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Connecting - February 12, 2019

1 message

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Tue, Feb 12, 2019 at 8:59 AM

Reply-To: paulstevens46@gmail.com

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Connecting

February 12, 2019

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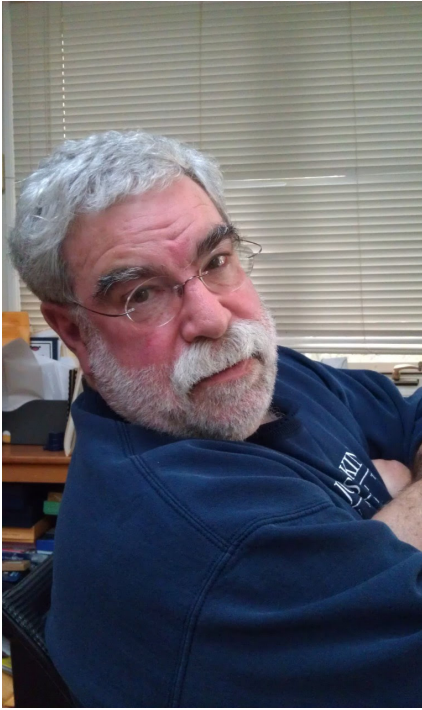
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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning!

During the Vietnam War, journalists who worked in the AP's Saigon bureau were among the very best in the news cooperative. Many moved on to highly successful careers in the AP and with other news organizations.



Repps Hudson

One of them is **Repps Hudson**, a Connecting colleague who teaches journalism and international affairs at Washington University and St. Louis Community College after a 34-year newspaper career at The Kansas City Times and the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

His tenure in Saigon was brief, but the memories and the impact on his long career in journalism were lasting - to this day.

Hudson was an Army infantry officer during the Vietnam War and led a platoon in the First Infantry Division, based at Lai Khe north of Saigon. After his duty ended, he returned to Vietnam to marry a woman he met there and fate would bring him to the AP's Saigon bureau.

One of people he counts as the most influential to his career was **George McArthur**, AP's Saigon bureau chief at the time Hudson worked there who as an AP foreign correspondent had reported all over the world. McArthur died in 2013 at the age of 88.

He tells the story in our lead for today's Connecting.

Have a great day!

Paul

AP Saigon bureau, 1969: 'What a place to begin'

Repps Hudson ([Email](#)) - In March 1969, after separating from the Army at Ft. Lewis, Wash., I boarded a Braniff International flight and headed back to Vietnam to marry a woman I met at the First Infantry Division's base camp in Lai Khe about 25 miles north of Saigon.

In my billfold, I carried \$400. That should be enough to get me through the process of getting married and a passport and visa for my new wife, I thought.

Then I ran into the notorious South Vietnamese bureaucracy. We were staying at the Saigon apartment of an American who was working as a contractor. I met him once, but I didn't find out what he did. It didn't matter.



Repps in base camp, 1968

My fiance and I quickly learned that we couldn't get married soon, within a week or two. Nor could we get her passport and U.S. visa. Things were going to move very slowly, in part because I had no extra money - and I refused to pay a bribe, which could have made things happen faster.

My high school English teacher had told me I could write, and I had been co-editor of our mimeographed, two-page, bi-weekly school newspaper, *Tales of Troy* (in sports, we were the Trojans). We sold it for 2 cents in the lunch line.

With Miss Sutton's words in my head, I began going to news bureaus in Saigon, hoping to find something that involved writing for which I could get paid.

At the suggestion of Felix Bolo, bureau chief of Agence France Presse (AFP), I wandered into the Associated Press office in the Eden Building in the heart of Saigon, at the intersection of Le Loi and Nguyen Hue and a block from the National Assembly building. He said an A.P. reporter had been injured, and perhaps the office was short-handed.

I was not a newspaper reader, and I hardly knew what the A.P. was and did, and I had no appointment.

Yet the bureau chief, George McArthur, invited me in and interviewed me. He told me he might hire me and pay me week to week. Sometimes, he said, he might not be able to do so. It depended upon how much he had in his office fund.

That was fine with me. I had no idea, really, about the opportunity he was giving me by letting me work with and learn from such skilled and colorful professionals as himself, Ed White, George Esper, Peter Arnett, Dick Pyle, David Mason, Horst Faas, Henri Huet, Nick Ut and Carl Robinson.



This 1972 file photo shows once-and-future bureau chiefs at The Associated Press' Saigon bureau, from left, George Esper (1973-75), Malcolm Browne (1961-64), George McArthur (1968-69), Edwin Q. White (1965-67), and Richard Pyle (1970-73). (AP Photo)

That first day, George (McArthur) told me to write something and bring it to him the next morning. I found an old Underwood 5 and typed out something about how the Vietnamese landscape was smoking from so many fires as I flew into Saigon.

He must have liked what I wrote.

I think he said something like at least I could write a decent sentence. So he took me on for \$100 a week, green money. He even showed me how to change the dollars he would pay me with an Indian guy in the Australian news office downstairs in the Eden Building.

That guy would call someone and speak in his native language, quote the current black market rate, hand me piasters and tuck my dollars into his sock. That way my bride-to-be and I could live week to week. We had a cold-water flat out near Tan Son Nhut airport where civilian planes came and went, and the U.S. military had a large installation.

Naïve country boy that I was, I was shocked that George was showing me a bit about the dollar black market, but he quickly straightened me out. This is how the

world works, he said. This is how you have to get along. Accept it. (The part of me that didn't accept it helped me to become a pretty good editorial writer for 16 years.)

For more than 40 years, George has remained in my mind's eye as a model in this profession I love so very much. Early on, he let me read the dupes of his vignettes, those short, beautifully written portraits of the men of the war he had known.

His pretext for hiring me and letting me hang around the office every day was that I was to teach English to Dang Van Phuoc, an A.P. photographer who had lost an eye while covering a battle.

Soon I was writing cutline for photos that were to be wired to New York. One day I started snooping through the negatives and found the strips from Eddie Adams' Pulitzer Prize-winning picture of a Vietnamese officer executing a suspected Viet Cong a Saigon street during the Tet Offensive in early 1968.

I often worked with George Esper, an obsessively dedicated reporter who wrote the noon and 5 p.m. roundups. On his typewriter were two bits of excellent advice: "Don't send nasty messages to New York" and "When there's no news, don't write it very fully."

Sometimes I'd walk into George's office and ask him questions. He was always patient with me. He even let me write a number of stories and a couple went out from New York on the A wire. No byline, of course, since I wasn't official, or Ed White put his name on a story of mine a couple of times.

In journalism classes over the years, I have quoted George repeatedly. I have thought so many times how I would explain a decision or a lede or a story to him, had I the opportunity.

Naturally, I wanted his approval and blessing as I moved through my various stages of journalism, mostly newspapers. So when I sent him my pieces about the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in November 1982, he commented on one word I used: *sanguine*.

It was too fancy, he said.

Of course, I never came anywhere close to achieving what he did in his very interesting, rich life based in Cairo and Paris before Vietnam. But his words of advice to me, way back when he brought me into the AP's Saigon office, are with me to this day.

When I visited Washington over the years, my visits with George and his wife, Eva Kim, were the high point.

Like my own father, I wanted George to know how I was getting along and at least to get a sense that he approved of me and my life's work. George gave me the kind of praise, restrained though it was, I didn't get at home.

I never was the kind of journalist he was, though I often wanted to be. I was too tied to my family, our family farm 75 miles northeast of Kansas City and that sort of thing.



George McArthur

I simply couldn't risk it all for the life of a foreign correspondent the way George had. But sometimes, on an overseas trip, like three weeks to Vietnam in 1988 or three times to the Middle East, I sort of came close.

And sometimes I fell short. Yet I continued to admire George and his exceptional life so much. I just wanted to talk with him every so often, to check in, to see how he was doing and get a measure of how I was doing too.

George gave probably me the best journalism advice I ever got. Early on, he told me to study something useful, like economics or political science or history, and learn journalism on my own.

He said if I couldn't do that, I shouldn't be in the profession. He even told me to learn to write for radio. It is economical prose. I did that a few summers ago for the local NPR station, and he was right. Writing for radio is hard.

His other bit of advice was this: Everyone needs an editor.

I majored in 19th and 20th century European and American history, which I love and respect and about which so many people don't know anything these days.

Then I pushed myself and got a master's in international affairs, which I find very useful and have for many years. George's emphasis on the right kind of education

for a journalist has stuck with me. A bonus is that my master's has let me develop a second career as a college-level teacher for 35 years.

Because George gave me a letter of recommendation when I left Saigon in July 1969 after four months in the bureau, I got hired as a cub reporter at *The Kansas City Times* at the age of 23. Soon I enrolled full time at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and worked 40 hours a week as a night-side reporter.

I was so full of ambition and energy in those days, and I wished many times I were working for George again. But I had to do my apprenticeship at a newspaper first.

Some *Times* editors were good, and some weren't. Some were mean and destructive and abusive. The *Times* was a hard newsroom in those days.

Still, I learned a lot from them too. I thought on bad days that none of the editors ever measured up to George as a mentor. He was such an elegant, wise man, and I found myself longing for his guidance many times.

Now I teach journalism at Washington University and St. Louis Community College. I tell students they must get at least one internship to see if they like asking questions, writing on deadline and becoming a little bit notorious.

In the back of my mind, I am thinking of those formative days at the A.P. in Saigon.

What a place to begin.

Regrets over career choices? Here are more of your views

Bill Wertz ([Email](#)) - Thanks to you and Adolphe for suggesting more discussion on what's happening in our chosen profession. I hope a lot of the "Collaborating" audience weighs in. For what it's worth, unlike the writer of the Florida LTE, I don't regret going into journalism. Quite the contrary.

I do share some of the concerns expressed in the letter, and I feel sure many others in the "Connecting" audience have similar views. But I remain proud of the fact that

the AP has remained generally on course over the years, staying off the rocks of overt partisanship on either side and guarding against the unconscious bias that Bernard Goldberg wrote about more than a decade ago.

At the risk of sounding like an old codger lamenting that the times are changing:

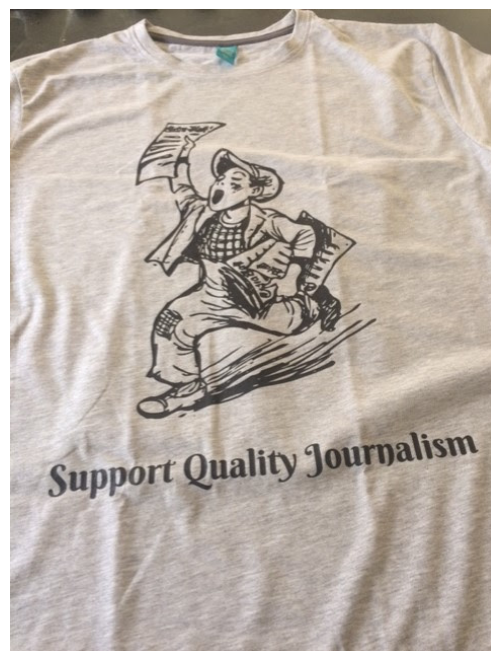
-- I am disappointed that so many respected news outlets have blurred if not eliminated the lines between news, news analysis and editorializing.

-- I hate to hear from friends still in the business that so many news staffs are now so financially constrained that reporters no longer have the "luxury" of working on stories that take more than a few hours to research and write.

-- I'm sorry to see that politicians and special interests now largely set the agenda for news coverage (all it takes to hijack a news cycle is making an outrageous claim or calling someone a provocative name) and that so many journalists are chasing the trivial and not keeping the focus on significant issues and real accomplishments.

-- And I think it's a shame that the value of a story is now measured in "clicks" rather than whether it has revealed something new and important, explained a complex topic in an understandable way or led to needed improvement in some area of people's lives.

Nevertheless, I still believe the media deserves a little slack for having had to respond to rapid and unprecedented changes in their environment, particularly the loss of advertising revenue in the new internet economy. In addition, politics and public discourse have generally become more hostile and unforgiving. Social media has become a platform for extremists at both ends of the spectrum and for millions with grudges, causes and special interests of all kinds. Members of Congress have become totally focused on their own re-election, which means endless self-promotion and doing nothing that might offend a potential donor or voter. Collaboration and compromise have come to be seen as signs of weakness and lack of character. Not surprising that journalism today is different than when most of us were in the trenches.



One positive thing we can all do is support the good journalism that is still being practiced. (See the photo of my new t-shirt above). One recent example is the great ProPublica piece on the collisions of two Navy warships and the astounding failures in basic seamanship that led to 27 fatalities. This is quality journalism by any standard, but particularly welcome in a political climate that seems to equate negative news about the military to lack of support for the brave men and women on the front lines.

This became a longer note than I intended, so apologies for staying on the soapbox too long!

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Bob Daugherty ([Email](#)) - I'm with Dave Tomlin. When the king has no clothes, I firmly believe it needs to be reported...hopefully with a nice photograph or two.

Connecting mailbox

Kristin Gazlay remembers her mom

Kristin Gazlay ([Email](#)) - My beautiful, loving, hilarious, whip-smart, beyond-original supernova of a mom left us Jan. 26. Petey was a glamorous life force who was laugh-out-loud funny, generous, extravagant, thoughtful and, yes, complicated, as we all are. She sent gifts J.B. ("just because"), did The New York Times crossword puzzle in pen up until her final days, traveled the world, loved watching "Judge Judy" but also "Masterpiece Theatre" and foreign films, always had an assortment of bracelets jangling on her arms, went nowhere without full makeup on, loved fine dining and was not un-fond of a cocktail. She could play the piano by ear, invariably come up with the correct "Jeopardy!" question, produce exquisite needlepoint work, make a mean butterscotch brownie and ... did I mention that she loved her wine? She was my cheerleader, my confidante, my partner in crime, my touchstone, my friend. She was my mother. And as lucky as I was to have had her for so long, it was not nearly long enough.



On her 83rd birthday

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'Newspaper in art' piece to be auctioned



Paul Albright ([Email](#)) - This "newspaper in art" piece is among 428 paintings to be auctioned March 21 in Cambridge, England. This painting is by Kenneth

Rowntree (1915-1997), a member of the Great Bardfield circle of artists based in Essex. More information on the auction is available [here](#).

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Thoughts on Annie Shooman, Baby Jessica and teamwork

Sylvia Wingfield (Email) - Annie (Shooman) and I worked different shifts and crossed paths for a relatively short time in the Boston bureau. She was a bright light in the office who helped me feel welcome after a big mid-life move. We lived in nearby North Shore towns and spent some time together off-duty. I remember a summer Saturday when her Charlie and my husband Will were busy. Annie and I got a little too much sun at beautiful Crane Beach in spite of a big umbrella, hats and SPF50.

So glad that Diana Heidgerd wrote about the rescue of baby Jessica McClure and the role of a local broadcast member in getting AP going on the story (see last Friday's Connecting). Diana has worked hard on those relationships. They are important to AP everywhere, but particularly in Texas, an enormous territory where news often draws national attention. "Baby Jessica" was one of those stories. It led to a Pulitzer Prize for photographer Scott Shane of The Odessa American, another AP member. (Our Eric Gay won his recognition from the Pulitzer committee later. He was an individual finalist for his work on the impact of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans.)

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Connecting colleagues honored by Kansas Press

Three Connecting colleagues - Doug Anstaett, Ned Valentine and Dena Sattler - were among those honored Friday night at the annual convention of the Kansas Press Association in Topeka.

Anstaett, former Newton Kansan publisher who retired as executive director of the KPA in 2018, and Valentine, editor and publisher of the Clay Center Dispatch for 50 years, were inducted into the Kansas Newspaper Hall of Fame, along with Rosalie Ross, founder and now co-editor of the Rawlins County Square Deal in Atwood.



Doug Anstaett

during their careers.

Valentine is in his 50th year managing the daily Clay Center Dispatch, a newspaper in the Valentine family since 1882. He is a graduate of the William Allen White School of Journalism at the University of Kansas. He and three other Valentines - great uncle Del Valentine, grandfather Lou Valentine, and father Harry E. Valentine - have served in leadership capacities with KPA



Ned Valentine

Anstaett is a 1973 journalism and mass communications graduate of Kansas State University from Lyndon. His journalism career has spanned 45 years. He was a reporter or editor at newspapers in Pittsburg, Topeka and Nevada, Mo., before entering management training in 1979 in the Grand Island (Neb.) Daily Independent. Two years later, he was named editor and publisher of the Brookings (S.D.) Register. After five years there, he transferred back to Kansas to lead the Newton Kansan from 1987 to 2003. From 2004 to 2018, he served as executive director of KPA. He now serves as a part-time consultant and lobbyist for the association.

Sattler, former editor/publisher of the Garden City Telegram, was presented the Clyde M. Reed Jr. Master Editor Award. Sattler served as editor-publisher of the Garden City Telegram from 2004 to 2018, and in 2018 was named southwest Kansas group publisher for GateHouse Media, serving as publisher of The Telegram and four other newspapers. She's now an editorial writer for The Topeka Capital-Journal and other GateHouse Media papers in Kansas.



Dena Sattler

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Connecting sky shot - Sunrise over Dili Harbor



Jim Reindl ([Email](#)) - The sun comes up over Dili's iconic mountain range around the harbor. The mountains look like a crocodile in the water and the crocodile is an icon of Timor-Leste lore. The story involves a young boy who rode a crocodile's back around the world until the crocodile got old and died here, forming Timor-Leste. To this day, the 'lafaek' is sacred and called grandfather.

AP WAS THERE: Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution sweeps nation



FILE - In this Feb. 15, 1979 file photo, a follower of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini holds a rifle containing a flower outside of Khomeini's headquarters in Tehran, Iran. Monday, Feb. 11, 2019 marks the 40th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, which overthrew the caretaker government left behind by the cancer-stricken Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, who had left the country only weeks earlier. (AP Photo/Michel Lipchitz, File)

By The Associated Press

EDITOR'S NOTE: On Feb. 11, 1979, after days of running street battles and uncertainty, Iran's military stood down and allowed the Islamic Revolution to sweep across the country.

The caretaker government left behind by the cancer-stricken Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, who weeks earlier left the nation, quickly crumbled as the soldiers once backing it embraced the supporters of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Foreigners who hadn't fled, including a vast population of Americans, soon began trying to leave. President Jimmy Carter said "we stand ready to work with" Iran's new leaders, slowly loosening America's long embrace of the shah as its main Mideast ally.

However, the revolution and Carter's decision to allow the shah to seek medical treatment in America would spark the U.S. Embassy takeover and hostage crisis,

stoking the animosity that exists between Tehran and Washington to this day.

Now, 40 years later, The Associated Press is making its story and historic photographs of Iran's Islamic Revolution available. The story has been edited for typographical errors, but maintains the AP style of the day, such as using "Moslem" as opposed to Muslim.

By THOMAS KENT

Associated Press Writer

TEHRAN, Iran - Prime Minister Shapour Bakhtiar reportedly resigned Sunday after Iran's military chief ordered troops back to their barracks and declared support for Moslem Leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

The 2,500-year-old Iranian monarchy appeared to be in its final hours.

Read more [here](#).

Welcome to Connecting



Bruce Hanselman - bhanselman@ap.org

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Stories of interest

Journalism Isn't Dying. It's Returning to Its Roots (Wired)

By **ANTONIO GARCIA MARTINEZ**

THE PAST FEW weeks have brought bad news to the hardworking scribes of the news business. Three leading digital outlets-BuzzFeed, the Huffington Post, and Vice-announced layoffs that left many accomplished journalists unemployed. The fingers of blame quickly pointed to the great bogeymen of our media age-Facebook and Google-and warned about a threat to democracy. After all, if the most savvy and avant-garde of the new digital journalists can't make a living, what hope is there for old-school newspapers? To many, the health of our democracy is inextricably tied to the health of our journalism: If the latter begins to die, the former must immediately follow.

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

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Extra! Jeremy Scott makes news (literally) on the runway

By **JOCELYN NOVECK**

NEW YORK (AP) - CHAOS! HORROR! PANIC! BABY, IT'S HOT! Designer Jeremy Scott has always liked to make news, but with his latest collection he did it literally, drawing design inspiration from New York's tabloid headlines.

Chromatically speaking, Scott's runway show Friday evening at New York Fashion Week was a very disciplined collection in all black and white; Scott usually uses a riot of bright colors and large cartoon graphics in his clothes.

Here, garments were emblazoned with an artist's versions of the New York Post and the Daily News - on dresses, trousers, jackets, jumpsuits and much more. Some of the most striking items: dainty, elegant chiffon party dresses printed with tabloid headlines.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

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Nick Sandmann may face challenges in proving defamation, experts say

By Max Londberg, Cincinnati Enquirer

Does Nick Sandmann have a case against media outlets, celebrities and journalists?

The Covington Catholic High School junior is represented by a nationally recognized attorney, L. Lin Wood, who has experience in defamation lawsuits.

Wood told The Enquirer by email this week that the Sandmann family's legal team, which includes Northern Kentucky-based Todd McMurtry, is investigating outlets for more than potential defamation offenses.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

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New Executive in Residence to Join Saunders College of Business

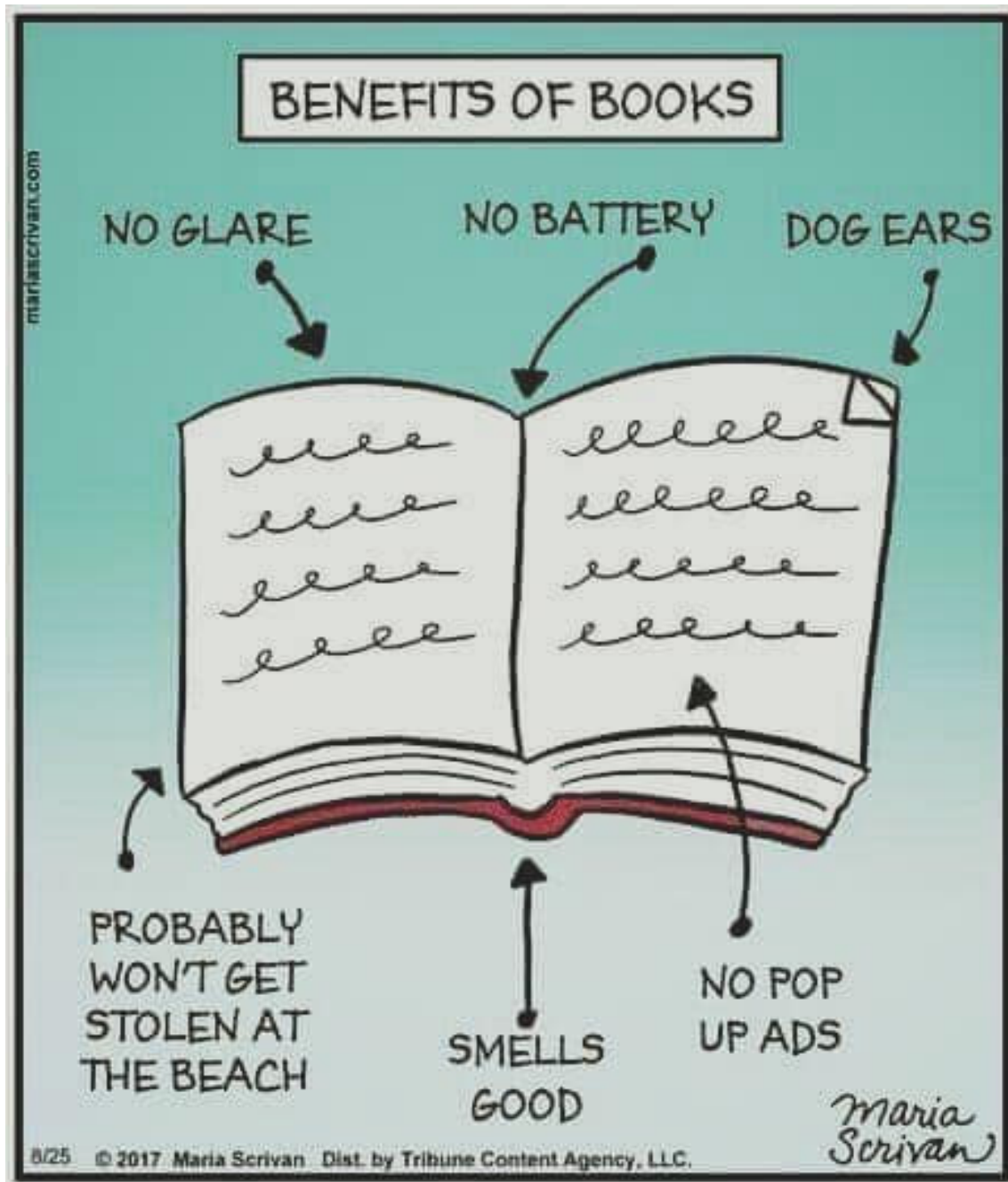
By KATHERINE GARDNER

Karen Magnuson will now serve as an executive in residence at Saunders College of Business at Rochester Institute of Technology. Recently retired, Magnuson held the position of executive editor at the Democrat and Chronicle (D&C) for 18 years, overseeing some revolutionary times at the paper including a switch to a digital-first mindset. Magnuson will bring many years of professional experience with her and a commitment to diversity and fostering community engagement.

Her passion for coaching and mentoring aspiring leaders will lend itself to the duties in her new role. As executive in residence, Magnuson will be mentoring students, interacting with student organizations and engaging in classes, seminars and other outreach activities. In all, her position will enrich the education of students in Saunders College, helping them navigate through the industry as a young professional.

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word



Today in History - February 12, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Feb. 12, the 43rd day of 2019. There are 322 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 12, 1999, the Senate voted to acquit President Bill Clinton of perjury and obstruction of justice.

On this date:

In 1809, Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president of the United States, was born in a log cabin in Hardin (now LaRue) County, Kentucky.

In 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was founded.

In 1912, Pu Yi (poo yee), the last emperor of China, abdicated, marking the end of the Qing Dynasty.

In 1914, groundbreaking took place for the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. (A year later on this date, the cornerstone was laid.)

In 1924, George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" premiered in New York.

In 1959, the redesigned Lincoln penny - with an image of the Lincoln Memorial replacing two ears of wheat on the reverse side - went into circulation.

In 1963, a Northwest Orient Airlines Boeing 720 broke up during severe turbulence and crashed into the Florida Everglades, killing all 43 people aboard.

In 1973, Operation Homecoming began as the first release of American prisoners of war from the Vietnam conflict took place.

In 1980, the FBI announced that about \$5,800 of the \$200,000 ransom paid to hijacker "D.B. Cooper" before he parachuted from a Northwest Orient jetliner in 1971 had been found by an 8-year-old boy on a riverbank of the Columbia River in Washington state.

In 1993, in a crime that shocked and outraged Britons, two 10-year-old boys lured 2-year-old James Bulger from his mother at a shopping mall near Liverpool, England, and beat him to death.

In 2000, Charles M. Schulz, creator of the "Peanuts" comic strip, died in Santa Rosa, Calif. at age 77.

In 2008, General Motors reported losing \$38.7 billion in 2007, a record annual loss in automotive history, and offered buyouts to 74,000 hourly workers. Uno became the first beagle named Westminster's best in show.

Ten years ago: Saying he'd made a "mistake" by agreeing to serve, Republican Sen. Judd Gregg of New Hampshire abruptly withdrew his nomination as President Barack Obama's commerce secretary. A Colgan Air commuter plane crashed into a suburban Buffalo, N.Y., home, killing all 49 aboard and a person in the house. (The victims included Alison Des Forges, 66, a noted expert on the 1994 Rwanda genocide, and Gerry Niewood, 64, and Coleman Mellett, 34, members of Chuck Mangione's band.)

Five years ago: Legislation to raise the U.S. federal debt limit and prevent a crippling government default cleared Congress. Tina Maze of Slovenia and Dominique Gisin of Switzerland tied for gold in the Olympic women's downhill at Sochi; it was the first gold-medal tie in Olympic alpine skiing history. Actor-comedian Sid Caesar, 91, died in Beverly Hills, California.

One year ago: In a retreat from promises to balance the budget, President Donald Trump unveiled a \$4.4 trillion plan that envisioned steep cuts to America's social safety net but mounting military spending; the outline acknowledged that the 2017 Republican tax overhaul would add billions to the deficit. Two Baltimore police detectives were convicted of robbery, racketeering and conspiracy at a trial that was part of a federal probe of corruption among rogue members of the city's police force. The National Portrait Gallery unveiled portraits of former President Barack Obama and his wife, painted by African-American artists chosen by the Obamas. American snowboarder Jamie Anderson won gold in the women's slopestyle event at the Winter Olympics in South Korea as winds whipped ice pellets across the jumps; most riders fell or abandoned their runs. Wild-haired comedian Marty Allen died in Las Vegas; he was 95.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Franco Zeffirelli is 96. Movie director Costa-Gavras is 86. Basketball Hall of Famer Bill Russell is 85. Actor Joe Don Baker is 83. Author Judy Blume is 81. Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak is 77. Country singer Moe Bandy is 75. Actress Maud Adams is 74. Actor Cliff DeYoung is 73. Actor Michael Ironside is 69. Rock musician Steve Hackett is 69. Rock singer Michael McDonald is 67. Actress Joanna Kerns is 66. Actor Zach Grenier is 65. Actor-talk show host Arsenio Hall is 63. Actor John Michael Higgins is 56. Actor Raphael Sbarge is 55. Actress Christine Elise is 54. Actor Josh Brolin is 51. Singer Chynna Phillips is 51. Rock musician Jim Creeggan (Barenaked Ladies) is 49. Rhythm-and-blues musician Keri Lewis is 48. Actor Jesse Spencer is 40. Rapper Gucci Mane is 39. Actress Sarah Lancaster is 39. Actress Christina Ricci is 39. NFL quarterback Robert Griffin III is 29. Actress Jennifer Stone is 26. Actresses Baylie and Rylie Cregut (TV: "Raising Hope") are nine.

Thought for Today: "Determine that the thing can and shall be done, and then we shall find the way." - Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865).

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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