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Connecting - April 18, 2018

1 message

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Wed, Apr 18, 2018 at 9:08 AM

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Connecting

April 18, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning!

We bring you the sad news of the death of **Richard Blystone**, longtime AP correspondent who covered the Vietnam War and who later joined CNN as one of the network's first journalists. He died Tuesday in London at the age of 81.

Connecting colleague **Claude Erbsen** was one of his best friends - they went back more than 60 years - and wrote the wire obituary for Richard that leads today's issue. He said it was one of the hardest things he was ever called on to do.

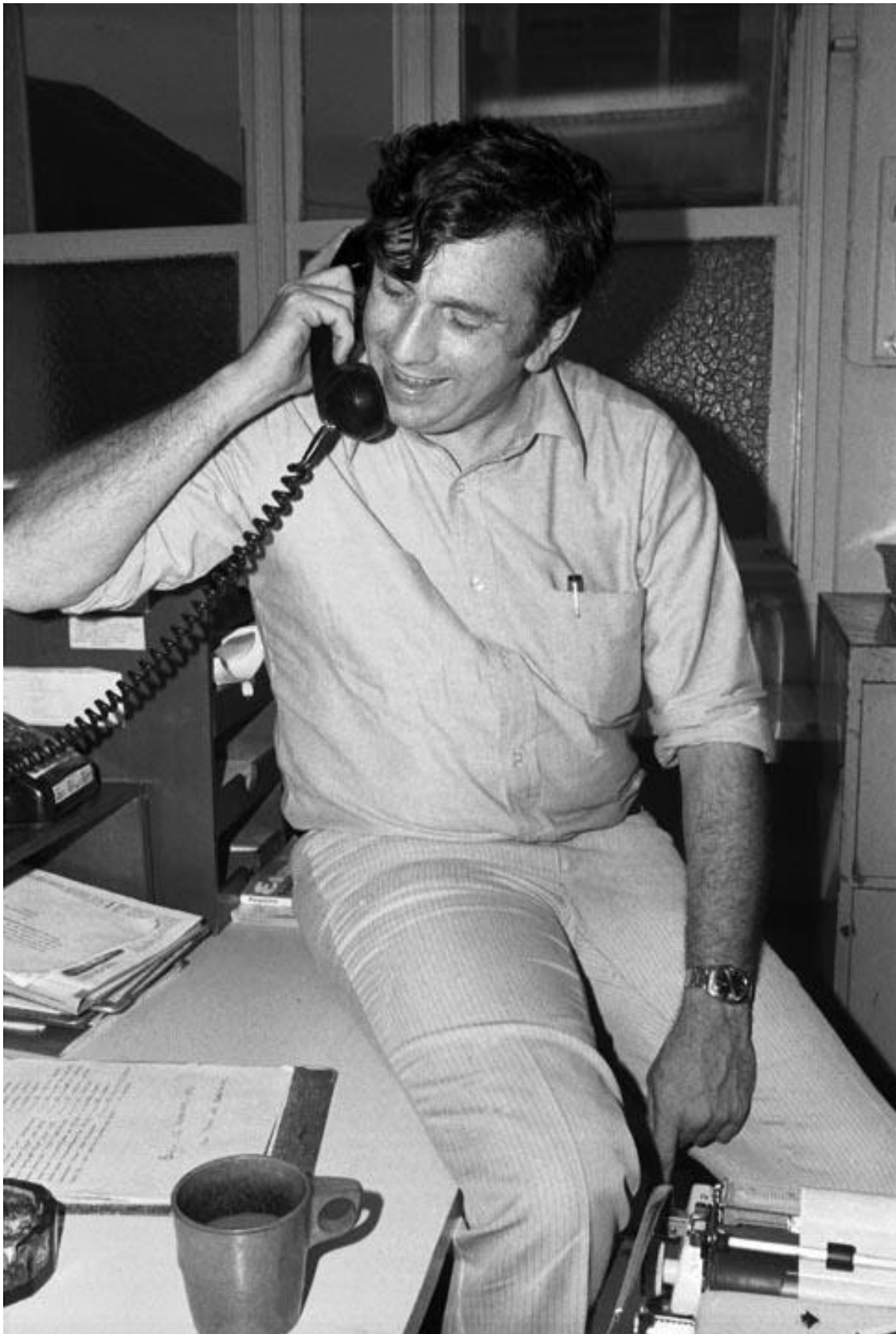
If you have a favorite memory of Richard to share, send it along to Connecting. (He was a member of our Connecting family.)

It's not too late to share your memories of the monumental year 1968. Those submitted already were to appear in today's Connecting but will be delayed a day or two due to coverage of the death of Richard Blystone.

Today's issue is packed with news, but be sure to read all the way through to The Final Word and a delightful memory of Barbara Bush by our colleague, retired AP writer **Terry Hunt** who was White House correspondent for the AP and deputy bureau chief in Washington. She died on Tuesday.

Paul

Richard Blystone, correspondent at AP, later CNN, dies at 81



Richard Blystone in AP's Saigon bureau, about 1973. Photo by AP photographer Neal Ulevich, who called him "a journalist of rare talent and a treasured friend"

By CLAUDE ERBSEN

Richard M. Blystone, a longtime Associated Press correspondent who covered the Vietnam War and went on to become one of the first journalists at the CNN network even before it went on air, died Tuesday in London. He was 81.

His sister, Louise Reilly, said her brother died in a hospital of cardiac failure, following a stroke.

Blystone began his career with AP in Atlanta in 1965, covering the civil rights struggle, and later worked at the news cooperative's New York headquarters before moving to the AP's Saigon bureau in 1970 at the height of the Vietnam War. He covered major combat action and, in 1973, became AP's Chief of Bureau in Bangkok, Thailand.

Michael Putzel, a former Saigon colleague of Blystone, recalls that "his dry humor and running cartoon strip about AP life kept the Saigon bureau entertained."

While in Bangkok, Blystone uncovered and reported the story of 54 barefoot, ragged children held as slave laborers in a garment factory. A police raid followed, freeing the children.

Blystone remained involved in coverage of strife in Indochina, and in a story from Phnom Penh before the takeover by Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge, he described how the wives and children of Cambodian soldiers missing in action "live in squalor and desperation. high in Phnom Penh's sports stadium."

After the fall of Cambodia to the Khmer Rouge, he flew in a small chartered plane to the bomb-cratered Phnom Penh airport to pluck a Cambodian AP newsman - Chaay-Born Lay - and his wife and two children to safety. They were pulled into the aircraft as it rolled along the runway for takeoff.

AP's Chief U.N. Correspondent Edith M. Lederer called him "one of the smartest, sharpest war correspondents I met and worked with at AP in Vietnam - a veteran who knew the U.S. military."

"He had a wonderful irreverent streak and didn't suffer fools, but he cared deeply about the victims of war and telling their stories to the world. He was a stickler for accuracy, a master wordsmith, a wonderful friend and an original member of the Chinese Eating Club I started when we both lived in London," Lederer added.

In 1977 and 1978, he was an Edward R. Murrow Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York and then moved to the AP's London bureau until he joined CNN in June 1980, three weeks before the then-fledgling news network went on the air. He went on to cover many wars and conflicts for CNN from its earliest day and became a senior correspondent for Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

At CNN, Blystone covered some of the world's biggest hotspots. He reported on the Iran-Iraq war, civil war in Lebanon, the collapse of communism in the former Soviet Union and its satellite nations, famine in Africa, U.S. interventions in Somalia and Haiti, the Gulf conflict, Northern Ireland and NATO's bombing of Kosovo.

But as a change of pace from politics, war, violence and famine, Blystone also produced wry and droll reports on quirky events such as the traditional gathering of the Royal Swans near London.

His 1999 CNN series "An Iron Curtain Odyssey", chronicling a 3,000-mile (4,800-kilometer) trip down the political fault line that once divided the world, followed a decade after his first report of the same title was filmed as the Iron Curtain was coming down.

Journalist Steve Hurst, who worked with Blystone at both AP and CNN, said "Blystone was the best writer I ever worked with. He was an even better man, and I and all who knew him have suffered a great loss."

Blystone retired from CNN in 2001, returning briefly for assignments in Kuwait and Iraq in 2003. In retirement he freelanced, produced documentaries and taught journalism for a semester in Botswana. He lived part of the year in London and part in Maine.

A native of Elmira, New York, Blystone was a graduate of Amherst College who served a stint in the U.S. Navy as an officer assigned to an anti-submarine patrol squadron flying out of Brunswick, Maine. He began his journalism career with brief stints at the Elmira Star-Gazette and the Scandinavian Times, in Copenhagen.

He was the son of the late Eugene Blystone and the former Bernice Mary Robinson. Besides his sister, he is survived by his wife of 54 years, the former Helle Pechter, three children and one grandchild.

Claude Erbsen, a former AP vice president and director of world services, reported from New York.

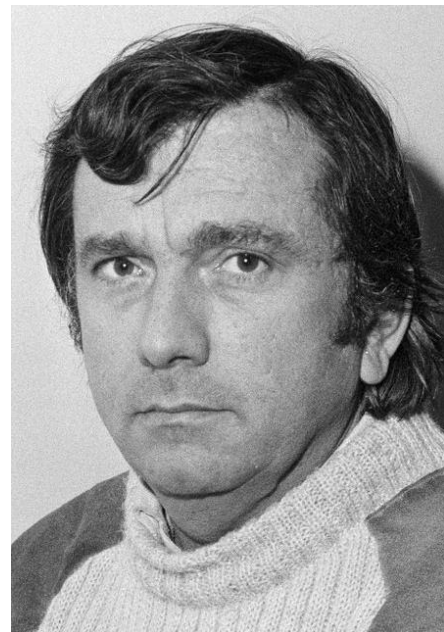
[Click here](#) for a link to this story.

Memories of Richard Blystone

Claude Erbsen ([Email](#)) - It was extraordinarily emotional for me to write Dick Blystone's obit this afternoon. On the one hand it was exhilarating to be writing for the wire again. On the other, I desperately wished I were writing about something else, anything else.

Bly and I go back more than 60 years, to the fall of 1955 when we both arrived at Amherst College as freshmen. We were close friends during our four years in college, and a couple of years later crossed paths when we were both in the Navy. After we had left the service, I was in Brazil as Rio COB when I saw a story on the wire datelined Milledgeville, GA (funny what marginal detail you can suddenly dredge up from the deep recesses of your memory) bylined Richard Blystone. So I fired off a message to AX for Blystone asking "are you my Richard Blystone?" "Yes, I am" came the almost instant reply. So, once again we were colleagues. And we remained friends and in frequent contact ever since.

Hedy and I spent time with Dick and Helle in Bangkok, and London, in New York and at their summer cottage in Maine. They stayed with us briefly while house hunting for their stay in New York while he was a Murrow fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.



Richard Blystone is shown at the AP's London bureau on Feb. 5, 1979. (AP Photo/Peter Kemp)

Then, last week, the word came from London that Dick had suffered a major stroke, and would probably not make it.

I knew instantly that I would have to volunteer to write his obit when the time came.

It came this morning, and I did, and this afternoon's reporting and writing was probably the most difficult in my life.

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The six young writers surrounding Sid Moody, supervising editor of AP Newsfeatures in New York, circa April 1970, are members of AP's "New Establishment" or Living Today Department, organized to report for young people about young people. From left: Jurate Kazickas, Dick Blystone, Ann Blackman, Lynn Sherr, Ann Hencken and Dee Wedemeyer. The group was also known as AP's "Mod Squad." (AP Photo/Corporate Archives)

Ann Blackman ([Email](#)) - In 1969, when (AP General Manager Wes) Gallagher was organizing a team of young reporters to explain the counter culture to its members (and undoubtedly to himself and editors,), Wes took some staffers to lunch at the Rainbow Room. At some point, he let it slip that his new team would include Lynn Sherr, Jurate Kazickas, Dee Wedemeyer, Ann Garcelon and Ann Blackman. "Why all women?" asked Blystone, indignantly.

Gallagher, not used to being challenged, was startled but recovered quickly. "It's not all women," he relied. "You're on the team." And so he was.

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Tom Herman ([Email](#)) - Here's a little memory I have of working with Bly. I was a newbie free-lance field producer. This was a dicy trip. Bly was calm throughout. I

knew I was in good hands.



Blystone reporting for CNN from former Iron Curtain in 1990.

In December 1988, just before Christmas, I was with Bly and a CNN team in Berlin covering the fall of the Berlin Wall at the Brandenburg Gate when we got the call that revolution had erupted in Bucharest. "Get there soonest by whatever means." After landing without pre-clearance in still-Communist Budapest on a chartered plane from Berlin, Bly's CNN crew to which I was assigned hired a taxi to Belgrade, where we hoped to rent a van with non-Hungarian plates (Romanians and Hungarians generally despise each other, so travelling there in a Hungarian-marked car was unwise, especially then). "We'll buy the damn thing if they won't rent it to us" Bly said. With a stack of greenbacks crossing from Bly's hands, the rental van was ours. The experienced Bly suspected (rightly, it turned out) that no filling stations would be open in revolution-torn Romania, so we filled two 55 gallon drums with gasoline, loaded them into the back of the van, and headed to on Bucharest, arriving safely 11 checkpoints and 15 hours later on the night before Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife were executed.

May the good Bly rest in peace!

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Michael Putzel (Email) - The war in Vietnam seemed (prematurely) to be winding down when AP General Manager Wes Gallagher paid a visit to Saigon and his favorite AP bureau in the early 1970s. American forces were leaving in droves, and the AP was contemplating trimming its staff accordingly.

Correspondents were on the alert for their next assignments. A staff dinner was arranged, of course, and Gallagher sat in the middle of a long table at Peter Arnett's and Horst Faas's favorite restaurant.

Dick Blystone was expected to be the next correspondent up for transfer, and a fellow staffer, Holger Jensen, persuaded him that Moscow would be a great posting for Dick and his lovely wife, Helle. But Blystone didn't speak Russian. Jensen, who did, was sure that wouldn't be a problem. He assured Bly he could teach him enough to plant the idea in Gallagher's head, which would surely be sufficient, as the boss was known to act decisively on his own intuition.

At dinner that evening, Jensen and Blystone sat next to each other and across the table from Gallagher, whose famed flaming eyebrows and severe countenance intimidated all but the bravest hearts. The charming Helle sat next to her husband and instantly caught Gallagher's eye. He asked her a few questions, one of which may have been where she would like to go next. Helle told him Saigon had been an exciting place to live and that she was looking forward to another interesting assignment for her husband.

"You'll make a good AP wife," Wes announced, ignoring that she already was. (It was a different era, BTW.)

At that point, Jensen and Blystone struck up a conversation loud enough for the GM to hear across the table.

"The weather is awful this time of year," Jensen told his colleague in Russian.

"I have a brown shapka," Bly said, using one of the handful of short Russian expressions he had just learned that afternoon.

Jensen observed that Leonid Brezhnev, the dour Soviet leader, "is a dreadful bore and has big, bushy eyebrows."

"Big black bear," said Blystone.

Gallagher, obviously pleased with his discovery of Bly's heretofore unknown language acumen, turned to Helle and asked if she had thought about Moscow for her husband's next posting. She smiled demurely, just like a good AP wife.

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Carl Robinson (Email) - Richard Blystone quickly earned the nickname 'Bly' -- sorta' a play too on that rock band of the era, Sly & the Family Stone. (Remember them?!) A big hulking guy too with a great journo-style sense of humour, an ever-useful survival trait in Vietnam. He was also quite a skilled cartoonist and always in friendly competition with Richard Pyle. He arrived in Saigon in late '71 or early '72 as I recall and part of that amazing team around Pyle, my good friend and mentor from photos, where I began, into writing. I would credit him with the memorable expression, "Help, I've been shot. Quick, take my picture!" (This was a dig -- not

too pleasantly taken -- at our fellow Holger Jensen's picking up some shrapnel up in Quang Tri in '72.)

I remember Helle and the kids and their challenge in just finding suitable downtown housing for his already sizeable brood and kinda' amazed the AP even sent an entire family to Saigon, not that it was particularly dangerous in the city itself. But he was extremely devoted to them and didn't spend too much time socializing with others in the bureau. Still, he was the sorta' guy you just loved having around. Great company. Always a humorous comment in even the darkest times.



AP colleagues in the Saigon bureau in 1971. From left, standing, Hugh Mulligan, Huynh Trinh, Holger Jensen, Richard Blystone, Peter Arnett, Max Nash, Richard Pyle. Seated, from left, George Esper, Carl Robinson, Ed White. (AP/Wide World Photos)

Bly was a top-notch field guy and covered the Easter Offensive with fighting up in Quang Tri and Route 13 north of Saigon and then down to the '73 Cease-Fire after which he was transferred over to Bangkok as Bureau Chief. As Cambodia was falling in early 1975, we were together for the Siege of Phnom Penh when the city was kept alive by a Berlin-style Airlift. NY wasn't happy with our coverage of a visit by a US Congressional delegation that included the always-colourful be-hatted Bella Abzug (D) and the severe-looking pipe smoking Millicent Fenwick (R) from NJ and everyone was demoralised, but the expression "You're not bullish enough" became our lasting mantra. What? With the country going down the gurgler and we gotta' cover these clowns?

But the single gutsiest thing Blystone did was on Saturday, 12 April 1975, when our Cambodian staffer Chhay Born Lay and his family missed that morning's US helicopter evacuation of Phnom Penh. By now back in Saigon covering North

Vietnam's final offensive to conquer the South, he rushed out to Tan Son Nhut airport and talked the crew of a Continental Air Services DC-3 into making the 200-km run over to Phnom Penh to rescue him. Thankfully, the Khmer Rouge would not enter the city for a couple more days and, landing at a tense and now totally deserted Pochentong Airport and alerted by phone from Saigon, Chhay Born Lay and his family ran out to the plane. Sadly, in view of what'd happen next, they were the only Cambodians on the return flight to Saigon. A selfless act from Bly and an ever-grateful Chhay Born Lay, believe me, who went on to become the Donut King of San Jose.

By the time Saigon fell at the end of April 1975, Bly was back at his post in Bangkok filing on that story and then its aftermath, starting with the Mayaguez Incident, until he left AP and moved to London where he was one of the very first correspondents hired by CNN.

With me settling in Sydney and him in London, we kept in sporadic touch over the years. He an early member of the Google Group 'Vietnam Old Hacks' which ex-CBSer Derek Williams and I created after the death of Hugh Van Es in 2009, but more of a 'lurker' than contributor. Last email exchange was last year with cartoons that Pyle had drawn and Bly had kept.

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Lynn Sherr ([Email](#)) - Dick's wry humor was surpassed only by his deep concern for our world -- a concern revealed when he went to do a story on a dirigible. A blimp. Somehow in the late 60s early 70s, there was a revival of interest in this old but eco-friendly means of transportation, and Blystone went off for a blimp ride. When I say that it took him at least a week, maybe two or more, to write up the story, I'm being generous. He agonized. He typed words and tossed the paper. He went through dozens of ledes, and finally turned in a story that began, "The blimp is too good for America." I have no idea what happened to the piece.

Our Mod Squad group was close and supportive, and we couldn't wait to preview the best parts of the interviews to each other when we got back to 50 Rock. One day, Dick returned from an interview with the Cookie Monster, a then-relatively-new Sesame Street character. He was ecstatic, a grand beatific grin on his face. "How'd it go?" we asked. "Great," he said, smiling. "Fabulous." And then, he said, "at the end of the interview -- which was conducted entirely with The Cookie Monster himself. I never even saw the puppeteer -- I thanked him (the Cookie Monster) for his time, and I said, totally honestly, "You know, Cookie Monster, I really believed you are real." "Thanks," responded the Cookie Monster. "I thought you were real, too."

Dick loved it.

His curmudgeonly ways grew more pronounced the older he got. By the time he left The AP to go to CNN he was a full-fledged grump. But such an adorable and funny and smart one.

Last year we were exchanging emails about the sorry state of the world, particularly the US government, and he said (he only wrote in all caps by then):

YOU MAY OR MAY NOT REMEMBER THAT MOI AM ONE OF THE FEW PEOPLE I KNOW WHO PREDICTED TRUMP WOULD GET THE REPUBLICAN NOMINATION.

AND ALMOST THE ONLY ONE IN MY SILO WHO PREDICTED HE'D WIN THE ELECTION.

I AM NOW PREDICTING THAT BEFORE THE YEAR IS OUT HE'LL DO THE PROPER CHILDISH THING: PICK UP HIS MARBLES AND GO HOME.

AS ONE WAPOST COLUMNIST WROTE IN SUPPORT OF HIS PRESIDENCY, HEY, AT LEAST HE'S INCOMPETENT . . .

IF HE QUILTS, WHAT THEN?

BE VERY AFRAID

XOXOXOXO

DB

He also told me to re-read *The Wind in the Willows*, paying special attention to Toad of Toad Hall. I haven't done that yet.

A few years earlier, I sent him a piece I'd seen in the *Economist* about the return of dirigibles, and he emailed back:

THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT DIRIGIBLES IN THE NEW YORKER A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO TOO. WE LTA [LIGHTER THAN AIR] ENTHUSIASTS CONTINUE TO HOPE AGAINST THE ODDS.

I guess the odds ran out. RIP, Dick.

Connecting mailbox

Questions on AP impartiality - and AP's reply

Warren Lerude ([Email](#)) - Questions about AP impartiality:

Does The AP jeopardize its traditional impartiality when its White House and national government reporters join in the opinionated fray on controversial cable talk shows as paid or unpaid analysts about the same officials and issues they cover for The AP?

Does The AP approve of reporters covering governors and state houses offering their opinions on controversial local talk shows across the country?

Does The AP differentiate between CNN, MSNBC and Fox in allowing national reporters to participate or leave decisions to the reporters on where they choose to offer their opinions?

Connecting asked **Lauren Easton** ([Email](#)), AP director of media relations, for a reply and here it is:

AP journalists refrain from expressing opinion in interviews and in any public forum, in keeping with AP standards. Many of our White House and politics reporters do offer analysis when they appear on radio and television broadcasts, including Fox News, MSNBC, CNN, NPR and many others, to discuss their reporting and other pertinent news of the day. We are pleased when staffers are able to showcase AP's expertise and offer objective news and analysis that reflects what we provide to our members and customers in our news services.

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Remembering Charles Tasnadi - an amazingly talented photographer and incredible gentleman

Sandy Johnson ([Email](#)) - What a coincidence that Robert Meyers would mention Charlie Tasnadi in "Connecting." I just finished a book on the thwarted Hungarian revolution of the 1950s and Charlie was on my mind the whole time. He was an amazingly talented photographer, and an incredible gentleman. For those who never had the privilege of knowing Charlie, here is his 2008 obituary. At Charlie's funeral, I was surprised to see Jerry Seib, then the Wall Street Journal's

Washington bureau chief. I shouldn't have been. Jerry told me that Charlie and Maria were wonderful neighbors who doted on the Seib's three boys.

Fighting for access in Cohen hearings



Michael Cohen, President Donald Trump's personal attorney, center, leaves federal court following a hearing in New York, April 16, 2018. (AP Photo/Craig Ruttle)

By LAUREN EASTON

An attorney representing five news organizations, including The Associated Press, successfully persuaded a judge to release the name of a third client of President Donald Trump's personal attorney, Michael Cohen, in a notable victory for public access.

Joining with The New York Times, ABC News, Newsday and CNN, AP engaged attorneys Rachel Strom and Robert Balin to be present during the hearings for Cohen in New York on Friday and Monday.

Strom helped to keep the hearings open on Friday, over several objections, while Balin seemingly made the difference in Monday's disclosure of Sean Hannity's name as a client of Cohen's - a revelation that made headlines. The judge, after hearing Balin's legal arguments, said that the client's desire not to be named publicly was not enough under the law.

"This is another small but impactful example of AP's commitment to transparency paying dividends," said AP Assistant General Counsel Brian Barrett.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Marc Wilson - marcus@townnews.com

Story of interest

***Report for America Supports Journalism
Where Cutbacks Hit Hard*** (New York Times)



Molly Born, a West Virginia Public Radio reporter, has the state motto tattooed on her back. She applied for the Report for America program in hopes of covering her home state. Credit Luke Sharrett for The New York Times

By NELLIE BOWLES

A group of journalists have decided to do something about the diminution of newsrooms at the local level. They're making reporting part of a national service program.

Report for America, a nonprofit organization modeled after AmeriCorps, aims to install 1,000 journalists in understaffed newsrooms by 2022. Now in its pilot stage, the initiative has placed three reporters in Appalachia. It has chosen nine more, from 740 applicants, to be deployed across the country in June.

Molly Born, 29, was one of the first three selected for the program. She grew up in West Virginia and has the state motto tattooed on her back: "Montani Semper Liberi" ("Mountaineers Are Always Free"). A reporter at The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette for the last six years, Ms. Born applied to Report for America with the hope of covering her home state.

"I felt like I needed to give something back to a place that has given a lot to me," she said. "And journalism is the way for me to do that."

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

The Final Word

The day outspoken Barbara Bush regretted speaking her mind



In this Jan. 21, 1985, file photo, U.S. President Ronald Reagan and his wife, Nancy, right, stand with Vice President George Bush and Barbara Bush following the oaths in the Capitol Building in Washington. A family spokesman said Tuesday, April 17, 2018, that former first lady Barbara Bush has died at the age of 92. (AP Photo/Bob Daugherty, File)

By TERENCE HUNT

WASHINGTON (AP) - Barbara Bush leaned over the seat on Air Force Two and glared at me. It was 1984, and her husband, Vice President George Bush, was running for re-election with President Ronald Reagan. On that day, she was fuming and she didn't bother hiding it.

"It rhymes with rich," she told me, describing her husband's political opponent, Geraldine Ferraro, the Democratic vice presidential nominee.

The vice president later told me she considered it the most embarrassing episode of her life. She said much the same.

Barbara Bush was a formidable woman, beloved by many. But her grandmotherly white hair and fake pearls were deceiving. She was intimidating, no one to mess with.

"She tended to be the enforcer" in the family, her son former President George W. Bush once said. "Her willingness to speak her mind stood in contrast to some tightly scripted political spouses."

As a reporter for The Associated Press covering the White House, I occasionally came in contact with her. Then, in 1984, I stepped away to cover the vice president on the campaign trail. I spent months with Bush and his wife on Air Force Two traveling around the country.

Bush went to places that Reagan's team deemed less important. His job was to show the flag, carry the president's message. He rarely made news on his own.

So, there we were, flying to New York for the Columbus Day Parade, another routine assignment. Only two reporters were on the plane: myself and Ira Allen of United Press International. The vice president and his wife stopped by our seats before takeoff.

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

Today in History - April 18, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, April 18, the 108th day of 2018. There are 257 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 18, 1938, Superman, AKA "The Man of Steel," made his debut as the first issue of Action Comics (bearing a cover date of June) went on sale for 10 cents a copy. (In 2014, a nearly flawless original copy was sold on eBay for \$3.2 million.)

On this date:

In 1775, Paul Revere began his famous ride from Charlestown to Lexington, Massachusetts, warning colonists that British Regular troops were approaching.

In 1865, Confederate Gen. Joseph E. Johnston surrendered to Union Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman near Durham Station in North Carolina.

In 1906, a devastating earthquake struck San Francisco, followed by raging fires; estimates of the final death toll range between 3,000 and 6,000.

In 1923, the first game was played at the original Yankee Stadium in New York; the Yankees defeated the Boston Red Sox 4-1.

In 1942, during World War II, an air squadron from the USS Hornet led by Lt. Col. James H. Doolittle raided Tokyo and other Japanese cities. The first World War II edition of The Stars and Stripes was published as a weekly newspaper.

In 1943, Adm. Isoroku Yamamoto, commander-in-chief of the Japanese Combined Fleet, was shot down and killed by U.S. fighters while approaching Bougainville in the Solomon Islands.

In 1956, American actress Grace Kelly married Prince Rainier (ren-YAY') of Monaco in a civil ceremony. (A church wedding took place the next day.)

In 1966, "The Sound of Music" won the Oscar for best picture of 1965 at the 38th Academy Awards. The first Major League baseball game played on AstroTurf took place at the Houston Astrodome as the Los Angeles Dodgers defeated the Astros 6-3. Bill Russell was named player-coach of the Boston Celtics, becoming the NBA's first black coach.

In 1978, the Senate approved the Panama Canal Treaty, providing for the complete turnover of control of the waterway to Panama on the last day of 1999.

In 1983, 63 people, including 17 Americans, were killed at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon, by a suicide bomber.

In 1988, an Israeli court convicted John Demjanjuk (dem-YAHN'-yuk), a retired auto worker from Cleveland, of committing war crimes at the Treblinka death camp in Nazi-occupied Poland. (However, Israel's Supreme Court later overturned Demjanjuk's conviction.)

In 1998, despite fierce internal dissent, Northern Ireland's main Protestant party, the Ulster Unionists, approved a peace agreement. The remains of Pol Pot were cremated, three days after the Khmer Rouge leader blamed for the killings of up to two million Cambodians died at age 73. Former North Carolina governor and U.S. senator Terry Sanford died in Durham at age 80.

Ten years ago: Addressing the United Nations, Pope Benedict XVI said that respect for human rights, not violence, was the key to solving many of the world's problems. Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin gave birth to her fifth child, a son named Trig Paxson Van Palin.

Five years ago: The FBI released surveillance camera images of two suspects in the Boston Marathon bombing and asked for the public's help in identifying them, hours

after President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama attended an interfaith service at a Roman Catholic cathedral. Randy Newman, Heart, Rush, Public Enemy, Donna Summer, Albert King, and producers Quincy Jones and Lou Adler were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame during a ceremony in Los Angeles.

One year ago: Turning back to the economic populism that helped drive his election campaign, President Donald Trump signed an order he said should help American workers whose jobs were threatened by skilled immigrants; the signing took place at the headquarters of hand and power tool manufacturer Snap-on Inc., in Kenosha, Wisconsin. A man shot and killed three people on the streets of downtown Fresno, California; a suspect who was also accused of killing a motel security guard two days earlier was almost immediately arrested. U.S. Vice President Mike Pence assured Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (shin-zoh AH'-bay) "we are with you 100 percent" during a visit amid escalating tensions over North Korea.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Clive Revill is 88. Actor James Drury is 84. Actor Robert Hooks is 81. Actress Hayley Mills is 72. Actor James Woods is 71. Actress-director Dorothy Lyman is 71. Actress Cindy Pickett is 71. Country musician Walt Richmond (The Tractors) is 71. Country musician Jim Scholten (Sawyer Brown) is 66. Actor Rick Moranis is 65. Actress Melody Thomas Scott is 62. Actor Eric Roberts is 62. Actor John James is 62. Rock musician Les Pattinson (Echo and the Bunnymen) is 60. Author-journalist Susan Faludi is 59. Actress Jane Leeves is 57. Ventriloquist-comedian Jeff Dunham is 56. Talk show host Conan O'Brien is 55. Bluegrass singer-musician Terry Eldredge is 55. Actor Eric McCormack is 55. Actress Maria Bello is 51. Actress Mary Birdsong is 50. Actor David Hewlett is 50. Rock musician Greg Eklund (The Oolahs) is 48. Actress Lisa Locicero is 48. TV chef Ludovic Lefebvre is 47. Actor David Tennant is 47. Country musician Marvin Evatt (EH'-veht) is 44. Rock musician Mark Tremonti is 44. Rhythm-and-blues singer Trina (Trina and Tamara) is 44. Actress Melissa Joan Hart is 42. Actor Sean Maguire is 42. Actor Kevin Rankin is 42. Actor Bryce Johnson is 41. Reality TV star Kourtney Kardashian (kar-DASH'-ee-uhn) is 39. Actress America Ferrera is 34. Actress Ellen Woglom (TV: "Marvel's Inhumans") is 31. Actress Vanessa Kirby is 30. Actress Alia Shawkat is 29. Actress Britt Robertson is 28. Actress Chloe Bennet is 26. Rock singer Nathan Sykes (The Wanted) is 25. Actor Moises Arias is 24.

***Thought for Today: "I'll tell you a secret. We live in a mad and inspiring world."
- Ben Hecht, Hollywood screenwriter (born 1894, died this date in 1964).***

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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