



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

Connecting - February 26, 2019

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

Tue, Feb 26, 2019 at 9:03 AM

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



Connecting

February 26, 2019

Click [here](#) for sound of the Teletype



[Top AP News](#)
[Top AP photos](#)

[AP books](#)
[Connecting Archive](#)
[The AP Store](#)
[The AP Emergency Relief Fund](#)

Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning!

Today's Connecting brings you the sad news on the deaths of two great journalists - **Gerald "GG" LaBelle** and **Barry Kramer**.

LaBelle, a 41-year veteran of the AP who spent years covering tumultuous events in the Middle East, died early Monday at the age of 76. **Eileen Alt Powell (Email)** - LaBelle's wife and a former AP journalist - said a memorial gathering will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. on Saturday (March 2) at Duffy Funeral Home, [255 9th Street](#) in Brooklyn. No ceremony, just fellowship, she said.

Kramer, who played a key role in AP's coverage of the Vietnam War during his seven years with AP and later worked 30 years for the Wall Street Journal, died last Friday at the age of 78. A private funeral was scheduled for today in New Jersey.

If you would like to share your memories of working with GG or Barry, please send to Connecting.

Paul

Gerald LaBelle, former AP Middle East editor, dead at 76



GG LaBelle and his wife Eileen Alt Powell in 2009

By DEEPTI HAJELA

NEW YORK (AP) - Gerald LaBelle, a former editor and correspondent with The Associated Press who spent years covering tumultuous events in the Middle East, including Lebanon's civil war, the bombing of a U.S. Marine barracks in Beirut and the kidnapping of his own boss Terry Anderson, has died. He was 76.

LaBelle died early Monday at a hospital in Brooklyn, New York, said his wife, Eileen Alt Powell, also a former AP reporter who covered the fighting in Lebanon. He had pneumonia, and had also been suffering for several years with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

After joining the AP in 1968, LaBelle was named news editor in Beirut in 1983. He was working there in March 1985 when Anderson, then chief Middle East correspondent for the AP, was kidnapped off the street by Islamic militants.

It was a time when journalists were frequently targeted, but LaBelle "never balked at the danger or the incredible workload of covering Lebanon's travails," said Anderson, who was freed after seven years in captivity.

"G.G. and Eileen were sent together to Beirut in the midst of the long civil war. They were covering an airplane hijacking at the airport before they'd done more than drop their bags at the Commodore Hotel," Anderson said in an email. "The two were a dynamite pair."

LaBelle's time in the Middle East also consisted of covering Israel's invasion of Lebanon, including the aftermath of the September 1982 massacre at the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps by Christian militants. Sent to check out reports that there had been killings, he reported that "bodies of men lay in a jumble as if they had been herded together and gunned down."

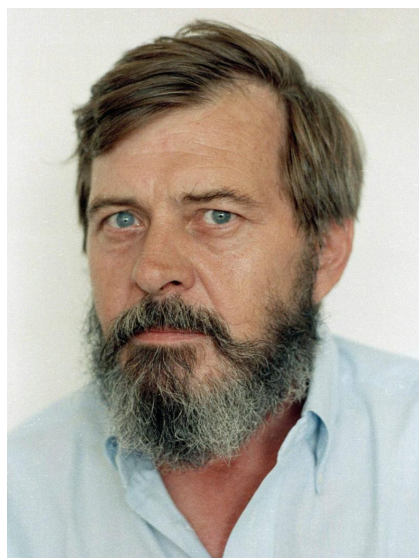
Other stories he covered included the Iran-Iraq War and Palestinian clashes with Israel. LaBelle was once hit by shrapnel while peering out of a hotel to watch militiamen fighting in the streets.

LaBelle also spent time reporting from New Delhi, Jerusalem and finally Cairo, where he was AP's chief Middle East correspondent from December 1996 to February 1999.

"He loved every minute of it," Powell said. "I think that he would say having an opportunity to translate foreign events for domestic audiences was both a thrill and a challenge."

LaBelle returned to the AP's New York City headquarters in 1999, where he worked as a news editor in the New York City bureau and other areas. He retired from AP in 2009 as an enterprise editor for international news.

"It was people like G.G. who made you proud to be in the news business and to be part of the same organization he served so well in so many places," said Larry Heinzerling, the AP's former deputy international editor. "No matter where I went, everyone high and low with whom he had ever worked said they loved G.G. and Eileen for their journalism, their courage, their ethics and their empathy."



GG LaBelle in 1988

Born in New Rochelle, New York, LaBelle grew up in Tucson, Arizona. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Arizona.

He worked at a small paper before joining the AP, where he did stints as a broadcast writer, reporter and editor in New York City, New Jersey and Washington before going abroad.

Along with Powell, LaBelle is survived by his daughter; two grandchildren; his ex-wife and a brother.

Memories of GG LaBelle

Pat Milton (Email) - I learned last night of the passing of Gerald LaBelle. GG as we know him, mentor and teacher, his writing and unmatched style made reading such a joy. His humor made all the difficult circumstances seem so easy. His wise counsel made all the troubles seem surmountable.

I will not forget how he cared - and how much he cared - for his staff. Through his friendship I was able to reconnect with my wife Bahar 32 years ago. We remained friends and we became family after AP.

We pray for him and express our deep gratitude. Eileen and his daughter are proud of him. We are proud of him.

My visits to NY will not be the same.

Barry Kramer, who covered the Vietnam War for AP, dead at 78



This photo by AP photographer Chick Harrity shows Barry Kramer, then working for the Wall Street Journal, and Edith Lederer, an AP correspondent in Vietnam, talking to North Vietnamese soldiers at an exchange of prisoners from North Vietnam and South Vietnam at Quang Tri in 1973.

By EDITH M. LEDERER

UNITED NATIONS (AP) - Barry Kramer, who covered the Vietnam War for The Associated Press and went on to a 30-year career at the Wall Street Journal

reporting from Asia and rising to deputy foreign editor, has died at the age of 78.

He passed away peacefully Friday night at New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center after a courageous 20-year fight against cancer.

Kramer's globe-trotting career took him from Saigon's black market during the Vietnam War to the slums of India, the Philippines under dictator Ferdinand Marcos and the frontiers of science and medicine.

Hired by the AP for \$119 a week after getting his master's degree from the Columbia University School of Journalism in 1963, he spent a year in the Newark, New Jersey bureau. With the Vietnam War heating up, he joined the Army Reserves and was sent to learn Chinese for a year at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California.

When Kramer returned to AP, he spent a year as an editor on its national desk before being sent to Saigon in 1967.

AP's Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter Peter Arnett, who worked with Kramer in Vietnam, said Monday he was sent "primarily to cover the increasingly turbulent South Vietnamese political situation that was undermining America's major military campaign to counter communist Vietnamese attempts to take over the country."

"With unrivaled contacts in the Saigon political scene, Kramer was in good position to cover the political implications of the communist Tet Offensive that erupted across Saigon and 40 other towns and districts on January 31, 1968," Arnett said. "He also broke stories from sources in the official U.S. community about increasing corruption within the South Vietnamese armed forces, problems in the pacification program, and rising inflation."



In this undated photo, AP Staffers George Esper, left, and Barry Kramer, right, surround President-Elect Gen. Nguyen Van Thieu for a comment in Saigon. (AP Photo/Corporate Archives)

Kramer said in an oral history for Rutgers University, where he did his undergraduate degree, that he didn't cover a lot of battles but he did help cover the rocketing of Saigon and a terrorist attack at a coffee bar across the street from police headquarters where a bomb had been left under the stools. "When I got there, all

you could see was the shoes of all the people who had been sitting there. Everything else was gone, except these charred shoes, lined up in a row," he said.



Kramer said he wrote some stories at AP which "Washington was not happy about," citing his reporting on stolen U.S. and military supplies that ended up in Saigon's black market, and on drug trafficking within the South Vietnamese government.

One of his stories on corruption was bylined on the front page of the New York Times at the end of 1968 - which AP was elated about, he said. But two weeks later he got called up "punitively" for not attending Army Reserve meetings, even though he had been put in a standby reserve unit.

That meant he had to serve an additional nine months, but the Army wouldn't let him do it in Vietnam or Taiwan, where he could use his Chinese. Instead, he was sent back to the United States, busted to private, and spent nine months at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, working for a Special Forces unit writing psychological profiles of various foreign leaders.

"My group was working on Iran, France, I mean they had contingencies for everything," he said in the oral history. "So, which prime minister liked to sleep with little girls, all this semi-secret, gossipy stuff, from which propaganda leaflets could be written."

Kramer said he received a commendation medal, was raised four steps above private in one swoop, and left the army.

He returned briefly to AP in New York, this time to the World Desk, but decided it was time for a change.

He wrote to Peter Kann, the Wall Street Journal's Vietnam correspondent who became a good friend when they were both in Saigon, saying he wanted to move on. Unbeknown to Kramer, Kann recommended him to The Journal and he was hired.

He said Rutgers opened his eyes to the world and "AP taught you to think on your feet, and that came in handy when I came to the Journal."

For six years, Kramer wrote about science and medicine, his main interest when he arrived at Rutgers before switching to journalism. He said in the oral history that he "had a lot of fun doing that ... but kept asking, 'Can I go to Asia?' for the Journal."

When Kann was appointed editor-in-chief of the new Asian Wall Street Journal, which started publication in early 1976, Kramer was named to replace him as Asia correspondent for the U.S. Journal, based in Hong Kong and covering 32 countries from Afghanistan in the west through Pakistan, Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives to Thailand and the Philippines.

Kramer said he spent more than half the year traveling, mainly writing features and covering occasional spot news like the border war between China and Vietnam in February 1979.

"There was no business news out of Asia, in those days," he said. "If the countries weren't Communist, they were very autocratic."

Kramer said he took credit for showing, with examples, how Marcos used presidential decrees to give his cronies advantage in their business dealings and put other companies out of business, proving that the Philippines' president was corrupt.

When he left Asia, Kramer became a senior editor on the Journal's foreign desk and was the deputy foreign editor when he retired in 2001.

Kramer was diagnosed with chronic lymphocytic leukemia in 1998, which is on the Pentagon's list on illnesses that veterans who fought in Vietnam receive compensation for because of Agent Orange, but he was there as a civilian. He participated in more than 20 treatment regimens.

He is survived by a sister. A private funeral is scheduled on Tuesday in New Jersey.

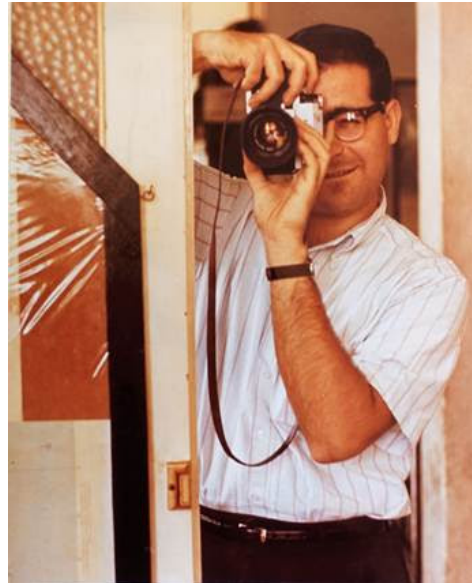
"The one thing that really stood out was that he had a very, very strong commitment to quality in journalism and ethics in journalism," Roger Ricklefs, a former Page One editor at the Wall Street Journal said late Monday. "He had very high standards for what he wrote and also for the stories he edited."

Author Julie Salamon, a former Wall Street Journal film critic, said: "Barry was a great collector-of stamps, artifacts, information, Chinese restaurants and people. He began as a work friend and became part of our family. We traveled to many far-off places together but you didn't have to go anywhere to enjoy Barry's company. The

curiosity that made him a top-notch reporter also made him a unique and valuable friend."

Memories of Barry Kramer from Vietnam

Peter Arnett (Email) - AP correspondent Barry Kramer was sent to Saigon in 1967 to cover the increasingly turbulent South Vietnamese political situation that was undermining America's major military campaign to counter communist Vietnamese attempts to take over the country. Kramer's reporting beat also included reporting on the many United States programs aimed at stabilizing the economy and improving the lives of the civilian population caught up in the increasing violence of the war. But it was the incendiary relationship between the two dominant Vietnamese political figures, President Nguyen Van Thieu and Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky, that became his most important story. Writing daily accounts of the controversies surrounding the 1967 election that brought Thieu to the presidency, afterwards Kramer covered the rapidly deteriorating relationship between Thieu and the flamboyant Ky who had reluctantly accepted the vice presidency. With unrivalled contacts in the Saigon political scene, Kramer was in good position to cover the political implications of the communist Tet Offensive that erupted across Saigon and 40 other towns and districts on January 31, 1968. Kramer detailed Ky's immediate attempts to blame President Thieu for the disaster, setting in motion Ky's own political demise when the president declared a state of emergency, quickly removing from power Ky's associates, arresting others and ending his hopes of ever ascending to power.



Barry Kramer in a "dueling camera" face off with correspondent Peter Arnett in the Saigon AP bureau, August, 1968

While the political crisis was his most important story, Kramer worked with other staffers in the Saigon bureau including bureau chief Robert Tuckman, Ed White and George Esper, covering the multitude of issues that arose from the Tet Offensive's destructive impact on Saigon. Like others in the bureau, Kramer uncomplainingly worked 12-hour days. His contributions to the daily news report, in addition to his political stories, included accounts from sources in the official US community about increasing corruption within the South Vietnamese armed forces, problems in the pacification program, and rising inflation.

But he also had time to write a delightful story about the marriage of Army 1st Lt. Ruby Kay Britsch of Seward, Ill with Army Major Gary E. Scheuing of Brooklyn NY. during a break in war action in the Central Highlands capital of Pleiku early in March 1968. Kramer wrote, "Showered with traditional rice as they left the base chapel,

the newlyweds passed under an an arc of mountain tribesmen crossbows held high by fellow officers. Not the same as crossed swords, but fitting for the Central Highlands since it is the home of South Vietnam's Montagnards who use wooden crossbows for hunting. Then the bride and bridegroom climbed a decorated ladder on to a spotless army engineer bulldozer trimmed with white crepe paper. It was loaded on a flatbed trailer for the ride to the reception, with tin cans and a pair of old jungle boots tied to the rear of the trailer for the usual reasons."

AP duo to focus on #metoo, gender politics

By Lauren Easton

News leaders announced Monday that two AP journalists will focus on covering #metoo and gender politics through 2019.

Here is the memo from Vice President of Global Enterprise Marjorie Miller, Deputy Managing Editor for U.S. News Noreen Gillespie and Sarah Nordgren, deputy managing editor for business, science and health, sports, entertainment and lifestyles:

For more than a year, the #metoo movement has created a discussion of sexual harassment and assault in America and across the globe. It has sparked conversations and change in boardrooms, Hollywood and college campuses.

We are proud of the work AP's dedicated team has done to cover this movement. Today, we are sharing news of a shift in our strategy to ensure the movement and gender politics continue to be a coverage priority for us.

Philadelphia-based reporter Maryclaire Dale, whose work on the Bill Cosby sexual assault case ensured that his victims' stories did not stay buried in court documents, and culture and feature writer Jocelyn Noveck, an original member of the #metoo coverage team who has chronicled the movement since its inception and most recently broke news about how it influenced the Kavanaugh hearings, will focus their work on #metoo and gender politics for the coming year. They will work with U.S. enterprise editor Pauline Arrillaga on these important issues.

Their goal will be to uncover stories about gender in law, Hollywood, work and culture, and move beyond the #metoo movement and its reverberations.

We look forward to all that they will do with this assignment!

Marjorie, Noreen and Sarah

Eyewitness to Execution: A Career of Reporting from the Texas Death Chamber

AP Digital Products: AP reporter Michael Graczyk has witnessed more than 400 executions in Texas, the nation's busiest capital punishment state. In this AP mini-documentary, he reflects on his long career of covering death row.

Click [here](#) to view. Shared by Trenton Daniel.

Memories from coverage of Persian Gulf War

Mike Tharp ([Email](#)) - A few minutes after midnight on Feb. 24, 1991, I bounced around in the back seat of a Humvee a mile from the Iraqi border with Saudi Arabia.

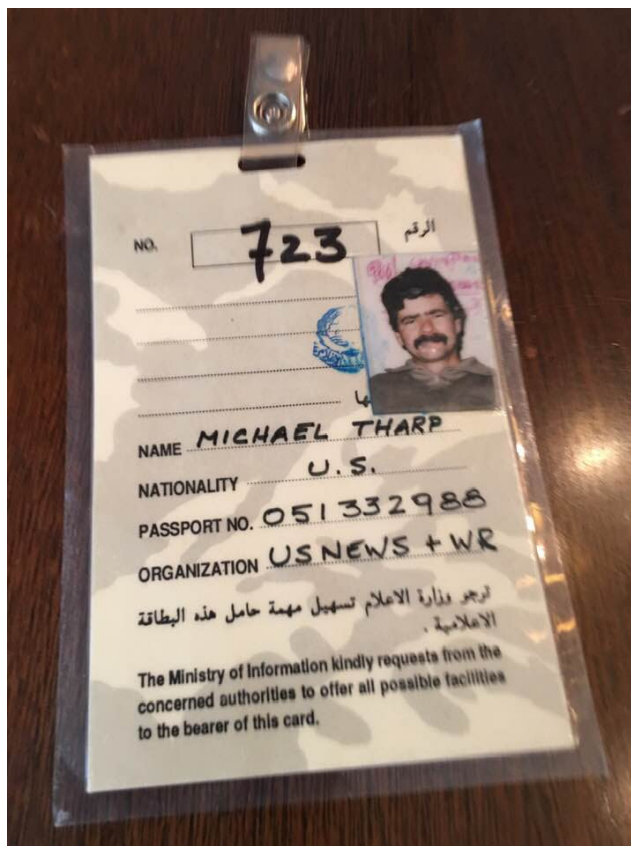
In the front seat were Maj. Randy Riggins, executive officer of the 37th Engineer Battalion, and his 6-foot-6 driver from Idaho, Stretch.

We were returning to the battalion's latest basecamp, a few miles from the town of Rafha, the farthest west Allied forces had deployed during Operation Desert Shield. A coalition of nations had answered President George H.W. Bush's call to eject Iraq from Kuwait, where it had invaded in August 1990.

For five months the coalition had inserted armies and supplies throughout the Saudi kingdom, preparing for an assault on Saddam Hussein's fiefdom. After the lethal Air War started Jan. 15, it would be called Operation Desert Storm.

The Persian Gulf War led to several precedents. Among them was the pool system declared by the U.S. military to control press coverage of the war.

Many at desks in the rings of the Pentagon felt that unfettered media access to operations in Vietnam had turned the American public against the war. So they tried to impose a system where journalists had to be accompanied by at least one public affairs officer, who set the time and place reporters could go. Stories also had to be cleared with an "information bureau" in Dhahran.



I was lucky. On Jan. 21, I went into the desert as the magazine pool reporter with U.S. News & World Report while hundreds of other journos had to cool their boot heels in the rear with the gear--Dhahran and Riyadh. Or in Gulf countries, ships and airbases some ways from the anticipated violence.

In the fourth week of January 1991, I met Maj. Riggins. His Army card read "James R. Riggins." James was my brother's name, so I thought I'd remember it. Then he said, "Call me Randy."

By then tension was as thick as the occasional sandstorms, called "Shamal," that lifted the ochre ash airborne around us. Military and civilians alike knew the push into Iraq--the Ground War--was imminent.

Neal Ulevich, an AP Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer, and a friend from Tokyo days, told me he thought the advance into Iraq would be "murderous."

Even so, I wanted to cross the border with the troops. In the Army in Vietnam, I'd never seen so much firepower, so many soldiers in one place.

But the pool system posed a problem. In order to go in, a public affairs person had to accompany me. I was arguing with one of the public affairs "pukes" when Randy stepped forward. "Shit, I'll take him." But Sir, there's only one seat. I said I'd take him. He gets the seat.

So just after midnight on Feb. 24, we were coasting back to what would be the LO - line of departure. Stretch was driving the Hummer about 5 mph on a corduroy dirt road when, on the left side of the vehicle, an American soldier emerged from the dark.

He was wearing a gas mask.

The three of us ripped off our csmo Kevlar helmets. We grabbed our own masks from our hips and slammed them on, pulling them over our ears. Briefings had warned us that Saddam promised to gas any troops who crossed his boundary. My sphincter tightened. My mouth was cotton. I sweated in my armpits, down my back, into my butt.

It was hard to tell whether the rubber smell of the masks was toxic. We tried to breathe. We could.

The guard told Randy to drive a few meters farther where the battalion had assembled. We did, then dismounted. Randy walked up to the 37th's commander, LTC Robert Holcombe, and asked what was happening.

One of his perimeter guards had yelled "Gas!" So the entire unit had donned gas masks.

The battalion sergeant major was holding up a strip of what looked like litmus paper. He, LTC Holcombe and Randy shined red-lensed flashlights on the strip.

"Neutral," the sergeant major said.

"Okay," said LTC Holcombe. "Randy, find a private."

The battalion held 600 soldiers. They had circled around the gas demonstration. Randy called out a name. A kid who hadn't started shaving stumbled forward.

Somehow, he knew the drill.

With the battalion brass and a doofus civilian watching, the soldier followed counts from Randy. 1, 2, 3.

He pulled off his gas mask.

He breathed. He smiled.

We all ripped off our own gas masks. Our faces were sweaty. A few soldiers prayed. Nobody could smoke in case Iraqi monitors picked it up.

LTC Holcombe then told us we were attacking into Iraq at 0400--4 a.m., three hours away.

The relief we'd felt was replaced with a universal puckering.

For some reason, I stepped into the circle of senior leaders. I was older than anybody but generals, taller than anybody but Stretch.

"You guys know how journalists find a minefield?" I asked, fairly loudly. Smiles replaced frowns. One of the battalion's crucial missions was to clear mines so Allied troops could advance.

With gas mask back on my hip and red-lensed flashlights pointed at me, I stepped forward. Put both hands over my ears. Started stomping the ground with my Nam jungle boots.

Everybody cracked up.

We crossed into Iraq a few hours later.

No casualties.

The war ended Feb. 28.

Another footnote: I was Randy's best man when he married the lovely Naomi in 2010. And he's executor of my will.

Meanwhile comma peace.

AP / UP / UPI / INS Love Affair

Gene Herrick ([Email](#)) - Many of today's journalists have never competed with AP / UP / or UPI, and, I feel, have missed a lot of the love-hate relationship between the two worldwide news services.

In my time as an AP photographer and writer, 40's, 50's 60's and early 70's, it was virtually a daily war of competition between the two. However, in some classic cases, you would find a competition of trying to outsmart the other guy and in some cases, becoming friends of sorts.

I had such a relationship in the 50's with the UPI Atlanta bureau while working in Memphis, TN. They said they hated me, but respected the hell out of me for constantly whipping them. "You drive us nuts, Gene, because you constantly beat us." UPI didn't have a regular staff photographer anywhere near Memphis, and they depended on their Scripts-Howard newspaper chains to provide the pictures. Both papers in Memphis were the opposition. When a story broke, and the Press Scimitar, and the Commercial Appeal, I would go back into the darkrooms and buy either the first or second choice, and then transmit on AP Wirephoto. The two newspapers often forgot about offering to UPI, and thus, I would scoop them with their own pictures! During the Civil Rights Movement, I met one of their Atlanta editors, who appreciatively gave me a hell-raising compliment. He even told his photographers to follow me around. One time, during the riots at Clinton, TN., they moved one of their shots which had me in it! The editor reamed out the UPI photog, and told him he should have cropped me out.

Another time involved the Effingham, IL. hospital fire which killed some 85 patients in a half-hour. I drove from Indianapolis, rented a photo studio, called Chicago and set up the photo transmission line (Which we kept for over 8-hours. UPI came in, late, and then couldn't establish a transmission line. We had the only phone line that would carry the signal. They never got a pix out, we were told. UPI soon fired their man.

AP Photo of the Day



Kim Jong Un waves Tuesday after arriving in Vietnam for his summit with President Donald Trump. | Minh Hoang/AP Photo

Welcome to Connecting



Deanne DeLessio - ddd_3@earthlink.net

John Diamond - jdiamond@worldbank.org

Frank Russell - frankrussell4@gmail.com

Susan Sward - Sward.susan@gmail.com

Stories of interest

Getting Over Ourselves (Columbia Journalism Review)

By KYLE POPE

In late January, over the course of a week, a lousy journalism job market became truly awful. About 1,000 journalists learned they were being laid off, at BuzzFeed, HuffPost, and Gannett, marking a grim record for an industry that has traded in bad news for a decade. By habit, reporters turned to Twitter, mourning for friends who had been cut, venting about their bosses, and desperately beginning a search for work.

It was at that point that the jeers began. A chorus of online trolls began mocking the misfortune of laid-off reporters, saying, basically, that they had it coming. That escalated into increasingly vicious and personal attacks, racist and anti-Semitic, including a meme calling for reporters to be killed. Finally and inevitably, President Trump joined the fray, predicting more bad news for the press-and, he said, rightly so.

Journalism's response was largely to lock arms and turn inward. People blamed the Twitter trolling on a far-right cabal. They filtered the backlash through partisan politics. A few editors hit back at Trump for going after journalists, who have the same medical bills and rent payments and student loan debt as everyone else. They knew he wouldn't listen.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Oakland news crew robbed, security guard shot while covering teachers' strike (ABC News)

By Alex Stone and Morgan Winsor

A television news crew was robbed at gunpoint and their armed security guard was shot on Sunday as they covered a teachers' strike in Oakland, California, police said.

The Bay Area news crew, from local CBS station KPIX 5, told responding officers just before 5 p.m. that a vehicle pulled up and two individuals got out, demanding their camera and equipment.

Gunfire was exchanged between the security guard and one of the suspects. The suspects got back in their car and fled the scene with the crew's equipment, according to the Oakland Police Department.

The security guard was taken to a local hospital in stable condition, police said.

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

-0-

Media watchdog says Williams cartoon didn't breach standards

SYDNEY (AP) - The Australian Press Council has ruled there was no breach of its standards of practice in a cartoon of tennis star Serena Williams which attracted global condemnation after being published by Melbourne's Herald Sun newspaper last September.

The depiction of Williams by cartoonist Mark Knight showed the 23-time major winner reacting angrily during her loss to Naomi Osaka in the final of the U.S. Open. Williams is depicted with her mouth open wide, hands in fists and jumping above a broken tennis racket and a baby's pacifier. The umpire was shown telling a blond, slender woman - meant to be Osaka, who has a Japanese mother and a father from Haiti - "Can you just let her win?"

In a ruling published Monday, the Australian Press Council said it "acknowledged that some readers found the cartoon offensive" but said there was sufficient public interest in commenting on the behavior of a player with a globally high profile.

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

The Final Word

God bless Mr. and Mrs. Mundt, Pepper and Nick



Ed Williams ([Email](#)) - Mrs. Mundt was my beloved neighbor in Auburn for many years; she is dead now.

Above is a photo of Mrs. Mundt and her little dog Pepper.

Pepper joined Mrs. Mundt in heaven Saturday.

Pepper was a rescue dog.

After Mrs. Mundt died, Pepper went to live with Mrs. Mundt's caregiver.

After she died Pepper went to live with Mrs. Mundt's son John.

After Mrs. Mundt's son died Pepper went to live with Mrs. Mundt's granddaughter.

Now Mrs. Mundt, Pepper and Mr. Mundt are joined in heaven.

One year I took Mrs. Mundt to Auburn United Methodist Church for the pet blessings program and Rev. Nick Holler, also our neighbor, prayer for Pepper and Mrs. Mundt.



In Nick's prayer he said that after Mr. Mundt died, God sent Pepper to Mrs. Mundt to be her companion.

God bless Mr. and Mrs. Mundt, Pepper and Nick.

Today in History - February 26, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Feb. 26, the 57th day of 2019. There are 308 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 26, 1904, the United States and Panama proclaimed a treaty under which the U.S. agreed to undertake efforts to build a ship canal across the Panama isthmus.

On this date:

In 1616, astronomer Galileo Galilei met with a Roman Inquisition official, Cardinal Robert Bellarmine, who ordered him to abandon the "heretical" concept of heliocentrism, which held that the earth revolved around the sun, instead of the other way around.

In 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte escaped from exile on the Island of Elba and headed back to France in a bid to regain power.

In 1829, Levi Strauss, whose company manufactured the first blue jeans, was born in Buttenheim, Bavaria, Germany.

In 1917, President Woodrow Wilson signed a congressional act establishing Mount McKinley National Park (now Denali National Park) in the Alaska Territory.

In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson signed a congressional act establishing Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona.

In 1929, President Calvin Coolidge signed a measure establishing Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming.

In 1952, Prime Minister Winston Churchill announced that Britain had developed its own atomic bomb.

In 1984, the last U.S. Marines deployed to Beirut as part of an international peacekeeping force withdrew from the Lebanese capital.

In 1987, the Tower Commission, which probed the Iran-Contra affair, issued a report rebuking President Ronald Reagan for failing to control his national security staff.

In 1993, a truck bomb built by Islamic extremists exploded in the parking garage of the North Tower of New York's World Trade Center, killing six people and injuring more than 1,000 others. (The bomb failed to topple the North Tower into the South Tower, as the terrorists had hoped; both structures were destroyed in the 9/11 attack eight years later.)

In 1994, a jury in San Antonio acquitted eleven followers of David Koresh of murder, rejecting claims they'd ambushed federal agents; five were convicted of voluntary manslaughter.

In 1998, a jury in Amarillo, Texas, rejected an \$11 million lawsuit brought by Texas cattlemen who blamed Oprah Winfrey's talk show for a price fall after a segment on food safety that included a discussion about mad cow disease.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama laid out his first budget plan, predicting a federal deficit of \$1.75 trillion. General Motors Corp. posted a \$9.6 billion loss for the fourth quarter of 2008. The Pentagon, reversing an 18-year-old policy, said it would allow some media coverage of returning war dead, with family approval.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama, speaking in St. Paul, Minnesota, said he would ask Congress for \$300 billion to update aging roads and railways. Republican Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer vetoed a bill pushed by social conservatives that would have allowed people with sincerely held religious beliefs to refuse to serve gays.

One year ago: President Donald Trump, who had been highly critical of the law enforcement response to the Florida school shooting, told a roomful of governors at the White House that if he had been there, he would have rushed in, unarmed. A lawyer for former Broward County Sheriff's deputy Scot Peterson rejected accusations that Peterson had been cowardly during the school shooting; he said Peterson hadn't gone inside the school because it sounded like the shooting was happening outside the building. Thousands of people from all walks of life, including former President George W. Bush and his wife, filed slowly past the casket of the Rev. Billy Graham in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Today's Birthdays: Game show host Tom Kennedy is 92. Country-rock musician Paul Cotton (Poco) is 76. Actor-director Bill Duke is 76. Singer Mitch Ryder is 74. Actress Marta Kristen (TV: "Lost in Space") is 74. Rock musician Jonathan Cain (Journey) is 69. Singer Michael Bolton is 66. The president of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan (REH'-jehp TY'-ihp UR'-doh-wahn), is 65. Actor Greg Germann is 61. Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., is 61. Bandleader John McDaniel is 58. Actor-martial artist Mark Dacascos is 55. Actress Jennifer Grant is 53. Rock musician Tim Commerford (Audioslave) is 51. Singer Erykah Badu (EHR'-ih-kah bah-DOO') is 48. Actor Maz Jobrani (TV: "Superior Donuts") is 47. Rhythm-and-blues singer Rico Wade (Society of Soul) is 47. Olympic gold medal swimmer Jenny Thompson is 46. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kyle Norman (Jagged Edge) is 44. Actor Greg Rikaart is 42. Rock

musician Chris Culos (O.A.R.) is 40. Rhythm-and-blues singer Corinne Bailey Rae is 40. Country singer Rodney Hayden is 39. Pop singer Nate Ruess (roos) (fun.) is 37. Tennis player Li Na is 37. Latin singer Natalia Lafourcade is 35. Actress Teresa Palmer is 33. Actor Alex Heartman is 29. Actress Taylor Dooley is 26.

Thought for Today: "Only the mediocrities of life hide behind the alibi 'in conference.' The great of this earth are not only simple but accessible." - Isaac Frederick Marcossou, American journalist (1876-1961).

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](#)

SafeUnsubscribe™ pjshane@gmail.com

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by paulstevens46@gmail.com in collaboration with



Try it free today