



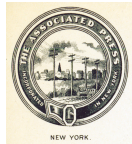
Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

**Connecting - December 05, 2018**

**Paul Stevens** <paulstevens46@gmail.com>  
Reply-To: paulstevens46@gmail.com  
To: pjshane@gmail.com

Wed, Dec 5, 2018 at 9:26 AM

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# Connecting

December 05, 2018

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Colleagues,

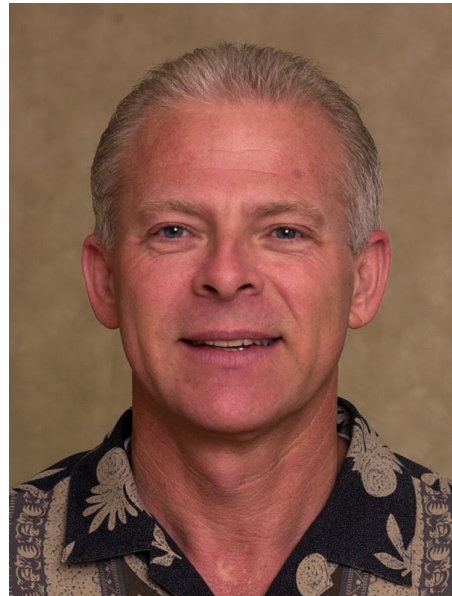
Good Wednesday morning!

**Brad Martin** may have never had a byline on the AP wires, but for the last half century, his imprint has been firmly in place on the worldwide multimedia report that members and customers receive on a daily basis.

All the great journalism done by the AP would go nowhere without rapid and reliable delivery by AP's communications department. And Brad was a big part of that effort.

Martin, AP Senior Manager, Operations Control for Kansas City and Cranbury, will retire at the end of this month from his position in Kansas City, where he served throughout his entire career. With vacation burnoff, his last day on the job is this Friday.

His career in one of AP's most important communications centers is recounted in our lead story in today's Connecting by his longtime friend, retired Kansas City AP sports writer **Doug Tucker**.



I had the privilege of working with Brad in the Kansas City bureau for 25 years. I found him to be a true professional who cares deeply for his staff and the AP and our members - all done with a wry, don't-take-yourself-too-seriously sense of humor. He also is a Kansas Jayhawk fan - all the endearment I ever would need! And a guy who cares deeply for his family.

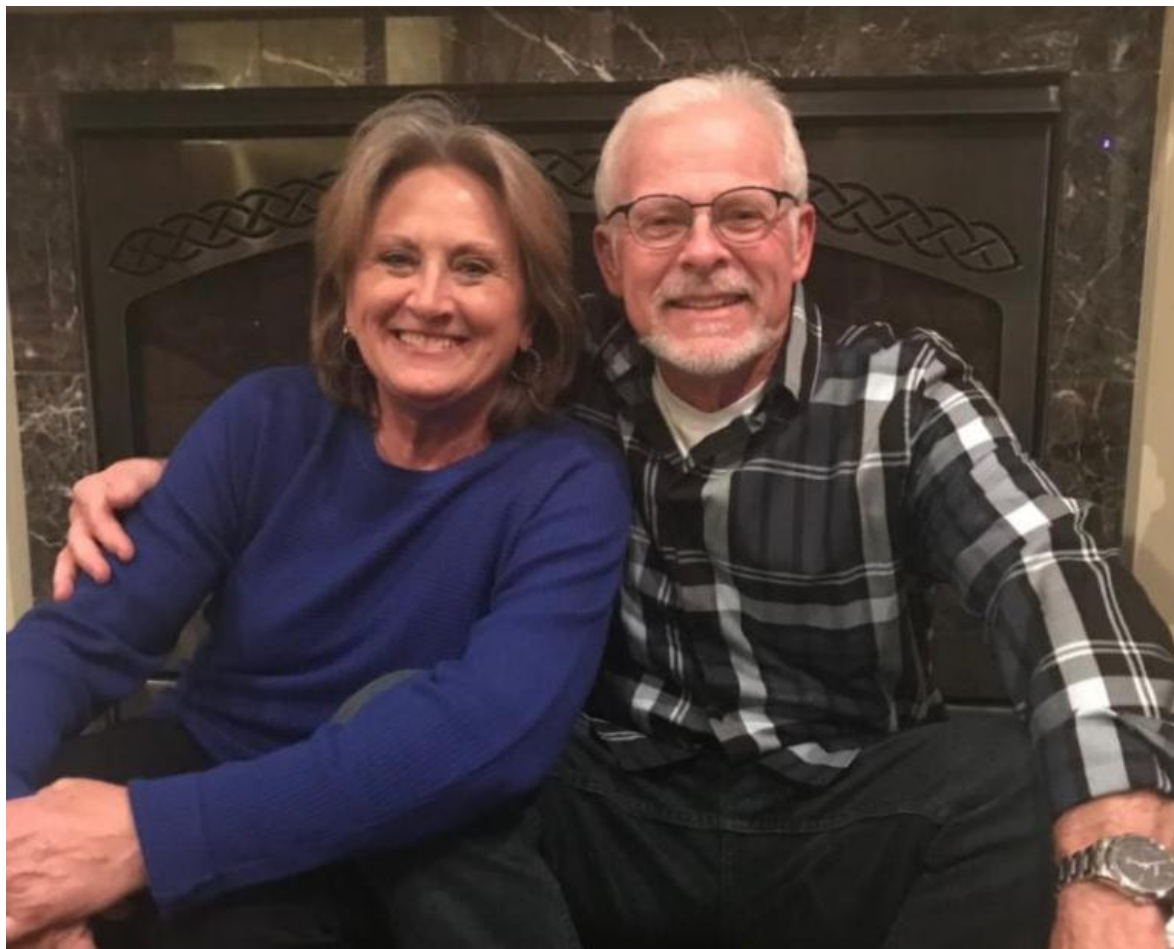
Equally in the "Nice Person" category was Brad's mom **Betty Martin**, who worked in the Kansas City communications department from 1969 to 1984. She died a year ago.

Today's issue also brings more of your stories of your Worst Shift Ever - and we welcome your contributions.

Have a great day!

Paul

**A copy boy to start, Brad Martin retiring after 49-year AP career that was national and worldwide in scope**



**Marcia and Brad Martin: Ready for new life's chapters**

**By DOUG TUCKER**

Nobody is sure. Keeping official tallies of such things is not what The Associated Press does. But soon-to-be retiree **Bradley J. Martin** just may own the company record for most job titles in one single career.

Starting in 1968 as part-time copy boy, the 65-year-old Kansas Citian also answered, in this order, to night copy boy, full-time copy boy, tech trainee, CTS staffer, field tech and Kansas City lead tech. Or was that one called Kansas City senior tech? Who remembers?

"Mentored by many, claimed by none," as he says with a grin, Brad crossed over into the management maelstrom in 1990 when he was appointed technical service manager in the Kansas City Data Center. Then as the '90s turned into the 2000s and thick blond hair whitened and thinned, he became senior operations manager, then assistant communications executive, then communications executive, then network operations center manager, and, in 2008, Senior Manager, Global Network

Operations Center, overseeing staff in AP's three main technical centers, New York, Kansas City and Cranbury, N.J.

On Friday, he'll end his 49-year career with the title of Senior Manager, Operations Control for Kansas City and Cranbury.

"The only career goal I ever had was becoming chief of communications in Kansas City," he said. "That was all I was hoping for."

All that hopping around from one job responsibility to another does not mean, of course, that AP had trouble finding something suitable for a hard-working quick study who never lost his copy boy's zeal for a good practical joke. Rather, it reflects the dizzying and tremendously challenging technological changes that confronted the world's largest news operation at the dawn of the Computer Age.



**Brad in his copy boy days**

The basics of traditional down-the-middle AP journalism have remained unchanged since a few New York newspapers began sharing dispatches from the battlefields of the Civil War.

But the delivery and dissemination of the information gathered by AP reporters, editors and photographers seems almost day-to-day to be different. If Martin and other men and women on the communications side had not met the challenges of this ongoing technological revolution, it is probably safe to say that AP would exist today only in memory.

"It's a different world from that first time I worked for the AP on election night in 1968, and when I worked my last election, the 2018 midterms," Martin said. "A different world."





**Brad with Kansas City communications crew when he was honored for 40 years service in 2010. From left to right: Dan Juric, Scott Green, Betty Martin (Brad's mom), Curt Tadlock, Brad's wife Marcia, Oleta Brown, Mark Steers, Ericka Byers, Brad Martin, Monte Wachter, Paul Stevens, Tom Young, Jay Renfro, Garth Burns, and in right foreground, Brad's daughter Amber and two of his grandchildren.**

On a personal level, Martin's world has also undergone great change. In 1972 he married high school sweetheart Marcia Davis and began a two-and-a-half year stint in the Navy. Then he rejoined AP in January 1975 as a full time copy boy and tech trainee.

At that time, Kansas City was the largest hub bureau in the country next to New York, and probably one of the rowdiest.

"There were a lot of colorful characters in that office," he said.

Looking back, it seems incredible the number of people I've known through the AP. Probably thousands."

Pranks he and his Puckish buddies used to pull included putting Coke in the coffee pot and rigging water above co-workers' lockers so every time they opened the door they got a drenching.

They also found all sorts of wicked uses for the office glue pot.

Yes, glue. The fun-loving kid who would one day take charge of a vast array of computer clusters used glue to bind paper copy every night while the bank of printers behind him chugged along at 66 noisy words per minute.

"Things that went on in that office were unbelievable," he recalled with a laugh. "It was so much fun. People today have no idea what the AP in Kansas City was like in the '60s and '70s, nor the size. For the most part, I loved that entire staff, with all their little quirks.

"We had fun. But everybody took their work seriously. There was a code back then."

The work was not always easy, especially when he'd be away from home for months at a time, moving bureaus such as Philadelphia and Chicago.

But as much home life as possible was squeezed into those years. Brad and Marcia's firstborn was Amber, born in 1977, and Brady Jay completed the family two years later.

"Amber was still a baby when Marcia's parents drove her mom and her to Milwaukee where I was moving the office. I had a whole to get to know my daughter. It was wonderful."



**Brad with Herb Mundt (left) and Ralph Keibler**

When he became a manager, Martin did not forget lessons learned as a copy boy in the old days of a bustling Kansas City bureau.

"He made sure the work got done, and done well," said Tom Young, an AP systems manager who has worked alongside Brad for 35 years. "He was always a fun guy to work for. He insisted you take your work seriously but he did all he could to see that you enjoyed your job."

When he was about 30, Brad's AP buddies came up with a title he probably wishes no one remembers.

But they do.

The AP decided to launch a public relations initiative with ads touting the news service in such publications as Editor and Publisher. And out of hundreds of employees, whom did they choose as the company's cover boy?

The handsome young tech in Kansas City.

"We called him Golden Boy," said Young. "I remember one picture that was in several trade publications of him wiring a computer for the elections.

"He really did seem embarrassed by it all. But, hey, Brad was a good-looking guy. Still is."

There'll be things and people he'll miss. And people and things he won't.

"Marcia asked me the other day, "Why exactly are you retiring," he said. "I said, 'Well, No. 1, I've been working since I was 10. But the main thing is, because of the jobs I've had, I've literally been on call 24/7 basically for 49 years. At least 40 of those years, I've had either a pager or a phone where I had to be on call and was called in the middle of the day and the middle of the night.

"That gets tiresome. I think it's time to quit."



**Brad and Marcia with their two children - Brady at left and Amber at right.**





**Brad and Marcia with the grandkids, left to right, Miles Sugar (Holding Oakley Martin), Rocco Martin, Landon Sugar, Bryleigh Martin, Arianna Sugar.**

A grand family vacation is planned for this summer when Brad and Marcia and Amber and Brady and their six grandkids will rent a house and spend a couple of weeks in Yellowstone. After that, puttering around the house and fixing third - and never being on call - sound great.

"I think the separation anxiety is probably going to be worse than I know. How do I just suddenly turn everything off?"

"I've traveled a lot, but Marcia really hasn't. I'm hoping we can travel a lot together. Whatever she wants. It's Marcia's time now."

**Brad's email address is - [bmartinap@hotmail.com](mailto:bmartinap@hotmail.com)**

## AP Was There: Bush's bum rap on 'amazing' barcode scanner



**FILE - In this Feb. 4, 1992 file photo, President George H. W. Bush, right, pushes the keys on a new high technology cash register under the watchful eyes of Leo Hardy, left, and Bob Graham, center, during a visit to the National Grocers Association trade show in Orlando, Fla. (AP Photo/Barry Thumma)**

WASHINGTON (AP) - One last time, for the record: It was not an ordinary supermarket scanner.

A February 1992 newspaper story reporting that President George H.W. Bush was baffled by a supermarket barcode scanner when he visited a grocers' convention in Florida fed into impressions that the president was out of touch, just as he was dealing with a reeling economy and fending off a primary election challenge at the outset of his re-election campaign.

The New York Times' front-page account carried the headline: "Bush Encounters the Supermarket, Amazed."

But although Bush had remarked that some of the machine's features seemed "amazing," it hardly looked like his first time in a supermarket checkout line. Mostly, Bush seemed to be politely listening to National Cash Register executives making their pitch.

Reporters later learned that it was a special scanner with advanced features, including a scale to weigh produce - uncommon then - and the ability to read barcodes even if they were torn up and jumbled.

Days after the Times story exploded into news feeds everywhere, AP White House reporter Christopher Connell tracked down National Cash Register executives and set the record straight.

Marlin Fitzwater, Bush's press secretary, devoted four angry pages to the incident in his memoir, "Call the Briefing." He called the AP story knocking down the Times' version "the single most courageous story of my White House years."

But the myth persisted.

Here is AP's story from Feb. 11, 1992.

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## **White House Has Media Rescanning the Scanner Caper**

**By CHRISTOPHER CONNELL**

**Associated Press Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) - It turns out the supermarket scanner that drew President Bush's attention at a grocers' convention last week really did have some unusual features.

It can read labels - the so-called universal product codes - that are ripped up and jumbled.

That is apparently what prompted Bush to tell the National Grocers Association in Orlando Feb. 4 he was "amazed" by the technology.

Read more [here](#).

## Connecting mailbox

### *A small world for Jim Clarke and Hal Spencer*

**Jim Clarke (Email)** - - on a post in Tuesday's Connecting by Hal Spencer regarding Larry Laughlin:

So, small world. Hal 's first AP assignment after joining in PRO was a teacher's strike ... in my hometown. I was in 9th grade. My memory of that brief strike was that it afforded us a couple of days off from school to run wild like the reprobates we were. Good times. Funny how things come around like this. Hal eventually went to Anchorage, which is where I started with the AP. He came from Salt Lake City, which is where I went after Anchorage.

As the great comedian Steven Wrights says, it's a small world ... but I wouldn't want to have to paint it.

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### *Daughter of AP's Dan Conrad dies*

**Eva Parziale (Email)** - I am sharing the very sad news of the death of Kathryn Conrad, Dan Conrad's daughter. Kathryn, 26, died unexpectedly a week ago. Dan is director of U.S. field operations based in Columbus and formerly was Columbus chief of communications.

Calling hours are 6-8 p.m. on Thursday, at Crouse-Kauber-Fraley Funeral home in Johnstown, Ohio. The funeral service will be at 1 p.m. on Friday at the funeral home.

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

If you would like to send a card to Dan, Jaki and their son Danny, here is the Conrads' home address: [3456 Burnside Rd, Johnstown, OH 43031](#). His email is - [dconrad@ap.org](mailto:dconrad@ap.org)

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## ***More on unusual email addresses***

**Dennis Gale** ([Email](#)) - This one always stuck with me: We put the writer's initials followed by the editor's initials above bylined pieces. The most memorable one (had to have been mid-1980s) was a story written by Bob Imrie and edited by Clay Haswell, who used the initials "tch."

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**Lisa Pane** ([Email](#)) - Not quite the same thing but the odd email addresses reminded me of when we used bureau codes and signed messages with the bureau code, a hyphen and then our last name. I had quite the giggle when I became the correspondent in Providence, Rhode Island, and got to signoff with PRO-PANE ...

## **More memories of the worst shifts you ever worked**

### ***Slip-sliding to work***

**Glenn Adams** ([Email](#)) - One of my worst shifts came on a Christmas morning, I think 1984 or '85. I was due at our Maine State House bureau at 7 a.m., but an ice storm had covered every street and sidewalk in Augusta with a thick coating of slippery glaze. I took a side road to avoid a steep hill downward into the city, but my car veered sideways into a curb. I straightened it out and made it as far as a parking lot downtown, but with the ice thickening and no road crews in sight, that was as far as I would get. I grabbed my coffee and lunch and started back up a hill to get to the State House, but could get no traction on the ice. So I ended up pulling myself,



hand-over-hand, along a sidewalk hand rail to get up the hill to a flatter surface. From there, I carefully took a step at a time until I made it to the bureau, about a quarter mile away. The desk was forgiving when I explained what happened, and I began my shift.

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## ***While not worst, this shift was his longest***

**Alan Flippen (Email)** - I am reminded by Paul Stevens' recent baseball story of a shift that, while certainly not the worst, was one of the longest I ever ended up working.

September, 1990. I was Buffalo correspondent and the local AAA baseball team, the Bisons, were in a one-game playoff for the championship against the Nashville Sounds. We had a stringer covering the game but I decided to go over after work (the ballpark was two blocks from the office) and watch it as a spectator, from the stands.

The game went into extra innings, with both teams blowing numerous chances to score, and by about the 13th inning I decided I should head up to the press box and consider writing this one up. Five innings later, after more turmoil on the bases, and well after midnight, Nashville finally won. I filed an optional lede that made the national sports wire:

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) - The Nashville Sounds are the champions of the American Association East, but only after 18 innings of what manager Pete Mackanin called "the most absurd game I've ever seen in my life."

Nashville used 20 players, blew four scoring opportunities in extra innings and staved off five rallies by the Buffalo Bisons before Chris Jones doubled in Billy Bates for a 4-3 victory early this morning in the Class AAA divisional playoff.

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## ***A long day when computers went down during Indiana high school pairings announcement***

**Mike Harris (Email)** - In most places, the state high school basketball tournament hardly causes a ripple of excitement or interest except for the fans of the schools involved.

No so in Indiana in the early 1970s when "Hoosier Hysteria" was king and even the draw for the opening round pairings was a major event. In those days the tournament was one class, meaning that every high school in the state had a chance to win the championship, no matter how small its enrollment. The legendary 1946 Milan Indians, from a school with only 161 students, beat the heavily favored big school, Muncie Central, giving hope to every little school in the state and inspiring the 1986 film "Hoosiers."

The early 70s was also the period when the AP was switching over to computers. There were plenty of glitches during that time, and one of them gave me, as Indiana State Sports Editor, one of my worst days in 41 years with the company and nearly cost the AP several members.

I reported to work early on the morning of the pairings draw to determine which teams would meet in the first round of the tournament throughout the state. Radio stations brought in the local coaches and reporters for commentary and sold commercial time for the draw which was done at the Indiana High School Athletic Association offices. Steve Herman was at the IHSAA with telephone in hand and I sat at a computer in the Indianapolis AP office awaiting the school names to put on the wire.

The draw began and all was going smoothly until the computer suddenly went down. As I waited in near-panic for the techs to get us back up and running, rival UPI, which had yet to switch to computers, was humming along with the pairings and stealing our thunder. We finally got up and going again, but not until nearly an hour had passed. During that hour, the phones never stopped ringing. Members without both wire services were frustrated and angry. In the aftermath, several of the state radio stations filed cancellations, saying they were switching to UPI, although none of them actually went through with it in the long run.

You'd be amazed how many member reporters and sports editors came up to me during the tournament finals to complain about the pairings draw glitch or asked for an explanation of what happened. It made the feelings from that awful day last for quite a while.

The next year, despite some nervous moments, with computers working smoothly, we got through the draw just fine. And after I filed my story, summing up the major pairings, we got a call from one of the bigger members telling us that UPI, which had just started its move to computerization, had gone down during the draw.

But that's not the end of the story. A year later, my wife was pregnant with our second child and due any minute as the pairings draw day neared. On the morning of the draw, I left home early, kissing my wife and telling her, "Don't have the baby 'til I get done today."

All went smoothly and I finished writing and filing my story at about 11 a.m. At that point, I called home to tell my wife all was well and to see how she was feeling. Her voice sounded strange as she said, "How soon can you get home?" I asked what was wrong and she replied, "I was having some contractions when you left home this morning and I think we're about to have a baby."

I don't even remember driving home, but I'm sure I broke every speed law. I grabbed my wife, made sure our son, then 2, was settled in with a nearby friend, and we dashed for the hospital. I dropped off my wife at the emergency room door and went to park the car. When I walked into the hospital, Judy was nowhere to be seen.

I asked the lady behind the desk where the little pregnant lady had gone and she replied, "She's upstairs having the baby. You'd better get up there in a hurry."

About 15 minutes later, our Lanni had entered the world, healthy and beautiful. Joining her brother Tory. But it was definitely a close call, thanks to high school pairings day.

I asked my wife why she hadn't told me she was having contractions when I was getting ready to go to work.

Her reply: "I knew this was an important day for you and I didn't want you to be worrying about me while you did your job."

Thankfully, everything worked out fine in the end and that turned out to be my last high school basketball pairings draw. I was transferred to Cleveland that summer.

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***A bit under-dressed for this party***

**Bruce Lowitt (Email)** - This wasn't exactly a "shift," but it's probably the worst few hours of an assignment in my 19 years with AP Sports.

I was covering the San Francisco 49ers-Dallas Cowboys NFC Championship game at Texas Stadium on Jan. 2, 1972. As long as I was going out there, it was suggested I help cover the Jan. 1 Cotton Bowl game between Penn State and Texas. This meant I'd have to fly out on New Year's Eve, which I did and, upon arriving at my motel in mid-afternoon, I called the Dallas buro to tell Sports Editor Denne Freeman I had arrived.

"Hey, the boys are havin' a party tonight. Wanna come?" he said. Sure, I said. Denne told me when and where. Around 9 o'clock I put on my sports jacket and loafers and headed to the hotel. I got as far as the lobby. "The boys" were the Cotton Bowl Committee - gentlemen in tuxedos, ladies in cocktail gowns.

I turned around, walked the few blocks back to my motel, picking up a couple of chili dogs and beer on the way and, if memory serves, watched the ball come down in Times Square on New Year's Eve on one-hour tape delay.

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## ***On the London photo desk when airliner crashed; among victims, AP's John Mulroy and family***

**Robert Meyers (Email)** - My heart still hurts when I think back to my 1700-2300 shift on the London Photo Desk on Dec. 21, 1988. I was monitor, the one moving pictures on our analogue network, choosing which images to send live to subscribers and strategizing regional splits to connect a bunch of local interest images to one or more points. The object was to keep most points of the network receiving a picture every 15 minutes and move the regional photos offered from bureaus where photographers often had to wait for hours for the message with bells to come ahead.

I don't remember anything much about what happened before I took a call from photographer Peter Kemp. He was home or driving and a report came over the radio of a plane crash over Scotland. I called it out to my colleagues, some of whom had settled into a friendly poker game. The other photo editors on shift were there to select images from film brought in by London-based staff and freelance photographers, and to caption any photos from the Press Association they thought worthwhile for outside the UK. New York and Frankfurt were on voice circuits and it

was common to coordinate a live relay at domestic speed with NY or sending. Each photo being sent to Frankfurt was announced so the monitor there could decide to send it to German subscribers or move their own images.

Alan Thorp jumped into action and alerted Horst Faas, the newsroom and the Communications side also reacted in a big way as reports came in it was soon known that AP director of international communications John Mulroy and his family were on board the flight. Everyone was stunned when that realization set in, but the momentum was strong and everyone jumped in to make the arrangements necessary. Horst knew exactly what hotel would be closest to the site and a bunch of rooms were reserved. A plane was chartered to take the group of photographers, reporters, editors, dark room staff and equipment and London chief of communication Steve Moyes.

I stayed on the monitor desk until the 8 a.m. editor arrived and took over as was routine on such breaking news events. Since I had read all the messages and knew all the images that had moved, I was best placed to continue in that role.

I remember the overwhelming horror as the first pictures came through in the middle of the night of giant pieces of aircraft on the ground. The photographers were upset because it was hard to find something to shoot that wasn't too gruesome for the wire.

I worked through many a disaster with massive casualties before and after this one but there was something very personal about this one. Perhaps because I had recently met John Mulroy, perhaps because my wife, infant daughter and I had flown to the United States and back a few months before and perhaps because it was among the first terrorist acts I was involved in covering. Peter Kemp volunteered to stay on and cover the story for photos over the Christmas holidays so the other photographers could be with their families. During the weeks that he spent on the borders of Scotland, Peter, who had come to the AP for his courageous work in violence-wrecked Northern Ireland, found a place he loved in an old Smithy in Melrose, Scotland. He left the AP and moved in the next year.

***From a 1988 Washington Post article:***

John Mulroy, 59, was director of international communications for the Associated Press. He had gone to Europe to bring back his son, Sean, 25, a toy-company consultant, and Sean's new wife, Ingrid. They had recently settled in Ingrid's native Sweden. John Mulroy also had gathered up his sister, Bridgette Concannon, her husband, Thomas, and their son, Sean, 16, who lived in a London suburb.

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## ***A 'shift' that lasted six days, involving huge stories***

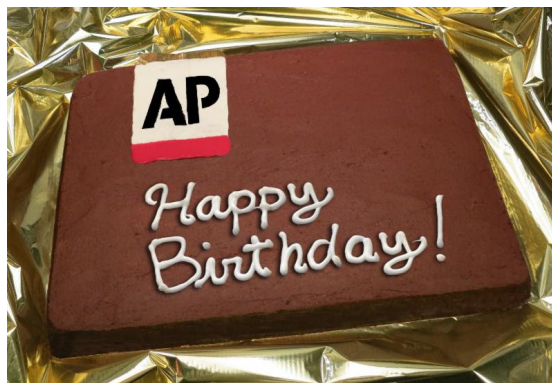
**David Morris** ([Email](#)) - My most memorable "shift" started on April 26, 1992, when a strong earthquake struck the northern coast of California. It was a weekend, a few months into my stint as Sacramento correspondent. I hooked up with bureau photographer Sal Veder and we made the long drive up the coast and began two days of round-the-clock coverage. We rented a motel room in Eureka, but we never got to use it.

After a short nap, we drove home on the 29th. As I crawled into bed after a quick shower, I heard the radio say something about a verdict coming in. It was the Rodney King case. Soon after, I covered a news conference at the Capitol, where Gov. Pete Wilson was addressing the rioting in Los Angeles. A few hours later, now April 30, I was off to San Francisco, where riots had spread, to help on the desk. Once again, day turned to night, then day again. April became May.

I answered a call on the desk. A member wondered if we were aware of a school shooting near Sacramento. I sent Sacramento news editor Doug Willis to the scene and handled the story on the desk through dozens of writethrus. Four people died and 10 were injured at the hands of a former student.

My "shift" lasted six days, but I'm certain Doug's shift, trudging up and down hills to call in updates from the shooting, was worse. My call to him, I learned later, had interrupted a sick day that Doug was using to recover from a vasectomy the afternoon before. When I asked why he didn't tell me to find someone else for the assignment, he simply said there was news to cover.

## **Connecting wishes Happy Birthday**



**To****Paul Stevens - [stevenspl@live.com](mailto:stevenspl@live.com)**

## Stories of interest

### ***Thomson Reuters to cut 3,200 jobs in next two years*** (Reuters)

**By Matt Scuffham**

TORONTO (Reuters) - Thomson Reuters Corp ([TRI.TO](http://TRI.TO)) said on Tuesday that it will cut its workforce by 12 percent in the next two years, axing 3,200 jobs, as part of a plan to streamline the business and reduce costs.

The news and information provider, which completed the sale of a 55-percent stake in its Financial & Risk (F&R) unit to private equity firm Blackstone Group LP (BX.N), announced the cuts during an investor day in Toronto, in which it outlined its future strategy and growth plans.

The company, which is focusing on its legal and tax businesses following the Blackstone deal, declined to say where the job cuts were being made. However, Co-Chief Operating Officer Neil Masterson told investors that staff had already been informed about 90 percent of the planned cuts.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Pizac.

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### ***Killings of Journalists Show the Bloody Fingerprints of Organized Crime*** (New York Times)



**Friends and family members carrying the coffin of Héctor González Antonio, a journalist who was killed in Mexico in May. Photo by Marco Ugarte/Associated Press**

**By Liam Stack**

In Mexico, journalists have been killed by arson, gunned down at a cafe and shot execution-style while out at a bar. In Malta, one was killed by a bomb hidden in her car. In Ecuador, two were kidnapped and killed by a drug cartel, and in India, one was killed after exposing a "sand mafia" that sold dirt to real estate developers.

The last two years have been deadly for journalists, with 31 murdered around the world this year alone, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists. But a report released this past week by Reporters Without Borders documented more than two dozen who had been killed by members of organized crime since the start of 2017, including fatal attacks in Mexico and Europe that underscored the entrenched power of criminal syndicates around the world.

This year, at least a dozen journalists have been killed by members of organized crime, according to the report, bringing the kind of violence often associated with war zones to countries like Malta or Brazil that are farther from the chaos of the front lines. In many cases, the crimes go unpunished by authorities who are hostile to the news media or are involved in criminal activity themselves.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Alert! Alert! The information demands on the modern digital journalist are overwhelming and leading to burnout*** (Nieman)

By JOHN CROWLEY

Journalists are overwhelmed by the information they process in their working day and want to explore solutions with third-party providers and management to make it more manageable. That's the finding of a nine-month project involving discussions across the industry and a revealing in-depth survey.

The research is part of the European Journalism Center's News Impact Network, which held its latest summit yesterday in Berlin. The project's aim is to find ways to make journalism more sustainable in an ever-changing media landscape. As part of my research, I've been writing this year about how journalists are wilting under the weight of all the emails, alerts, and notifications they get - and what we as an industry can do to change the narrative.

The strength of feeling from journalists has taken me aback. Some have suggested I should speak to mental health experts. Sally Pook, a Fleet Street journalist turned psychotherapist, told me that journalists in modern newsrooms were succumbing to "anxiety and exhaustion" because of the need to monitor the "seemingly endless sources of potential sources" available to them.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***More oversight of America's international media networks a good idea*** (The Hill)

BY THOMAS KENT, OPINION CONTRIBUTOR

Congress is reviewing legislation that will help guarantee outside oversight of America's international media networks. The bill is valuable as it is, but could be even stronger.

Bill S.3654, sponsored by Sen. Robert Menendez (D-N.J.) and approved Wednesday by the Committee on Foreign Relations, is the latest in a long series of measures to change the structure of the U.S. Agency for Global Media. USAGM, which was known until August as the Broadcasting Board of Governors, administers the operations of the Voice of America, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and the three other media networks financed by Congress: Radio Free Asia, the Office of Cuba Broadcasting and Middle East Broadcasting Networks.

Together, the networks operate in some 60 languages on radio, television and the internet, serving 345 million people outside the United States.

Read more [here](#).

## Today in History - December 5, 2018



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 5, the 339th day of 2018. There are 26 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:**



On Dec. 5, 1994, Republicans chose Newt Gingrich to be the first GOP speaker of the House in four decades.

**On this date:**

In 1776, the first scholastic fraternity in America, Phi Beta Kappa, was organized at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va.

In 1782, the eighth president of the United States, Martin Van Buren, was born in Kinderhook, New York; he was the first chief executive to be born after American independence.

In 1791, composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart died in Vienna, Austria, at age 35.

In 1792, George Washington was re-elected president; John Adams was re-elected vice president.

In 1848, President James K. Polk triggered the Gold Rush of '49 by confirming that gold had been discovered in California.

In 1901, movie producer Walt Disney was born in Chicago.

In 1932, German physicist Albert Einstein was granted a visa, making it possible for him to travel to the United States.

In 1933, national Prohibition came to an end as Utah became the 36th state to ratify the 21st Amendment to the Constitution, repealing the 18th Amendment.

In 1945, five U.S. Navy torpedo bombers mysteriously disappeared after taking off from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, on a training mission with the loss of all 14 crew members; "The Lost Squadron" contributed to the legend of the Bermuda Triangle.

In 1952, the Great Smog of London descended on the British capital; the unusually thick fog, which contained toxic pollutants, lasted five days and was blamed for causing thousands of deaths.

In 1977, Egypt broke diplomatic relations with Syria, Libya, Algeria, Iraq and South Yemen in the wake of criticism that followed President Anwar Sadat's peace overtures to Israel.

In 1988, a federal grand jury in North Carolina indicted PTL founder Jim Bakker and former aide Richard Dortch on fraud and conspiracy charges. (Bakker was convicted on all counts; Dortch pleaded guilty to four counts and cooperated with prosecutors in exchange for a lighter sentence. Bakker was initially sentenced to 45 years in prison; the term was eventually reduced to eight years, and he served a total of about five.)

Ten years ago: The Labor Department reported that an alarming half-million jobs had vanished in Nov. 2008 as unemployment hit a 15-year high of 6.7 percent. A judge in Las Vegas sentenced O.J. Simpson to 33 years in prison (with eligibility for parole after nine) for an armed robbery at a hotel room. (Simpson was released to parole on Oct. 1, 2017.) Death claimed actresses Nina Foch at age 84 and Beverly Garland at age 82.

Five years ago: Nelson Mandela, the anti-apartheid leader who became South Africa's first black president, died at age 95.

One year ago: Democratic congressman John Conyers of Michigan resigned from Congress after a nearly 53-year career, becoming the first Capitol Hill politician to lose his job amid the sexual misconduct allegations sweeping through the nation's workplaces. In a bitterly contested runoff election, Atlanta voters narrowly chose Keisha Lance Bottoms as the city's next mayor; a result that would be upheld after a recount requested by rival Mary Norwood. The International Olympic Committee barred Russia and its sports leaders from the upcoming Winter Olympics in South Korea after concluding that members of the Russian government concocted a doping scheme at the 2014 Sochi Games; some Russians would be able to compete as "Olympic Athletes from Russia."

Today's Birthdays: Singer Little Richard is 86. Author Joan Didion is 84. Author Calvin Trillin is 83. Actor Jeroen Krabbe (yeh-ROHN' krah-BAY') is 74. Opera singer Jose Carreras is 72. Pop singer Jim Messina is 71. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL quarterback Jim Plunkett is 71. World Golf Hall of Famer Lanny Wadkins is 69. Actress Morgan Brittany is 67. Actor Brian Backer is 62. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Art Monk is 61. Country singer Ty England is 55. Rock singer-musician John Rzeznik (REZ'-nihk) (The Goo Goo Dolls) is 53. Country singer Gary Allan is 51. Comedian-actress Margaret Cho is 50. Writer-director Morgan J. Freeman is 49. Actress Alex Kapp Horner is 49. Actress Kali Rocha is 47. Rock musician Regina Zernay (Cowboy Mouth) is 46. Actress Paula Patton is 43. Actress Amy Acker is 42. Actor Nick Stahl is 39. Actor Adan Canto is 37. Rhythm-and-blues singer Keri Hilson is 36. Actor Gabriel Luna is 36. Actor Frankie Muniz is 33. Actor Ross Bagley is 30.

**Thought for Today: "I've never been poor, only broke. Being poor is a frame of mind. Being broke is only a temporary situation." - Mike Todd, American movie producer (1907-1958).**

## 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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