
Connecting - March 11, 2020

1 message

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this the 11th day of March 2020,

We lead today's Connecting with a story on the death of **Victor Golikov**, a photo editor in the Moscow bureau for 17 years. Colleague **Brian Friedman**, who tipped Connecting to the story and had worked with him in Moscow, said he "was a stalwart staffer who worked there at a momentous time. As photo editor, he worked with our stellar crew of shooters who won the Pulitzer for photos during the coup.

"Vitya was a wonderful man. We spent so many long hours together at work, but his great laugh could always lift your spirits.

"Those days were extremely busy, with street protests, political battles between Gorbachev and Yeltsin, independence movements in the Baltics, Ukraine, Georgia and elsewhere, and economic woes. But our staff was like a family, and Vitya was a big part of that. His hard work, thoughtfulness and cheerful attitude were huge contributions to making the bureau a happy and productive place."

Robert Reid's delightful story in Tuesday's issue on helping set the time on the clock at Washington's Old Post Office prompted this from colleague **Ford Burkhart**: "Reid's light touch keeps getting better with age. Enjoyed the nuggets of clock info, like the exact size, 316 feet, of the tower, and the steps to reset a classic. He reminds us, as he often does, that learning stuff can be great fun, even in the dismal hours for us news guys who go back to the happier '60s and '70s. Thanks a heap, or "Elfa shouk" as he wudda said in his Cairo days."

Here's to a great day!

Paul

Former AP Moscow photo editor Victor Golikov dies at 60



Scene from Moscow bureau photo department in 2000: Staff photographer Mikhail Metzel, left, looks through negatives as photo editor Victor Golikov, seated center, and photographer Mikhail Japaridze, standing, work at a terminal. Seated right is photo editor Irina Samokhvalova. (Photo courtesy of AP Corporate Archives)

Victor Golikov, a former photo editor in the Moscow bureau of The Associated Press who helped the news cooperative's award-winning coverage of the demise of the Soviet Union and the political turmoil that followed, has died at the age of 60.

Golikov, who died Feb. 25, began working in the bureau in 1990, first as a darkroom technician and then editing and transmitting photos of the dramatic

events of those years, including a failed hard-line coup against Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and the subsequent breakup of the country.

Some of the photos of the 1991 coup that he edited were part of the collection that won the 1992 Pulitzer Prize for AP photographers including Boris Yurchenko, Liu Heung Shing and Alexander Zemlianichenko.

In the following years, he edited photos chronicling the later turmoil in the former Soviet Union _ a civil war in Georgia in 1991-92, protests and street fighting in Moscow, separatist conflicts in Chechnya, hostage dramas, global sports events and the rise of Vladimir Putin.

“Most of our best pictures went through Golikov’s hands,” Zemlianichenko said.

But he added that he was a supportive colleague for those in the field, including after Zemlianichenko was wounded in Chechnya in 1995.

“He was a warm and generous person, helping organize birthday parties and celebrate our photographic awards. All of us will always remember him and years of work together,” he added.

Golikov is survived by his two daughters, Anastasia and Anna.



The Moscow staff in 1992, from left: photographer Boris Yurchenko, photo editor Liu Heung Shing, assistant photo editor Victor Golikov, news editor Brian Friedman, photographer Alexander Zemlianichenko, newswoman Leslie Shepherd, newsman Larry Ryckman, translator Varya Kudravtseva, reporter Clint O’Brien, reporter Wendy Sloane, newsman Thomas Ginsberg, newsman Alan Cooperman, translator Volodya Isashchenkov, San Francisco photographer Olga Shalygin,

communications consultant Sergei Kantere, reporter John Iams, translator Yuri Neretin and CoB Bryan Brumley. Not pictured: newswoman Deborah Seward and newsman Sergei Shargorodsky. (Photo courtesy of AP Corporate Archives)

Thoughts on AP 'formula writing'

Bruce Lowitt ([Email](#)) - Paul Albright wrote in Tuesday's CONNECTING: ... *I don't recall staffers had a "formula" to follow, but I do recall the necessity to utilize the "inverted pyramid" format to get the important information at the top and indicate the sport being played. ... In contrast, I often see sports articles now that are devoid of any mention of the sport being played.*

That reminded me of the time one of the people on the desk in NY Sports insisted that the first graf should read something like: "Reggie Jackson's two home runs and Ron Guidry's complete-game six-hitter carried the New York Yankees to a 7-1 victory over the Baltimore Orioles in an American League baseball game."

I also remember the brouhaha resulting from that directive, which didn't last very long. Further, I remember the enjoyment we had of poking fun at it with suggested ledes (that fortunately never got on the wire) like: "... carried New York to a 7-1 victory over the Baltimore Orioles, according to the Yankees, an American League baseball team."

Logic suggests that anyone reading a game story (as opposed to a feature) probably knows the sport, but if he or she doesn't immediately know it, a word in the story, like "shortstop" or "touchdown" or "puck" or the like, will be sufficient to identify it. And if you're reading about bo-taoshi or kaninhop or (one of my favorites) buzkashi, well, there's always Google.

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Jim Carrier ([Email](#)) - Your post about formula writing unearthed a memory of my time as Sioux Falls (SD) correspondent in 1975.

Forget blizzards or uprisings at Wounded Knee. Our most stressful work was shoveling Friday night basketball agate and briefs onto three or four different wires in South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa. Not only did we have to write quick, accurate stories, but we had to code them to cross state lines. And the games all ended about the same time.

We covered the games with student stringers. To make it easier on the staffer at the CRT, we had a formula that went like this:

(Name of player) (did what?) to lead the (Winning Team) to a (score) victory over (Losing Team) Friday night in (Venue).

So a typical story would read: "Bill Jones scored 18 points including the winning shot at the buzzer to lead the Sioux City Panthers to a 42-40 over the Mitchell Cornstalks...." End of story. Next.

One night, I recall, the student stringer failed to get the first name of the game's hero. John Egan, the longtime sports editor of the AM Argus Leader who was on deadline, said, "Call him 'Skip.' What kid wouldn't want to be called Skip?"

John, a tall lanky steady presence in South Dakota sports for 35 years, died in 2017 at the age of 86.

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Norm Abelson ([Email](#)) - I enjoyed yesterday's Connecting piece by Paul Albright, recalling the great Roger Kahn's indoctrination into the AP triangle writing technique. It was, aside from features, the rule of law during my AP days away back in the 50s and 60s.

The who-what-where-when-why news lead at the head of the inverted triangle seems to be on the way out, replaced these days by oh-so-clever intros followed by the reader's search for the news.

I'm no longer surprised to see a story (this one's fictitious) open in this fashion:

The up-turned trailer truck looked like nothing so much as a beached whale.

Sam Fleabag, 46, of Goosetown, a part-time neurosurgeon, said "I got here just after it happened. The darned traffic jam has held me up for 25 minutes.

But while waiting, I got a great selfie in front of the truck."

"Damndest thing the way that semi landed," said State Police Sgt. Al E. Babba. "Oh, yeah," he added, "five people, including the owner of Bob's All Meat Pizza Shack, were seriously injured" in the two-vehicle crash on icy Interstate 95.

Here's another example:

Judy Pfennig, sporting an eye-popping pea-green Dior summer suit, was concerned about who would be baking chocolate-chip cookies for the local Girl Scouts.

"I'm going to be away for a while, so I want to be sure the girls have a treat," she told a reporter. Minutes earlier, Pfennig, a city council member, had been sentenced to six months in Clobber County Jail for misappropriating funds for a local school.

Exaggerations? Maybe, but not by much. The "beached whale" and "Dior suit" lead approaches are all the rage online and seem to be sneaking their way into

print. I'm aware the print press often has to take a second-day approach because of stories appearing first on-line. Even so, I say let the writer up-date and provide new facts. I'll decide whether or not to envision ocean mammals, gush over fashionista assessments or bake some cookies.

Meanwhile, here's an old-style lead that includes a bit of color while stating the key facts:

A grizzled one-time reporter, lamenting the loss of old-fashioned news writing, drowned his regrets with yet another Jack Daniel's during happy hour today at Maxie's Bar & Grille in downtown Moody, Maine.

As Namron Nosleba, 88, hoisted his shot-glass, he was heard to mutter: "Just the news, please."

AP construction project skills put to use with grandsons

Larry Blasko ([Email](#)) - When I was Director of Administrative Services for The Associated Press, I supervised my share of construction projects, but none so delightful as this weekend when my three grandsons built a "fort" in my Man Dungeon in Libertyville, IL.



The contractors, Nolan East, 6 and Kieran East and lead guy Carl Blasko, both 10, are in the above photo, as is the project in beginning stage and as a finished product.

After the first night, when the project "topped out" the contractors turned out all lights except an in-fort lantern, told fart jokes and wrestled. I had a beer and supervised. It was a construction guy thing and it was good!

John King's rookie AP scoop

Sylvia Lee Wingfield ([Email](#)) - A nice AP reference on Tuesday's "Boston Public Radio" show.

CNN's John King — Boston guy and AP alum — was doing his weekly guest political analysis on WGBH with co-hosts Jim Braude and Margery Egan. After a discussion of Democratic vice presidential prospects, Braude asked King about his own first big political scoop in 1988 - that Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis had picked Texas' senior U.S. senator, Lloyd Bentsen, as his running mate.

King said he had staked out the governor's home overnight.

"I worked at 184 High Street in those days," the Boston AP bureau. It was his first national political campaign and the travel "introduced me to America." He called his experiences in that election year "one of the greatest gifts of my life."

Down in the Dallas AP bureau, we thought HIS Bentsen scoop was a pretty big gift to US that summer.

You can listen to the segment at wgbhnews.org, "Boston Public Radio" March 10 show, or the Boston Public Radio podcast. The AP anecdote starts around 2:24:25.

King covered national politics and the Gulf War for AP before moving to CNN.

What's happenin' with AP staffers



Deep South Correspondent Rebecca Santana poses for a photo on Fat Tuesday as she covers the last day of the Mardi Gras season along Rampart Street in New Orleans, Feb. 25, 2020. Her “reporter” costume features a newspaper-print skirt and vest sewn by her mother, a feather boa and a sequined fedora with a bedazzled press ID tucked into the side. (Photo courtesy Jean Maye)



Sales and revenue staff pose for a photo at the Radio Television Digital News Foundation's 30th annual First Amendment Awards in Washington, March 5, 2020. From left: Anita Hines, customer success specialist, ENPS; David Silverstein, national sales director, ENPS; Adam Yeomans, regional director, local markets, East; Sam Moore, account director, local markets, West; Michael Fabiano, vice president of Americas media; Chris Weis, account director, local markets, East; David Wilkison, managing director, local markets groups; Ivett Chicas, director, national and LatAm markets; Kathryn Parent, manager, national media and major accounts; Sara Trohanis, vice president, national networks and major accounts; Eva Parziale, director, local markets, East; and Lyndsey Regis, business coordinator. Members of the ENPS technology team also were in attendance. (Photo courtesy Michael Fabiano)

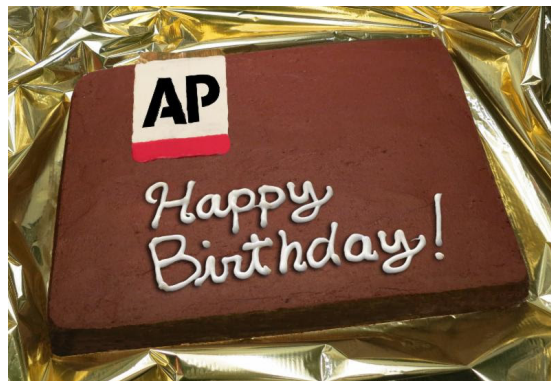


Colleagues gather to celebrate photographer Richard Drew's 50 year anniversary with the AP, March 5, 2020, in New York. (AP Photo/John Minchillo)



Don Rehill, director of vote tabulation and research, prepares for a long night on Super Tuesday where AP counted the votes in 14 presidential primaries and a handful of state primaries. The AP's vote count led the night and put customers ahead of the competition. (AP Photo/Sam Cohen)

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Kernan Turner - mrkrt@ashlandhome.net

Stories of interest

The Future of Journalism May Live on Through Family-Owned Newspapers (Editor & Publisher)

By Gretchen A. Peck

The stories are familiar now. A longtime newspaper family decides to sell off their publications to a larger public corporation (which then slashes costs and lays off employees), or worse, a longtime newspaper family decides to shut down their 100-year-old paper after losing money for so many years.

But that's not the story for all families that own newspapers. E&P spoke to a few of these privately held companies that are still going strong to discuss their challenges and their successes, and most importantly, how they plan to sustain their family legacy.

Investing in Future Generations

At the Sierra Vista, Arizona-based Wick Communications, local journalism is “the crux of the work we do,” said Francis Wick, president and CEO, and a third-generation family owner.

The business was founded in 1926 by two brothers from the Wick family in Niles, Ohio. Their first newspaper title was the Niles Daily Times. Today, they publish newspapers in 11 states. The company is keenly focused on growing its digital audience, so that it can comfortably support the newsroom.

“Our family has been identified, for many generations now, with the work we do in serving the community through local, professionally written journalism,” Wick said.

Read more [here](#).

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Sportswriting's future may depend on the Athletic, which is either reassuring or terrifying (Washington Post)

By Ben Strauss

Jon Greenberg, a Chicago-based sportswriter, had just closed on his new house in 2015 when he was laid off by ESPN. Two months later, facing new mortgage payments and an uncertain future, he received a LinkedIn message from an entrepreneur named Adam Hansmann. He wanted Greenberg to be the first employee of a new sports media company called the Athletic.

“I am not a religious person or one of these people who read self-help books about fate,” Greenberg said recently. “But it was amazing timing. I was thinking that I would have to look outside of sportswriting for a job.”

In the four years since it launched, the Athletic has offered lifelines to hundreds of journalists. When Fox Sports fired all of its sportswriters in 2017, the Athletic scooped up many. When ESPN had layoffs in 2017, the Athletic was there. Last year, when the entire staff of the New Orleans Times-Picayune was laid off, sports editor Jennifer Armstrong “was pretty afraid that my sports journalism career was going to be over,” she said. Instead, she landed at the Athletic.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Bill McCloskey, Dennis Conrad.

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MLB, MLS, NBA and NHL to close locker rooms to reporters, citing coronavirus concerns (Washington Post)

By Des Bieler and Jacob Bogage

The four major U.S. professional sports leagues currently staging games issued a joint statement Monday declaring that media members will be kept out of locker rooms and clubhouses because of concerns about the spread of the coronavirus.

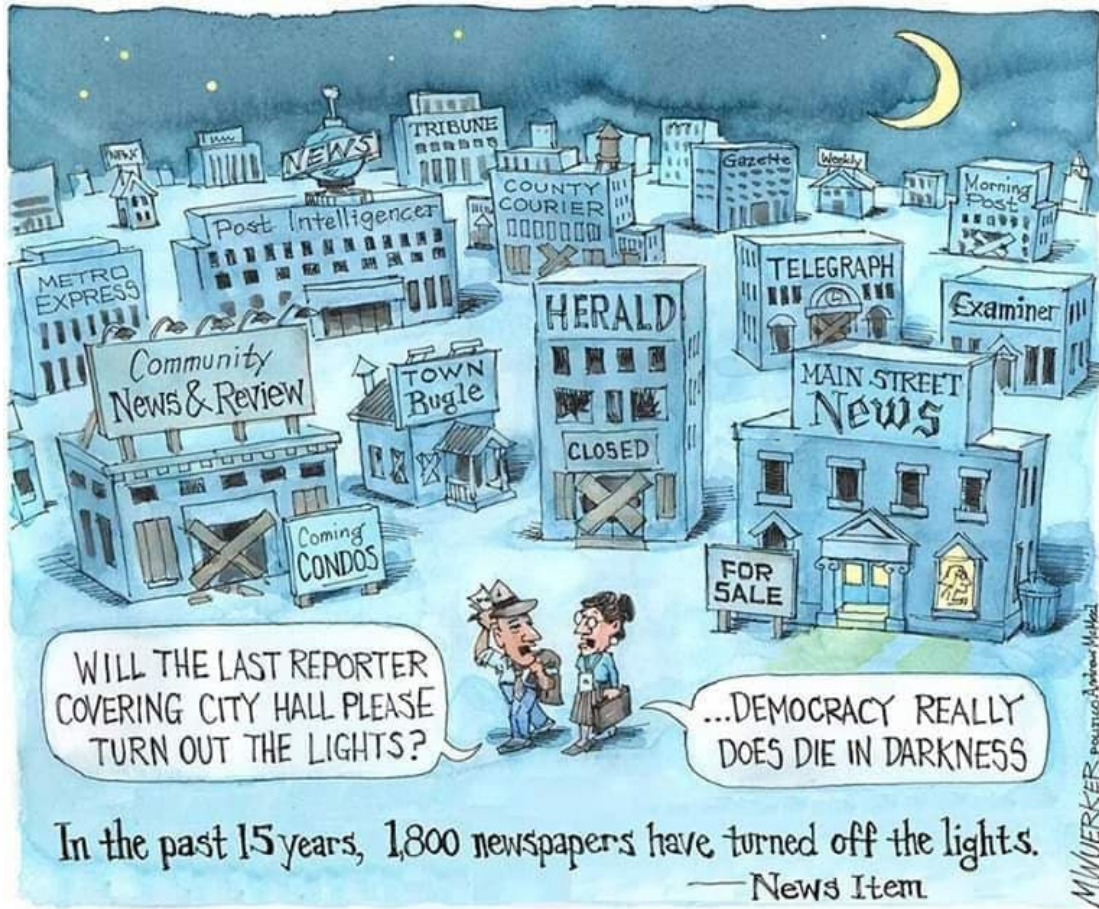
The new arrangement goes into effect starting Tuesday, according to Major League Baseball, Major League Soccer, the NBA and the NHL. Media access to players and coaches will be permitted “in designated locations outside of the locker room and clubhouse setting.”

The leagues said in their statement that they came to the decision after “consultation with infectious disease and public health experts.”

“Given the issues that can be associated with close contact in pre- and post-game settings,” the leagues said, “all team locker rooms and clubhouses will be open only to players and essential employees of teams and team facilities until further notice.”

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad.

The Final Word



Shared by Len Iwanski

Today in History – March 11, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, March 11, the 71st day of 2020. There are 295 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 11, 2011, a magnitude-9.0 earthquake and resulting tsunami struck Japan's northeastern coast, killing nearly 20,000 people and severely damaging the Fukushima Dai-ichi (foo-koo-SHEE'-mah dy-EE'-chee) nuclear power station.

On this date:

In 1862, during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln removed Gen. George B. McClellan as general-in-chief of the Union armies, leaving him in command of the Army of the Potomac, a post McClellan also ended up losing.

In 1888, the Blizzard of '88, also known as the "Great White Hurricane," began inundating the northeastern United States, resulting in some 400 deaths.

In 1918, what are believed to be the first confirmed U.S. cases of a deadly global flu pandemic were reported among U.S. Army soldiers stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas; 46 would die. (The worldwide outbreak of influenza claimed an estimated 20 to 40 million lives.)

In 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Lend-Lease Bill, providing war supplies to countries fighting the Axis.

In 1942, as Japanese forces continued to advance in the Pacific during World War II, U.S. Army Gen. Douglas MacArthur left the Philippines for Australia, where he vowed on March 20, "I shall return" [-] a promise he kept more than 2[1/2] years later.

In 1954, the U.S. Army charged that Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, R-Wis., and his subcommittee's chief counsel, Roy Cohn, had exerted pressure to obtain favored treatment for Pvt. G. David Schine, a former consultant to the subcommittee. (The confrontation culminated in the famous Senate Army-McCarthy hearings.)

In 1959, the Lorraine Hansberry drama "A Raisin in the Sun" opened at New York's Ethel Barrymore Theater.

In 1977, more than 130 hostages held in Washington, D.C., by Hanafi Muslims were freed after ambassadors from three Islamic nations joined the negotiations.

In 1985, Mikhail S. Gorbachev was chosen to succeed the late Konstantin U. Chernenko as general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party.

In 2003, a U.S. Army helicopter crashed near Fort Drum in upstate New York, killing 11 soldiers. Recep Tayyip Erdogan (REH'-jehp TY'-ihp UR'-doh-wahn), the leader of Turkey's governing party, was named prime minister. After a four-day walkout that cost New York City \$10 million, Broadway musicians settled the first strike on the Great White Way in nearly 30 years.

In 2004, ten bombs exploded in quick succession across the commuter rail network in Madrid, Spain, killing 191 people in an attack linked to al-Qaida-inspired militants.

In 2005, a judge, court reporter and sheriff's deputy were shot to death at an Atlanta courthouse; Brian Nichols, who killed them as well as a federal agent, surrendered a day later at the apartment of Ashley Smith, a woman he'd taken hostage. (Nichols was later convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison.)

Ten years ago: A federal appeals court in San Francisco upheld the use of the words "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance and "In God We Trust" on U.S. currency. In an address at Tel Aviv University, Vice President Joe Biden said "good faith negotiations" could recognize Israeli security needs and the Palestinian goal for a viable state. Sebastian Pinera was sworn in as Chile's new president on a day when the country was peppered with a dozen significant aftershocks from a February earthquake. Pro Football Hall of Famer and former television actor Merlin Olsen died in suburban Los Angeles at age 69.

Five years ago: The police chief of the St. Louis suburb of Ferguson resigned in the wake of a scathing Justice Department report prompted by the fatal shooting of an unarmed black 18-year-old by a white police officer. Jimmy Greenspoon, 67, the keyboardist for rock band Three Dog Night, died in North Potomac, Maryland.

One year ago: Airlines in Ethiopia, China, Indonesia and elsewhere grounded the Boeing 737 Max 8 jetliner after the second devastating crash of one of the planes in five months; Boeing said it had no reason to pull the popular aircraft from the skies. Party leaders announced that Milwaukee would be the host of the 2020 Democratic National Convention. President Donald Trump proposed a record \$4.7 trillion budget, pushing the federal deficit past \$1 trillion but counting on optimistic growth, accounting shuffles and steep domestic cuts to bring spending into balance in 15 years. Hal Blaine, a session drummer who played on the songs of Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley and the Beach Boys, died at his California home at the age of 90; according to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, Blaine had played on 40 No. 1 hits and 150 top 10 songs.

Today's Birthdays: Media mogul Rupert Murdoch is 89. Former ABC News correspondent Sam Donaldson is 86. Musician Flaco Jimenez (FLAH'-koh hee-MEH'-nez) is 81. Actress Tricia O'Neil is 75. Actor Mark Metcalf is 74. Rock singer-musician Mark Stein (Vanilla Fudge) is 73. Singer Bobby McFerrin is 70. Movie director Jerry Zucker is 70. Singer Cheryl Lynn is 69. Actress Susan Richardson is 68. Recording executive Jimmy Iovine (eye-VEEN') is 67. Singer Nina Hagen is 65. Country singer Jimmy Fortune (The Statler Brothers) is 65. Actor Elias Koteas (ee-LY'-uhs koh-TAY'-uhs) is 59. Actor-director Peter Berg is 58. Singer Mary Gauthier (GOH'-shay) is 58. Actor Jeffrey Nordling is 58. Actress Alex Kingston is 57. Country musician David Talbot is 57. Actor Wallace Langham is 55. Former U.S. Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr., D-Ill., is 55. Actor John Barrowman is 53. Singer Lisa Loeb is 52. Neo-soul musician Al Gamble (St. Paul & the Broken Bones) is 51. Singer Pete Dinklage is 51. Actor Terrence Howard is 51. Rock musician Rami Jaffe is 51. Actor Johnny Knoxville is 49. Rock singer-musicians Benji and Joel Madden (Good Charlotte; The Madden Brothers) are 41. Actor David Anders is 39. Singer LeToya is 39. Actress Thora Birch is 38. TV personality Melissa Rycroft is 37. Actor Rob Brown is 36. Actress Jodie Comer is 27.

Thought for Today: "It's all right to hesitate if you then go ahead." [-] Bertholt Brecht, German poet and dramatist (1898-1956).

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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