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Connecting - January 21, 2019

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Connecting

January 21, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning - as our nation celebrates Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

It is with sadness that Connecting brings news of the death of our colleague **Fran Mears**, who held a variety of news and administrative positions with the AP including Baltimore chief of bureau over a 40-year career in journalism. She was 66.

She died Saturday morning after a battle with cancer, said her husband, **Walter R. Mears**, Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist and AP vice president, from their home in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, where she had been under hospice care.



Her death resulted in an outpouring of love and respect for Fran in emails to Walter and in Facebook posts, and Walter relayed to Connecting his thanks for the support.

"I want to thank everyone for their thoughts and apologize for my inability to answer them all," he said. "The outpouring is overwhelming. And appreciated. She was modest about her achievements and tended to talk most about mine. Hers were matchless, so many journalists remembering how she got them their starts and helped them along the way. More lasting and more important than any prize certificate."

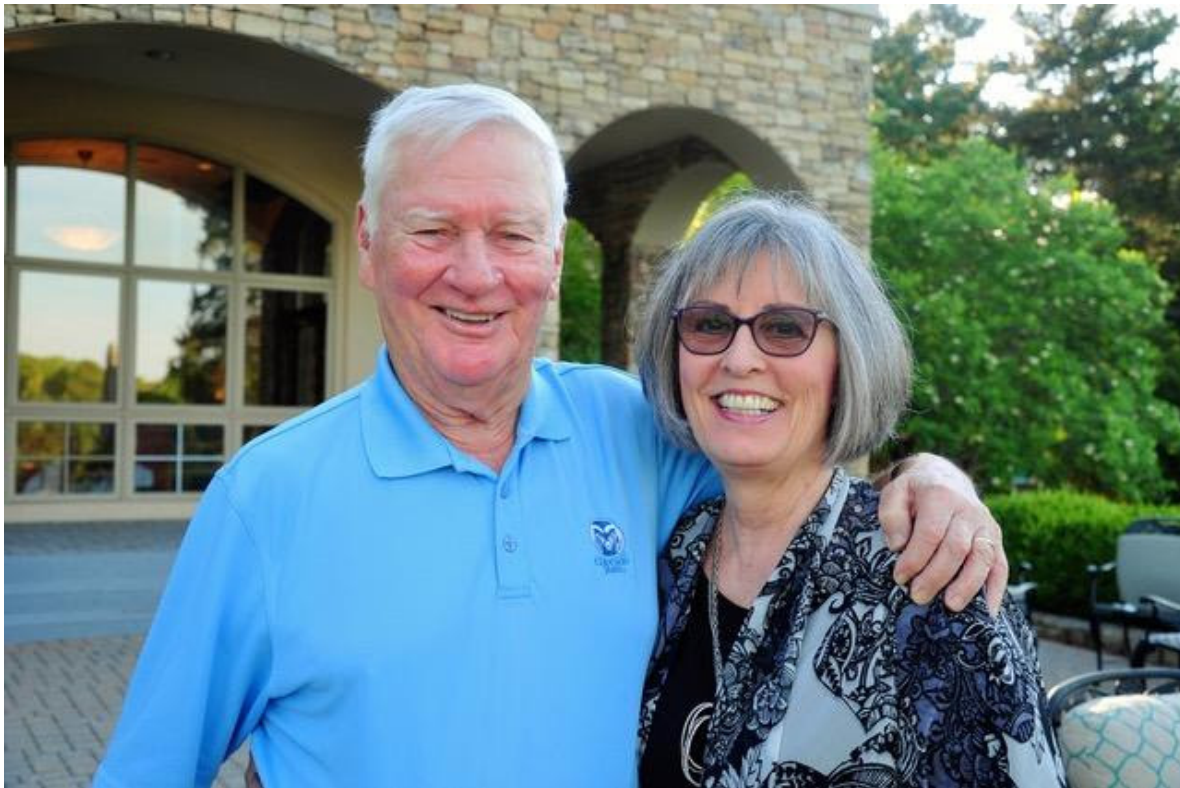
Details for a memorial service in Chapel Hill will be announced early this week and will be made available in Connecting. Click [here](#) for a link to her obituary. If you would like to share a favorite memory of Fran, please send it along. **Walter's email is - wmears111@gmail.com**

Today's issue brings you memories of Martin Luther King Jr. from those who covered him.

Have a good week!

Paul

Frances R. Mears, longtime AP reporter and manager, dies



Fran and Walter Mears (2017 photo by Dick Knapp, Chapel Hill Magazine)

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP) - Frances R. Mears, an Associated Press reporter, editor and bureau chief during a journalism career that spanned more than 40 years, died Saturday. She was 66.

Mears had been ill with cancer, said her husband, Walter R. Mears, the Pulitzer Prize-winning political writer and retired AP vice president.

After more than a decade in newspaper journalism, Fran Mears - then known as Fran Richardson - joined the AP in Indianapolis, serving there initially as a legislative reporter and broadcast editor. In 1990, she was named news editor for Indiana after a brief hiatus from the AP when she was public relations director of the Hoosier Lottery.

Mears was promoted to assistant chief of bureau for Kansas and Missouri, based in Kansas City, in 1992. She was a key editor in coverage of massive flooding in the Midwest in the 1990s and of the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing.

"She was smart, had strong news instincts and got along well with a staff of diverse personalities that you find in most any AP bureau," said Paul Stevens, who became bureau chief in Indianapolis when Mears worked there and later brought her to Kansas City. "She had a wonderful knack for working with our members."

Mears moved to Washington in 1996 to serve as manager of marketing communications in the Broadcast News Center. In 1997 she was appointed chief of bureau for Maryland and Delaware, based in Baltimore.

She left the AP in 2000 to become managing editor for news of the Gannett News Service in Washington, and retired in 2005.

"Her upbeat style and energy inspired many of us. She managed Gannett politics with a smile, always determined to get things done despite daily distractions. She showed the rest of us how to focus on good stories and ignore the rest," said Tom Curley, a former president and publisher of USA Today and senior vice president of its parent, Gannett Co. Curley later was AP's president and CEO.

Added Susan Page, the Washington bureau chief for USA Today: "Fran was a problem-solver, a leader, a mentor for those who followed her, a generous person. And a friend."

Mears was born in Laconia, New Hampshire, on Dec. 14, 1952, to Edward and Anita Rioux. The family moved to Clearwater, Florida, where she attended high school.



Fran in 1997 Photo/Cliff Schiappa

She was graduated magna cum laude in 1978 from Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, with bachelor's degrees in journalism and natural resources.

Before joining the AP she worked for the Indianapolis News, the New Castle (Indiana) Courier-Times and the Clearwater (Florida) Sun. She also served as training coordinator in the executive education program at the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University's Indianapolis campus.

Fran Richardson met her future husband in 1994 at a conference of Kansas and Missouri AP editors and publishers. Walter Mears was guest speaker and she was tasked with looking after his arrangements, a temporary assignment that became a permanent one when they were married in 1997.

In 2005, the year she retired, the couple moved from Arlington, Virginia, to Chapel Hill. She worked in public service through nonprofit organizations, including the Chatham County Literacy Council and Circles, an organization working with women and families in need. She also was active in Christ United Methodist Church of Chapel Hill.

Survivors include daughter Dawn Elise Snipes, stepdaughters Stephanie Stich and Susan Mears, and grandchildren Sean and Haley Snipes, Nathaniel and Madeline Stich, and Brynne, Tristan and Aidan Wiemer.

Stevens, now retired from the AP, recalled how Mears, "a wonderful, caring person," had managed to balance her early career as a journalist with raising a daughter as a single mother. And, he said, over the years she never lost her love of Jimmy Buffett's music, remaining a proud Parrothead.

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

Sharing your memories of Fran Mears

Karen Ball (Email) - Fran had the rare gift of putting people at ease in an instant through her genuine warmth and exuberance. I don't think she ever felt a negative impulse; her instinct was always upbeat. She welcomed the world. I had already moved on from the Kansas City bureau when she arrived, but Kansas City was my home base, so naturally our paths crossed. When a political campaign or family visit brought me to town, I was eager to see her. My new friend Fran became my old friend Fran in a matter of minutes, through a process that seemed magical. Though we weren't far apart in age, she was an old soul whose nurturing spirit seemed to whisper, "Come in from the cold. I'll get you a cup of soup."

Meanwhile, by moving to Washington I'd been blessed to get to know the AP's legendary Walter Mears. Those who really know Walter understand that he has his own aura of warmth and kindness. Yet I doubt that he fully appreciates how much it meant to a younger reporter when he stopped by your desk to talk shop, or spoke highly of your story. "What's the lede, Walter?" will forever encapsulate his professional gifts of speed and wisdom, but more important to me--to many of us--is Walter's equally unerring personal sense for human relationships and kindness.

So the first time I saw Fran and Walter together, it was as if two puzzle pieces had snapped into place. They belonged together. His eyes glittered as he looked at her with a brightness I hadn't seen there before, and his smile broadened by a yard. It was so obvious how perfect she was for him; she touched the happiest chambers of



his heart. He walked with a lighter step, and when he announced that he was retiring from the AP, I knew they were headed for an adventure. I so wish the adventure had lasted longer.

The last time I spoke to Fran, I mentioned that my daughter might want to attend college in the Raleigh-Durham area. Without missing a beat, Fran offered to be her surrogate mom, complete with laundry room and home-cooked meals. For the first time, I felt OK with the prospect of sending my baby to an unknown city 1,000 miles away. I knew the offer was genuine. I knew my daughter would be safe and cared for. All because I knew Fran.

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Jacqueline Cook ([Email](#)) - I joined the AP in Indianapolis just a few months out of college, and I was beyond green. When I met Fran, I was more than a little intimidated. She was always working on five things at once and expected that when she assigned you something, it would get done. I would watch her, wide-eyed, and wonder how in the world she got it all done -- and got it done so well. She could take a pile of phoned-in notes from a reporter and turn it into an a-wire story in a half hour. But what I will always remember about Fran is that she 100 percent believed I could do the job, even when I wasn't so sure. She sent me to so many stories I would never have sent a rookie to -- and every time I knew she was behind me if I stumbled (and I did stumble). I followed her career after she left Indy, and I was so happy she built a wonderful new life with Walter and their family. She deserved every happiness her all-too-short life brought her.

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Lisa Greathouse ([Email](#)) - Fran was one of the first people I met when I joined the Indianapolis AP bureau in July 1985. I was 23 at the time and didn't know a soul in Indy, having just moved from Albany. That's when Fran, who was a single mom, took me under her wing. She took me out to dinner my first night in the bureau and, in the few years we worked together, I was always in awe of her intelligence, instincts as a reporter, humor and wit (what a great laugh she had!) - but most of all, her kindness.

She truly was one of a kind and certainly made a difference in my life and in so many others.

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Lindel Hutson (Email) - Fran came to the AP from the Indianapolis News in 1982.

As Indy news editor, I appreciated her journalistic skills, and also her people skills.

Both are important at AP so it didn't take Fran very long to grow into the job.

She became the Indy broadcast editor and handled the job very well. Especially when it came to cultivating members and asking them to share their stories.

Fran had an incredible knack for mining newsworthy stories from across the state. Her writing and editing skills were exceptional. It was obvious she would be moving up the AP ladder.

She was a single mom and I admired her ability to juggle a demanding AP schedule in a busy bureau and at the same time raise her daughter, Dawn.

Through it all, she had the strength to keep a smile on her face and a knack for lighting up the room with a laugh even in the darkest of times.

Fran was a terrific journalist, a great lady and a friend. Her laugh will stay with me forever.

My sincerely condolences to Walter, Dawn and other members of the family.

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Diane Balk Palguta (Email) - It's hard to believe it was decades ago that Fran brightened AP Indianapolis. Somehow even when a life has been full the departure is too soon. When I think of the word "vivacious", I will always think of Fran.

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Joyce Rosenberg (Email) - I met Fran a couple of times, and the first was when my husband, Marty Sutphin, and I were visiting Washington and we had dinner with Fran and Walter. It wasn't long after they had gotten married, and it was a joy to see how happy they were. It was especially gratifying for Marty, who had worked together so closely and shared so many personal moments with Walter. I am so sorry, and wish Walter and Fran's family and friends peace from wonderful memories of this lovely, so talented woman.

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Fran Richardson and Walter Mears are surrounded by Kansas City friends during a 1996 Christmas season dinner at Cliff Schiappa and Brad Harris' home. Seated, left to right, are Harris, Mears, Richardson, Kenny Burden and his wife Lisa Correu. Standing are Schiappa, Dan White, and Michelle LaPointe. Cliff and Brad's pets in the photo are Schatzie (laying in foreground) Oscar (sitting up at right) and the tuxedo cat Walter (held by Brad) named after the Pulitzer Prize Winning journalist sitting next to him.

Cliff Schiappa (Email) - When Fran arrived in Kansas City as ACoB, we struck up a wonderful relationship that began with a getting-to-know-you bottle of wine that turned into two bottles. Her vivacious personality struck me as perfect in her role of working with members and also becoming a friend with me and my then-partner Brad. We would gather at my home to grill and banter with our group of friends, and later welcomed Walter into the mix after they met in that serendipitous manner during a publishers meeting.

After her move to D.C., Fran served up lunch for me and my traveling buds at her home during a motorcycle trip to the east coast.

As anyone who knew Fran will attest, her smile, open heart, and quick wit was her calling card both professionally and personally.

My sincere sympathy goes out to Walter, Dawn, and all who will miss her dearly.

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Paul Stevens (Email) - Fran Richardson was on the news staff when I came to Indianapolis in 1982 as chief of bureau - and it was immediately clear to me that she had that "it factor" that would take her to bigger and better things in her career. She was smart, had strong news instincts and got along well with a staff of diverse personalities that you find in most any AP bureau. She had a wonderful knack for working with our members - skills that served her well in later roles as the bureau's broadcast editor and then news editor.

More importantly, she was a wonderful, caring person and a single mom who balanced her career and the raising of her daughter Dawn - who blossomed into a woman who has made her mom so proud.

We worked together until I got the call to become Kansas City chief of bureau in 1984 and six years later, when assistant chief of bureau Eva Parziale was promoted to bureau chief in Portland, Oregon, Fran applied for her job - one of many excellent candidates - and I selected her for the role in one of AP's largest two-state operations. It was clear to me in no short order that she was destined to follow in Eva's path and become a chief of bureau - and that achievement came when she eventually earned the Baltimore CoB position.

Fran worked well with the staff and our members as she learned the administrative end of running a bureau. But perhaps what she gained most from being in Kansas City came quite by accident, or fate, during our annual AP editors-publishers meeting when she met for the first time Walter Mears, who was our keynote speaker. They connected - and it was the beginning of what turned out to be a great marriage for them both as they combined families and took on together the roles of parents and grandparents.

I learned about Fran's battle with cancer last August when I asked her and Walter to write a profile for Connecting. She told me it had spread and was not curable but that her doctors hoped it could be managed with chemotherapy scheduled through the end of the year. She said she was optimistic that they would be correct. "We are hopeful and believe God is looking out for us," she wrote. "He certainly has brought lots of love and caring into our world from places we wouldn't have expected."

Fran made my world - and that of many, many others - all the better by being a part of it. I will miss her greatly.

Memories of Martin Luther King Jr.

Henry Bradsher (Email) - Reporting the 1956 bus boycott in Montgomery led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. while working for the outstanding AP bureau chief there, Rex Thomas, was a challenging and engrossing experience. At its conclusion, I was on the first bus trip with King the morning after a December 20 federal court order ended the city's bus segregation. I dictated a report to Rex from a drug store pay phone. But six months later, after covering some post-boycott violence, I dropped out of civil rights reporting. When King was stabbed at a book signing in New York City, I was working the overnight foreign desk, awaiting an overseas assignment.

Shortly after I arrived at AP New Delhi in February 1959, King and his wife came to town on a sponsored trip to see the land of Mohandas K. Gandhi, one of his inspirations. At the Gandhi museum, King recognized me - but he probably didn't remember my name - and politely gave me a few quotes. This was, however, an obscure period for him, before his leadership of the civil rights struggle took off at the beginning of the 1960s. My story of his India visit probably didn't get much play.

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Eldon Cort (Email) - When I was a TTS/teletype operator in Montgomery, beginning my lifelong career with AP in approximately 1957, I received a phone call from the photo editor in Atlanta.

"Eldon, do you have access to a camera? There is a young black preacher, at a church on Dexter avenue, that looks promising. Here in Atlanta, we think that one day he will be famous and would like to have 'file photos' of him.

"Would you go to the church and do a photo session with him, just getting standard type pictures of him preaching, studying, etc., at the church?"

I did and the rest is history. I was one of the early photographers to get photos of Martin L King, and I know that opportunity was because of my dad, Horace Cort, photographer in the Atlanta bureau.

Kinda wish I had made another roll of photos, on that old Yashica Mat 120 camera, keeping it to "reveal" 30 or 40 years later as unpublished photos!

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AP Photos/Gene Herrick

Gene Herrick ([Email](#)) - Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., the embattled preacher and one of the great orators of our time, and the person credited with the start of the Civil Rights movement, is honored today for his 90th birthday, which was actually on Jan.15.

Rev. King's first step into history was in 1955, when Rosa Parks, a black woman, was arrested in Montgomery, Ala., for refusing to move from the "White section" to the "Black section," of a city bus. Rev. King, had, not long before, taken over as the pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery. He started the movement of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, which spread world-wide, which also changed laws concerning black people's civil rights in this nation.

As an Associated Press photographer, I covered those historic days in Montgomery. King used his church pulpit to not only talk about the typical religious subjects, but he also stimulated the congregation into action, as well as folk's nation-wide, and later world-wide. Many times I covered him giving sermons, which had the rafters echoing the vibrancy of his commanding voice, and the subject matter of the new Civil Rights Movement. Dr. King's voice was spellbinding and extremely oratory. One had to listen.

However, King was arrested in early January 1956. On March 22, 1956 I took a picture of King being kissed on the cheek by his wife, Coretta, as well-wishers cheered, on his release from a court hearing. That picture has received broad use, as was the other picture of Rosa Parks being fingerprinted. Both pictures are hanging in the hallway of the AP's New York home office.

Connecting mailbox

A famed AP photo topic on Jeopardy

Lindel Hutson ([Email](#)) - This from last Thursday's Jeopardy episode: a \$400 question under the category ``Fer Sure it was the `80s."

`AP's Jeff Widener said he thought on June 5, 1989 ``(that) guy's going to screw up my picture" in this Beijing Square.'

Answered correctly: ``What is Tiananmen Square."

For those who have forgotten, Widener's photo of a Chinese dissident who stood in front of a tank and would not let it pass was the most-used photo of the event. He shot it from the sixth-floor balcony of the Beijing Hotel about half a mile away. The image was taken using a Nikon FE2 camera through a Nikkor 400mm 5.6ED-IF lens and TC-301 teleconverter. According to Wikipedia, his photo has widely been known as one of the most iconic photos of all time.

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Shooting the (super) moon



Two Connecting colleagues - Vietnam photojournalists who won Pulitzer Prizes for their work - shoot the Super Blood Wolf Moon Sunday night with the Lunartics photo workshop. Nick Ut (left) and David Kennerly, former UPI in Saigon. One of Nick's photos is below.



Best of the Week

Multiformat exclusive: Thousands of child and adolescent brides enter US - legally



Naila Amin, 26, poses at Nassau Community College in Garden City, N.Y., Feb. 2, 2016. "My passport ruined my life," said Amin, a dual citizen from Pakistan who grew up in New York City. She was forcibly married at 13 in Pakistan and applied for papers for her 26-year-old husband to come to the U.S. "People die to come to America. I was a passport to him." According to data provided to The Associated Press, the U.S. approved thousands of requests by men to bring child and teenage brides from another country. AP Photo / Kathy Kmonicek

You know your scoop has touched a nerve when it gets tweeted by both Ann Coulter and Chelsea Clinton.

Such was the case with Colleen Long's multiplatform APNewsBreak that the U.S. approved thousands of requests by men to have their child or adolescent brides admitted to the United States. The story not only pointed to problems in immigration law, but also lax state laws that make immigration by child brides possible. While it seems no issue is more divisive in this country than immigration, the story highlighted a little-known problem that is of bipartisan concern. The story got widespread attention, casting a spotlight on an immigration problem that's been

totally overshadowed by debates over issues like the wall and Central American convoys.

It started with a tip from Ron Nixon, AP's new international investigations editor. Nixon, a longtime homeland security reporter at The New York Times, had been told by a source that data requested nearly a year ago by the Senate Homeland Security Committee would be startling.

Nixon passed the information to Long, the Washington-based homeland security reporter, who contacted committee staff and persuaded them to give her the story exclusively. She also talked them into giving her a few extra days of reporting to allow for time to reach out to real people. She wanted to get beyond the striking data to give readers a sense of how the issue affects women's lives. She spoke with women who had been married as children, plus advocates who have long tried to bring the issue to light. Video journalist Robert Bumsted interviewed one of the women and an advocate, weaving in a D.C.-based interview with Sen. Ron Johnson, the committee chairman, to create a compelling video story. Photos and graphics accompanied the piece.

On a busy news day, the story was one of the most widely used, with 437 customer interactions within hours of it coming out and more than 2,500 retweets. It appeared on the front of many news websites, including the Miami Herald and USA Today, was cited on NPR and was posted on Facebook by NBC, CBS, the Miami Herald, ProPublica and the New York Post, among others. Long discussed the story on the "Press Play" program of NPR's Los Angeles affiliate, KCRW. The video piece also had a strong showing, receiving 7,300 YouTube streams and 27 total customer downloads.

For revealing a loophole in immigration policy that raises concerns over security and exploitation, and for connecting the data to women victimized by the policy, Colleen Long wins this week's Best of the AP.

Best of the States

APNewsBreak: Au pairs win \$65.5M in suit over US pay



Attorneys, from left, David Seligman, Nina DiSalvo and Alexander Hood of Towards Justice pose outside the organization's office east of downtown Denver, Dec. 20, 2018. Companies that brought young workers from around the globe to provide low-cost child care for American families have offered \$65.5-million in federal court to settle a class-action lawsuit originally filed by Towards Justice in 2014. Nearly 100,000 au pairs since 2009 have a stake in the case. AP Photo / David Zalubowski

The Au Pair cultural exchange program provides U.S. families with low-cost child care, but former au pairs said they were also asked to feed chickens, help families move and do gardening - all while working at below minimum wage. That prompted a judge to grant class-action status to 11 former au pairs last February, and drew the attention of Denver breaking news staffer Colleen Slevin, whose in-depth study of the case paid off with a significant scoop: a major settlement against 15 au pair companies. Up to 100,000 former au pairs who worked in the U.S. since 2009 had a stake in the outcome of the case.

After the initial ruling Slevin spent the next 11 months handling breaking news across three states while learning all about the world of au pairs, federal labor laws and cultural exchange visas while conducting interviews, such as one with a former au pair who said she felt like a slave.

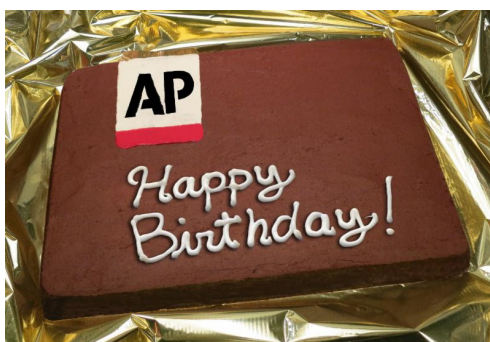
Slevin immersed herself in the world of au pairs while covering breaking news in her region.

She also built a relationship with the attorneys for the au pairs, who alerted her toward the end of last year that a settlement was in the works. She negotiated with them to give her exclusive notice when the \$65.5 million settlement was filed last week.

The result was an APNewsBreak on the settlement that went unmatched for hours and received play around the world. The story appeared on the front page of the Seattle Times among other standout play in U.S. members. It also received more than 300 hits on NewsWhip.

For her perseverance in building sources and tracking a story of international interest, all while covering regional breaking news, Slevin wins the week's Best of the States award.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Byron Yake - byron.yake@gmail.com

Stories of interest

BuzzFeed News in Limbo Land (New York Times)



"We are confident that our reporting will stand up," said Ben Smith, the editor in chief of BuzzFeed News. Photo by Drew Angerer/Getty Images

By Jim Rutenberg

This is, in many respects, a golden age for journalism.

With a president facing multiple federal and state inquiries - including one into whether a foreign government helped get him elected - the press has come through with some investigative work that can stand with the finest Watergate-era reporting.

Among readers and viewers, there's a new appreciation for shoe-leather reporting. Clicks and subscriptions are up, welcome news for an industry in shaky financial shape.

But the ultimate prize has proved elusive for the scoop-hungry journalists competing to join the reporters' pantheon alongside Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, whose methodical news-gathering for The Washington Post helped bring down a president alleged to have broken the law.

The perils of the chase were plain to see on Friday night, when the office of the special counsel issued a public denial of what had been widely portrayed as a "bombshell report" from BuzzFeed News.

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

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1 big thing: The reckoning (Axios, by Mike Allen)

Last night's rare on-the-record statement from the Mueller team is a reckoning that journalism had coming: Amid some of the most impressive reporting of our lifetimes, there's plenty of questionable coverage in this shock-a-minute era.

Jonathan Swan points out that BuzzFeed's report that President Trump directed Michael Cohen to lie to Congress, if true, would put this presidency at existential risk.

The story, as written, as as clean as it gets: Trump directed Cohen to lie about the Trump Tower in Moscow project, and there's tons of evidence to support that.

Very rarely has a story been so unequivocal - usually there are more hedges and acknowledgments of what isn't known.

And unlike most other reportage in this saga, this accused the president of a felony - a very different bar.

Democrats read the story and began immediately dreaming up articles of impeachment.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Jenny Volanakis.

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For local female journalists in US, rape threats, stalkers, harassment can come with the beat
(Committee to Protect Journalists)

By Avi Asher-Schapiro/CPJ North America Research Associate and Lucy Westcott/CPJ James W. Foley Fellow

In 2016, the FBI told a local TV journalist that she wasn't safe sleeping in her own home. Her TV station, which covers a major American city, hired an off-duty police officer to guard the parking lot when she arrived at work. Even for a journalist covering organized crime, such measures may seem extreme--but her beat is much less fraught: she covers light-hearted local news and sport.

The journalist, whose name is being withheld by CPJ to protect her safety, had been targeted by a stalker. The man had sent her child pornography, and threatened to find her, rape her and, if she told the police, kill her.

"These were really tough days, scary days," she told CPJ in a recent phone call. "This wasn't some creepy guy with a crush, this was somebody threatening my life." A suspect is currently awaiting trial, she said.

American journalists are increasingly on alert. The fatal shootings at the Capital Gazette newspaper in June put a spotlight on the dangers local reporters can face from the very communities they cover, and a bomb mailed into the CNN newsroom underscored the broad nature of the threat. Meanwhile, President Donald Trump has continued with his anti-press rhetoric, calling the media "the enemy of the people."

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

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Technology near for real-time TV political fact checks

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) - A Duke University team expects to have a product available for election year that will allow television networks to offer real-time fact checks onscreen when a politician makes a questionable claim during a speech or debate.

The mystery is whether any network will choose to use it.

The response to President Donald Trump's Jan. 8 speech on border security illustrated how fact-checking is likely to be an issue over the next two years. Networks briefly considered not airing Trump live and several analysts contested some of his statements afterward, but nobody questioned him while he was speaking.

Duke already offers an app, developed by professor and Politifact founder Bill Adair, that directs users to online fact checks during political events. A similar product has been tested for television, but is still not complete.

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

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Freelance journalist killed amid new round of Libya clashes

BENGHAZI, Libya (AP) - A freelance journalist who contributed to The Associated Press and other news organizations was killed Saturday in the Libyan capital, a colleague said.

Mohamed Ben Khalifa, who was in his 30s, was hit by shrapnel while accompanying a militia patrolling the Qaser Bin Ghashir area south of Tripoli, said Hamza Turkia, also a freelance journalist.

The militia came under attack by another armed group, said Turkia. He said there was gunfire, and that a missile was also fired.

Ben Khalifa, a photographer and video journalist, is survived by his wife and a 7-month-old daughter, another colleague said.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

The Final Word

What have the last 10 years been like for you?

(Poynter)



Kristen Hare, far right, reporting for the St. Joseph News-Press, sometime before 2008.

By KRISTEN HARE

2008 is an easy year for me to remember clearly. It's the year I left my first and only daily newspaper.

I didn't leave because of the tidal waves of cultural, technological and economic changes that were just about to hit journalism. I left because I was a new mom.

The St. Joseph (Missouri) News-Press did everything I asked in mid-2007 after I had my first child. I went part-time. I worked a few days from home. And I was just starting to figure out how to be a reporter and a mom when my husband found a job in a city across the state where my mom lived. It was a pay cut for him and a big unknown for me. But we'd be near family (and she had a finished basement).

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - January 21, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Jan. 21, the 21st day of 2019. There are 344 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 21, 1977, on his first full day in office, President Jimmy Carter pardoned almost all Vietnam War draft evaders.

On this date:

In 1793, during the French Revolution, King Louis XVI, condemned for treason, was executed on the guillotine.

In 1861, Jefferson Davis of Mississippi and four other Southerners whose states had seceded from the Union resigned from the U.S. Senate.

In 1908, New York City's Board of Aldermen passed an ordinance prohibiting women from smoking in public establishments (the measure was vetoed by Mayor George

B. McClellan Jr., but not before one woman, Katie Mulcahey, was jailed overnight for refusing to pay a fine).

In 1924, Russian revolutionary Vladimir Lenin died at age 53.

In 1950, former State Department official Alger Hiss, accused of being part of a Communist spy ring, was found guilty in New York of lying to a grand jury. (Hiss, who proclaimed his innocence, served less than four years in prison.)

In 1954, the first atomic submarine, the USS Nautilus, was launched at Groton (GRAH'-tuhn), Connecticut (however, the Nautilus did not make its first nuclear-powered run until nearly a year later).

In 1958, Charles Starkweather, 19, killed three relatives of his 14-year-old girlfriend, Caril Ann Fugate, at her family's home in Lincoln, Nebraska. (Starkweather and Fugate went on a road trip which resulted in seven more slayings; Starkweather was eventually executed while Fugate spent 17 years in prison despite maintaining she was a hostage, not an accomplice.)

In 1968, the North Vietnamese Army launched a full-scale assault against the U.S. combat base in Khe Sanh, South Vietnam, in a siege lasting 11 weeks; although the Americans were able to hold back the communists, they ended up dismantling and abandoning the base.

In 1982, convict-turned-author Jack Henry Abbott was found guilty in New York of first-degree manslaughter in the stabbing death of waiter Richard Adan in 1981. (Abbott was later sentenced to 15 years to life in prison; he committed suicide in 2002.)

In 1997, Speaker Newt Gingrich was reprimanded and fined as the House voted for the first time in history to discipline its leader for ethical misconduct.

In 1998, Pope John Paul II began a historic pilgrimage to Cuba. Actor Jack Lord of "Hawaii Five-O" fame died in Honolulu at age 77.

In 2003, The Census Bureau announced that Hispanics had surpassed blacks as America's largest minority group.

Ten years ago: In a whirlwind first full day in office, President Barack Obama showcased efforts to revive the economy, summoned top military officials to chart a new course in Iraq and eased into the daunting thicket of Middle East diplomacy. The Senate confirmed Hillary Rodham Clinton as secretary of state.

Five years ago: Former Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell, once viewed as a rising star in the GOP, and his wife, Maureen, were indicted on federal corruption charges; the couple denied wrongdoing. (A jury in Sept. 2014 convicted the McDonnells of doing favors for former Star Scientific CEO Jonnie Williams in exchange for more than \$165,000 in low-interest loans and gifts. Their convictions were later overturned as the U.S. Supreme Court narrowed the definition of public corruption.)

One year ago: Security forces in Afghanistan brought an end to an overnight siege by Taliban militants at the Intercontinental Hotel in Kabul; four American citizens were among 22 people killed in the 13-hour attack. "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri" swept the Screen Actors Guild Awards with wins for best ensemble, best actress for Frances McDormand, and best supporting actor for Sam Rockwell. The Philadelphia Eagles stunned the Minnesota Vikings, 38-7, in the NFC title game to advance to the Super Bowl against the New England Patriots, who had scored a 24-20 comeback win over the Jacksonville Jaguars in the AFC title game. (The Eagles would go on to win their first Super Bowl.)

Today's Birthdays: World Golf Hall of Famer Jack Nicklaus is 79. Opera singer-conductor Placido Domingo is 78. Singer Mac Davis is 77. Actress Jill Eikenberry is 72. Country musician Jim Ibbotson is 72. Singer-songwriter Billy Ocean is 69. Former U.S. Ambassador to China Gary Locke is 69. Former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder is 68. Actor-director Robby Benson is 63. Actress Geena Davis is 63. Basketball Hall of Famer Hakeem Olajuwon is 56. Actress Charlotte Ross is 51. Actor John Ducey is 50. Actress Karina Lombard is 50. Actor Ken Leung is 49. Rapper Levirt (B-Rock and the Bizz) is 49. Rock musician Mark Trojanowski (Sister Hazel) is 49. Rock singer-songwriter Cat Power is 47. Rock DJ Chris Kilmore (Incubus) is 46. Actor Vincent Laresca is 45. Singer Emma Bunton (Spice Girls) is 43. Actor Jerry Trainor is 42. Country singer Phil Stacey is 41. Rhythm-and-blues singer Nokio (Dru Hill) is 40. Actress Izabella Miko (MEE'-koh) is 38. Actor Luke Grimes is 35. Actress Feliz Ramirez is 27.

Thought for Today: "The road to ruin is always in good repair, and the travellers pay the expense of it." - Josh Billings (Henry Wheeler Shaw), American humorist (1818-1885).

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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