Eric Heiden's unprecedented and still unmatched five gold medals.

It was my first of many Winter Olympics and our boss, Shelby Whitfield, had rented a house for the radio group's accommodations near the high school, which served as the Main Press Center during the Games.

Several days before Opening Ceremonies the radio staff was scheduled to arrive. I was already in Lake Placid with Shelby, who had a big welcome planned for the staff. He was going to make a huge pot of his five-alarm Texas chili. He was very meticulous about ingredients and seasonings and the preparation in general. Shelby was a Texas native and often claimed that no chili could match his Texas chili.

On the day the staff was to arrive, I was helping with getting the house ready, while Shelby began preparing his chili feast. With only three bedrooms in the house for seven people, we hung curtains and created personal space for a couple of people in the unfinished basement. Shelby took one of the basement spaces and asked me to string some clothesline in his area to use for hanging up his clothes. When I finished doing that I started setting up the second sleeping area when Shelby, who had put his chili on the stove, came down to check on my progress.



Sports department in 1980. From left - Jake Doniger, Lubeski, Jack Briggs and Shelby Whitfield.

The first thing he saw was his clothes in a heap on the cold concrete floor. The clothesline was overwhelmed by the weight of the hanging clothes. He was not

happy. The two of us gathered up his clothes, brushed them off, laid them on the bed, restrung the clothesline and hung up the clothes again.

As we were finishing the job, we both caught a whiff of what smelled like something burning.

I followed Shelby as he ran up the stairs, cursing all the way. He turned off the stove and took the chili off the burner. I told him it probably wasn't too bad, but a taste test proved otherwise.

Shelby was beside himself. The chili ended up out the back door, thrown into a snow bank, pot included.

Later that day the staff arrived and I told them the saga of the chili and cautioned them not to bring it up in front of the boss. About that time, Shelby walked into the kitchen and glumly walked to the back door and looked out at the remains of his chili in the snowbank.

At that moment a dog wandered into the yard, walked up the mound of chili, gave it a sniff and raised his leg and peed on it.

Everyone, including Shelby, burst into laughter.

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Mike Tharp ([Email](#)) - Besides the extravaganza unfolding for the next two weeks in South Korea's coldest province--the 2018 Winter Olympics--30 years ago the nation hosted another Olympics.

That was the 1988 Summer Games in Seoul.

And that's when I got to hang out with Donnie Nelson, now president for basketball operations of the Dallas Mavericks. That's when I had my basketball jones.

If these Games are all about women's hockey, skating and Kim Yo-jong--the beautiful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un--the earlier event was the South's coming-out party on the world stage.

Just as with Japan's hosting the 1964 Summer Games and China introducing itself at the 2008 Games, Seoul sought to show the world in 1988 just how far it had come.

I got to spend two gloriously warm weeks there in late September 1988. My job with U.S. News & World Report was to cover any terrorist actions to disrupt the games. Chief among possible bad actors was the regime 25 miles away, North Korea.

Its Great Leader Kim Il Sung had decided to boycott them. Below the DMZ people were worried that his pique might burst into bombs. I was in close touch with officials from South Korea, the U.S. State Department and the U.S. 8th Army, all of whom were monitoring the North.

We watched and waited.

And as the days went by, South Korea remained the Land of the Morning Calm. I drifted over to the Jamsil Gymnasium, near the Han River bisecting Seoul. That's where the basketball competition was being held.

My news magazine had a fine wordsmith from the U.S. following American athletes, plus a good photographer to illustrate her stories. That left me in reserve as a journalistic fireman.

There was no fire so I watched basketball. The best teams were the U.S., the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia. This would mark the last Olympics where NBA professionals could not compete. The U.S. team fielded all-collegiate players.

Early on, I saw a young guy sitting midway up, notebook and pen in hand. I sat down next to him and asked if he was a newsie. He laughed. No, he said, I'm a scout for the Golden State Warriors.

The penny dropped. Are you Don Nelson's son? Guilty, he said.

To people like me with a basketball addiction, the Nelson father-son team was mythic. Don Sr. had played at Iowa and then enjoyed a sterling career with the Boston Celtics. He was now coach of the Golden State Warriors. Donnie had played college ball and then with Athletes in Action, a Christian all-star team.

It was while playing for that team in Lithuania in 1985 that Donnie met Sarunas Marciulionis, a 6'4 stud playing for a club team. They hit it off, became friends and now, three years later, Donnie was watching his pal play for the Soviet Union.



Donnie Nelson

Donnie was such a nice guy he probably would've let anybody sit with him. But when I told him I'd played on an NAIA championship basketball team from Benedictine College in 1967, that I was playing on two teams in Japan and that I'd played basketball in North Korea nine years before, he paid a little closer attention.

For several days I watched him focus on Sarunas. His buddy from Lithuania wound up leading the Soviets in scoring and helped them beat both the U.S. and Yugoslavia for the gold medal.

Donnie had scouted the heck out of him for his dad. A year after the Olympics, Sarunas signed with the Golden State Warriors. He enjoyed a successful pro career and in 2014, he was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame.

Meanwhile, Donnie has become one of the most respected basketball brains among NBA executives. He's consistently ranked in the top three of NBA general managers.

These Winter Olympics show us how far South Korea has come in 30 years. And the same for Donnie Nelson.

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David Tenenbaum (Email) - I was an AP photographer at the 1980 Winter Games, and covered the Miracle on Ice. By that point in the games everyone on the terrific AP photo team were exhausted from weeks of long hours working in the 11-degree temperatures, and most of us were sick, hungry (the only food reliably in stock at the cafeteria was Dannon yogurt) and sleep deprived. As one example earlier in the games I covered Speed Skating outdoors (remember Eric Heiden?), and had to give up after 5 hours of standing still in position because my frost encrusted cameras (from my exhaled breath) would no longer work in the cold (as I

recall we were down to speed skaters from African nations--with limited training facilities--at the time, so no medal performances were lost!).

For the final game against Finland I was in an overhead position in the stands, with a brand new Canon 300 f2.8 lens on an A-1 body (I was a Leica user, but they has no comparable lens so I bought the Canon). After the game ended I handed my film to a runner and sat still, crying, as the crowd left: in the post-Vietnam, Iran hostage crisis, Cold War times there had been little good news for the US, and a ragamuffin team winning the Olympic gold against amazing Russian and Finnish teams was long overdue good news, and it was a very moving experience. I brushed away the tears and saw a young boy step carefully out onto the ice with an American Flag and got back on the camera as he made his way to goalie Jim Craig. As far as I could see most other photographers had left the rink much earlier, and I made my way back to the AP darkroom and dropped off my final rolls. The next morning the late Tom DiLustro, always a wonderful guy to work for, asked me if that was indeed my photo (credits those days were just the anonymous "stf"). It received wide play and just last week one of the people I work with sent me [this link](#) as a nice reminder of that night long ago.

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Jenny Volanakis ([Email](#)) - During the 2002 Winter Olympics in Park City, I was working for Sprint and the company sponsored the US Ski and Snowboard team. We were staying at the same hotel as the NBC crew. During one of our public events, we had several members of the ski team come out to meet fans and sign autographs. I noticed Al Roker and his daughter at the back of the hour-long line - as were some of the athletes' handlers. One of them came over to Roker and offered to take he and his daughter straight to the front of the line. Roker politely declined and he and his daughter patiently waited their turn - and he gave out several autographs of his own.

And more stories of your pets...

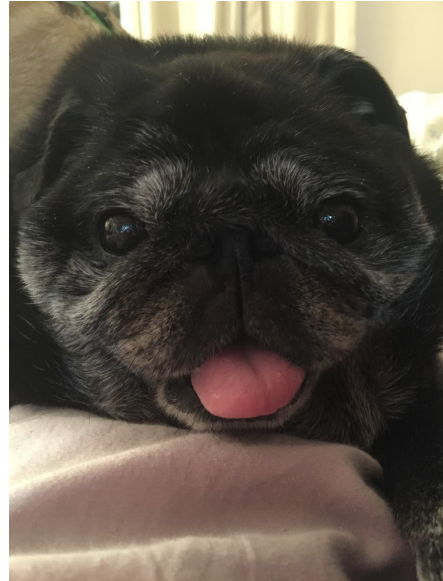
Jim Hood ([Email](#)) - I have tried to resist joining the pet parade but, like a dog spotting a mailman, can't help myself. This is Tater, who remained a handsome and cheerful pug until early January, when he took the walk from which no dog returns. Tater was 15 1/2 and, although I felt bad about consigning him to the Garden of the Dogs, our vet said he had never seen a 16-year-old pug and didn't expect to. He is survived by Chewie, 12.

Perhaps in response, I have been spending three days a week volunteering at the Palm Springs Animal Shelter, which is much nicer than some hotels I can think of. It has been a reminder that many humans are absolutely wild about animals. We

regularly get snowbirds who present themselves saying they are desperate to stroke a cat or walk a dog. We tell them nicely that we're not a petting zoo.

We are the only no-kill shelter around and are only permitted to take in animals from the city of Palm Springs. As a result, we get an awful lot of supposed strays that just happened to be found at Walmart, which is barely inside the city limits. I don't frequent the Walmart myself since it is apparently crawling with abandoned animals.

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Bruce Lowitt (Email) - This is Bialy, adopted in 2010 from the Humane Society of Pinellas County in Clearwater, Fla., when she was about 1 year old. She was a Maltipoo, a Maltese-Poodle mix with God-only-knows what else, and Bialy was a Jewish dog.

(NOTE: A bialy is not a type of bagel. It is round with a depressed middle filled with cooked onions and sometimes poppy seeds, and it is only baked; bagels are boiled, then baked. If you live in New York City you know what a Bialy is. Otherwise maybe - probably - not.)



Bialy became a therapy dog as well as a pet and member of the family. But we didn't know that, like some small dogs, she was epileptic. We kept it under control with medication until March 2016, when she suddenly had more than a dozen seizures in rapid succession that led to a stroke. She died March 23, 2016.

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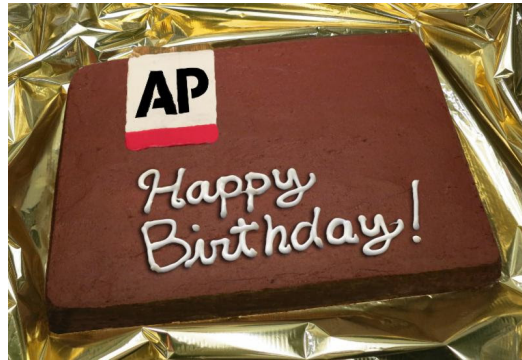
Jeffrey Ulbrich (Email) - My Andalusian mare Isabella.

The two of us are growing old together (she 18, me 75) along with her pure-bred Arabian boyfriend Milty. Which is not to say we don't enjoy dashing around the French countryside like a couple of kids.



She's got a sense of humor too. Nothing she finds more amusing than, when she thinks you're not paying attention, to come up, slip her head over your shoulder and knock your hat off. Well, she thinks it's funny anyway.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Tim Harmon - timharmon11@icloud.com

Linda Kramer Jennings - linda.kramerjennings@gmail.com

Stories of interest

That Time the C.I.A. Tried to Recruit Me: Our Reporter on Covering Spies (New York Times)

By SCOTT SHANE

When the C.I.A. sent me a recruitment letter in 1979, I had not yet stumbled into journalism, where I would end up spending many years writing about spies and their

secret world. But I have sometimes wondered whether that odd envelope planted a seed.

It gave "Office of Personnel" and a Washington post office box as the return address. Inside there was a mysterious message: "This Federal Agency" had expressed "tentative interest" in my qualifications. When I returned from graduate school in England, the note said, I should call the phone number listed to arrange an interview. Nowhere did the letter say just which federal agency.

I had sent letters to several government offices inquiring about jobs for Russian speakers. I excluded the spy agencies because I wanted to be free to travel to the Soviet Union, where I had spent a summer studying the language. But the agencies had evidently found me.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Sibby Christensen.

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NY Times Photographer: Trump Gives More Access Than Obama (PetaPixel)

By **MICHAEL ZHANG**

A New York Times photographer who has vocally protested White House Press Pool blackouts is now saying that photographers get more access to Trump than they did to Obama.

Photojournalist Doug Mills made headlines back in November 2017 by Tweeting a black "photo" to protest the lack of access provided to the White House Travel Pool while President Trump was attending the APEC Summit in Vietnam.

However, Mills had much more positive things to say in a new interview that just aired yesterday on C-SPAN. Having covered both the Trump and Obama administrators, Mills stated that photographers are actually getting "a lot more" access to the current administration.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Ron Powers.

Today in History - February 15, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Feb. 15, the 46th day of 2018. There are 319 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 15, 1798, a feud between two members of the U.S. House of Representatives (meeting in Philadelphia) boiled over as Roger Griswold of Connecticut used a cane to attack Vermont's Matthew Lyon, who defended himself with a set of tongs. (Griswold was enraged over the House's refusal to expel Lyon for spitting tobacco juice in his face two weeks earlier; after the two men were separated, a motion to expel them both was defeated.)

On this date:

In 1564, Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei was born in Pisa.

In 1764, the site of present-day St. Louis was established by Pierre Laclede and Auguste Chouteau.

In 1898, the U.S. battleship Maine mysteriously blew up in Havana Harbor, killing more than 260 crew members and bringing the United States closer to war with Spain.

In 1933, President-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt escaped an assassination attempt in Miami that mortally wounded Chicago Mayor Anton J. Cermak; gunman Giuseppe Zangara was executed more than four weeks later.

In 1942, the British colony Singapore surrendered to Japanese forces during World War II.

In 1952, a funeral was held at Windsor Castle for Britain's King George VI, who had died nine days earlier.

In 1953, Tenley Albright, 17, became the first American woman to win the world figure skating championship, which was held in Davos, Switzerland.

In 1961, 73 people, including an 18-member U.S. figure skating team en route to the World Championships in Czechoslovakia, were killed in the crash of a Sabena Airlines Boeing 707 in Belgium.

In 1971, Britain and Ireland "decimalised" their currencies, making one pound equal to 100 new pence instead of 240 pence.

In 1989, the Soviet Union announced that the last of its troops had left Afghanistan, after more than nine years of military intervention.

In 1992, a Milwaukee jury found that Jeffrey Dahmer was sane when he killed and mutilated 15 men and boys. (The decision meant that Dahmer, who had already pleaded guilty to the murders, would receive a mandatory life sentence for each count; Dahmer was beaten to death in prison in 1994.)

In 2002, a private funeral was held at Windsor Castle for Britain's Princess Margaret, who had died six days earlier at age 71.

Ten years ago: Business tycoon Steve Fossett, 63, was declared dead by a judge in Cook County, Illinois, five months after his small plane vanished after taking off from an airstrip near Yerington, Nevada. (Fossett's remains were discovered in October 2008 in California's Sierra Nevada.)

Five years ago: With a blinding flash and a booming shock wave, a meteor blazed across Russia's western Siberian sky and exploded, injuring more than 1,000 people as it blasted out windows. Pressing his case in Chicago, the town that launched his political career, President Barack Obama called for the government to take an active, wide-ranging role in ensuring every American had a "ladder of opportunity" into the middle class.

One year ago: President Donald Trump's nominee for labor secretary, Andrew Puzder, abruptly withdrew his nomination after Senate Republicans balked at supporting him, in part over taxes he had belatedly paid on a former housekeeper not authorized to work in the United States. In an ultimatum to America's allies, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis told fellow NATO members to increase military spending by year's end or risk seeing the U.S. curtail its defense support.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Claire Bloom is 87. Author Susan Brownmiller is 83. Songwriter Brian Holland is 77. Rock musician Mick Avory (The Kinks) is 74. Jazz musician Henry Threadgill is 74. Actress-model Marisa Berenson is 71. Actress Jane Seymour is 67. Singer Melissa Manchester is 67. Actress Lynn Whitfield is 65. "Simpsons" creator Matt Groening (GREE'-ning) is 64. Model Janice Dickinson is 63. Actor Christopher McDonald is 63. Reggae singer Ali Campbell is 59. Actor Joseph R. Gannascoli is 59. Musician Mikey Craig (Culture Club) is 58. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Darrell Green is 58. Actor-comedian Steven Michael Quezada is 55. Country singer Michael Reynolds (Pinmonkey) is 54. Actor Michael Easton is 51. Rock musician Stevie Benton (Drowning Pool) is 47. Actress Renee O'Connor is 47. Actress Sarah Wynter is 45. Olympic gold medal swimmer Amy Van Dyken-Rouen is 45. Actress-director Miranda July is 44. Rock singer Brandon Boyd (Incubus) is 42. Rock musician Ronnie Vannucci (The Killers) is 42. Singer-songwriter-musician Conor Oberst (Bright Eyes) is 38. Actress Ashley Lyn Cafagna is 35. Blues-rock musician Gary Clark Jr. is 34. Actress Natalie Morales is 33. Actress Amber Riley is 32.

Thought for Today: "We live by encouragement and die without it - slowly, sadly and angrily." - Celeste Holm, American actress (1917-2012).

Got a story or photos 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.

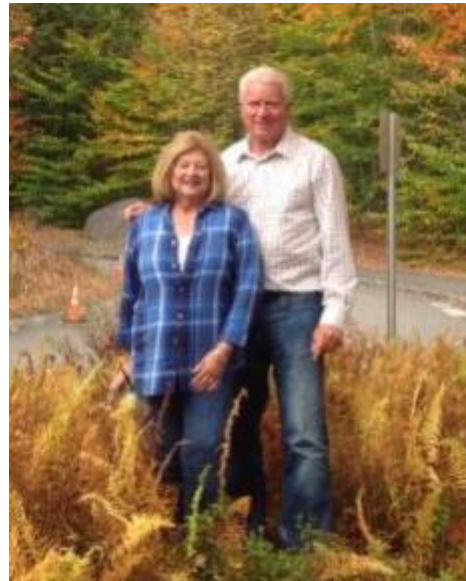
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

- **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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