



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

Connecting - December 28, 2018

Paul Stevens <paulstevens46@gmail.com>

Fri, Dec 28, 2018 at 9:24 AM

Reply-To: paulstevens46@gmail.com

To: pjshane@gmail.com

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Connecting

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning!

As we enter the final weekend of 2018, today's issue of Connecting brings you more of your memories of working on New Years Eve - with a particular focus on Y2K. Remember?

AP news leaders **Sally Buzbee** and **Brian Carovillano** shared with AP staff the highlights of this past year - and we bring their report to you as well.

AP White House reporter **Darlene Superville** accompanied President Trump on his surprise visit to Iraq and filed [this story](#) - and as a benefit to her Facebook friends,

shared the above photo she took during Wednesday's visit.

We lead today's edition with a finely written remembrance of years past by our 88-year-old colleague **Norman Abelson**. Quite well done.

Have a great weekend!

Paul

Another year coming wakens feelings of new beginnings

Norman Abelson ([Email](#)) - Another year coming to a close should be old news to me - after all, it's my 88th time around. And yet it still wakens feelings of new beginnings ahead - and memories, so many memories.

One of them is my first day as an Associated Press employee, 67 years ago. Exact details are somewhat foggy, of course. But my feelings of fear, uncertainty and a roiling in my belly come back with a certain clarity.

That I was even entering the old Boston Globe Building, where The AP office was located, was an accident of chance. My Dad had bumped into an AP editor at a Boston bar and mentioned he had a college-dropout son who was a good writer but had no plans for the future. Tom Horgan, the AP guy, promised to try to find a spot for me.

Now, here I was several months later meeting with "Nick" Nicholson, the Boston traffic bureau chief. My assignment: swing-shift copy boy, surely the journalistic bottom of the barrel. Having no journalism degree or newspaper experience, save writing obits and social items for my home-town weekly, I had no clue what my duties were to be. "Nick" introduced me to the head office boy who filled me in. Besides being copy-ripper and coffee-getter supreme, I was to work in the photo department darkroom, and deliver photo packages to the airport and train stations.

If there's one thing about that job I do remember clearly, it's carbon paper. The teletype machines all spit out multiple copies interspersed by the blue-inked stuff. And each time I ripped off copy to distribute to the editors, the carbon would leave an imprint on me somewhere - my hands, arms and face, not to speak of the dress

shirt that was part of the required uniform. My Mom, who was still doing my laundry, remarked unhappily on the carbon problem more than once.

On a more positive note, my one-and-a-half years climbing the ladder to chief copy-boy was easily the equivalent of a how-to-be-a-good-reporter degree. Watching and listening to the staffers, reading the daily report from front to back and, eventually, even doing a little writing, led to my first temporary assignment as a reporter, followed by more than a decade as an AP staffer. All of my career opportunities that followed would not have been possible without my AP experience.

Looking back, I am so grateful to the men who took the time, and had the patience, to work with me and help me learn the craft. I remember Tom Horgan, Joe Kelly, the night editor; Jimmy Smith, on the radio desk; Jim Callagero, the overnight editor; and, Abe Maloof in the darkroom. Yes, I really remember Frank Murphy, the cigar-chomping, old-school day editor, who taught mostly by cursing me out for my acts of incompetence and rock-bottom stupidity.

Many moments of good fortune have come my way over the long haul. High among them, without doubt, was my first day on board The Associated Press.

Happy good news in 2019 to all.

More memories of working on New Years Eve

Steve Graham ([Email](#)) - Back in the late '90s, a growing fear among the computerized-information community was that computers all over the world would crash at the stroke of midnight when the century kicked over to 2000.

We called this the Y2K crisis.

The reason was that due to limited computer storage capacity, dates were largely assumed to be in the 20th Century, i.e. in the form 19xx and thus, only the last two digits were saved.

In other words, computers would assume that when the clocks ticked past midnight, the date would become 1900.

Around the world, programmers beavered away to fix the problem ... but because of world-wide complexity, there was no way to be sure it was really fixed.

Especially crucial was the air-traffic control system, not only in the U.S., but world-wide.

Since I would be in the air from Los Angeles to Portland when the century ticked over in UTC (commonly called GMT), by which all airlines operate, I arranged to call the General Desk from somewhere over Northern California to report that all was well (as I fervently hoped and as it turned out). (Back then, airliners had air-to-ground telephones on the back of seats)

Happy New Year!

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Mike Harris ([Email](#)) - During the period from 1980 to 1994, while I worked for NY Sports and lived in New Jersey, the only time of the year that I wasn't mostly on the road covering auto racing was December and January. I always loved going into New York City during the holidays, enjoying the electricity in the air. So I volunteered to work Christmas (for those who don't know, I'm Jewish) and New Year's Eve.

Christmas eve and Christmas day were always a quiet time, with few phone calls and little breaking news. It was usually peaceful and a little easy time and a half. The biggest excitement was often the clever pictures sent over the teletype machines by techs from around the country, using letters and numbers to build the scenes. I enjoyed standing at the windows overlooking Rockefeller Plaza and observing the scene around the famed Christmas Tree and skating rink.

New Year's Eve was similarly quiet, but definitely more fun. Just getting into the city for my 7 p.m. to 3 a.m. shift was exciting and, at times, daunting. I had to drive because there were no trains and buses to my area for several hours after my shift ended. Parking could be a problem, but there was (in those days) free street parking on Madison Avenue starting at 7 p.m. You had to be there by 6:45 to find a space and then wait in your car until 7 to be sure that you would not be ticketed. If the traffic coming into the city held you up until the street parking was full, there was an open-air parking lot on 50th at 10th Avenue that charged a flat fee of \$20 - a bargain - and let you lock and take the key if you were going to be coming back after 2 a.m.

When my kids reached their mid-teens, we began a tradition, alternating years of letting them bring a friend and come with me into the city to take in the Times Square New Year's celebration. One year, my son, Tory, would come in with me. The

next, daughter Lanni would join me. They would go out for some dinner, bringing me some takeout before heading to Times Square. Then, after the festivities died down, they would come back to the office and watch TV until time to head home.

We had no untoward incidents but, one memorable year, when Tory was 16, he and a friend ``borrowed" \$20 to go to dinner. They went to the Carnegie Deli, split a corned beef sandwich and fries and a drink and wound up short when it came time to pay. A nice person at the next table bailed them out with a \$5 bill, but Tory came puffing into the office, asking for another \$5. ``Dad, I didn't have enough to leave a tip." I obliged and off they went. Good kid!

Those were highlights, but I always felt lucky to be able to work at 50 Rock because, for someone who didn't even visit NYC until after my freshman year in college, it always felt very glamorous and exciting to be in the heart of the city. And, on the days I walked the tunnels beneath Rockefeller Center to get to or from the subway, I felt like a real New Yorker.

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Gene Herrick ([Email](#)) - Back in the 1962, on New Year's Eve, I was assigned by New York to shoot pictures of the Ice Hockey International Ice Federation World Championships at the Broadmoor Resort in Colorado Springs, Colorado. It turned out to be a real pain in the Derrière.

I had major league hemorrhoids.

In order to get to the photographer's loft, some 10 feet straight up a wooden ladder, one had to use muscles that were important to that part of the body. Each step on the ladder was painful. After taking pictures, I would have to repeat the painful process going down. It was just a little less painful going to an impromptu darkroom, and transmission station in another building (A men's toilet - housing some 20 urinals, 20 Johnnies, and 20 wash basins. It was fun making a different choice a couple of times each night!).

After the match that night, between the Canadians, and the Russians, I met the Canadian physician, and explained my plight with hemorrhoids, the male spelling, as VS Herorrhoids. He gave me two pain pills, "take one tonight, and other in the morning. "These are stronger than the pills you get in the states." He also admonished me to have only one glass of champagne at midnight. What fun - ugly Canadian and Russian hockey players!

I followed doctor's orders, was awake all night with pain, and met him for breakfast. "Did the pills work." He asked. I said no. I still hurt. I asked the good doctor, "Should

have taken the pills orally, or rectally?" He looked into my eyes with a strange glare, and then burst into laughter.

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Tom Kent (Email) - I most remember the New Year's Eve when the new century dawned, the night from Dec. 31, 1999, to Jan. 1, 2000. At 50 Rock, we were ready for the civilized world to come to an end; according to widespread "Y2K" fears, electronic components worldwide would come to a halt because the microprocessors controlling them weren't designed to roll over to the new century. Elevators were to stop, airplanes to lose their guidance systems, nuclear power plants ... don't ask.

Because of the Y2K fears, AP was fully staffed on New Year's Eve. I was a deputy managing editor, spending the night overseeing the General Desk supervisors and our embryonic online operation. Under the influence of a nervous banker friend, who told me his bank had spent millions on Y2K preparations, I had talked the AP into stockpiling cots and cans of tuna in case the city came to a stop but the AP had to keep working.

As the New Year arrived in one time zone after another, we noticed nothing in particular was happening; the world's electronics seemed to be managing. Still, we were on red alert until the fateful hour had struck in every U.S. time zone with almost no ill effects.

Spending New Year's Eve away from our families did have one benefit, however. Lou Boccardi ordered for the staff probably the most amazing buffet ever seen in the 50 Rock newsroom. This was a real New Year's buffet; I remember the prime rib and shrimp. Given everyone's familiarity with AP's, uh, thriftiness, we were astounded by the plenty; as we dined at our desks, Lou strode around like a proud father at a wedding. I seem to remember he was wearing formal clothes. But was that really the case - or some extra embellishment in my mind of an amazing, if news-free, evening?

I don't know what ever happened to the stockpiled tuna.

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Mark Mittelstadt (Email) - I was a drummer in lounge bands in high school and college and New Year's Eve gigs were often crazy -- big crowds, double pay, tips, an adult beverage or two before heading home. But my most unusual New Year's Eve was on Dec. 31, 1999, in the Associated Press Trenton bureau.

That, of course, represented the culmination of years of worry over whether the world's computers could handle the roll-over to the year 2000. Problems were anticipated because many programs represented four-digit years with only the final two digits, making the year 2000 indistinguishable from 1900. Wild speculation was that the Y2K problem would wreak all sorts of havoc -- jetliners falling out of the sky, banking systems failing, gasoline pumps not working, life-preserving hospital systems shutting down, the whole world going dark.

Corporations spent tens of millions of dollars studying the problem and writing patches and fixes for the so-called Millennium bug. The Associated Press, with its vast network of computers to collect, report and distribute news and information around the globe, did its part. By the end of 1999, much of the speculation seemed over-hyped and unwarranted. Still...

New Year's Eve 1999 fell on a Friday night, normally a slow time in AP bureaus. The company's offices were encouraged to keep a large presence on hand to report the milestone passing of 1,000 years ... and to be ready just in case.

As New Jersey bureau chief, I decided that if we were going to inconvenience so many employees by having them miss parties or not being with loved ones on a fairly significant New Year's Eve, we might as well have our own party and invite families. We catered some of Trenton's best food and brought in a supply of beverages, most without alcohol but not all. We decorated the bureau and handed out party favors, including champagne flutes with the numbers 2000 down the stem.

The evening was mostly fun and chatter. But as the clock approached midnight, a few of us had some concerns. Chief of Communications Tom Leone and I exchanged nervous glances through the night. Did the programmers get it wrong? Will we lose power? Will everything suddenly go dark? Will we lose copy and network connections? If the elevators in our downtown Trenton office building stop working, will everyone have to walk 11 floors to the street?

As it turned out, the worry was all for naught (although if memory serves a photo stringer blinked the lights in our small conference room as a joke). As the computer clocks rolled over to 12:00 AM, 12:01 AM, 12:02 AM and so on, nothing happened. We all breathed a sigh of relief.

At the stroke of midnight we were treated to a fireworks display two blocks away next to the War Memorial building along the Delaware River. Quite a show viewed from 11 floors up. A great way to usher in the New Year.

John Wylie (Email) - Back when AP Kansas City was still at home on the third floor of The Star (well into the last century), we (at the Star) had a much reduced production schedule New Year's Day (no First edition, just State, Combined metro instead of multiple by area and City editions or maybe all combined into one) and equally reduced staff - those who drew the short straw and had run out of favors to trade days with. So we dragged ourselves in to find one of our staff had somehow gotten to work before passing out cold on his desk.

Great reporter, and when he had somehow realized "OMG I'm working today" and had even more miraculously gotten to work, there was quiet agreement to simply let him be examined by the on-duty nurse who determined he just needed eight hours sleep, put him in a spare hospital bed in an unseen part of her office, and checked periodically to make sure all was well. As far as I know, no written record was ever made. He woke up at the end of his eight-hour shift with a hangover deluxe but nothing more, and we got through (Thank Heavens!) a very slow news day without a hitch. My memory is deliberately hazy on all the details, and my lips are sealed on the first of the five "W's". The paper got out, AP got the local copy from us it needed, and nobody outside the group present ever knew or if they did, never admitted it publicly. Don't even remember who else was there and of them who might remember, but I seem to recall the next year those who drew New Year's Day duty put big stickers in their calendars not to toast in the New Year boisterously after midnight, since shifts started at 6:30 or 7:30 a.m. depending on position. The reporter went on to an outstanding career, and if anyone ever asked what details, if any, he remembered, I either never heard or conveniently forgot.

The earth keeps spinning around, our positions shift a little, and the years do slip away



29 years ago. From left: Puiu Leizerovici, dad of Sorel; Camelia Leizerovici, wife of Sorel, holding Ana, age two months; Sorel Leizerovici, then 27, and Gita Leizerovici, mother of Sorel.



And today. From left: Ron Petreanu, brother of Dan Perry; Sorel Leizerovici; Camelia

Leizerovici; Iris Perry, wife of Dan Perry, and Dan Perry.

Dan Perry ([Email](#)) - My parents fled communist Romania in 1960 and were none too pleased when decades later I was posted there by AP. But they did approve of my meeting their childhood friends the Leizerovicis, who were trapped for years behind the Iron Curtain. Their son Sorel and his wife Camelia were about my age and on the day we met they showed off their baby daughter Ana, a "child of the revolution" born right around the time Ceausescu was overthrown, 29 years ago last week. It was a time of great hope.

Today (Dec. 26) I attended her wedding in Israel, a glorious affair. Here are photos of the first meeting in 1990 and the first dance this evening, with my friends now in the role of the parents looking on. There is nothing new under the sun, yet the earth keeps spinning around, our positions shift a little, and the years do slip away.

Dan Perry, a media and tech innovator, was the Cairo-based Middle East Editor of the AP, and chairman of the Foreign Press Association in Israel. Previously he led AP in Europe, Africa and the Caribbean. [Here](#) is a recent story he wrote in the Times of Israel, titled "The 'fake news' charge is a scoundrel's old story."



Ana at her wedding

Brave, resourceful and ambitious work

A review of 2018 by AP Executive Editor Sally Buzbee and Managing Editor Brian Carovillano in a note to the AP staff:

Colleagues,

This has truly been an extraordinary year in news. From Washington to Xinjiang, from Yemen to Paradise, our AP colleagues around the world have been courageous, fast, tireless, resourceful, clever and ambitious.

We have broken big news and held powerful people around the world to account. We have braved violent protests, live fire, wildfires, hurricanes and contentious elections. We have brought unforgettable images to audiences worldwide. We have met relentless partisanship with relentless accuracy, independence and facts. We have exposed wrongdoing and suffering, and told stories that no one else is telling. We have pried public records from reluctant bureaucrats and extracted fascinating

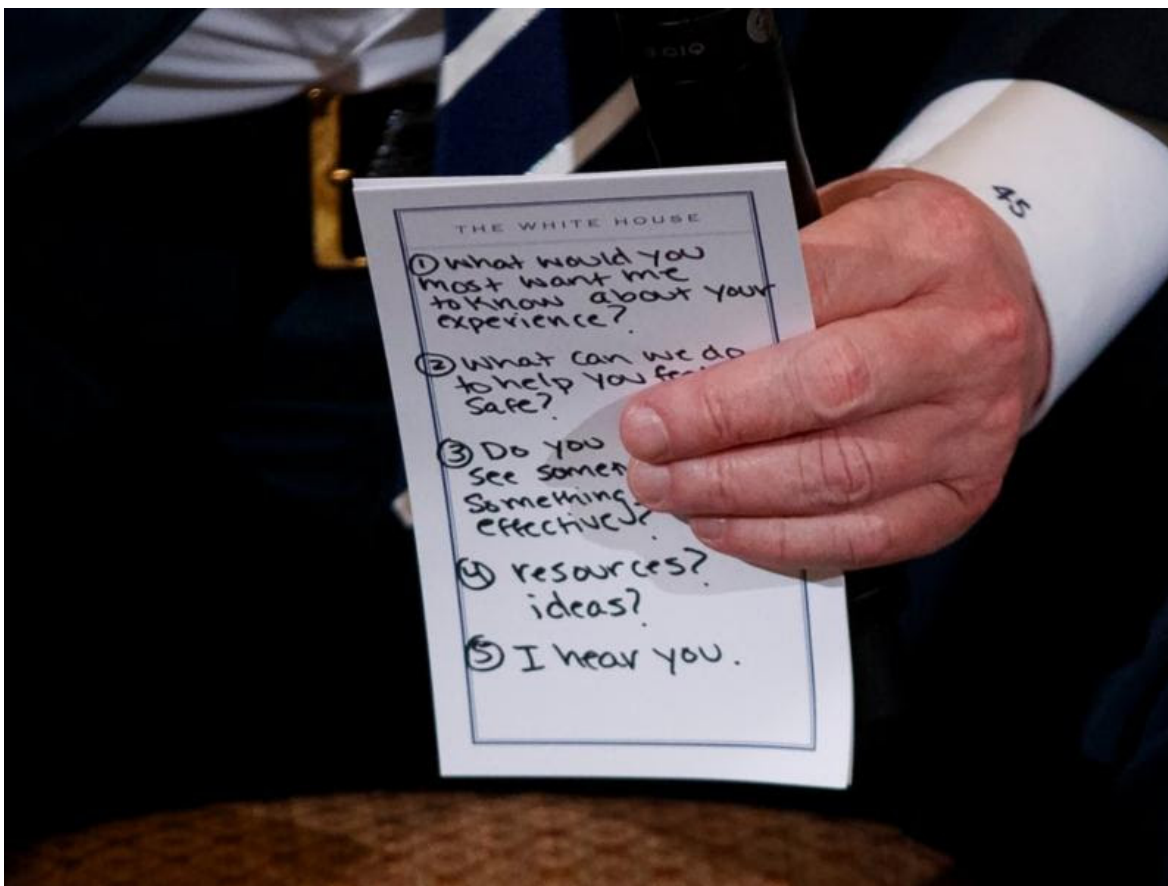
stories from complex data sets. And sometimes, we have captured fleeting moments of serendipity and peace.

What follows is not a comprehensive list, but rather a sampling drawn from all 12 months of 2018 that demonstrates the incredible variety and ambition of AP's journalism. There are so many more people and stories that could be included, and please do not feel slighted if your work is not listed here. That doesn't make it any less great. We are in awe of you, our colleagues.

Thank you all for an incredible year of AP journalism. Sally and Brian

THE LETTER As he flies home to Rome after a trip to South America, Pope Francis faces tough questions from Vatican correspondent Nicole Winfield, who presents the pontiff with hard evidence - a letter obtained by Santiago reporter Eva Vergara -- that the pontiff knew more than he'd admitted about sexual abuse scandal involving a Chilean bishop.

AN OLYMPIC EFFORT AP journalists from around the world come together in a frigid, out-of-the-way corner of South Korea to cover a Winter Olympics full of surprises, triumphs and extraordinary political theater. The latter included the late-breaking inclusion of North Korean athletes that triggered a series of events culminating in President Donald Trump's Singapore summit with Kim Jong Un. Great coverage and stunning visuals help drive more than 190 million page views to the AP's Winter Olympics DNE, a 50 percent increase over the previous winter games.



"I HEAR YOU" White House photographer Carolyn Kaster captures one of the year's most memorable images, showing the hands of Trump holding hand-written talking points for his meeting with survivors of the Parkland high school shooting. The last note: "I hear you."

THE SKY OVER DAMASCUS Part of an all-formats team on the ground inside Syria as the U.S. carries out airstrikes, Beirut photographer Hassan Ammar captures these unforgettable images of missiles raining down on the capital.

#METOO AT STATE CAPITOLS State government reporter David Lieb and data editor Meghan Hoyer lead an effort to comprehensively examine sexual abuse and harassment in state legislatures, an effort that perfectly leverages AP's 50-state footprint and finds nearly \$3 million in settlements. The project leads 25 states to change their sexual harassment policies.

WATCHDOG LOSES ITS BITE Business reporter Ken Sweet and data journalist Larry Fenn show that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, set up to shield U.S. consumers from wrongdoing by banks and other financial institutions, had conducted zero enforcement actions in the 135 days since Trump appointed CFPB critic Mick Mulvaney as its acting director.

BOY IN PERIL Sydney-based correspondent Kristen Gelineau tells the heartbreaking story of her desperate and ultimately unsuccessful race to save the life of a Rohingya boy who had fallen into an open waterway in a refugee camp.

"WHO DO YOU BELIEVE?" In a defining moment of his presidency, Trump stands side-by-side with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Helsinki as White House reporter Jonathan Lemire asks questions that elicit gasps around the world. During a live televised news conference, Trump openly doubts U.S. intelligence agencies and appears to side with the longtime U.S. adversary. It is one of many coverage highlights from Washington teams working tirelessly to cover an administration unlike any other in U.S. history.

CHINA CLAMPS DOWN In a throwback to the era of Mao Zedong, Chinese President Xi Jinping cracks down on religious and minority groups, and AP journalists including Dake Kang, Yanan Wang and Ng Han Guan travel to the far western reaches of the country and beyond, teaming up with colleagues around the world to tell the story comprehensively.

ONE, AND ALONE Immigration is an all-hands-on-deck story for journalists on both sides of the border, from Honduran villages and dusty Mexican highways to the halls of power in Washington. In one especially poignant moment, Arizona immigration reporter Astrid Galvan, staking out a Phoenix court, comes across a 1-year-old Honduran boy named Johan who appears before a judge without the family he was separated from. Later, photographer Esteban Felix and reporter Julie Watson are on hand in Honduras to capture the boy's reunion with his family.

R.E.S.P.E.C.T. When Queen of Soul Aretha Franklin is in her final days, years' worth of source development by Entertainment Editor Nekesa Moody and Music Editor Mesfin Fekadu put AP ahead of the competition in reporting her death. It is sourcing that also yields stunning pictures by photographer Paul Sancya and video journalist Josh Replogle of Franklin in her coffin.

ZIMBABWE PROTESTS After the country's first general election since the exit of longtime president Robert Mugabe, a team of six AP video journalists led by senior producer Khaled Kazziha produce more than 8 hours of live coverage of violent protests. All of it is unmatched by the competition.

BLOCKED LENS Working at a Trump rally in Indiana, Washington photographer Evan Vucci snaps a volunteer member of the president's advance staff blocking the lens of another photojournalist, an image that instantly goes viral in an era of fraught relations between the White House and the media.

PHILIPPINES LANDSLIDE After a massive landslide in the northern Philippines triggered by heavy rains from Typhoon Mangkhut, video journalist Joeal Calupitan

and photographer Aaron Favila are first on the scene after making a difficult land crossing to get there. Three hours of live coverage follow, unmatched by anyone including local media.

MARIA'S DEAD An extensive team of AP journalists from the Caribbean and beyond partners with Puerto Rico's Center for Investigative Journalism and U.S.-based news site Quartz to produce the most comprehensive list to date of Puerto Ricans who died in the wake of the storm.

MUSEUM BLAZE When two centuries' worth of art and history are consumed in a fire at Brazil's National Museum, Yesica Fisch is the first video journalist at the scene. Her footage - including staff members rescuing a few artifacts from the blaze -- goes global, and the loss of that collective national treasure catches the world's attention.

YEMEN'S DIRTY WAR Investigative reporter Maggie Michael, video journalist Maad el-Zikry and photographer Nariman el-Mofty show extraordinary courage and resourcefulness to bring Yemen's forgotten civil war to the world. The result is a startling series of stories, images and video that have shaped the world's image of the war and the role of America's allies in it.

INTRODUCING VOTECAST The AP teams with NORC at the University of Chicago to pioneer a new form of Election Day public opinion polling designed to overcome the bias and inaccuracies inherent in traditional exit polls. In its first big test during U.S. midterms, VoteCast delivers, offering insights into the reasons behind voters' choices, robustly illustrated with all-formats content generated via text and graphic automation.

MIGRANT CARAVAN Day after day, week after week, a cross-format team of more than a dozen AP journalists travels with a caravan of thousands of Central American migrants making their way through Mexico to the U.S. border. Their images, video and stories show the caravan as it actually is, supplying important context to an issue that becomes central to the U.S. midterm elections.

CALIFORNIA'S SORROW With a seemingly inexhaustible supply of professionalism and resourcefulness, our colleagues in California respond to back-to-back catastrophes at opposite ends of the state - a mass shooting at a bar outside Los Angeles, and the deadliest wildfire in the state's history, which wipes out the Northern California town of Paradise.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE Supreme Court reporter Mark Sherman takes a long shot and asks Chief Justice John Roberts about Trump's comments disparaging the judicial branch. Coming on the eve of the American Thanksgiving holiday, Roberts' strongly

worded rebuke breaks from long-standing protocol, draws a heated reply from the president and grabs global attention.

EDITED BABIES It's one of the biggest science scoops of the year: a Chinese researcher edits the DNA of several human embryos and implants two into a woman. In a true collaborative effort between Asia and the health and science team, medical writer Marilyn Marchionne, science writer Christina Larson, Beijing video journalist Emily Wang, Beijing researcher Fu Ting, Beijing photographer Mark Schiefelbein and New York video journalist Kathy Young all play key roles.

BUSH'S FUNERAL Years of planning and source development by Washington photo editor Jon Elswick, Houston-based photographer David Philip and others set the stage for picture-perfect AP photo coverage of events surrounding the funeral of former President George H.W. Bush. Highlights include Morry Gash's remotely shot, stunning bird's eye photography of the U.S. Capitol rotunda during the visitation.

GILETS JAUNES As Yellow Jacket protests cripple the French capital, multiple AP crews are in the thick of the action, seeing it from the ground level and providing compelling live video, photos and stories. Days after, many of the same journalists pivot to cover another terror attack, this one at a Christmas market in Strasbourg.

THE MISSING AP's yearlong focus on the hidden victims of global migration finds that tens of thousands of people set off from home to find a better life and never arrive at their destinations. Led by Paris-based correspondent Lori Hinnant and Istanbul-based video journalist Bram Janssen, AP journalists look in-depth at the issue on five continents and tally more than 60,000 missing migrants, and counting.

40 years ago today: United crash in Portland, Oregon

Steve Graham ([Email](#)) - Dec. 28 marks the 40th anniversary of a United Airlines DC-8 crash in Portland, Ore. that killed 10 people.

The crash resulted in putting the final nail in the coffin of the notion that an airline captain has unquestionable authority in the cockpit.

While Capt. Malburn McBroom dithered over a landing gear problem, all four engines flamed out as the fuel supply was exhausted. McBroom landed the aircraft in a wooded area east of the Portland airport.

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) faulted not only McBroom, but the co-pilot and flight engineer for not being sufficiently assertive in warning about the fuel situation (in other words having a near mutiny in the mindset of the times.)

The Portland Oregonian reported in 2014 on the anniversary of the crash:

"By talking to witnesses, studying flight records and listening to the recordings of the conversations between McBroom, First Officer Roderick D. Beebe and Second Officer Forrest E. Mendenhall, NTSB officials were able to determine that McBroom didn't listen to what they were trying to tell him and that they weren't clear or assertive enough in trying to communicate with him."

In 2016, The AOPA (Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association) magazine opined:

"This accident led to the formal establishment of crew resource management (CRM) and helped the airline industry move beyond a mindset that was prevalent at the time-Rule 1: The captain is never wrong. Rule 2: If the captain is wrong, see Rule 1. Good captains, however, have always understood that the other crewmembers are not there just for aggravation."

Although some survivors lauded McBroom for putting the big plane down with minimal loss of life in an unlit patch to avoid homes, the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) yanked his Airline Transport Pilot license. He died in Colorado in 2004.

This incident followed a 1977 incident at Anchorage, Alaska in which the drunken American captain of a Japan Airlines cargo aircraft crashed on takeoff as the Japanese crew members failed to intervene.

The AOPA noted, however:

"Although the culture has generally changed, the CRM system is only as good as the willingness of crewmembers to apply it. Avianca Flight 52, a Boeing 707, crashed because of fuel exhaustion in 1990. Asiana 214, a Boeing 777, crashed on a visual approach to San Francisco in 2013. In both cases, the lack of internal crew communication led to fatalities and the destruction of fully functioning aircraft. Thousands of accidents are prevented by the implementation of CRM, but the point is that accidents are prevented one at a time-and each incident requires the individuals involved to perform."

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Jack Smith ([Email](#)) - Following up Steve Graham's account of the December 28, 1978, United Airlines DC 8 crash that killed 10 people.

I was on my way to covering a Holiday Classic basketball game between Michigan State and Magic Johnson and Washington State that was being played at Portland's Memorial Coliseum.

As I walked through the door a friend from a local radio station, and my neighbor, told me a plane had just crashed moments ago east of the city.

I headed out Bernside Street and followed a fire truck that was going hell bent for election with red lights and siren going in the direction of the plane crash. I pulled in behind the fire truck and followed it through the police lines before pulling off to the side of the road and getting my camera gear and really warm clothes out of the trunk-it was a very cold night with some snow on the ground.

As I was running towards the crash, I could see downed power lines with wires sparking all around. Moments later I saw the tail of the United Airlines DC 8 sticking out in the road and wedged between some large fir trees.

After making some general views of the plane, I worked my way round to the front and saw firemen helping a flight attendant out of the sheered-off front section of the plane. As I was getting ready to start shooting, a cop showed up and told me to move. I didn't and by this time a photographer from the local paper showed up. The cop was really adamant that we leave and started yelling. A local newspaper photographer took the cop's advice and left. I didn't. Moments later the cop told me again to leave and if I didn't he would handcuff me to a tree. For some unknown reason, I turned around and told the cop, who was about 5 foot 9, that he wasn't big enough to handcuff me to a tree. He then turned around and left, and I made the photograph above.

It was quite a night, I'm just glad more people weren't killed.

Connecting mailbox

Voice of America produces journalism. To suggest it's a propaganda arm is outrageous

Tom Kent in [Letter to Editor](#) of the Los Angeles Times:

To the editor: The L.A. Times reported that the government-owned news service Voice of America, or VOA, faces difficulties because "the same chief executive who oversees the network also runs American networks that have long been viewed as producing pro-democracy propaganda" - including Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL).

RFE/RL does not produce propaganda - though, like most U.S. media, it believes democracy is superior to dictatorship. It is governed by the same standards of journalistic professionalism as VOA and other U.S. international media.

While VOA's job is to tell America's story abroad, the mission of RFE/RL, which is based in Prague, is to create a free local press in nations where independent media do not exist or are still developing. RFE/RL provides accurate local news to a 20-nation region that includes the former Soviet Union, the Balkans, Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

RFE/RL's reliable news coverage in 25 languages attracts a weekly audience of 31 million people, despite the efforts of some regimes to block it on the internet, jam its broadcasts and intimidate citizens who turn to it for accurate information. Americans should be proud of RFE/RL's work.

Thomas Kent, New York

The writer was president and chief executive of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty through September of this year.

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Bock's Score is back

Hal Bock ([Email](#)) - My Bock's Score column had its start when I was a student at New York University, writing for the college paper. I needed a column name and my dad came up with Bock's Score. I thought it was brilliant and so did sports editor Wick Temple when I succeeded Will Grimsley as the sports columnist.

I wrote it for 5 1/2 years for The AP and now in retirement it is back, appearing on two websites, NY Sportsday.com, here in New York, and Sports Media History.com, which is produced at Susquehanna University. Bock's Score is also the centerpiece of one of the podcasts on the Comfortably Zoned Radio Network.

My dad's idea rocks on.

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Unusual datelines

Adolphe Bernotas ([Email](#)) - Following up on Carl Leubsdorf's attempted use of Independence, Iowa, I used to finagle ways to use LOST NATION, N.H. (AP) or FREEDOM, N.H. (AP) in government stories or the politics and 10 New Hampshire Presidential Primaries that I covered.

Rick Cooper ([Email](#)) - In honor of your tenure as Kansas City's COB, I have to offer my entry for my favorite Missouri dateline in the Rolla/Ft. Leonard Wood area - Uranus, MO, which is equidistant from Devils Elbow and Evening Shade.

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Partying on with Bobbie Seril



Connecting colleagues Susan Clark (left) and Bobbie Seril at a Latke and Vodka party hosted by Bobbie at her home in Manhattan. They took a break from the yummy latkes and chilled vodka for a picture and a holiday wish to all for a merry, merry and a happy, happy New Year.

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Connecting sky shot - Beverly Beach, Oregon



Lee Siegel ([Email](#)) -Here's one taken near my home at Beverly Beach, Oregon.

Trump's presidency has changed Washington, defied convention

By JONATHAN LEMIRE

WASHINGTON (AP) - Mr. Trump went to Washington. And he changed it.

In his first two years in office, President Donald Trump has rewritten the rules of the presidency and the norms of the nation's capital, casting aside codes of conduct and traditions that have held for generations.

In Trump's Washington, facts are less relevant. Insults and highly personal attacks are increasingly employed by members of both parties. The White House press briefing is all but gone, international summits are optional, the arts are an

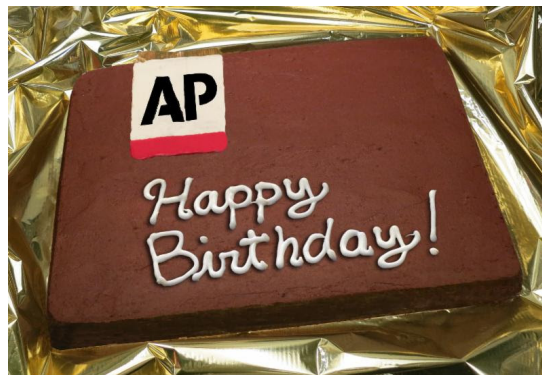
afterthought and everything - including inherently nonpartisan institutions and investigations - is suddenly political.

Taking a wrecking ball to decorum and institutions, Trump has changed, in ways both subtle and profound, how Washington works and how it is viewed by the rest of the nation and world.

"He's dynamited the institution of the presidency," said Douglas Brinkley, presidential historian at Rice University. "He doesn't see himself as being part of a long litany of presidents who will hand a baton to a successor. Instead, he uses the presidency as an extension of his own personality."

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



On Saturday to...

Blake Sell - blakesell@gmail.com

Arlon Southall - arlonsouthhall@aol.com

On Sunday to...

Bob Graves - rag664@gmail.com

Rick Plumlee - rickplumlee48@gmail.com

Welcome to Connecting



Karen Magnuson - karen@karenmagnuson.com

Roger Petterson - Repetterson@gmail.com

Stories of interest

Congress demands answers on AP's relationship with Chinese state media (Washington Post)

By Josh Rogin

China's state-run media companies are rapidly expanding their integration with Western news outlets, as part of Beijing's worldwide foreign influence operations campaign. In Washington, lawmakers in both parties are calling out such arrangements and demanding U.S. media companies make sure they don't become tools of Chinese government propaganda.

As with all authoritarian regimes, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is organized around manipulation and control of information and ideas. Under President Xi Jinping, the party has rapidly and boldly expanded its efforts to influence discussion about China beyond its borders, in part through the global expansion of state-run media outlets. The goal is to suppress any criticism of the Chinese government and

shape the international discussion of China in ways favorable to the party's interests.

Beijing is committed to limiting free expression, and any partnership between China's state media enterprises and those of democracies must take this into account, said Chris Walker, senior vice president at the National Endowment of Democracy.

"Such partnerships can invite critical risks to the integrity of independent media institutions, which may not fully appreciate their own vulnerabilities," he said. "As media outlets in Australia and elsewhere have found, engagement with Chinese state media can induce self-censorship on certain issues or the unwitting carrying of CCP propaganda lines."

That brings us to the late November announcement by Xinhua, China's largest state-run news agency, that it is expanding cooperation with the U.S. news service Associated Press. AP's chief executive, Gary Pruitt, traveled to Beijing to meet with Xinhua President Cai Mingzhao, who said that "the two news agencies have broad cooperation in areas including new media, application of artificial intelligence (AI) and economic information," Xinhua reported.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mike Feinsilber, Bill Schiffmann.

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'Can You Come To The White House?' A Reporter's Tale Of A Surprise Trip To Iraq (NPR)

By TAMARA KEITH, NPR

The call came Sunday afternoon.

"Can you come to the White House?"

I was still wearing running pants and had my hair up in a plastic scrunchy, but figured there wasn't time to change.

I was called to the office of White House press secretary Sarah Sanders, who had me leave my purse and cellphone outside before sitting down. This was sensitive.

The president would be going to Iraq, leaving late Christmas night. I would be one of 13 pool journalists along for the surprise trip. For security reasons, it had to stay quiet. I could tell only my husband and one editor. And only in person, not over the phone, text or email. The secrecy around it was similar to how previous White House staffs had handled surprise trips by former Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama to Iraq and Afghanistan.

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

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'Stupid Questions,' Rarer Briefings, No Holiday Party: Trump's Year With the Press (New York Times)

By Michael M. Grynbaum

It can be easy to forget that, two years ago, the White House press briefing took place nearly every day. The president refrained from insulting reporters on live television. And correspondents did not lose their access for showing insufficient "respect."

That's the thing about traditions - they tend to be sacrosanct until they aren't.

The rituals of reporting on the White House, and the place of journalism in American life, continued to shift in 2018 under President Trump. On Twitter, he used the term "Fake News" 174 times, nearly once every two days.

Presidents usually hold a holiday reception for the Washington press corps (even Mr. Trump acquiesced to one in 2017); this year's edition was canceled. Presidents usually avoid criticizing American journalists on foreign soil; visiting Britain, Mr. Trump called NBC News "dishonest" and refused to take a question from Jim Acosta of CNN. ("Music to the ears of dictators and authoritarian leaders," said an official at the Committee to Protect Journalists.)

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

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United States added to list of most dangerous countries for journalists for first time (Reuters)

PARIS - The murder of the Saudi columnist Jamal Khashoggi - in a year when more than half of all journalists who were killed around the world were targeted deliberately - reflects a hatred of the media in many areas of society, a free-press advocacy group said Tuesday.

At least 63 professional journalists were killed doing their jobs in 2018, a 15 percent increase over last year, said the group, Reporters Without Borders. The number of deaths rises to 80 when all media workers and people classified as citizen journalists are included, it said in its annual report.

The world's five deadliest countries for journalists include three - India, Mexico and, for the first time, the United States - where journalists were killed in cold blood, even though those countries weren't at war or in conflict, the group said.

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

The Final Word

I Used to Write for Sports Illustrated. Now I Deliver Packages for Amazon. (Atlantic)

By AUSTIN MURPHY

Holiday parties were right around the corner, and I needed a cover story. I didn't feel like admitting to casual acquaintances, or even to some good friends, that I drive a van for Amazon. I decided to tell them, if asked, that I consult for Amazon, which is loosely true: I spend my days consulting a Rabbit, the handheld Android device loaded with the app that tells me where my next stop is, how many packages are coming off the van, and how hopelessly behind I've fallen.

Let's face it, when you're a college-educated 57-year-old slinging parcels for a living, something in your life has not gone according to plan. That said, my moments of chagrin are far outnumbered by the upsides of the job, which include windfall connections with grateful strangers. There's a certain novelty, after decades at a legacy media company-Time Inc.-in playing for the team that's winning big, that's not considered a dinosaur, even if that team is paying me \$17 an hour (plus OT!). It's been healthy for me, a fair-haired Anglo-Saxon with a Roman numeral in my name (John Austin Murphy III), to be a minority in my workplace, and in some of the neighborhoods where I deliver. As Amazon reaches maximum ubiquity in our lives ("Alexa, play Led Zeppelin"), as online shopping turns malls into mausoleums, it's been illuminating to see exactly how a package makes the final leg of its journey.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mark Mittelstadt, Lindel Hutson, Doug Pizac.

Today in History - December 28, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Dec. 28, the 362nd day of 2018. There are three days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 28, 1981, Elizabeth Jordan Carr, the first American "test-tube" baby, was born in Norfolk, Virginia.

On this date:

In 1612, Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei observed the planet Neptune, but mistook it for a star. (Neptune wasn't officially discovered until 1846 by Johann Gottfried Galle.)

In 1694, Queen Mary II of England died after more than five years of joint rule with her husband, King William III.

In 1832, John C. Calhoun became the first vice president of the United States to resign, stepping down because of differences with President Andrew Jackson.

In 1846, Iowa became the 29th state to be admitted to the Union.

In 1895, the Lumiere brothers, Auguste and Louis, held the first public showing of their movies in Paris.

In 1908, a major earthquake followed by a tsunami devastated the Italian city of Messina, killing at least 70,000 people.

In 1945, Congress officially recognized the Pledge of Allegiance.

In 1961, the Tennessee Williams play "Night of the Iguana" opened on Broadway. Former first lady Edith Bolling Galt Wilson, the second wife of President Woodrow Wilson, died in Washington at age 89.

In 1972, Kim Il Sung, the premier of North Korea, was named the country's president under a new constitution.

In 1973, the book "Gulag Archipelago," Alexander Solzhenitsyn's expose (eks-poh-SAY') of the Soviet prison system, was first published in Paris.

In 1987, the bodies of 14 relatives of Ronald Gene Simmons were found at his home near Dover, Arkansas, after Simmons shot and killed two other people in Russellville. (Simmons, who never explained his motives, was executed in 1990.)

In 1999, Clayton Moore, television's "Lone Ranger, died in West Hills, California, at age 85.

Ten years ago: A bomb-loaded SUV exploded at a military checkpoint in Afghanistan, claiming the lives of 14 school children in a heartbreaking flash captured by a U.S. security camera. The Detroit Lions completed an awful 0-16 season - the NFL's worst ever - with a 31-21 loss to the Green Bay Packers.

Five years ago: Iraqi troops detained a Sunni lawmaker, Ahmed al-Alwani, a prominent organizer of Sunni protests in Anbar, on terrorism charges for inciting violence against Shiites. Film, television and stage actor Joseph Ruskin, 89, died in Los Angeles.

One year ago: Twelve people died in a Bronx apartment building fire, the deadliest residential fire to hit New York City in at least a quarter century; officials said it was caused by a 3-year-old boy playing with stove burners. (A 13th victim died of his injuries days later.) Officials in Alabama certified Democrat Doug Jones as the winner of a special U.S. Senate election over Republican Roy Moore, who charged that the election was "fraudulent." Rose Marie, who began her career in show business as a child in the 1920s and co-starred on "The Dick Van Dyke Show" in the 1960s, died at her Los Angeles-area home at the age of 94. Apple apologized for secretly slowing down older iPhones, a move it said was necessary to avoid unexpected shutdowns due to battery fatigue.

Today's Birthdays: Former United Auto Workers union president Owen Bieber is 89. Actress Nichelle Nichols is 86. Actress Dame Maggie Smith is 84. Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., is 74. Former Sen. Tim Johnson, D-S.D., is 72. Rock singer-musician Edgar Winter is 72. Funk musician Joseph "Zigaboo" Modeliste (The Meters) is 70. Actor Denzel Washington is 64. TV personality Gayle King is 64. Country singer Joe Diffie is 60. Country musician Mike McGuire (Shenandoah) is 60. Actor Chad McQueen is 58. Country singer-musician Marty Roe (Diamond Rio) is 58. Actor Malcolm Gets is 55. Actor Mauricio Mendoza is 49. Actress Elaine Hendrix is 48. Talk show host Seth Meyers is 45. Actor Brendan Hines is 42. Actor Joe Manganiello is 42. Actress Vanessa Ferlito is 41. Rhythm-and-blues singer John Legend is 40. Rapper-musician-producer Terrace Martin is 40. Actor Andre Holland is 39. Actress Sienna Miller is 37. Actress Beau Garrett (TV: "The Good Doctor") is 36. Pop singer Kasey Sheridan (Dream) is 32. Actor Thomas Dekker is 31. Actress Mackenzie Rosman is 29. Pop singer David Archuleta is 28. Actress Mary-Charles Jones (TV: "Kevin Can Wait") is 17. Actor Miles Brown is 14.

Thought for Today: "Let no one underestimate the need of pity. We live in a stony universe whose hard, brilliant forces rage fiercely." - Theodore Dreiser, American author (born 1871, died this date in 1945).

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
paulstevens46@gmail.com

Connecting newsletter, 14719 W 79th Ter, Lenexa, KS 66215

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