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Connecting -- June 28, 2018

1 message

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Connecting

June 28, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning!

We lead today's edition with your memories of **Eugene Kim**, the Washington broadcast newsman who produced AP Today in History for 34 years.

And while Ye Olde Connecting Editor managed to pass the AP writing test once upon a time, he got a failing grade Wednesday when he thought he shared the two versions of the test and instead shared just Version A.

So if you want to look at Test A, [click here](#). If you want to look at Test B, [click here](#).

Have a great day!

Paul

Your fond memories of Eugene Kim

Joni Beall ([Email](#)) - As the Entertainment Birthday Editor, I've worked closely with Gene Kim for 20+ years. I would check his scripts for the birthday math, making sure the ages agreed with my database. Let me tell you, rarely did Gene make a mistake. Gene would see that as the highest compliment. I called him the Human Calculator. I'll miss him, his quiet but witty demeanor and his attention to detail.

-0-

Brian Bland ([Email](#)) - What a shock to learn of Gene Kim's death. I was just thinking of the great AP Radio staff reunion a year ago this week. What a privilege it was to be able to see so many veterans of the network, and I'm glad I was able to talk with Gene early on, giving us time for a good visit. I always looked forward to talking with him on my trips to Washington. I'll remember him for his wry sense of humor, his unflappable approach to the work at hand, and his spot-on observations about what was cooking at the BNC. And, of course, for Today in History. He won't be forgotten.

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Jim Hood ([Email](#)) - Very sorry to hear of Gene's death. He began his AP career in New York on what was then called the Radio Desk and was so proud to be working for the AP that he walked around the 4th floor snapping photos. The General Desk soon demanded to know who the "large Oriental man" was and just what exactly the Broadcast Department planned to do with all those photos. He soon proved his enormous worth, taking over the Today in History assignment about the time the Radio Desk moved to D.C. He was a very modest perfectionist and wordsmith. Pretty good photographer too.

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Bob Kimball (Email) - I was very saddened to learn of Eugene Kim's death this week. He was one of those unforgettable characters you have the pleasure of working with. I trace my association with Gene to my original visit to the old broadcast wire at 50 Rock in the winter of 1982. After interviewing with Brad Kalbfeld, I took a writing test in which I was to prepare a broadcast script from A wire copy. And the man who kept dumping those updated wire stories on my desk? Gene Kim.

As the years rolled on, I always thought of Gene when I read Today in History in the Boston Globe and my hometown Worcester Telegram.

I was heartened to see that he worked right up until the end, just like I'm sure he would've scripted it.

-0-

Paul Reilly (Email) - Eugene (or Geno as I liked to call him) started with the AP just before I joined the NY Broadcast desk. I had the pleasure of working with Gene in New York and then at the BNC in Washington for nearly 20 years, before I left the AP in 2001. We actually were part of the group that closed the NY Broadcast desk Labor Day weekend in 1983.

As others have noted, Gene was immensely invested in Today in History and a superb writer and journalist, but I remember Eugene Kim most for his sharp sense of humor, incredible good nature and an unbelievable memory. Many a time Gene would say, 'Reilly remember when you....' and I'd invariably would have to say, 'No Gene, tell me what stupid thing I said/did in 1992.'

Of course Gene had an advantage, since many of those lost memories were from the old Pig n' Whistle or some other watering hole, where Gene invariably was drinking Coke while the rest of us... well you get the idea.

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Dave Tomlin (Email) - I met Eugene briefly at a 25 Year Club dinner, when he was among the new quarter century inductees. For several years I roasted new Club

members during dessert at those affairs. I made a lot of stuff up for fun. In Eugene's case I fantasized aloud that in his free time he lurked around suburban community centers trying to entice soccer moms into games of Trivial Pursuit so he could use his special Today in History powers to hustle them out of their kids' lunch money. Eugene was sitting at a table with Hugh Mulligan, who wrote me later that he personally thought it was hilarious but Eugene didn't seem to enjoy it very much. I hope that wasn't true, but for the record my wise-cracking was intended as a tribute to Eugene's curatorial skill. I think his successor should mark the date of his passing on the calendar and commemorate it in the column next year.

Condolences to Maryann Mrowca

Our condolences go out to our colleague **Maryann Mrowca** ([Email](#)) and her husband Tim PirkI, and their family, on the death of their daughter Linda PirkI on Tuesday after her battle against breast cancer.

A funeral Mass will be held at 10:30 am Tuesday, July 3, at St. Marguerite d'Youville Catholic Church, [85 Gloster Road NW, Lawrenceville, Ga](#). Visitation with family will be held 4-8 pm Monday, with a rosary at 7:30 pm at the church.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent to disABILITY Link, a nonprofit for the disabled that Linda was involved with for years, at <http://disabilitylink.org/donate/> or the American Cancer Society at www.cancer.org



[Click here](#) for a link to her obituary.

Connecting mailbox

Thank you, Charlotte and Bill

Charlotte Porter ([Email](#)) - Thank you, Sally Hale, for the laugh about the writing tests (in Wednesday's Connecting). I, too, learned early on to warn applicants against adding any "facts" not given in the material.

And thanks also to Bill Hancock for the laugh about the ignorant applicant. I got a letter once from a student who said he'd always wanted to work for a small outfit like the Associated Press. When I suggested he needed more education, he replied that I had hurt his feelings!

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Taking the AP test in London

Robert Meyers ([Email](#)) - While local hire in the photo department at AP London, I thought I should explore opportunities on the news side. When there was an opening for a reporter, I asked News Editor Bob Barr and COB Myron Belkind to apply and to take the AP Style test. I was pretty confident after more than 5 years of exploring the corners of the Stylebook from inside the AP, being an honors graduate of the Henry W. Grady School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Georgia and more than two years as reporter and photographer on the Gannett daily Sturgis (Michigan) Journal where I had won an AP Michigan first place award for breaking news in our circulation group (small).

The test was in three parts if I remember right. A rewrite of a news story involving a mountain highway traffic accident reported by the Virginia State Patrol, a feature about legal problems with a child's lemonade stand, and maybe some PR type report about a politician's birthday.

The subject matter was nothing I dealt with in my work covering wars, politics and sporting events in Europe, Africa and Asia but I was still surprised when I learned that I had "failed." I never did a retest. Bob let me know that it was in his interest to hire someone from outside for less money than he would have to pay me and suggested that I go to work in New York on the International Desk as a career path.

-0-

Back in 1953, Boston bureau chief Pat Yale had his own AP tests

Norman Abelson ([Email](#)) - I was interested in the Connecting pieces about the new AP interns and the writing tests they are given. I'm not sure just how well I

would score these days.

Back in 1953, when I was chief copy boy at the Boston AP bureau, my test, administered by Bureau Chief L. P. (Pat) Yale, was much more informal. Basically, he gave me brief outlines of news events, told me to interview him, and write pieces for the wire, each in five minutes or less.

I remember neither the stories nor writing them. I do know the results gave me my first AP writing job, as low man on a team covering the 1953 session of the Maine legislature.

In my two years as a copy boy I was fortunate to have had a few darn good teachers at the bureau. I even got to write an occasional piece. But in Maine, I was on my own for the first time - and plenty scared. My first effort gave proof that I had good reason to feel insecure.

One afternoon, I was the only AP reporter at the press table on the floor of the House of Representatives. Something occurred that I was certain would make a good story. Up I rushed to the fourth-floor press room, sat down at a manual Remington typewriter, and tapped out a few hundred words. Nervously, I handed my "masterpiece" to Bill Langzettel, the writing whiz and tough editor of the Portland bureau. I'll never forget what followed.

He looked the piece over, put his blue editing pencil at the end of the first paragraph, crossed out everything down to the start of the last graf, and handed it to the puncher. I was devastated, and was sure I was on a fast track back to copyboy-dom.

But soon, Bill came up, told me it was a good effort, and that with more practice I'd be fine. Boy, was I relieved. I began to feel even better when he added, "Hey, kid, want to go out for some Chinese food?"

-0-

My first bureau chief - Ben Brown

Brent Kallestad ([Email](#)) - I was hired into the AP by Minneapolis COB Ben Brown in May of 1972 to fill a newsman vacancy in our Sioux Falls, S.D. bureau.

Bill Wertz was correspondent there at the time and an outstanding newsman, quiet leader and team builder. Phyllis Mensing also stard there fulltime the same week. She had previously been a weekend temp.

Ben had already accumulated quite an array of talent in the three states he oversaw - Minnesota and both Dakotas.

The late Jim Wilson was Minneapolis news editor, Gary Clark, Bismarck correspondent, and Tom Brettingen among the staff in Minneapolis in the early stages of his blossoming AP career. The Minneapolis bureau operation also included longtime AP veterans John Lundquist, Gale Tollin, Martha Malan, Karren Mills, Tom Harrigan and our Capitol operation in St. Paul was manned by Gerry Nelson and Gene Lahammer who paired to dominate the political and legislative coverage of that era.

Wilson, Clark and Brettingen reached the heights of AP's management ranks in charge of its largest bureaus and New York departments. Wertz quickly moved through the ranks as well before leaving AP for the corporate world at an early age after a stint as bureau chief in Salt Lake City.

Ben was all about developing staff and their knowledge of AP and its mission. With that kind of leadership it didn't take long to understand the challenges of wire work and appreciate what it took for all AP employees to be successful.

Ben retired in 1993 but we have not lost touch. While I also ran through several stops in my AP career and he has been on the West Coast in retirement, we connect at Christmas and I was among those who attended one of his several "rolling" retirement parties (this one in Memphis). He came back to Tallahassee on his 70th birthday for a Florida State football game (he's an alum).

Ben was among those AP stalwarts I greatly appreciated like you, Gary, Wick Temple, Roy Steinfort, Jim Reindl and others who I saw as devoted leaders with an exceptionally good eye for finding and developing AP talent.

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The publisher's daughter

Mark Mittelstadt (Email) - New Mexico was my first assignment as bureau chief and introduced me to many things from my upbringing and early career in Iowa: deciding red or green (chile) at meals; riding in a hot air balloon; driving wide open roads through high desert without the reassurance of service stations for long stretches; fantastic sunsets almost nightly; and a membership of mostly small newspapers run by editors and publishers with Old West notions of business and life.

One publisher in particular had his own ideas for the AP bureau chief. He wanted to continue a double-billing arrangement in reporting membership visit expenses to his corporate office and AP's. (I said no.) He also thought the bureau chief should "double-date" with him, his wife and her sister during member visits despite the fact I was happily married with two young boys. (Again, no.)

A year or so down the road he pushed me to consider his daughter for employment. She had no training or experience as a journalist. The bureau already had what was then a "confidential secretary," later administrative assistant, and she had no experience there either.

I tried to kindly let him know AP probably was not a good fit for her and she might be happier doing something else. But he continued to push. I finally called Wick Temple for advice. "Well, maybe as a courtesy you ought to talk to her," he said after a few minutes. "It wouldn't hurt."

I called the publisher back and set up an appointment. As the interview time arrived, the bureau secretary came into my office. "Mark, (publisher)'s daughter is here," she said, eyes wide open. "And she is BEAUTIFUL."

As she was ushered into my office, that assessment did not escape my notice. Blonde, Texas beauty queen good looks, dashing in a red dress. It was not lost on the bureau staff either. Nor, apparently, some of the men working in the Albuquerque Journal and Albuquerque Tribune JOA. We suddenly had a steady stream of visitors glancing in my office.

I spoke with her for a while. She had recently graduated college, had taken courses in marketing but really didn't have a major, didn't know much about journalism other than what she heard at home. It turned out she really didn't want to work in news but was there at the request of her father. I suggested some avenues she might pursue, thanked her for driving to Albuquerque and wished her well.

Not long after the interview I received word of a sudden change in publishers. It turns out the newspaper's corporate office caught the father in a variety of shady practices, including taking money out of the till and doing advertising trade-outs for

fur coats and jewelry for his wife, lawn mowers, golf clubs, other items for his own use. He is alleged to have purchased personal vehicles using company funds, including a well-appointed Chevy Suburban he had listed in paperwork as a "delivery vehicle."

The new publisher wanted to meet with me right away to learn about the newspaper's services and membership. When I arrived the following day the Suburban and several other vehicles were parked next to the newspaper building with "For Sale" signs. Among them was the red Mustang the daughter had driven to her interview.

Meet the interns - AP Class of 2018

MEET THE INTERNS: Tramon Lucas (General Assignment Intern) and Beatrice Jin (Data Journalist Intern), Washington, DC.

Diane Parker ([Email](#)) - Tramon, born in Virginia and raised in Baltimore, earned his bachelor's degree in journalism last December from Morgan State University in Baltimore.



Tramon Lucas

While studying at Morgan's School of Global Journalism & Communication, Tramon served as editor-in-chief of the campus newspaper, The MSU Spokesman, and was student manager of the campus television station, BearTV. He was a Digital Media Fellow for the Online News Association in 2016, and previously interned at the Baltimore City Paper. Tramon is also a member of the National Association of Black Journalists.

Last year, he was named Student of the Year, being recognized for dedication to his school, peers and the field of journalism at Morgan State.

Beatrice recently graduated from Cornell University majoring in Math and Computer Science.

Her passion for design and art (including comics and graphic novels) led her, by way of friends, FOIAs and foreign languages, to immerse herself in data visualization and data journalism. While at Cornell, Beatrice completed internships at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, where she focused on 3D visualization and network analysis, and at Boston Region Metropolitan Planning organization, where she developed a dashboard to visualize and analyze Boston transportation data. She has also contributed visual work to The Pudding.



Beatrice Jin

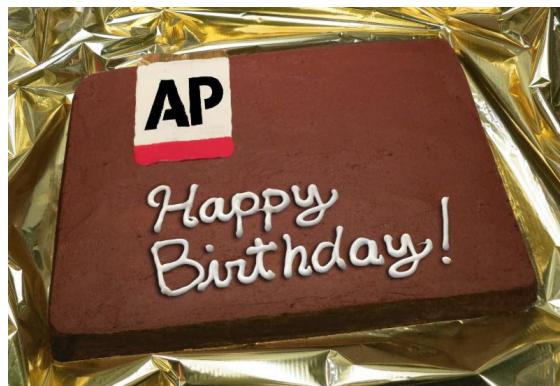
In addition to her passion for data visualization, Beatrice has a keen interest in badminton, gummy bears, and black coffee.

Tramon and Beatrice have worked on several stories together since starting their internship on June 4, including yesterday's press conference on Capitol Hill. Al Sharpton and a coalition of social justice leaders announced their plan to visit immigrant children at the U.S. border. <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/texas/articles/2018-06-19/sharpton-other-leaders-plan-to-visit-children-at-border>.

They also collaborated on a multi-format story about the Oprah Winfrey exhibit at the Smithsonian for the national wire during their first week in text, photos AND video. <https://apnews.com/f48bde6f5d1f41baaff813978d599ddb-Smithsonian-exhibit-highlights-mega-star-Oprah-Winfrey>.

I look forward to seeing what this dynamic duo will continue to produce throughout their internship.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Jesse Holland - Jessejholl@aol.com

Welcome to Connecting



Dinesh Ramde - dinesh@ramde.com

Stories of interest

Kathy Shaw, Watchdog on Clergy Sexual Abuse, Dies at 72 (New York Times)

By SAM ROBERTS

Kathy Shaw, a journalist who doggedly investigated allegations of sexual abuse by clergymen and compiled a national register of misconduct accusations so that the public could grasp the dimensions of the crisis, died on Sunday in a hospital in Worcester, Mass. She was 72.

The cause was complications of pneumonia, her niece Renee Whitenett said.



By surveying thousands of cases and posting them on a blog called Abuse Tracker, Ms. Shaw played a meaningful if largely unheralded role in helping fellow journalists and victims of abuse.

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

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Photographer David Goldblatt, who chronicled apartheid, dies

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA

JOHANNESBURG (AP) - David Goldblatt, a South African photographer who for decades chronicled the harsh fallout of white minority rule in his country, died on Monday at the age of 87.

Goldblatt, whose images were shown in media and museums around the world, was a "legend, a teacher, a national icon and a man of absolute integrity," the Johannesburg-based Goodman Gallery said in a statement. The photographer died "peacefully" at his home in the city, said the gallery, which showcased his portfolio.

Goldblatt used his cameras to explore apartheid and its devastating impact on daily lives, photographing blacks and whites in quiet ways that highlighted the state-backed system of racial repression, in contrast to news photography that focused on tumultuous events making international headlines. Apartheid ended with all-race elections in 1994 that propelled Nelson Mandela to the presidency.

Read more [here](#).

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'Never Do This to a Woman': Men Harass 2 Sports Reporters at the World Cup (New York Times)

By Christina Caron

For women who work as sports reporters, #MeToo isn't just a movement, it's often their everyday reality.

In just the past two weeks, two women were harassed while reporting at the World Cup in Russia, the episodes captured in widely viewed videos.

One of the women, Julia Guimarães, a reporter with TV Globo and SporTV in Brazil, was speaking on camera in Yekaterinburg, Russia, on Sunday when a man tried to kiss her on the cheek. In the video, Ms. Guimarães can be seen quickly dodging the man's puckered lips.

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

Today in History - June 28, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, June 28, the 179th day of 2018. There are 186 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On June 28, 1968, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Uniform Monday Holiday Bill, which moved commemorations for Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day and Veterans Day to Monday, creating three-day holiday weekends beginning in 1971.

On this date:

In 1778, the Revolutionary War Battle of Monmouth took place in New Jersey; from this battle arose the legend of "Molly Pitcher," a woman who was said to have carried water to colonial soldiers, then taken over firing her husband's cannon after he was disabled.

In 1836, the fourth president of the United States, James Madison, died in Montpelier, Virginia.

In 1838, Britain's Queen Victoria was crowned in Westminster Abbey.

In 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria and his wife, Sophie, were shot to death in Sarajevo (sah-ruh-YAY'-voh) by Serb nationalist Gavrilo Princip (gavh-REE'-loh PREEN'-seep) - an act which sparked World War I.

In 1919, the Treaty of Versailles (vehr-SY') was signed in France, ending the First World War. In Independence, Missouri, future president Harry S. Truman married Elizabeth Virginia Wallace.

In 1928, New York Gov. Alfred E. Smith was nominated for president at the Democratic national convention in Houston.

In 1939, Pan American Airways began regular trans-Atlantic air service with a flight that departed New York for Marseilles, France.

In 1944, the Republican national convention in Chicago nominated New York Gov. Thomas E. Dewey for president and Ohio Gov. John W. Bricker for vice president.

In 1951, a TV version of the radio comedy program "Amos 'N' Andy" premiered on CBS. (It was the first network TV series to feature an all-black cast, but came under criticism for racial stereotyping.)

In 1978, the Supreme Court ordered the University of California-Davis Medical School to admit Allan Bakke (BAHK'-ee), a white man who argued he'd been a victim of reverse racial discrimination.

In 1989, about 1 million Serbs gathered to mark the 600th anniversary of the Battle of Kosovo in 1389.

In 1997, in a wild rematch, Evander Holyfield retained the WBA heavyweight boxing championship after his opponent, Mike Tyson, was disqualified for biting Holyfield's ear during the third round of their fight in Las Vegas.

Ten years ago: Presidential rivals John McCain and Barack Obama vied for the support of Hispanics in separate appearances before the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials conference in Washington, with each vowing to remake immigration policy. Jered Weaver and Jose Arredondo of the Angels combined to keep the Los Angeles Dodgers hitless, but the Dodgers won 1-0. (The Dodgers became the fifth team in modern major league history to win without getting a hit, but since they didn't have to bat in the ninth, the game did not qualify as a no-hitter.)

Five years ago: Tens of thousands of supporters and opponents of President Mohammed Morsi rallied in Cairo, and both sides fought each other in Egypt's second-largest city of Alexandria, where two people - including an American - were killed and scores injured. The four plaintiffs in the U.S. Supreme Court case that overturned California's same-sex marriage ban tied the knot, just hours after a federal appeals court freed gay couples to obtain marriage licenses in the state for the first time in 4 1/2 years.

One year ago: Republican donors paid \$35,000 apiece to hear a familiar message from President Donald Trump: That the media, particularly CNN, kept trying to take him down, and yet Republicans just kept on winning elections. ABC and a South Dakota meat producer announced a settlement in a \$1.9 billion lawsuit against the network over its reports on a beef product that critics dubbed "pink slime."

Today's Birthdays: Comedian-movie director Mel Brooks is 92. Former Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., is 84. Comedian-impressionist John Byner is 81. Former Defense Secretary Leon Panetta is 80. Rock musician Dave Knights (Procul Harum) is 73. Actor Bruce Davison is 72. Actress Kathy Bates is 70. Actress Alice Krige is 64. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer John Elway is 58. Record company chief executive Tony Mercedes is 56. Jazz singer Tierney Sutton is 55. Actress Jessica Hecht is 53. Rock musician Saul Davies (James) is 53. Actress Mary Stuart Masterson is 52. Actor John Cusack is 52. Actor Gil Bellows is 51. Actress-singer Danielle Brisebois is 49. Jazz musician Jimmy Sommers is 49. Actress Tichina

Arnold is 49. Actor Steve Burton is 48. Entrepreneur Elon Musk is 47. Actor Alessandro Nivola (nih-VOH'-luh) is 46. Actress Camille Guaty is 42. Rock musician Tim Nordwind (OK Go) is 42. Rock musician Mark Stoermer (The Killers) is 41. Country singer Big Vinny Hickerson (Trailer Choir) is 35. Country singer Kellie Pickler is 32.

Thought for Today: "One of the sources of pride in being a human being is the ability to bear present frustrations in the interests of longer purposes." - Helen Merrell Lynd, American sociologist and educator (1896-1982).

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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