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Connecting - April 08, 2019

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Mon, Apr 8, 2019 at 8:57 AM

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Connecting

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning - as Connecting returns to your Inbox after a few days away last week.

Lots of AP memories were shared at this table (see below photo) earlier in the week in South Pasadena - from left: **Andy Lippman, Paul and Linda Stevens, Betsy and Scott Kraft.** Andy and I are former Indianapolis bureau chiefs, Betsy Brown Kraft was my first hire into Albuquerque and later worked on the NY General Desk, and her husband Scott and I are former Wichita correspondents. Scott is now

managing editor of the LA Times. Linda has as much sweat equity in AP as I do and politely listened to our stories.



Today's issue leads with the sad news of the death of **Phyllis McQueen**, administrative assistant in the Indianapolis bureau for 13 years, who died April 4 after a battle with cancer. She was beloved by staff and Indiana members - and our colleague **Keith Robinson**, former Indianapolis chief of bureau who worked with her nine years, brings us the story.

The NCAA men's basketball tournament concludes tonight with Virginia and Texas Tech battling for the national championship - and at the start of the Final Four games Saturday, the late AP college basketball writer **Jim O'Connell** was honored. We have a photo and the story in today's issue.

Here's to a great week ahead!

Paul

Phyllis McQueen, beloved AP Indianapolis administrative assistant who was 'Velvet Hammer,' dies at 73



Phyllis McQueen, a dedicated and beloved Indianapolis bureau administrative assistant known for her cheery and friendly demeanor but who also earned a nickname of the Velvet Hammer for her effectiveness in getting the necessary done, died April 4 after a lengthy battle with cancer. She was 73.

McQueen worked in the Indianapolis bureau from 1998 until she retired in 2011.

She stayed in touch with her former colleagues in retirement, and many became dear friends to her. In particular, former Indianapolis bureau senior technician Richard Keltner and his wife, Mary, went to dinners weekly with McQueen over the years, and the Keltners helped to look out for her when her health failed. They were with her through her final days.

"We helped her as much as we could," Richard Keltner said. "She became one of my best friends, and Mary thought of her as an older sister."

Former Bureau Chief Keith Robinson, who worked with McQueen in Indianapolis from 2000 to 2009, considered her one of the best AP "ambassadors" he knew.

"One of her joys was in working with AP member editors and publishers throughout Indiana," Robinson said. "She knew the importance of making sure they felt that they were being served well."

As an example, Robinson noted that McQueen especially enjoyed working the annual job fair, co-sponsored by what was then the Indiana APME (now Indiana AP

Media Editors) and the Hoosier State Press Association. She liked it so much that she took on nearly all of the planning and promotion herself. She contacted schools throughout the state to urge advisers to send their students to it, sent promotional material to them and scheduled all of the students' interviews with editors, where necessary persuading students to sign up for interviews with editors at smaller papers.

"Most students naturally wanted to interview with the largest papers and the AP, but Phyllis channeled many students to some of the smaller papers that otherwise wouldn't have many interviews lined up," Robinson said. "On the day of the job fair, if Phyllis saw students standing around with time on their hands before their scheduled interviews, she would walk up to them, point out editors who weren't busy at the time and almost push them to the editors' tables for a quick interview. She felt bad for editors who weren't at newspapers popular with students, so she kept those editors as busy as possible.

"She frequently called the job fair 'my baby,' and she was meticulous in making sure everything went well for the AP and member editors. The job fair was successful every year because of her work. It is her legacy in the AP."

McQueen continued to help with the job fair in retirement.

Robinson also noted that many publishers and editors asked about McQueen during his member visits throughout the state.

"Upon ending my visits, it was common for an editor or publisher to say 'Tell Phyllis I said hi.' They enjoyed working with her and regarded her as one of the bureau's most valuable staffers. And she was."

"Phyllis was old school - in the very best sense," said Bill Wilson, editor of The Rochester Sentinel. "She was unflappable, invariably kind, and focused on the job. She was the real deal. Her legacy is rich and varied."

Jim Reindl, a former bureau chief who hired McQueen into the AP, called her "a gem of a human being, perhaps the sweetest personality I have ever known."

"She was at once professional and folksy, always calm, highly organized, reserved but ready to plunge into anything she was asked to do," Reindl said. "I could always count on Phyllis to either just listen or offer a word of encouragement in the face of my frustrations as bureau chief. Even her voice - a soft Indiana drawl - was a calming influence.

"The balance of sweetness in this world is a bit off because of Phyllis' passing, and that is a loss for all."

Former Indianapolis News Editor Jeni O'Malley said McQueen "looked like the grandmother we all wanted to invite home" but that she had "a spine of steel" when she needed to show it.

"She would shield the staff from unnecessary calls so we could focus on covering the news, and when sales calls came in, we always heard her voice change as she politely, but very firmly, shut them down," O'Malley said. "One year, our broadcast awards got bumped from our regular ballroom at a hotel. She leaned hard on the hotel to make things right, getting us a meal upgrade, better centerpieces, more space and, perhaps most appreciated, a better drink ticket package for no additional cost.

"She was nicknamed the Velvet Hammer for a reason: People never knew what hit them."

George Garties, director of regional markets in Chicago who worked briefly with McQueen as Chicago bureau chief, said she embodied so many of the virtues of the AP.

"She worked hard, she was a stickler for accuracy, and she was really dedicated - to the company and above all to the members," he said. "She genuinely cared about them, and they loved her in return."

One of McQueen's last wishes was to visit the new Indianapolis bureau, which recently moved to another location in the same office complex where she worked. In January, Keltner brought McQueen to the bureau in a wheelchair so she could meet with current AP staffers and former co-workers, including Robinson and O'Malley, and share memories of their work together.

"Phyllis treasured her time in the AP," Robinson said. "It was an important and satisfying time in her life."

McQueen enjoyed writing poetry and traveling, especially to Michigan. She will be cremated, with her ashes spread over Lake Superior. There will be no services, but her AP friends plan to get together to pay tribute to her.

Before the AP, McQueen worked at Habitat for Humanity, Planned Parenthood and the Indianapolis Museum of Art. She is a graduate of IUPUI in Indianapolis. She was born in Shelbyville, Indiana, and lived mainly in the area of nearby Columbus, Indiana, and then later Indianapolis.

McQueen is survived by a daughter, Amy McGivney; a son, Glen; and two grandchildren.

Connecting mailbox

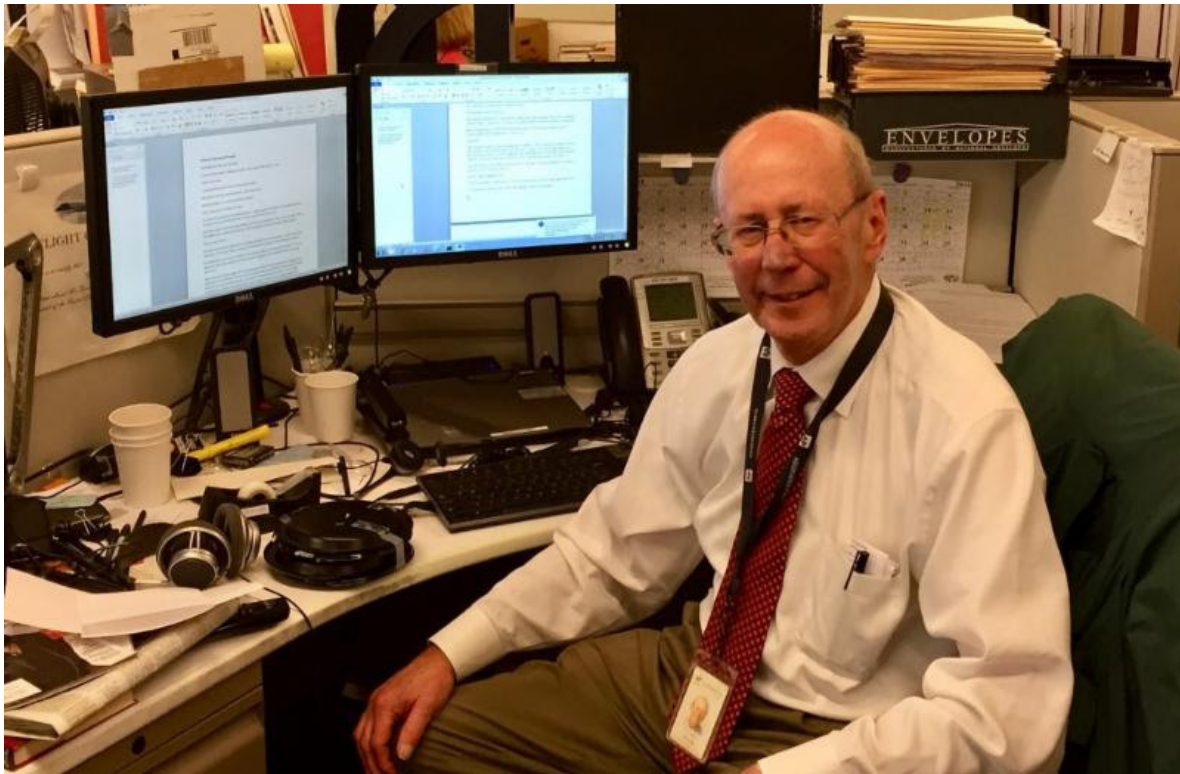
Tiny Love Stories: 'After 48 hours, it's time to move on'

Tiny Love Stories is the name of a popular feature in The New York Times, which describes it as "Modern Love in miniature, featuring reader-submitted stories of no more than 100 words."

Here is one written by our Connecting colleague **Nora Raum** ([Email](#)) that was published in the Times last week. (Her husband **Tom Raum**, one of AP's finest Washington bureau journalists during his 44-year career, died in January.)

"After 48 Hours, It's Time to Move On"

My husband of 31 years died early one January morning from injuries sustained in a fall at home. Two days later, I received an email from a dating service for those over 50. The subject line asked, "Are you ready to try love again?" I burst out laughing. It must be a coincidence. Or are all the computers trading information? Maybe the consensus on the internet is that after 48 hours, it's time to move on. When I stopped laughing, I thought, "I've got to tell Tom. He'll think it's hilarious." Oh. I do that a lot these days. - Nora Raum



Tom on the day he retired from the Associated Press.

Click [here](#) to view the feature. Shared by Harry Dunphy.

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AP's Jim O'Connell honored at Final Four in Minneapolis



(AP Photo/Matt York)

The late **Jim O'Connell**, longtime Associated Press college basketball writer, was honored before the semifinals of the Final Four NCAA college basketball tournament between Auburn and Virginia on Saturday in Minneapolis.

A tournament announcer asked the crowd to honor O'Connell and pointed out that a seat was being left open for him on media row in honor of his presence being felt.

He was to be honored today with an award named for him by the U.S. Basketball Writers Association - the Jim O'Connell Award for Excellence in Beat Reporting - and then was to be named its first recipient. O'Connell, a former president of the USBWA and member of its Hall of Fame, died last July. His wife, Anne, sons James and Andrew, and sisters Winnie and Mary were expected to accept the award.

The award will become an annual tribute to the daily work of reporters who meet the highest standards of beat reporting while exceeding the USBWA Code of Ethics, the organization said.

Known throughout basketball as OC, O'Connell covered 39 consecutive Final Fours for the AP and served as its national college basketball writer since 1987. He received the Curt Gowdy Print Media Award for outstanding lifetime coverage of basketball from the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2002.

(Photo shared by Kiichiro Sato)

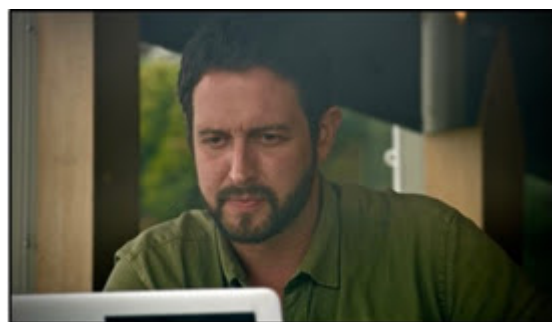
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Christof Putzel hosts Lindbergh baby kidnapping piece featuring his legendary AP grandfather

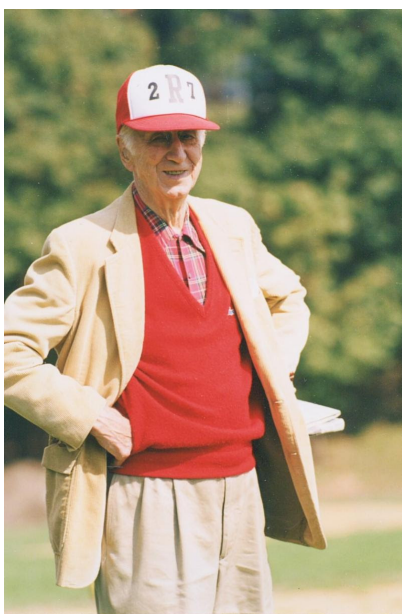
Christof Putzel, the son of Connecting colleagues and former AP journalists Ann Blackman and Michael Putzel, is the host of a new 9-episode show on the Travel Channel called Mission Declassified. The piece that aired last night was about the Lindbergh baby kidnapping and featured Blackman's father (and Christof's grandfather, longtime AP New York general editor Sam Blackman.

Check your Travel Channel listings for later airings of the program. Sunday night's piece, as described by the network:

In 1932, legendary news reporter Samuel G. Blackman broke the story of the Crime of the Century, that the one-year-old son of famed aviator Charles Lindbergh had been kidnapped. Blackman covered the story through the investigation, arrest, trial and execution of lone suspect, Bruno Hauptmann.



Christof Putzel



Blackman eventually became the top editor at The Associated Press. Now, 87 years later, his grandson and host of Travel Channel's new series "Mission Declassified," Christof Putzel re-examines a puzzling mystery: did the immigrant carpenter, Hauptmann, have accomplices? In an upcoming episode of the series, Putzel uses declassified documents not available to his grandfather, evidence stored at the New Jersey Police Museum and help from archivists and experts around the globe, to uncover Hauptmann's co-conspirators.

Christof has won two DuPont Awards and the Livingston Award for Young Journalists, an Overseas Press Club Award and has been nominated for five News & Documentary Emmys. His father was the

Sam Blackman in 1995 AP's chief White House correspondent during the 1970s, as well as a Vietnam correspondent, and his mother was a member of the AP's Mod Squad lifestyle team of the 1970s and later a correspondent at Time magazine.

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Terry Anderson on the problems of journalism and what the public should do



Photo by Al Cross

Al Cross ([Email](#)) - Terry Anderson was back last week at the University of Kentucky, where he taught for two years, to speak about the challenges facing journalism and how news consumers can evaluate reports.

"Journalism has a lot of problems these days," Anderson said in a speech at the University of Kentucky April 2. He said those include verbal attacks by a president, which have encouraged physical attacks; reduction of news staffs by venture

capitalists; more government secrecy; and ownership consolidation that allows "large corporations the power to put profits before the public good."

But the real, existential threat to journalism and its "very role in helping to maintain America as a free country," Anderson said, "is the ongoing attempt to convince Americans that the principles we claim to operate by, the high purpose we claim to serve, is a lie; that we are not balanced and fair, that we are biased; that we distort and twist the news for some nefarious purpose of our own, never explained; but surely not for the good of the country. That we are, indeed, enemies of the people. And they are succeeding to a frightening degree."

Noting polls that show declining trust in the news media, Anderson said journalists are partly to blame: They make mistakes, and people remember. "People who encounter journalists are often in the midst of crisis - personal, such as the death of a loved one, or victim of a crime, or something larger, a deadly storm, a horrifying attack on a church or mosque. To see that tragedy reported badly is like another assault. It may be the one time in their lives they encounter a real journalist. And he or she screws up the story, or gets a name wrong. It may be the only time that journalist gets it wrong. But that person's trust in the news media is damaged. Forever after, that person will pay more attention to those 'fake news' attacks."

"We have to be even better at our jobs," Anderson said. "More accurate. More responsible. More careful to be balanced and fair." But he said news consumers need to "work a little harder . . . if you really want to be able to separate real news from fake, if you really want to be knowledgeable about what's going on around you." He touched on several points.

"These days, the epithet 'biased' is hurled at anyone we disagree with," Anderson said. "But journalists are, by and large, professionals. They have opinions, but they mostly keep them to themselves. Everyone now knows I'm a liberal. But after 20 years of reporting for the AP, thousands of stories, I defy anyone to detect my liberal beliefs in any one of them. If you could, I would have been fired."

But people don't understand how journalism works, he said, "not because it's complicated or mysterious. They just haven't ever really been shown, other than a couple of good movies among a host of bad ones...At every decent news organization I know, that process gets tougher the more important the story."

Anderson gave a recent example, the attacks on the New Zealand mosques, and a New York Times story that explained how the paper decided what to report. "Times editors decided not to run any of the gunman's video of the attack, or even link to it," he said, but assigned two reporters to annotate sections of the shooter's manifesto - "but the reporters, after reading it, said they couldn't annotate it without playing into the hands of the attacker. Instead, an article was written to answer the important questions: What was the gunman thinking, and why did he open fire at two

mosques? The Times neither linked to nor annotated the manifesto. This kind of probing, thoughtful discussion goes on in every newsroom...What most don't understand is, outside of supermarket rags and bad movies, a major story is rarely rushed into print or on air without careful examination and the exercise of a lot of people's judgment."

Anderson gave tips for evaluating stories, including a dateline, indicating that a reporter was on the scene; and the history of the reporter and the news organization. "One good way to judge is the willingness of a news organization to correct its mistakes," he said. "Good ones do, sometimes to excess." Other ways: Does the news outlet have a public editor who looks into reader complaints? Does it subscribe to a publicly available ethical code? "How many awards for investigative or other reporting has it received? Pulitzers are not handed out to poor journalists. Nor are other major awards."

Also, "Choose your news sources carefully, and widely," Anderson advised. "Only looking at what confirms your view is common, and short-sighted. Reading other views, even wildly opposite to your own, is the only way to educate yourself. We don't learn inside our own comfort zone, but outside it."

Anderson summed up: "So, it sounds like it takes a lot of work to tell fake news from real. But it's necessary work. Democracies don't work without an informed citizenry...Journalism is being challenged. It is adapting to new technologies, and new forms. But it still there, and it's not fake. Thousands of journalists work every day, for not much money, to bring you reports on what's going on in the world, and around the country, and in your home town. Most of them are good at it, and try hard to do it well, even as it becomes more dangerous. They are not enemies of the people, but your protectors. They guard against oppressive government, and public and private corruption. Against overbearing law enforcement, and exploitative corporations. Against ignorance. Without them, you become sheep, to be sheared by anyone with power. With them, you have a voice. No society can be free without a free and active press. Period."

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@curmudgeon39 on those Stylebook changes

Steve Graham ([Email](#)) - From AP Stylebook on twitter

AP style change:

Use accent marks or other diacritical marks with names of people who request them or are widely known to use them, or if quoting directly in a language that uses them:

An immigration officer spotted him and asked a question: "Cómo estás?" How are you?

Graham: Since the sample usage is incorrect (should begin with an inverted question mark '¿') I predict a disaster in implementation. Let's see how the AP handles Recep Tayyip Erdoğan with that funny 'g'

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The AP Stylebook response to my comment is:

Replying to @curmudgeon39

Our new entry notes: Many AP customers' computer systems ingest via the ANPA standard and will not receive diacritical marks published by the AP."

Steve Graham: So much for the tradition of catering to the least able member.

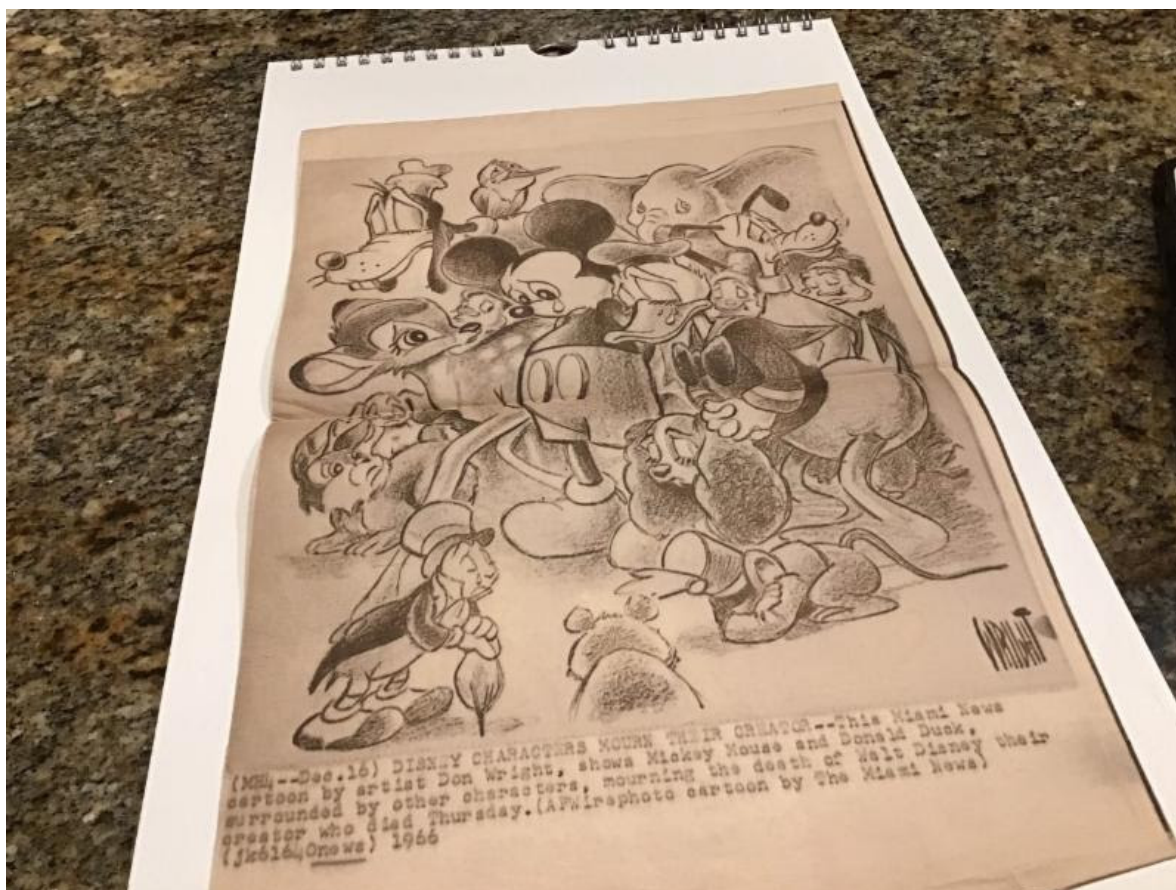
And this reply to Connecting from AP Stylebook product manager **Colleen Newvine** ([Email](#)) -

We are very mindful of wanting to serve our members well, which includes not creating any difficulties for those using ANPA, so we're taking a conservative approach and not transmitting accents via ANPA. Nothing changes for them. If they were on board with our "no accent marks" style before, that's still what they get.

This is an issue we've been hearing about for years: When we spell someone's name without the accent mark, we are spelling that person's name wrong. AP leaders decided it was time to take this compromise move, spelling people's names correctly in our text while understanding the limitations of ANPA.

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Scrapbooks and the disappearing source of clippings



Jean Capellos (Email) - Regarding Tom Goodman's story last week on scrapbooks and their dependence on the clippings from disappearing newspaper pages:

Paul, you have opened Pandora's box! Scrapbooks reflect the best of times. I remember buying a white oblong cardboard scrapbook. I fretted over what colored construction paper to use as a background for photos and articles from The Fort Dodge Messenger. I perfectly mounted black sticky photo corners for wallet-sized senior pictures, pressed flowers from homecoming and prom corsages and pasted paper links from our graduation daisy chain. Then there was the horrifying front page article of a car accident on a Thanksgiving night with the pictures of four teenagers killed at a deadend intersection on a blacktop road.

As to whether or not people clip newspaper articles and make scrapbooks, the technology now to make a bound, colorful, personal book for travel photos or family history, seems to be a trend. It would eliminate yellowed pages, dried scotch tape and faded photographs, but in agreement with my esteemed classmate, Tom Goodman, there is something beautiful about a dusty scrapbook on your lap and remembering.

News Leaders Association (ASNE-APME) announces winners of 2019 awards

Columbia, Mo. (April 2, 2019) - The American Society of News Editors and Associated Press Media Editors announced today the winners of this year's NLA Awards for distinguished writing, digital storytelling and photography. The winning work is a collection of high-quality, high-impact journalism from news outlets of various sizes and platforms.

The NLA Awards honors the best in print, digital, photo and video content in 11 categories. The contest drew over 500 entries.

This is the 1st year of the NLA Awards, continuing the 39-year tradition of the ASNE Awards and the 48-year tradition of the APME Awards, among the most prestigious in journalism. Many of the categories are sponsored and come with cash prizes, thanks to a group of editors from the former Knight Ridder Inc., The Dallas Morning News, Advance Publications Inc., the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, The Seattle Times, the Chicago Tribune, the O'Brien Fellowship in Public Service Journalism at Marquette University in Milwaukee and The New York Times.

"We are proud to recognize this collection of exceptional work," said ASNE President Nancy Barnes. "Newsrooms small and large are steadfastly reporting on the most important stories of the day, calling out abuses of power and wrong-doing, and delivering journalism that makes a difference."

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

Related: Breakouts of AP staff honors:

Batten Medal for Courage in Journalism

Maggie Michael of The Associated Press is the winner of the Batten Medal, which honors public service journalism in memory of revered reporter, editor and newspaper executive James K. Batten. The medal is intended to celebrate the journalistic values Batten stood for: compassion, courage, humanity and a deep concern for the underdog. Ms. Michael will receive \$2,500 for winning the award, sponsored by a group of editors from the former Knight Ridder Inc. Winning work: "Yemen's Dirty War"

Dori J. Maynard Award for Justice in Journalism

Sharon Cohen, David Goldman and Mary Hudetz of The Associated Press are the winners of the Dori J. Maynard Award for Justice in Journalism, which celebrates journalism that overcomes ignorance, stereotypes, intolerance, racism, hate, negligence and indifference. They will receive \$2,500 for winning the award, sponsored by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation in memory of Dori J. Maynard, who was an ASNE board member and a strong advocate for news and newsroom diversity. Winning work: "Missing in Indian Country"

Best of the Week

Money madness: AP analyzes, how much is that NCAA berth worth?



Belmont takes on Temple in a First Four game of the NCAA college basketball tournament, March 19, 2019, in Dayton, Ohio. An AP data analysis decoded the NCAA's complex system for distributing the tournament's payouts to schools - more than \$3 billion over two decades. AP Photo / John Minchillo

It's no secret that the NCAA college basketball tournament is big business, despite the fact the athletes are amateurs and students. But just how big, and how has the pie been divided?

The AP became the first news organization to answer those questions thanks to an ambitious data project that cut through the NCAA's mind-bending accounting

practices, documenting where more than \$3 billion in March Madness payouts over two decades actually went.

Figuring out how much cash each college actually got was both a reporting challenge and a math brainteaser that proved no match for the New York-based team of college sports reporter Ralph Russo and data journalist Larry Fenn.

Complicating their task was the fact that the NCAA referred to payments with a complex "unit" measurement, the value of which had to be extrapolated from results in six separate tournaments. Meanwhile, 32 different athletic conferences had their own rules for distributing those units back to schools.

Russo peppered the NCAA with questions about how the system worked, ultimately getting detailed numbers back to 1997. Fenn parsed tournament results to quantify wins and bids that qualified for payment under the system. Ultimately, their reporting and data were so good that they were able to reconstruct payments for early years that even the NCAA couldn't document.

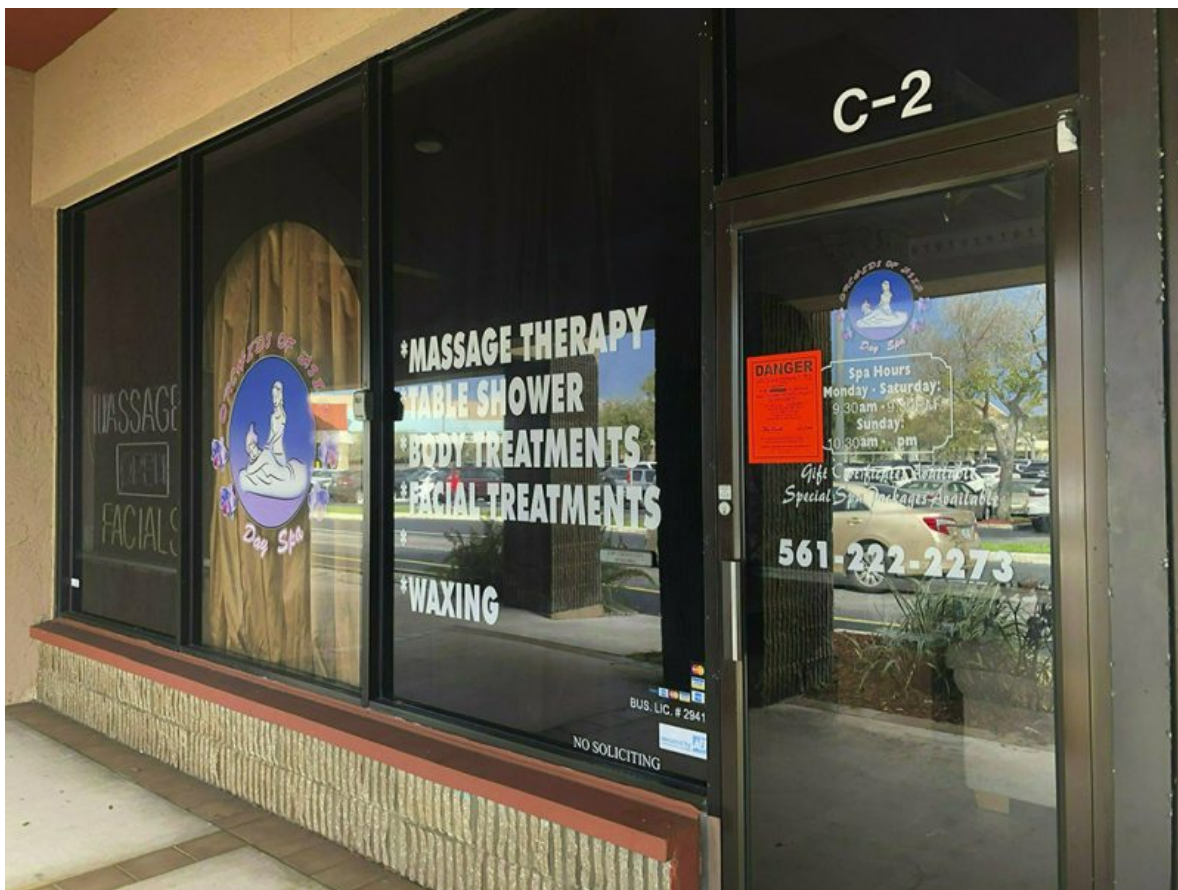
AP was able to reconstruct payments for early years that even the NCAA doesn't have.

The work led to several stories detailing the money side of the NCAA Tournament, including the diminishing shares for smaller conferences, an explainer on the system itself, the value of the final invitations to the field (by Aaron Beard) and the unique situation for West Coast Conference-based Gonzaga, which used the system as leverage to get more money from its league (Eddie Pells). Fenn worked with New Orleans-based interactive newsroom technology editor Troy Thibodeaux and Washington data editor Meghan Hoyer to create a data distribution for members doing their own stories focused on individual schools. And top stories hub graphics artist Phil Holm worked with Fenn to build a robust interactive.

The AP-exclusive stories got more than 1,100 matches on Newswhip, and grateful members added several localized pieces. The social video created for the project got more than 80,000 views on Twitter Amplify. The project showcased the power of AP when we think ambitiously and outside the box, even around annual events that are already in the glare of the media spotlight. For their outstanding work, Russo and Fenn win AP's Best of the Week.

Best of the States

AP Exclusive: Florida targeting massage parlor prostitution, trafficking



A building department notice is posted on the Orchids of Asia Day Spa in Jupiter, Fla., Feb. 19, 2019, after police raided the business. Hannah Morse / Palm Beach Post via AP

When police busted several massage parlors engaging in prostitution in Florida in February, New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft drew all the attention, being charged as a customer. What drew far less notice was that hundreds of other men were also charged in what seemed like a new approach for Florida authorities.

AP Florida reporters Mike Schneider, Orlando, and Terry Spencer, West Palm Beach, seized on the Kraft-driven attention to the story to dig into legal issues surrounding massage parlors and prostitution in Florida. With a deep dive into state records and a key interview with a local source, Schneider and Spencer scored an AP Exclusive that showed a longstanding pattern of minor charges and punishment for owners of massage spas used to sell sex - even when signs showed potential human trafficking.

A state Health Department inspector had originally tipped off police about possible human trafficking at the South Florida spa in the Kraft case, so Schneider took a

look into that department's records, going back a decade. Poring through 150 reports on spas that had licenses revoked and suspended for reasons including on-site sex acts and signs of human trafficking, Schneider found that usually only low-level massage therapists were arrested. Owners rarely were charged and typically faced only misdemeanors resulting in fines and probation. Johns typically were not charged at all.

An analysis of state records on massage parlors, and a key interview with a county sheriff, revealed the policy shift in the recent raids.

"In stark contrast, the investigation announced last month spanned several jurisdictions between Palm Beach and Orlando and focused heavily on the possibility of widespread human trafficking," the story read. "Several spa owners, most of them women originally from China, were charged with felony racketeering and money laundering and could face years in prison. Authorities also charged 300 men accused of being patrons, including New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft and former Citigroup President John Havens."

Spencer interviewed Martin County Sheriff William Snyder, whose agency spearheaded the investigation. Snyder made it clear - while conceding it would be difficult or impossible to prove trafficking - that he wanted to shut down the sex-massage industry in part by targeting the demand side.

"I have come to understand that as long as there is a demand, there will be a supply," he said. "Even if the demand diminishes microscopically and a few women in some forlorn province in China are not enticed to come here under false pretenses and trafficked, it will all be worthwhile."

Strong play included prominent display in The Washington Post.

For their enterprising use of state records and source-building to find an AP Exclusive in a story that drew enormous global attention, Schneider and Spencer win this week's Best of States award.

Welcome to Connecting



Bill Greenwood - bg1605@gmail.com

Stories of interest

The Reporter Who Wrote About Layoffs at the Cleveland Plain Dealer After He Was Laid Off

(New Yorker)

By CHARLES BETHEA

In mid-March, the Cleveland Plain Dealer notified its editorial staff that, by April, it would cut fourteen newsroom jobs. The newspaper, Ohio's largest, cut twenty-nine jobs just a couple of months earlier. It has been cutting jobs regularly for more than a decade, as have many of its peers. Newspaper newsrooms declined in size by forty-five per cent between 2008 and 2017, according to a study by the Pew Research Center. This year, the media has reportedly shed more than two thousand jobs.

Tom Feran took a job at the Plain Dealer—"the best newspaper name of any in the world," Winston Churchill once said—nearly thirty-seven years ago. At the time, the paper had some four hundred staffers. Feran, who grew up reading the paper, began as the editor of its Sunday magazine, back when the paper had a Sunday magazine, "with glossy paper and staples," he said. He moved on to become the paper's features editor, TV critic, columnist, PolitiFact writer, assistant Metro editor, and Metro reporter. Back in the eighties, the paper's arts-and-entertainment staff was about as large as the entire newsroom is now: some thirty reporters and editors. As of this week, Feran, who is sixty-six, is no longer among them. He hadn't been planning to retire, but he volunteered to be laid off in order to save a job for a

younger staffer. Feran's last contribution to the paper was a news item about the layoffs themselves.

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

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St. Louis Public Radio Loses Longtime Host Over Telling Woman 'You Look Great' (Federalist)

By REBEKAH CURTIS

"You look great," said Don Marsh, the 80-year-old host of the radio show "St. Louis On the Air," to recently retired St. Louis news anchor Karen Foss (75 years young) when she entered the studio for an interview. The two veteran journalists then went on to have this pleasant and collegial conversation aired by KWMU, National Public Radio's St. Louis affiliate.

The next morning, Foss learned that Marsh, a St. Louis institution, was leaving St. Louis Pubic Radio. Why? Someone at the KWMU studio had overheard Marsh's complimentary greeting to Foss, perceived it to be inappropriate, and tattled to the bosses. That's right, a man telling a longtime friend whom he hadn't seen in a while that she looked great was Not Okay.

Read more [here](#).

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Column: The AP Stylebook finally got with the times (The Daily Tar Heel)

BY RAMISHAH MARUF

If you're part of the School of Media and Journalism, I'm sure you must have heard the news: the AP Stylebook updated its guidelines.

For those who don't spend their days in Carroll Hall, the AP Stylebook is the Bible for journalism majors - and that's not an exaggeration. It's the first textbook I bought at UNC when I was a naive first-year who thought deleting the Oxford comma was all I needed to know about grammar. It has its own bookmark on my computer, a special spot on my desk. There's a never-ending supply of quirky factoids in there that I love flipping through when I'm bored. (did you know Band-Aid is always capitalized? And that it's not "okay," but "OK"?) In a field that values truth and accuracy above all else, the Stylebook is essential to achieving those ideals.



Since current events and culture are constantly changing, so does the AP Stylebook. For example, "they" became an acceptable singular pronoun to use in the Stylebook in 2017. So, in an exciting and controversial year, there have been, in return, a lot of exciting and controversial changes in this year's AP Stylebook update. One of which, unfortunately, is the use of the % sign after numbers, instead of spelling out percent.

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

Today in History - April 8, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, April 8, the 98th day of 2019. There are 267 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 8, 1994, Kurt Cobain, singer and guitarist for the grunge band Nirvana, was found dead in Seattle from an apparently self-inflicted gunshot wound; he was 27.

On this date:

In 1864, the United States Senate passed, 38-6, the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution abolishing slavery. (The House of Representatives passed it in January 1865; the amendment was ratified and adopted in December 1865.)

In 1911, an explosion at the Banner Coal Mine in Littleton, Alabama, claimed the lives of 128 men, most of them convicts loaned out from prisons.

In 1913, the 17th Amendment to the Constitution, providing for popular election of U.S. senators (as opposed to appointment by state legislatures), was ratified. President Woodrow Wilson became the first chief executive since John Adams to address Congress in person as he asked lawmakers to enact tariff reform.

In 1952, President Harry S. Truman seized the American steel industry to avert a nationwide strike. (The Supreme Court later ruled that Truman had overstepped his authority, opening the way for a seven-week strike by steelworkers.)

In 1961, a suspected bomb exploded aboard the passenger liner MV Dara in the Persian Gulf, causing it to sink; 238 of the 819 people aboard were killed.

In 1963, "Lawrence of Arabia" won the Oscar for best picture at the Academy Awards; Gregory Peck won best actor for "To Kill a Mockingbird" while Anne Bancroft received best actress honors for "The Miracle Worker."

In 1974, Hank Aaron of the Atlanta Braves hit his 715th career home run in a game against the Los Angeles Dodgers, breaking Babe Ruth's record.

In 1988, TV evangelist Jimmy Swaggart resigned from the Assemblies of God after he was defrocked for rejecting an order from the church's national leaders to stop preaching for a year amid reports he had consorted with a prostitute.

In 1990, Ryan White, the teenage AIDS patient whose battle for acceptance had gained national attention, died in Indianapolis at age 18.

In 1993, singer Marian Anderson died in Portland, Oregon, at age 96.

In 2003, kidnapper-rapist John Jamelske, who had imprisoned five women and girls, one after another, as sex slaves inside a makeshift dungeon in his DeWitt, New York, home, was arrested. (Jamelske, who pleaded guilty to five counts of first-degree kidnapping, is serving an 18 years-to-life sentence in a maximum-security prison.)

In 2013, President Barack Obama warned Congress not to use delaying tactics against tighter gun regulations and told families of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting victims during a visit to Hartford, Connecticut, that he was "determined as ever" to honor their children with tougher laws. Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, 87, died in London. Actress and former Disney "Mouseketeer" Annette Funicello, 70, died in Bakersfield, California.

Ten years ago: Somali pirates hijacked the U.S.-flagged Maersk Alabama; although the crew was able to retake the cargo ship, the captain, Richard Phillips, was taken captive by the raiders and held aboard a lifeboat. (Phillips was rescued four days later by Navy SEAL snipers who shot three of the pirates dead.) A Russian spacecraft carrying a crew of three, including U.S. billionaire space tourist Charles Simonyi, landed safely in Kazakhstan. David "Pop" Winans Sr., patriarch of the award-winning Winans gospel music family, died in Nashville, Tennessee, at age 74.

Five years ago: The U.S. said it would keep its current force of 450 land-based nuclear missiles but remove 50 from their launch silos as part of a plan to bring the U.S. into compliance with a 2011 US-Russia arms control treaty. Breanna Stewart scored 21 points and Stefanie Dolson added 17 points and 16 rebounds to help UConn beat Notre Dame 79-58, giving the Huskies a record ninth women's national championship.

One year ago: Patrick Reed won the Masters golf tournament for his first victory in a major, turning back late challenges from Rickie Fowler and Jordan Spieth. Chuck McCann, a zany comic who hosted a children's TV show in the 1960s before branching out as a character actor in films and on TV, died of congestive heart failure at a Los Angeles hospital; he was 83.

Today's Birthdays: Comedian Shecky Greene is 93. Author and Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter Seymour Hersh is 82. Basketball Hall of Famer John Havlicek is 79. "Mouseketeer" Darlene Gillespie is 78. Singer Peggy Lennon (The Lennon Sisters) is 78. Songwriter-producer Leon Huff is 77. Actor Stuart Pankin is 73. Rock musician Steve Howe is 72. Former House Republican Leader Tom DeLay is 72. Movie director John Madden is 70. Rock musician Mel Schacher (Grand Funk Railroad) is 68. Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., is 64. Actor John Schneider is 59. "Survivor" winner Richard Hatch is 58. Rock musician Izzy Stradlin is 57. Singer Julian Lennon is 56. Actor Dean Norris is 56. Rock singer-musician Donita Sparks is 56. Rapper Biz

Markie is 55. Actress Robin Wright is 53. Actress Patricia Arquette is 51. Actor JR Bourne is 49. Rock singer Craig Honeycutt (Everything) is 49. Rock musician Darren Jessee is 48. Actress Emma Caulfield is 46. Actress Katee Sackhoff is 39. Actor Taylor Kitsch is 38. Rock singer-musician Ezra Koenig (Vampire Weekend) is 35. Actor Taran Noah Smith is 35. Actress Kirsten Storms is 35. Rock musician Jamie Sierota is 26. Actress Sadie Calvano is 22.

**Thought for Today: "Computers are useless. They can only give you answers."
- Pablo Picasso, Spanish artist (born 1881, died this date in 1973).**

Connecting calendar



June 20 - 25-Year Club Celebration, 5:30 - 8 p.m., AP headquarters, 200 Liberty Street, New York, NY. RSVP by May 10. RSVP online [here](#). Any questions may be directed to recognition@ap.org

August 17 - Albany AP bureau reunion (including other upstate bureaus), 1-5 p.m., Marc and Carla Humbert residence on Tsatsawassa Lake, [68 Marginal Way, East Nassau, NY](#). Contact: Chris McKnight ([Email](#)).

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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