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# Connecting - April 24, 2018

1 message

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# Connecting

April 24, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning!

Back in 1978, the Internet and Social Media had yet to be born. A far simpler time for the news media? Or not,

In researching a story for Connecting, I came across a link to a documentary done in late 1978 by **Martin Hardee** that discussed what he termed "a golden time in New York radio news."

Change was in the air, he wrote - "There is an uneasy tension between traditionalists who view news as education and information and a new breed of programmers who think as news as part of their stations' overall entertainment programming. And, there is an increasing push among the broadcast business community to scale back FCC news requirements, which some view as an expensive drain on profits."

One segment of the documentary covered the major U.S. wire services that served New York radio, and beyond - The Associated Press and United Press International.

One of the major AP sources quoted in the story was **Mike Collins**, who ran the Metro broadcast wire in the AP's headquarters at 50 Rockefeller Plaza from 1973 to 1988. He died in 2010.

Enjoy the retrospective. Recognize any names?

Have a great day!

Paul

## New York Radio Wires



**AP's Mike Collins at right.**

November 9, 1978 - It's four AM, and on the fourth floor of 50 Rockefeller Center in mid-town Manhattan, Mike Collins, who runs the Associated Press New York Broadcast Metro wire, is putting together the news copy that many New York stations will use in this morning's newscasts. The "wire" as it is called in journalism parlance, is actually a service that delivers written stories to teletype machines sitting at dozens of subscribing news outlets around the city. Radio and TV stations use the content that is delivered to these machines to help form the basis of their newscasts.

The first big push of the day is the "dawn summary," a complete wrap-up of all of the major stories from the previous day and previous night. Content is written specifically to be read on radio or TV, rather than in the much different traditional newspaper style of most wire copy. The dawn summary arrives at most stations just as (or before) the morning news teams arrive, and provides many of the stories that millions of listeners will hear that morning over the radio and TV airwaves.

New York has two major wire services: The Associated Press (AP) and United Press International (UPI). Content from these two services provides the backbone of news information for the city.

New York is so big, has so much happening, and has so many news outlets that both major wire services maintain special "city" wires to carry metro news, and cater special city wires just for the broadcast market. These metro broadcast wires provide copy written specifically for broadcast and also move bulletins and many dozens of stories to New York area stations.

Read more [here](#).



4th floor, 50 Rock

## Connecting mailbox

*Thanks to Hal Buell for giving his son a start*

**Arnold Zeitlin (Email)** -Managing Director, Editorial Research & Reporting Associates, and Visiting Professor, Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, Guangzhou, China, who shared this note he sent to Hal Buell:

We've not been in touch for years, Hal, but your interview in Paul Stevens' Connecting reminded me of the role you played in our family's life about 36 years ago. My son, Jide, had finished his freshman year at Amherst College when you gave him a summer job in 1982 in the photo department at Rockefeller Center. You paid him \$300 a week, a huge sum for a freshman with no experience. He was excited at having chance to learn the photo business. Jide spent most of the summer traveling to LaGuardia or JFK airports picking up photo packages and hanging around the office looking at the Financial News Network on TV.

The latter experience showed Jide where the money was. At the end of the summer, he told me that the next summer, he wanted to work on Wall Street. Which is exactly what happened. The next summer, he got a job as an intern at Goldman Sachs, initially at \$400 a week. He discovered he was the only undergraduate in an intern class of 20 graduate students from Harvard and Stanford business schools and the Wharton School. The graduate students were being paid \$800 a week. Since he was doing the same work as the graduate students, he asked for a raise --and he soon was making \$800 a week for the summer. He went back to Goldman every Amherst summer thereafter.

When he was graduated from Amherst in 1985, he went straight to Harvard Business School, then to Goldman as a full-time associate in 1987. He became a Goldman partner in his mid-30s and retired in his 40s with more money than you and I ever saw at AP.

Today Jide runs his own investment company, serves as chairman of the board of Coach, the luxury bag maker, and of the sovereign fund of Nigeria, the country of his birth. He retired several years ago after seven years as chairman of the board of trustees at Amherst.

It all started with you giving him a summer job. Many thanks.

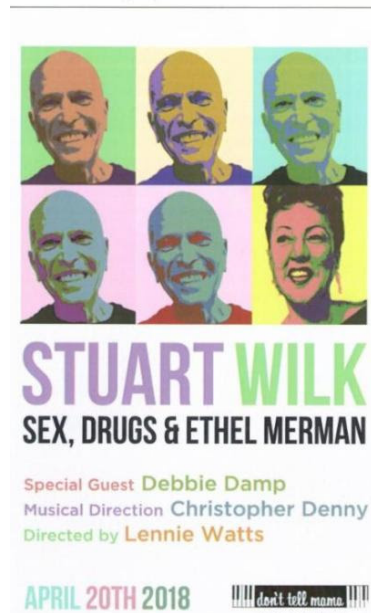
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***Riddle me this, Stuart Wilk***

**Bobbie Seril (Email)** - Riddle me this: how does a seasoned journalist transition to superb raconteur, soulful interpreter of *The Great American Songbook* and all-around song-and-dance man?

Effortlessly, if you're [Connecting colleague] Stuart Wilk...as was made crystal clear Friday night during his debut one-man show at a popular off-Broadway NYC haunt. I'm sure the 200 or so friends and family who packed both sold-out shows would agree. We're all looking forward to his next one.

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## ***Grueling Marathon des Sables completes another edition***



**A sandstorm sweeps across as competitors take part in the 33rd edition of Marathon des Sables, in the Sahara desert, near Merzouga, southern Morocco, Saturday, April 14, 2018. (AP Photo/Mosa'ab Elshamy)**

**AP Images Blog**



Under a hot desert sun and with the desolation of the Sahara all around, about 1,000 competitors from 50 countries took part in this year's Marathon des Sables, or Marathon of the Sands.

The 33rd edition of the annual race, considered to be one of the most demanding ultramarathons in the world, finished Saturday after six grueling days and about 250 kilometers (150 miles).

Defending champion Rachid El Morabity of Morocco won his sixth title in what is known as "Toughest foot race on Earth," while Magdalena Boulet of the United States won the women's event.

[Click here](#) to view the blog.



## Exclusive AP photo of missiles streaking over Damascus dominates global play



**Damascus skies erupt with surface-to-air missile fire as the U.S., Britain and France launched an attack on Syria targeting parts of Damascus, April 14, 2018. Syria's capital was rocked by loud explosions that lit up the sky as U.S. President Donald Trump announced the airstrikes in retaliation for the country's alleged use of chemical weapons. AP PHOTO / HASSAN AMMAR**

When President Donald Trump tweeted a warning last week about a possible missile strike on Syria, the AP was well ahead in its planning for what would eventually follow.

An AP cross-format team had applied for visas for Damascus a month ago. Last-minute negotiations and a bit of luck led to them being issued two days before air strikes by the U.S., France and Britain were carried out.

And when the missiles started raining down, Hassan Ammar, a Beirut-based photographer, captured the signature image of the Damascus night sky. His photo, which dominated world play, earns the Beat of the Week.

Preparation and a phone call from a friend helped AP photographer @HassanAmmar5 capture this gripping image of missile fire over the skies of Damascus. His story: <https://t.co/hNwq7PJ4va> Our full Syria coverage: <https://t.co/kmsPYhZIWnpic> [twitter.com/KWd3Dw5no4](https://twitter.com/KWd3Dw5no4)

- The Associated Press (@AP) April 15, 2018

The photo was the culmination of careful preparation in Damascus by the cross-format Beirut team of Hassan, senior producer Bassam Hatoum, reporter Bassem Mroue and Syria stringer Albert Aji. They determined how to best position themselves to report on the strikes, including placing a camera on its tripod on a balcony, hooked to a remote control so it could be operated from inside.

Aji, whose office facing east provided a direct view to the mountain overlooking Damascus, left the office key with the team overnight, allowing an almost theatrical view. Quick work by the team once the attacks got underway resulted in AP dominating in all formats. Ammar's photo, showing the streak of a missile, drawn out in the long exposure, lancing up into the night, was unmatched by the competition. It was featured on about 100 front pages worldwide. AP video of the night sky was used more than 3,500 times on the first day alone.

"The coverage was driven by good cross-format coordination, planning and communication, both internally and with customers."

- Senior VP and Executive Editor Sally Buzbee

The AP team captured every significant turn of the story in all formats, many of them live, from the initial missiles to street demonstrations, reaction, a visit to the site of one of the strikes and, on Monday, a trip to the site of the chemical weapons attack. Hatoum coordinated video coverage, with Ammar and Aji shooting footage with phones when they reached the site of a strike. Mroue took photos of the chemical weapons inspectors' arrival in Damascus.

The team's work was widely credited on TV, radio, websites and in print worldwide and resulted in several outside media requests for interviews with Ammar for his photos, including by the BBC and European papers.

For his exclusive photo that led a comprehensive cross-format coverage, Ammar wins Beat of the Week.



## **AP's 50-state analysis: State legislatures lack public records of sexual misconduct claims**





**Some of the two dozen state lawmakers across the country who have been accused of sexual harassment or misconduct since the start of 2017 and have resigned or been removed from office as of March 2018. -Top row from left: Alaska Rep. Dean Westlake, Arizona Rep. Don Shooter, California Assemblyman Matt Dababneh and Colorado Rep. Steve Lebsack. -Middle row from left: Florida Sen. Jack Latvala, Mississippi Rep. John Moore, Nevada Sen. Mark Manendo and Oklahoma Rep. Dan Kirby. -Bottom row from left are Oklahoma Sen. Ralph Shortey, Oklahoma Sen. Bryce Marlatt, South Dakota Rep. Mathew Wollmann and Utah Rep. Jon Stanard. AP PHOTO**

As the #MeToo movement spread to state capitols, AP statehouse reporters filed uniform FOIA requests with every legislature seeking information about past sexual misconduct cases and payouts to victims. The coordinated effort, overseen by State Government Team reporter David Lieb, produced some interesting numbers: roughly 70 complaints and nearly \$3 million in sexual harassment settlements over the past decade. But the real story was the information that wasn't released. Only half the legislatures reported receiving any complaints during the previous 10 years, and just eight said payments had been made to accusers. Was that it, or were legislatures presenting a picture that was likely to be incomplete?

At the same time reporters were filing their FOIAs and doing follow-up, Lieb was working with his statehouse colleagues to catalog every instance since the start of 2017 in which a state lawmaker was forced from office, disciplined or publicly accused over a sexual misconduct allegation. While it was a limited sample size, it allowed the AP to match the official responses from legislatures with the known facts

for the most recent years. That allowed Lieb to report clearly and authoritatively that even states with documented cases of lawmaker sexual harassment were not releasing records about those allegations - and potentially others.

Only on @AP: Analysis finds most state legislatures have no public records of sexual misconduct complaints against lawmakers. <https://t.co/XoVLPJxrWY>

- David Lieb (@DavidALieb) April 11, 2018

Take Kentucky. Three years ago, the Legislature paid \$400,000 to settle sexual harassment lawsuits involving three lawmakers. Last year, the Senate minority whip was replaced after being accused of groping a man and the House speaker and three colleagues lost leadership posts after secretly signing a sexual harassment settlement.

And yet no records of these or any other sexual misconduct allegations against Kentucky lawmakers are disclosed publicly by the Legislature. Complying with the AP's record request, it said, was an "unreasonable burden." As a result, the number of formal complaints and potential payouts remain officially unknown.

It's a similar story in New York, where a state assemblyman was sanctioned by a legislative ethics panel after he was accused of asking a female staffer for nude photos, and in Rhode Island, where a lawmaker resigned earlier this year after being charged with extorting a page for sex. In fact, a majority of states would not disclose records related to sexual misconduct among lawmakers. The most common response was that they had received no such complaints over the past decade, did not keep a record of any such complaints or were not legally bound to disclose the records.

For victims, that lack of transparency can send a message that sexual misconduct allegations may not be taken seriously, deterring people from coming forward with accusations in the future. In Texas, the 181-member Legislature claims to have no records of any sexual harassment complaints over the last decade. Former state Sen. Wendy Davis finds that troubling, if unsurprising: "Often the fear of coming forward and what the consequence of that will look like suppresses anyone from saying anything," Davis told reporter John Mone in a video interview. The lack of public accounting also means voters will never know how much worse the problem might be and keeps the potential misdeeds of lawmakers in the shadows.

In some states, the FOIA request did surface fresh news: It revealed that four Hawaiian lawmakers have been the subject of sexual harassment or misconduct complaints since 2008. It found a new sexual harassment complaint against an Arizona lawmaker. And in New Hampshire, the released documents showed that a state representative who complained about harassment from a colleague was told

that no action would be taken unless the lawmaker expressly stated his disinterest in a relationship. Still, names were redacted in all those cases.

Lieb worked with data editor Meghan Hoyer to organize and analyze the responses from our statehouse reporters in every state. The resulting spreadsheet was distributed to AP bureaus and customers weeks ahead of publication to allow for localizations. AP reporters in 19 states did just that, producing sidebars that in many cases landed on A1.

And yep, we shared the data we collected with members so they could write stories in their own states like this one: <https://t.co/q00JCZHGVX>

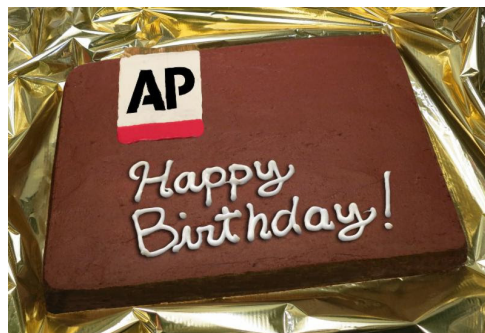
- Meghan Hoyer (@MeghanHoyer) April 11, 2018

The story moved in advance under embargo. When it went live, it was competing on a news cycle that included Paul Ryan's resignation, Mark Zuckerberg's congressional testimony, the FBI raid on Trump's lawyer, the crisis in Syria and - late in the cycle - the X-rated report about the Missouri governor. Despite that, the story received wide interest, with 2,100 screen views on the APNews app and an additional 1,000 views for the state-by-state list of lawmakers who have been accused of sexual misconduct.

The mainbar and state sidebars received play on at least 20 front pages. As a bonus, the data set was popular enough to generate revenue: By promoting the statehouse misconduct spreadsheet, the AP sold seven new data subscriptions to a news company that operates in Georgia, Indiana, upstate New York and elsewhere.

For their 50-state accountability project on a topic that continues to rattle state capitols, Lieb and Hoyer win this week's Best of the States award.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Evelyn Colucci-Calvert - [ecalvert@ap.org](mailto:ecalvert@ap.org)

Reed Saxon - [rsaxon@ap.org](mailto:rsaxon@ap.org)

## Stories of interest

### *At Agence France-Presse, the French state plays a heavy hand* (CJR)



By JON ALLSOP

EMMANUEL HOOG WAS HOPING to secure a fresh term as the head of Agence France-Presse last Wednesday. Then he received an unwelcome phone call. Hoog, who'd served as AFP's chairman and CEO since 2010, was about to go up against challenger Fabrice Fries in a board of directors vote when the French government called-hours before the vote was scheduled to take place-to say it wouldn't be supporting him. Hoog quickly stepped aside.

While the French state only controls three of the 18 seats on AFP's board, it's all but impossible for a CEO to operate without its confidence. AFP may be the third-biggest news agency in the world (after Reuters and AP)-with operations in multiple languages and 151 countries-but it gets up to about 40 percent of its funding from its home government. In recent years, the sustainability of that funding has been called into question. Observers say the French state wants AFP to stand on its own feet, and that Hoog failed to advance its agenda fast enough. Its pick to run the agency is, therefore, a political one.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Bob Daugherty.

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## ***Finance Is Killing the News*** (New Republic)

By **ALEX SHEPHARD**

Earlier this month, the 50 remaining staffers at The Denver Post fought to save their paper from their hedge fund owner, Alden Global Capital. Facing steep cuts, the paper's editorial board took a stand in a blistering column. "We call for action," the board wrote. "Denver deserves a newspaper owner who supports its newsroom. If Alden isn't willing to do good journalism here, it should sell the Post to owners who will." A day after the editorial was published, 30 journalists were fired.

All this despite the fact that both the Post and its parent company under the Alden umbrella, Digital First Media, were profitable. The Post has been bled dry. Since it was acquired by Alden, the paper's 200-person newsroom has been hollowed out, substantially reducing the breadth and depth of its coverage.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady.

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## ***Bernie Sanders Is Quietly Building a Digital Media Empire*** (New York Magazine)

By **Gabriel Debenedetti**

For a brief moment in late October 2016, when Hillary Clinton was surfing on a six-point national lead over Donald Trump and James Comey had yet to dive-bomb the presidential race, the talk of the political class was a set of curious reports suggesting that after losing embarrassingly, Trump could soon pursue his own TV network. The chatter grew loud enough that, just two weeks before Election Day, the candidate had to start publicly fending off rumors about his aspirations of a media venture, for fear that his supporters would lose interest in him just as early voting was getting underway.



"No, I have no interest in Trump TV - I hear it all over the place, I hear it," he announced to one Cincinnati radio host, clearly reveling in the speculation but straining to get the attention back to the election at hand. "I have a tremendous fan base, I mean, we have a tremendous base, we have the most incredible people. But I just don't have any interest in that."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady.

## Today in History - April 24, 2018



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Tuesday, April 24, the 114th day of 2018. There are 251 days left in the year.

### **Today's Highlight in History:**

On April 24, 1800, Congress approved a bill establishing the Library of Congress.

### **On this date:**

In 1792, Capt. Claude Joseph Rouget de Lisle began composing "War Song for the Rhine Army," later known as "La Marseillaise" (lah mahr-say-YEHZ'), the national anthem of France.



In 1877, federal troops were ordered out of New Orleans, ending the North's post-Civil War rule in the South.

In 1915, in what's considered the start of the Armenian genocide, the Ottoman Empire began rounding up Armenian political and cultural leaders in Constantinople.

In 1916, some 1,600 Irish nationalists launched the Easter Rising by seizing several key sites in Dublin. (The rising was put down by British forces five days later.)

In 1932, in the Free State of Prussia, the Nazi Party gained a plurality of seats in parliamentary elections.

In 1947, novelist Willa Cather died in New York at age 73.

In 1953, British statesman Winston Churchill was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II.

In 1962, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology achieved the first satellite relay of a television signal, using NASA's Echo 1 balloon satellite to bounce a video image from Camp Parks, California, to Westford, Massachusetts.

In 1967, Soviet cosmonaut Vladimir Komarov was killed when his Soyuz 1 spacecraft smashed into the Earth after his parachutes failed to deploy properly during re-entry; he was the first human spaceflight fatality.

In 1970, the People's Republic of China launched its first satellite, which kept transmitting a song, "The East Is Red."

In 1980, the United States launched an unsuccessful attempt to free the American hostages in Iran, a mission that resulted in the deaths of eight U.S. servicemen.

In 1990, the space shuttle Discovery blasted off from Cape Canaveral, Florida, carrying the \$1.5 billion Hubble Space Telescope.

Ten years ago: The White House accused North Korea of assisting Syria's secret nuclear program, saying a Syrian nuclear reactor destroyed by Israel in 2007 was not intended for "peaceful purposes."

Five years ago: In Bangladesh, a shoddily constructed eight-story commercial building housing garment factories collapsed, killing more than 1,100 people.

One year ago: Two inmates received lethal injections on the same gurney about three hours apart as Arkansas completed the nation's first double execution since 2000, just days after the state ended a nearly 12-year hiatus on administering capital punishment. Astronaut Peggy Whitson broke the U.S. record for most time in space and talked up Mars during a congratulatory call from President Donald Trump; the International Space Station's commander surpassed the record of 534 days, two hours and 48 minutes for most accumulated time in space by an American.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director-producer Richard Donner is 88. Actress Shirley MacLaine is 84. Actress-singer-director Barbra Streisand is 76. Former Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley is 76. Country singer Richard Sterban (The Oak Ridge Boys) is 75. Rock musician Doug Clifford (Creedence Clearwater Revival) is 73. Rock singer-musician Rob Hyman is 68. Former Irish Taoiseach (TEE'-shuk) Enda Kenny is 67. Actor-playwright Eric Bogosian is 65. Rock singer-musician Jack Blades (Night Ranger) is 64. Actor Michael O'Keefe is 63. Rock musician David J (Bauhaus) is 61. Actor Glenn Morshower is 59. Rock musician Billy Gould is 55. Actor-comedian Cedric the Entertainer is 54. Actor Djimon Hounsou (JEYE'-mihn OHN'-soo) is 54. Rock musician Patty Schemel is 51. Actress Stacy Haiduk is 50. Rock musician Aaron Comess (Spin Doctors) is 50. Actor Aidan Gillen is 50. Actress Melinda Clarke is 49. Actor Rory McCann is 49. Latin pop singer Alejandro Fernandez is 47. Country-rock musician Brad Morgan (Drive-By Truckers) is 47. Rock musician Brian Marshall (Creed; Alter Bridge) is 45. Actor Derek Luke is 44. Actor-producer Thad Luckinbill is 43. Actor Eric Balfour is 41. Actress Rebecca Mader is 41. Country singer Rebecca Lynn Howard is 39. Country singer Danny Gokey is 38. Actress Reagan Gomez is 38. Actor Austin Nichols is 38. Actress Sasha Barrese is 37. Contemporary Christian musician Jasen Rauch (Red) is 37. Singer Kelly Clarkson is 36. Rock singer-musician Tyson Ritter (The All-American Rejects) is 34. Actor Joe Keery is 26. Actor Jack Quaid is 26. Actor Doc Shaw is 26. Golfer Lydia Ko is 21.

***Thought for Today: "Never practice what you preach. If you're going to practice it, why preach it?" - Lincoln Steffens, American journalist-reformer (1866-1936).***

## 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.

**Paul Stevens**

**Editor, Connecting newsletter**

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