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Connecting - April 11, 2018

1 message

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Wed, Apr 11, 2018 at 9:08 AM

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Connecting

April 11, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning!

Our colleague **Claudia DiMartino** wrote to say that Tuesday night, one of the categories on Jeopardy's College Championship game was AP Journalism. "How cool is that! The players got all the answers right!" Claudia said.

Here are the questions:

\$400

In most cases the reporter filing an AP story from the dateline location gets this credit

\$800

In 2013 the AP announced this 7-letter adjective should only be applied to actions, not to people like immigrants

\$1200

The AP's standards permit it to quote this type of source only for information but not opinion or speculation

\$1600

In 1972 the AP broke the story of experiments on consenting subjects at this Alabama institute

\$2000

The AP requires fixes to a story after publication to be marked with this "C" word, not weaselisms like "clarification"

First, write down your answers and then...

[Click here](#) to view the questions - and scroll your cursor on the dollar amount of each question to find the answer. (If you're not into doing this, or have trouble, the answers are at the bottom of this issue...) (Thanks to **Seth Borenstein** and **Lou Kesten** of AP Washington for sharing on Facebook.)

First responses have arrived for Connecting's call for your memories of moving to New York to work in headquarters. And there are more to come. Hope you share your own memories with your colleagues.

Today's issue is packed with your comments on a wide variety of topics, so read on - and, I hope, enjoy!



Paul

Heeding the call to work in New York

Carl Leubsdorf ([Email](#)) - Your question about working in New York struck a nerve. In fact, my experience there almost drove me to reconsider what I was doing in my chosen career -- until the man who brought me there helped to rescue me. But it also proved useful a year or so later.

In the fall of 1962, soon after he spent time in New Orleans overseeing our coverage of the crisis that erupted when the University of Mississippi was forced to admit its first black student, General News Editor Sam Blackman asked me if I'd like to work in New York on the General Desk. A wonderful man and a very persuasive one, he made the job sound like I would be at his right hand, helping to run the AP. Having spent the better part of three years in New Orleans, I was ready to move on, though my real goal, as I often said, was to go to Washington.

The reality turned out to be very different. I don't know what those jobs are like today, but, in those pre-computer days, many consisted of filing regional and national wires that were managed from the General Desk. The job was an important cog in the AP operation but involved no writing, or even rewriting. Initially, I was assigned to file the New York and New Jersey state wires, and after a few weeks was "promoted" to the G (South) and E (New England) wires. For one week, I reached the third step on the rung, which was the "lunch relief" shift which enabled me to switch wires every 45 minutes and included a stint filing the main A wire, which gave a feeling of real, though brief responsibility to a then 25-year-old journalist. Everyone was very nice to work with, and I especially enjoyed meeting and working with classy journalists like Ed Dennehy and Marty Sutphin, but it wasn't exactly what I wanted to do in journalism, which was to cover politics. Still, I welcomed the regular daytime hours, since I had just gotten married and inherited four quite lively step-children.

After a few weeks, Sam asked how I was doing and I told him, in sufficient detail that he came back the next day with an offer to move to the Foreign Desk, writing and rewriting international news dispatches. I said I wasn't sure how that would enable me to get to Washington. He observed that I had told him I had a one-year lease on my house in suburban Mount Vernon, N. Y., and I replied I'd deal with that if I could get to Washington. Two weeks later, I was being interviewed by Washington Chief of Bureau William L. Beale Jr., and, a month after that, I started my new job in Washington. Though that too was initially a non-writing job, I felt I had gotten back on track, and that Sam had done right by me, aided by a recommendation by my AP boss in New Orleans, Ken Davis.

Ironically, the skills I picked up in New York came in handy a year or so later, when a power outage in New York forced the Washington bureau to take charge of the A-wire. As the only one there who had previously done that, I was installed at the main desk until the power came back up in New York. So even a five-month tenure I was happy to move away from had its benefits.

And 55 years after I made the move to Washington, I'm still here, writing about the Trump presidency in my weekly column for The Dallas Morning News and Tribune News Service. And I've just completed a memoir coming out in fall that will include a lot about my 15 years with The AP in New Orleans, New York and Washington - as well as what came after that.

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Jim Hood (Email) - Unlike Tom Baldwin (Connecting, April 10), I did not slam the phone down when it was suggested I move to New York. I was already there, for one thing, living a sort of half-life in the Presidential Suite at the St. Regis Hotel.

It was September 1979, as I recall. I had spent several months in San Francisco, where I had been the Broadcast Executive for a few years, mapping out a plan to revamp and reinvigorate the trusty radio wire while also figuring out how to put together a new "bundle" for TV stations that would pry away the supplemental business that UPI then enjoyed.

AP Broadcast VP Roy Steinfort was on board with the proposals and my New York visit was to get sign-offs from President/GM Keith Fuller, Managing Editor Burl Osborne and others, including Communications wizard Larry Blasko.

When I arrived at the St. Regis, it was -- in the best New York tradition -- totally devoid of rooms. I used the line that had never let me down in my years as a traveling broadcast executive: "If Jimmy Carter showed up, you'd find a room, wouldn't you?"

"Of course," the front-desk emperor replied.

"Well, I'm a reporter and I happen to know he's not coming, so you can give me his room," I said. Lame, yes, but surprisingly effective. The front-desk guy snickered, perhaps admiring my fast-developing New York attitude, and gave me the key to the Presidential Suite -- multiple rooms, heavy drapes, a claw-tooth bathtub and other amenities included, all for the agreed-upon AP rate. For weeks thereafter, the manager would call each day to ask if I was checking out, there apparently being some New York City ordinance that barred him from jettisoning me and my baggage.

After several days of presentations, we had won at least grudging approval of my proposals except for one thing: Messrs. Fuller and Steinfort had long ago decided the radio wire should move to Dallas and had instructed me to buy a condo there, which I had done (to my subsequent regret).

At more or less the last minute, it occurred to someone that it would be expensive to move everyone to Dallas, acquire space there and install the necessary gear.

"Well, if you want to just leave it here, it's OK with me," I offered. "We can make all these changes here just as well as in Dallas."

"You mean you'd be willing to live in New York instead of Dallas?" Fuller asked incredulously.

"Any day," I said, thus sealing my fate.

Is there hope for The Denver Post and Colorado journalism?

Jim Spehar ([Email](#)) - My column in Tuesday's Grand Junction Daily Sentinel re: the weekend rebellion at The Denver Post. Also attached is the license plate mentioned in the tag line, which adorned at least a couple of AP Broadcast company cars and several Spehar family vehicles afterward. It was finally retired about a decade ago.



By JIM SPEHAR

Forty-plus years ago I found myself in a kitchen in Denver's Park Hill neighborhood with a fellow Denver journalist. We were editing the latest edition of an irreverent journalism review "The Unsatisfied Man," the masthead a play on something one of the co-founders of the 125-year-old Denver Post once said.

I was an Associated Press writer and editor at the time. Sue O'Brien was one of Denver's leading broadcast journalists at KOA radio, where I'd later work. She went on to become editorial page editor at the Denver Post after working for former Gov.

Dick Lamm and at the University of Colorado journalism school and is also the mother of former local District Attorney Pete Hautzinger.

"There is no hope for the satisfied man," said Frederick Bonfils. Sue and I, along with other then-youngish co-conspirators, found plenty to be unhappy about regarding the state of Colorado journalism in the early 1970s and were not shy about that.

I was reminded of long-ago times and that saying over the weekend while reading an extraordinary editorial page effort by Post staffers asking their corporate owner, hedge fund Alden Global Capital, owner of more than 90 U.S. papers, to "rethink" its strategy of ongoing newsroom purges or sell to an owner "willing to do good journalism here." Not pulling any punches, the Post's owners were termed "vulture capitalists" on the editorial pages of their own paper.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting new-member profile - Thelma LeBrecht



Thelma LeBrecht with her husband Don on New Years Eve 2017 celebrating

the 50th anniversary of their first date.

Thelma LeBrecht (Email) - Before retiring to Lakewood Ranch, Florida, in 2004, Thelma LeBrecht spent 23 years at The Associated Press Broadcast News Center in Washington, D. C., covering everything from politics to wars to hurricanes to national trials.

Her beats included Capitol Hill and the Pentagon, but she also filled in at The White House and State Department. She made various trips with Presidents Ronald Reagan, George H. W. Bush, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush. She covered every presidential campaign and national convention from 1984 through the primaries of 2004.

She was at the Pentagon after the bombing on September 11, 2001. Later, she was in Jordan and Saudi Arabia during the buildup to the first Gulf War and covered both the first and second wars from the Pentagon. She also travelled with Defense Secretaries Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld.

As a senior correspondent, she covered the trial and later execution of the Oklahoma City bomber, Timothy McVeigh and the shootings and later trials of the D. C. snipers.

In addition, she covered hurricanes in North Carolina, Texas and Florida; tornadoes in Florida; and floods in Missouri.

Before joining the AP, she was a writer and editor with the ABC radio network in New York City. From 1975 to 1980, she was a reporter and editor at KYW Newsradio in Philadelphia. From 1967 to 1972, she was a public affairs reporter for WBT and WBTV in Charlotte, North Carolina - producing award-winning documentaries on the Cherokee Indians, child abuse, and cystic fibrosis.

In 1996, she was won the Associated Press Gramling Award for Reporting. From 1991-1992, she was chairman of the Congressional Radio and Television Correspondents' Association.

She was married for nearly 50 years to the late Don LeBrecht, who also had a career in broadcasting in management and public service.

AP Photo of the Day



Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg arrives to testify before a joint hearing of the Senate Commerce and Judiciary Committees on Capitol Hill on April 10. Pablo Martinez Monsivais/AP Photo

Connecting mailbox

Looks like our government developing an enemies list

Robert Kimball (Email) - Tyler Houston's reaction to questions in the Snopes story on the Department of Homeland Security's journalist database (see Tuesday Connecting) is dismissive and condescending. It makes me worry even more about press freedom than when I first learned of DHS's actions.

Looks like our government is compiling an enemies list. It would make Nixon proud.

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On Tuesday's Connecting

Peggy Walsh ([Email](#)) - Tuesday's Connecting was jam packed with fascinating stories on the past and much-needed stories of what we need to guard against today and in the future. The Noguchi photos and story reminded me how much I loved the sculpture and taught me things I didn't know. Tom Baldwin's piece on being asked to go to New York rang a bell for many, including me. The prices made me laugh out loud.

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AP Sighting - Melbourne



Kevin Walsh ([Email](#)) - Spotted on the highway, driving to Melbourne, Australia.

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Getting ready to harmonize as barbershop quartets descend on KC



Connecting colleague **Jim Bagby** ([Email](#)) (second from left) with David Stockard, Mike Mathieu and Carter Combs of the Armchair Chorderbacks singing "Gee, but it's Great to Be in Kansas City" for Kansas City Mayor Sly James (far left) and the City Council last Thursday. (Photo by Tammy Ljungblad, Kansas City Star)

Thursday's City Council meeting was more musical than most, as Mayor James encouraged the Armchair Chorderbacks barbershop quartet to "shake your booty." The quartet then launched into a rendition of "Gee, But It's Great to Be in Kansas City." The group, from the Heart of America Chorus, is helping to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the worldwide Barbershop Harmony Society, founded in 1938 at the Muehlebach Hotel downtown.

Shared by Peg Coughlin

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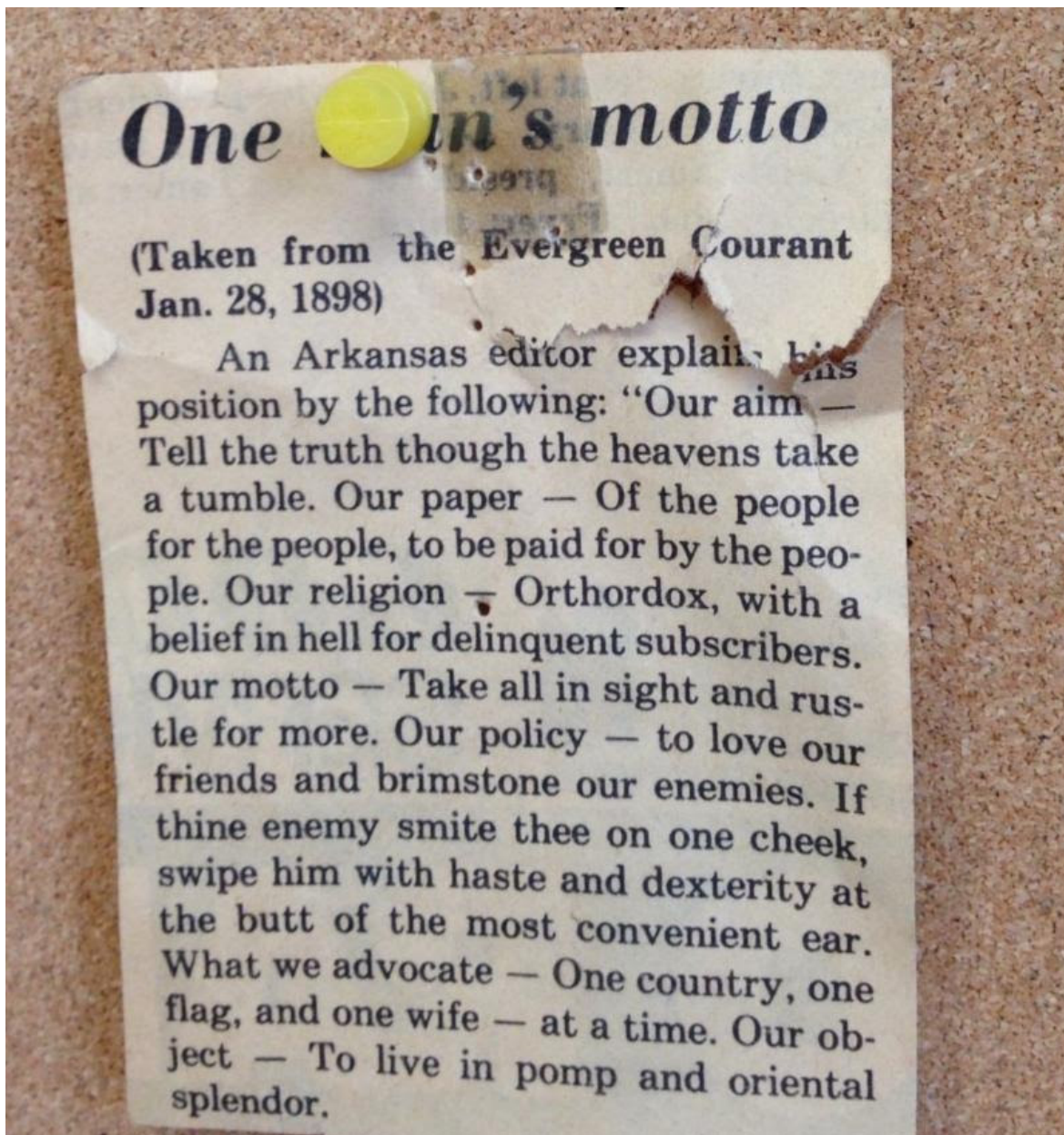
Chasing elk in our back yard.



Shared by Marc Wilson.

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One man's motto



Shared by Ed Williams

The man who broke the story

BY SMILEY ANDERS

The Advocate, Baton Rouge

Dudley Lehew, of Marrero, says the movie "Chappaquiddick" reminds him of his days in The Associated Press' Boston bureau:

"On a Saturday morning (July 18, 1969), there was a three-person skeleton crew in the office when I got a call from an AP stringer who said a car registered to Sen. Ted Kennedy had run off a Chappaquiddick Island bridge that night and was in a pond.

"There was only a single ship-to-shore line to the island. I called and luckily reached Police Chief Dominic J. 'Jim' Arena, of Edgartown, a mainland community across from Chappaquiddick. He told me a body was in the car, and Kennedy was missing.

"I quickly got out a bulletin and was flooded with questions from newspaper editors and TV-radio news directors.

"When I called Chief Arena back, he identified the body as Mary Jo Kopechne, then told me, 'The senator just walked in with a statement.' This was some 10 hours after the accident.

"Typing like crazy, I got out another bulletin, and we dispatched a veteran reporter to Chappaquiddick to get the complete story.

"Our bulletins got out before noon, the deadline for afternoon newspapers, so AP provided the story well before UPI (rival news service United Press International)."

"We were always pleased to beat UPI, but I didn't realize that story would be one that no doubt changed the course of American history. ..."

Read more [here](#).

And...

Kent Prince ([Email](#)) recalled: That weekend everybody who was anybody was in Houston for the Sunday moon landing. I was on the general desk in New York and Dudley called from Boston to alert us that the story was developing. He said a body

FINAL **SUNDAY NEWS** **20¢**
 NEW YORK'S PICTURE NEWSPAPER
 Vol. 10, No. 12, 1969
 New York, N.Y., 1969, Sunday, July 20, 1969

TEDDY ESCAPES, BLONDE DROWNS

Kennedy Car Goes Off Bridge



Jersey Girl Crash Victim

Eagle Lands in Moon Dust Today

of a woman was in the car, which was apparently registered to Kennedy, and the senator was missing. He said they had a staffer on the way.

We moved the story. Lou Boccardi, at the Houston Space Center, called when he saw it on the wire. As I recall, he said something like, "I know you don't need any backseat driving from Houston, but that's a hell of a story you've got there."

I told him Boston had sent Connie Hurley and they were working on it. With everything locked down and Kennedy in seclusion, Hurley barely got any more than a police statement. By early the next week, it became evident we needed an army of reporters on this one, and heavy hitters were dispatched en masse - mostly too late to crack through the protective wall.

My wife Faye still laughs about me coming in really late that night after work, looking ragged and hammered. When she asked what was going on, about all I could say was to repeatedly spell out "c-h-a-p-p-a-q-u-i-d-d-i-c-k."

AP launches Playbook editorial planning solution

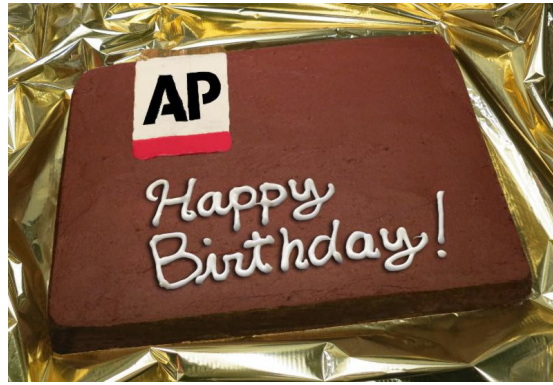
The Associated Press has introduced a new planning system that allows editorial and corporate newsrooms large and small to effectively and efficiently manage coverage plans and assignments.

Unveiled to customers at the NAB Show in Las Vegas, AP Playbook is a cloud-hosted software platform with a modern, intuitive user interface that enables users to quickly and easily access, update and collaborate on planning information with minimal training.

The browser-based tool, designed and developed by the same team responsible for industry-leading news production software AP ENPS, is accessible from anywhere on virtually any device. No local infrastructure is required.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Bobbie Seril - SPQR985@aol.com

Welcome to Connecting



Christopher Corbett - christopherrcorbett@gmail.com

Stories of interest

Imagine If Gordon Gekko Bought News Empires (Bloomberg View)

By JOE NOCERA

Heath Freeman, the 37-year-old hedge fund manager who just bought the Boston Herald, is a character straight out of the movie "Wall Street."

You remember the plot of "Wall Street," don't you?

The good guy is the dad, played by Martin Sheen, who heads the maintenance workers' union at Bluestar Airlines. His son, played the actor's own son Charlie Sheen, is a young, ambitious stockbroker who falls under the sway of Gordon Gekko, a rapacious corporate raider.

Trying to curry favor with Gekko, the younger Sheen's character does a variety of unsavory tasks, while absorbing Gekko's gospel that "greed is good." For a while he lives the Wall Street high life, until he realizes that Gekko is planning to dismember his father's airline and put a lot of good people out of work. At which point he regains his moral compass and Does The Right Thing.

Read more [here](#). By Paul Albright.

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'We Have Nothing to Lose': A View From Inside the Denver Post's Newsroom Rebellion (Esquire)



Aaron Ontiveroz, The Denver Post

By COLIN ST. JOHN

For a long time, Denver was a two-newspaper town: the Denver Post and the Rocky Mountain News. We were a News family, because that's where my dad worked as a wine and restaurant critic from 1983 until 1997. During that time, Denver experienced a full-blown newspaper war. The News' Gene Amole offered matchless diaries while the Post's curmudgeonly Woody Paige performed verbal surgery on the local athletes. Combatants of both newsrooms met to compare notes, circulations, and tolerances for martinis at the Denver Press Club. And then the News shuttered in 2009, leaving Denver with one daily paper, the Post, which, nine years later, is fighting for its life.

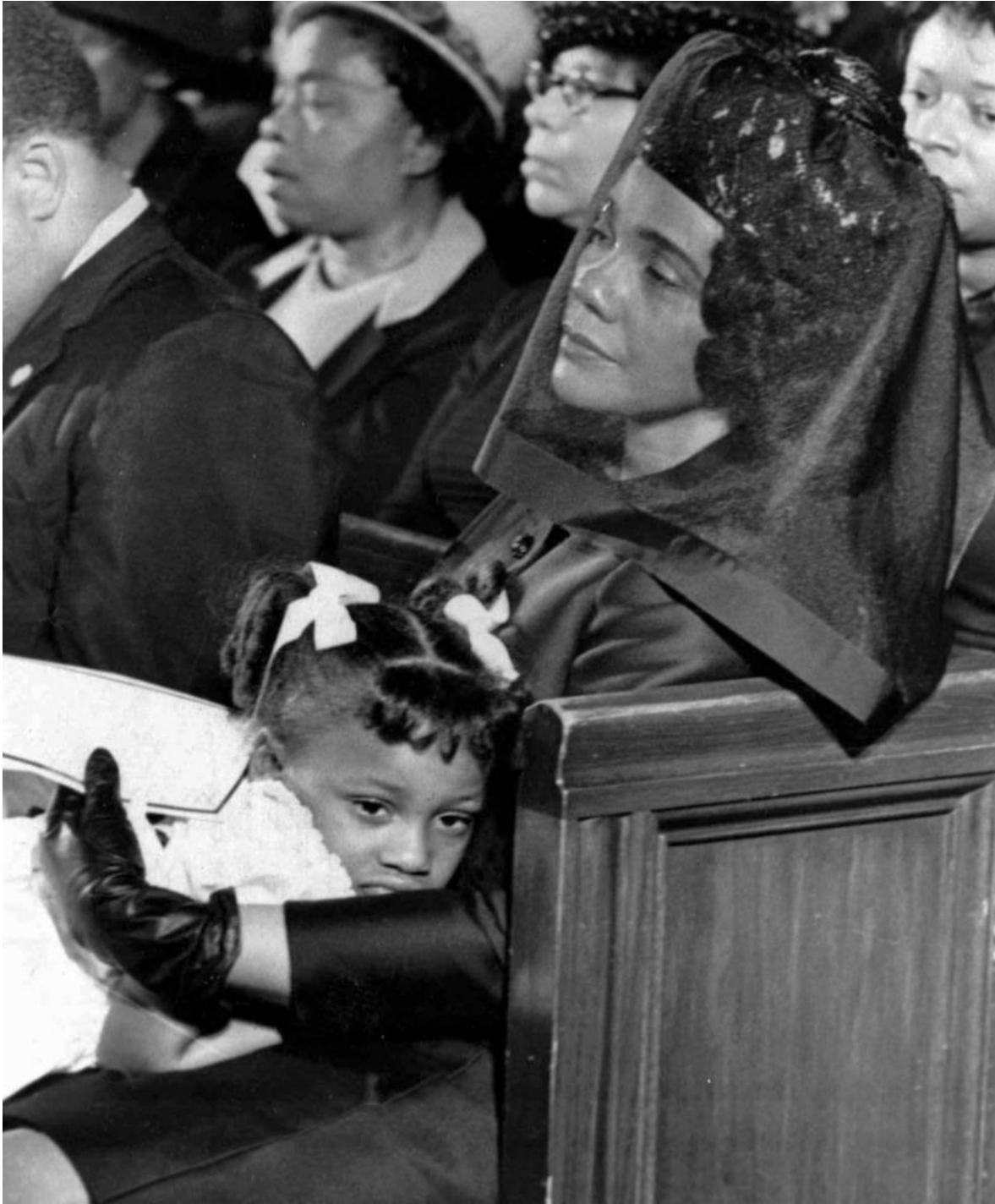
On Sunday, the Post newsroom's long-simmering revolt against the paper's owner, Alden Global Capital, which is gutting the company, spilled onto the newspaper's pages with fourteen op-eds railing against the owners and begging for new ownership. (The story also landed on the cover of The New York Times.) "If Alden isn't willing to do good journalism here, it should sell The Post to owners who will," the main editorial read.

Denver Post journalists are the latest to mount an insurgency against their owners. Staff at both The Los Angeles Times and the Chicago Tribune have openly criticized parent company Tronc. (And its name. Oh, God, that name.) Both newsrooms have endured brutal cuts to their reporting and editing ranks, and, in February, Tronc agreed to sell the Times to billionaire Patrick Soon-Shiong. Similar scenarios are playing out across newsrooms in America, where vital institutions are being decimated.

Read more [here](#).

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A funeral, a photographer, an image for the ages (Poynter)



By ROY PETER CLARK

The proverb says that April showers bring May flowers. T.S. Eliot preferred the darker side, proclaiming that April was the "cruellest month." For journalists, April showers can also bring Pulitzer Prizes.

This April also marks an important historical anniversary: It has been 50 years since the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., on April 4, 1968.

It is also now 50 years since the publication of a famous photograph showing the grieving widow of the fallen martyr. Coretta Scott King mourns at the funeral of her husband, her little daughter Bernice resting her head upon her mother's lap.

That iconic black and white image of the veiled widow was taken by a man named Moneta Sleet Jr. (For the record he used a Nikon camera with a 35 mm lens, with Kodak Tri-x film.) The following year, 1969, Sleet received news that he had been awarded a Pulitzer Prize. At that moment, Sleet became the first black man to win a Pulitzer, and the first African-American journalist to win one as an individual, rather than as part of a journalism team.

Read more [here](#).

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Texas Tribune top winner in Headliners Foundation of Texas competition

AUSTIN (April 9, 2018) -The Headliners Foundation of Texas today announced that The Texas Tribune's Jay Root is the winner of this year's Showcase Gold Award for Enterprise and Innovation in Journalism for his series, "Woohoo: Trouble at TABC." Root's four-month investigation uncovered scandalous behavior by staff at the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission that showed in detail the extent of a pay-for-play relationship between regulators and the state's powerful liquor industry. It also led to the exodus of six high-ranking management officials at the agency, making way for necessary reforms in agency operations.

Read more [here](#). Shared by John Lumpkin.

Today in History - April 11, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, April 11, the 101st day of 2018. There are 264 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 11, 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law the Civil Rights Act of 1968, which included the Fair Housing Act, a week after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr.

On this date:

In 1689, William III and Mary II were crowned as joint sovereigns of Britain.

In 1713, the Treaty of Utrecht was signed, ending the War of the Spanish Succession.

In 1865, President Abraham Lincoln spoke to a crowd outside the White House, saying, "We meet this evening, not in sorrow, but in gladness of heart." (It was the last public address Lincoln would deliver.)

In 1921, Iowa became the first state to impose a cigarette tax, at 2 cents a package.

In 1945, during World War II, American soldiers liberated the Nazi concentration camp Buchenwald in Germany.

In 1947, Jackie Robinson of the Brooklyn Dodgers played in an exhibition against the New York Yankees at Ebbets Field, four days before his regular-season debut that broke baseball's color line. (The Dodgers won, 14-6.)

In 1951, President Harry S. Truman relieved Gen. Douglas MacArthur of his commands in the Far East.

In 1953, Oveta Culp Hobby became the first Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare.

In 1970, Apollo 13, with astronauts James A. Lovell, Fred W. Haise and Jack Swigert, blasted off on its ill-fated mission to the moon.

In 1974, Palestinian gunmen killed 16 civilians, mostly women and children, in the northern Israeli town of Kiryat Shemona.

In 1988, the hijackers of a Kuwait Airways jetliner killed a second hostage, dumping his body onto the ground in Larnaca, Cyprus. "The Last Emperor" won best picture at the 60th annual Academy Awards ceremony; Cher won best actress for "Moonstruck," Michael Douglas best actor for "Wall Street."

In 1998, the executive committee of the Ulster Union Party voted 55-23 to support the Northern Ireland peace accord and its leader, David Trimble, who had outmaneuvered rebels in his ranks.

Ten years ago: Group of Seven financial officials meeting in Washington pledged to strengthen their regulation of banks and other financial institutions while anxiously hoping the credit crisis in the United States would be a short one. French troops captured six pirates after the pirates released 30 hostages who were aboard the French luxury yacht Le Ponant when it was seized off Somalia's coast.

Five years ago: Congress' most serious gun-control effort in years cleared its first hurdle as the Senate pushed past conservatives' attempted blockade, rebuffing 68-31 an effort to keep debate from even starting. (However, proposals for tighter background checks for buyers as well as bans on assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines went down to defeat six days later.) Comedian Jonathan Winters, 87, died in Montecito, California.

One year ago: In Dortmund, Germany, three explosions went off near Borussia Dortmund's team bus ahead of a Champions League quarterfinal match, injuring one of the soccer team's players. (Prosecutors alleged that the suspected bomber bet that Borussia Dortmund's shares on the stock exchange would drop in value and tried to disguise the attack as Islamic terrorism.) Guitarist J. Geils, founder of The J. Geils Band, died in his Massachusetts home at age 71. David Letterman's mother, Dorothy Mengerling, a Midwestern homemaker who became an unlikely celebrity on her son's late-night talk show, died at age 95.

Today's Birthdays: Ethel Kennedy is 90. Actor Joel Grey is 86. Actress Louise Lasser is 79. Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Ellen Goodman is 77. Movie writer-director John Milius is 74. Actor Peter Riegert is 71. Movie director Carl Franklin is 69. Actor Bill Irwin is 68. Country singer-songwriter Jim Lauderdale is 61. Songwriter-producer Daryl Simmons is 61. Rock musician Nigel Pulsford is 57. Actor Lucky Vanous is 57. Country singer Steve Azar is 54. Singer Lisa Stansfield is 52. Montana Gov. Steve Bullock is 52. Rock musician Dylan Keefe (Marcy Playground) is 48. Actor Johnny Messner is 48. Actor Vicellous (vy-SAY'-luhs) Shannon is 47. Rapper David Banner is 44. Actress Tricia Helfer is 44. Rock musician Chris Gaylor (The All-American Rejects) is 39. Actress Kelli Garner is 34. Singer Joss Stone is 31. Actress-dancer Kaitlyn Jenkins is 26.

Thought for Today: "If you want to conquer fear, don't sit at home and think about it. Go out and get busy." - Dale Carnegie, American writer-lecturer (1888-1955).

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The Jeopardy answers (See above)

\$400 - The byline

\$800 - Illegal

\$1200 - An anonymous

\$1600 - Tuskegee

\$2000 - correction

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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