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## Connecting February 11, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this the 11<sup>th</sup> day of February 2021,

We congratulate **Daisy Veerasingham** who has been named AP's executive vice president and chief operating officer.

An announcement was made Wednesday by AP President and CEO **Gary Pruitt**, who said she will have responsibility for all AP departments including news, business and technology, "all of which will report jointly to Daisy and me."

Veerasingham has been chief revenue officer since 2019. She joined the AP in 2004 as sales director for AP Television News in London.

"This is an important appointment for AP," Pruitt said in an announcement to staff, "and a well-deserved promotion for Daisy, who has masterfully guided our global revenue operations despite challenging circumstances like those brought on by the coronavirus pandemic and upheaval in the media industry."

## *Mourning the loss of Terez Paylor*



We extend our condolences to our colleague **Ebony Reed** ([Email](#)) on the death of her fiancé **Terez Paylor**, NFL writer for Yahoo!Sports based in Kansas City. He died Tuesday at the age of 37, and Kansas City Star columnist Sam Mellinger remembers him in a story [in Wednesday's issue](#). Charles Robinson, NFL columnist for Yahoo!Sports, wrote [this touching column](#) on Terez.

Ebony is a team leader for The Wall Street Journal in its Digital Experience & Strategy (DXS) team and is based in Kansas City. Earlier in her career, she worked for the AP from 2010 to 2016, first as assistant chief of bureau in the Boston bureau and later as director of business development for U.S. local markets.

In a statement released by Yahoo!Sports, she said, "While we are shocked and saddened by Terez Paylor's sudden passing, we also celebrate his extraordinary life that touched so many. Terez was an exceptional journalist whose passion for football made him a respected voice. His legacy will leave an enduring impact on sports journalism, the NFL, the Kansas City Chiefs, and their fans. More important, Terez was a devoted son, grandson, brother, an adoring fiancé, and a wonderful friend to so many. To know him was to love him. He will be dearly missed."

Have a good day – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

# Daisy Veerasingham named AP chief operating officer

NEW YORK – The Associated Press Wednesday named Daisy Veerasingham executive vice president and chief operating officer.

Veerasingham will have responsibility for all AP departments. This includes the company's news, business and technology operations, all of which will report jointly to her and President and CEO Gary Pruitt.

Veerasingham, who has been chief revenue officer since 2019, will continue to lead the company's revenue division and serve on the AP Management Committee. She will continue to report to Pruitt.

"Daisy is an extraordinary leader, and her innovative and strategic vision has helped AP achieve financial strength," Pruitt said. "Her remarkable performance as a revenue leader and her commitment to AP's news values make her the ideal choice for COO. I look forward to working even more closely with her in this important new role."

Since being named chief revenue officer, Veerasingham has led a division that comprises AP's sales, product, marketing and customer operations worldwide.

"AP's mission to advance the power of facts through its journalism is critically important," Veerasingham said. "I am thrilled to work together with Gary and our excellent leadership teams across the company to ensure that AP continues to deliver for our members and customers around the world."

Veerasingham joined AP in 2004 as sales director for AP Television News in London and was promoted to senior vice president for international revenue in 2010. In that role, she led all international content licensing, AP Global Media Services and AP's video business, including the news agency's multichannel live video service.

Prior to joining AP, she was group sales and marketing director at LexisNexis and also held sales and marketing roles at the Financial Times.



Based in London, Veerasingham will relocate to AP's headquarters in New York.

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

## More memories of Henri Huet and that fateful day of Vietnam chopper crash 50 years ago

**Joe Galloway (Email)** - A little-known story about Henri Huet, told to me by Henri himself after he got back to Vietnam from surgery to repair combat wounds in New York. AP had flown Henri to NYC to have his knee wound repaired and had arranged for a very famous bone doctor surgeon to do the operation. When they rolled Henri into the OR, the galleries were packed with doctors and would-be doctors there to see the great man do his stuff. The anesthetist shot Henri up with a big dose of curare, a muscle relaxant and also a deadly poison. All eyes are now on the surgeon, including that of the anesthetist who had gotten the curare dose wrong. Henri was laying there, unable to move or talk or scream and he knew he was dying. Finally the anesthetist looked around and noticed that there were tears rolling down Henri's cheeks. He pushed the panic button and Henri was saved at the last possible moment. Henri said the lesson he learned was never to get the very best surgeon to work on you but always get the best anesthetist.

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**Henry Bradsher (Email)** - The grim recollections of that February 10, 1971, shooting down of photographers over Laos bring several things to mind.

When I spent post-AP time in Vietnam (and Cambodia and Laos) from early 1970 to late 1974 for The Washington Star, my editors wanted overviews of the military, political and economic situations, leaving coverage of the day-to-day war up to AP. Only a few times was I out in the field, seeing little combat. But I saw a lot of the AP staff.

I happened to be chatting with them in the bureau when Nick Ut rushed in excitedly with what he said were good photos. One was Napalm Girl. I saw little of Henri Huet.

Larry Burrows was a friend who lived on the other side of Hong Kong island from me (where my primary reporting focused on China, those being days when no American correspondents were allowed to work on the mainland).

A couple of times Larry invited me for doubles tennis on a dirt court near his home. A third player who wintered in Hong Kong was Prince Peter. A prince of both the Greek and Danish royal families, he was an anthropologist specializing in polyandry (one wife for several husbands, common in the Himalayas). I don't know how Larry came to know him, nor remember who the fourth player was.

Those games were during Larry's occasional Hong Kong breaks from combat photography in Vietnam for Life magazine. Then he did not return to Hong Kong.

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**Gene Herrick (Email)** - Thanks for all of the great tributes to AP photographer Henri Huet. As a former AP photographer/war correspondent in Korea, I can appreciate those great photographers and writers in the Vietnam War.

Korea was different. It was nasty, but not like Vietnam. We correspondents in Korea seldom, if ever, got together, except some of the writers who did gather. We photographers, Max Desfor, a Pulitzer winner, who took me to the front, Frank "Pappy" Noel, who by then was a prisoner of war, and Jim Pringle. We were the only photographers that I ever knew about. Other than meeting Pringle once, I never saw any of the other AP photographers. Desfor was on my left and covering the Marines freezing and fighting the Chinese. I was with the 7<sup>th</sup> division which went to the Yalu River, just across from Russia. AP reporter Tom Stone was my sidekick.

The AP reporters there that I knew of were Hal Boyle, Bill Jordan, Bem Price, and Tom Stone.

I left with the hot pictures of the Yalu reaching. I then flew to Tokyo, and then back to the states.

None of we AP photographers were able to photograph each other. We were always separated. No camaraderie.

## A question for political reporters who covered Congress

**Doug Pizac (Email)** - I have a question for political reporters who have covered Congress.

During the first break Wednesday in Trump's Senate trial, Norah O'Donnell cut to a CBS reporter at the Capitol who said that Sen. Lindsey Graham spoke with former President Donald Trump last night (Tuesday).

Since the senators are the "jurors" of the trial, why wouldn't Trump's interaction with Graham and probably other GOP senators be construed as jury collusion and/or tampering?

Over decades of covering court proceedings having the defendant be in direct contact with jury members during his/her proceeding would be a colossal breach of ethics and

professional standards, let alone a possible criminal act within itself. Why not now with Trump, Graham, etc.?

One would think the Democrats would be up in arms over what would normally be regarded as highly inappropriate behavior and conflicts of interest. In regular district, state and federal courts such interaction would have that juror thrown off the case and kept from casting a verdict at minimum.

I'm interested to hear responses to this and why normal court/trial protocols against such contact are allowed in senate trials.

This sounds like an interesting sidebar story to the trial itself.

## Columbia's Lipman Center offers fellowships for working journalists

**Dolores Barclay** ([Email](#)) - I teach at Columbia's Graduate School of Journalism now and I love the university. I'm also manager of the school's Ira A. Lipman Center for Journalism and Civil and Human Rights. The center has done some amazing projects — most recently a documentary with PBS Frontline on voter suppression. We also award two fellowships each year to working journalists. Application period is now open and details are [here](#).

Please pass along the fellowship link - it's \$10,000 each and non-residential, six months to produce a 5,000-word feature and publish it. Thanks.

I'm sharing a clip from [Tuesday's New York Times](#), which quotes me regarding Mary Wilson's death and The Supremes. I remember how we all scrambled under deadline pressure to find so-called experts to add context to obits and now I've been thrust into that position. I'm getting requests from all sorts of outlets, from the BBC to Inside Edition for interviews. But I'm not a Mary Wilson or Supremes expert! LOL! Years ago, I collaborated with Diana Ross on her best-selling memoir and that's the extent of it. I would never call me for comment, but then our standards were always the highest and now I share those standards with the feverish little minds at the J School.



Over the years, some of AP's best and brightest have shared their wisdom with my classes: Charlie Hanley, Darlene Superville, Martha Mendoza, Malcolm Ritter, Amanda Barrett, Colleen Long, Mark Kennedy, Dave Bauder, Jocelyn Noveck, and former APers Larry McShane and Dana Kennedy. Charlie, Malcolm and Amanda are regulars.

I also advise students on their master's projects, required to earn the degree, and edit their 5,000-word features or investigations. It's lots of fun and I don't need to be in my office every day.

Columbia's COVID-19 numbers have been way down (latest positivity is 0.31%), so I taught my fall class of 14 students in person — in a gigantic events hall so everyone could be spaced — with mics and a ginormous screen for interaction with guest speakers, who Zoom. And, yes, I sent my students out on the street to report and to do real stories. A few of them even scooped the majors on competitive stories. Scrappy little things. Just what we need in the industry.

Stay safe and thanks for sharing the link to the Lipman Center Fellowship.

(Dolores Barclay is former AP Arts Editor, former National Writer, former NY Bureau staffer (then known as AP City Desk when she joined AP in the early 1970s).

## Connecting mailbox

### *AP Photo team from 1999 Pan Am Games*



**Cliff Schiappa** ([Email](#)) - When it's 3 a.m. and I'm lying awake, what better way to spend the time than to open one of many archive boxes holding too many photos and start rummaging. I found this snapshot from 1999 showing the AP Photos team that covered the 1999 Pan Am Games in Winnipeg, Canada. The image was made by our breakfast waiter at the downtown Ramada Inn before we were departing for our home cities following the games. Seated are Lynn Sladky (Miami) and Ricardo Mazalan (Bogota). Standing left to right are Kevork Djansezian (Los Angeles), Stephanie Mullen (San Francisco), Cliff Schiappa (Kansas City), and Eduardo Di Baia (Buenos Aires).

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***TYPO!***

**Linda Sargent** ([Email](#)) - I thought you might like this photo from a nearby neighborhood in Dallas. Someone thought it would be cute to call the area around Tyler, Davis and Polk streets TYPO. And there's a relatively new pink neon sign that shouts "TYPO."



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## *Ice fishing on Lake St. Claire*



**Hank Ackerman** ([Email](#)) - On recent weekend (Feb 6, 2021) ice fisherman on Anchor Bay of Lake St Claire, which is straddled by Ontario Province and Michigan, angling for prized walleye. They pull a sled with corkscrew implement, heater, refreshments, fishing gear and tarp into the 20F degree weather and fish for hours. Ice was some 6 inches thick. Some 200 of these “huts” were deployed in the area last weekend. Some stay put for weeks.

## Stories of interest

### *Embedded within a mass delusion: The challenge of reporting on QAnon* (Poynter)

**By: Angela Fu**

BBC reporter Marianna Spring was sitting outside enjoying a pint with one of her friends last summer when she got hit by her first QAnon pile-on.

Messages and threats flooded Spring’s phone, accusing her of eating babies and of being a Satanic pedophile. Spring, a specialist reporter covering disinformation and social media, stayed up until 3 a.m. that night, blocking accounts until the deluge of harassment slowed. When she woke up, more messages awaited her.

“I think it was then that I really realized what QAnon is, the scale of this movement, the cult-like nature of it, and how it was beginning to become a bit of a big deal here in the U.K.,” Spring said.

QAnon – the baseless conspiracy theory centered on the idea that prominent Democrats and Hollywood celebrities are cannibalistic, Satan-worshipping pedophiles – has exploded in popularity over the past year. It has gained traction in the United States among former President Donald Trump’s supporters, and its ideas have spread abroad.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Lindel Hutson.

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## ***“IT’S CHAOS”: BEHIND THE SCENES OF DONALD MCNEIL’S NEW YORK TIMES EXIT*** (Vanity Fair)

By **JOE POMPEO**

The turbulent exit of reporter Donald McNeil Jr., a 45-year New York Times veteran owning the biggest story in the world, has unraveled the Times newsroom and set social media ablaze, with private discussions taking place among employees of color on Slack, alumni jumping into the fray on Facebook, and polarizing takes flowing freely on Twitter. Though the broad outlines of McNeil’s ignominious departure are known, along with revelations about McNeil’s conduct on a trip with high schoolers, I’ve been able to piece together a clearer picture of the Times’ handling of the whole messy affair, based on conversations with multiple people who have knowledge of how it all went down. That includes the Times’ 2019 investigation into McNeil’s behavior, candid discussions between Times reporters and masthead editors, and last week’s war room meetings among Times management concerning this latest installment in a string of mega controversies at the paper of record.

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

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## ***Hustler publisher Larry Flynt dies at 78*** (AP)

By **JOHN ROGERS**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Porn purveyor Larry Flynt, who built Hustler magazine into an adult entertainment juggernaut that included casinos, films, websites and other enterprises as he relentlessly championed First Amendment rights, has died at age 78.

Flynt, who had been in declining health, died Wednesday at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, his longtime attorney, Paul Cambria, told The Associated Press. He had been paralyzed and nearly killed in a 1986 assassination attempt.

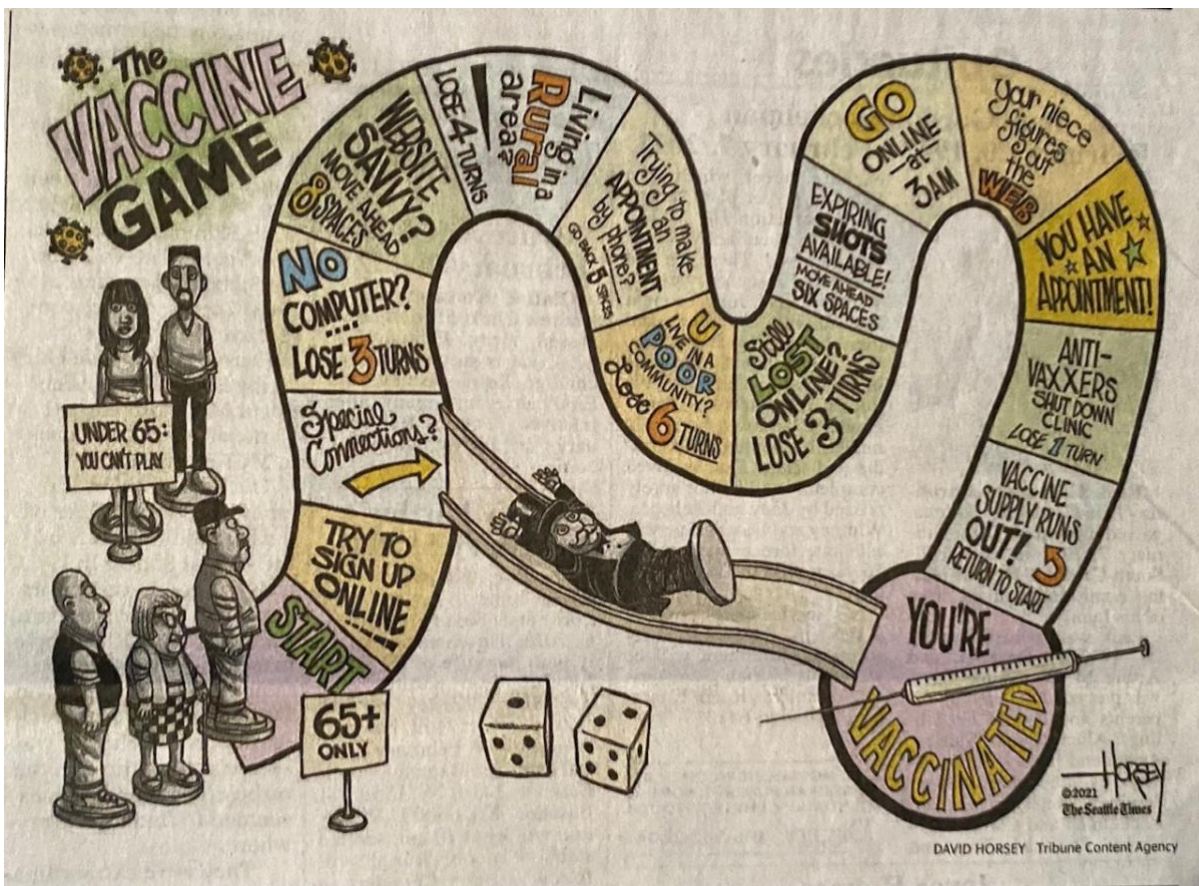
“He suffered decades of health issues and you can imagine it was pretty difficult,” said his nephew Jimmy Flynt Jr. He added, “I loved him and may he rest in peace.”

From his beginnings as a fledgling Ohio strip club owner to his reign as founder of one of the most outrageously explicit adult-oriented magazines, Flynt constantly challenged the establishment and was intensely disliked by the religious right and feminist groups that said he demeaned women and put them at risk with pictures of bondage and other controversial acts.

Flynt maintained throughout his life that he wasn’t just a pornographer but also a fierce defender of free-speech rights.

Read more [here](#).

## The Final Word



## Today in History - Feb. 11, 2021



## By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Feb. 11, the 42nd day of 2021. There are 323 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlights in History:

On Feb. 11, 2020, the World Health Organization gave the official name of COVID-19 to the disease caused by the coronavirus that had emerged in the Chinese city of Wuhan. A group of 195 evacuees was cleared to end a two-week quarantine at a Southern California military base, where they had been staying since flying out of China amid the coronavirus outbreak.

### On this date:

In 1812, Massachusetts Gov. Elbridge Gerry signed a redistricting law favoring his Democratic-Republican Party [–] giving rise to the term “gerrymandering.”

In 1847, American inventor Thomas Alva Edison was born in Milan, Ohio.

In 1861, President-elect Abraham Lincoln bade farewell to his adopted hometown of Springfield, Ill., as he headed to Washington for his inauguration.

In 1945, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet leader Josef Stalin signed the Yalta Agreement, in which Stalin agreed to declare war against Imperial Japan following Nazi Germany's capitulation.

In 1975, Margaret Thatcher was elected leader of Britain's opposition Conservative Party.

In 1979, followers of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini (hoh-MAY'-nee) seized power in Iran.

In 1990, South African Black activist Nelson Mandela was freed after 27 years in captivity.

In 2006, Vice President Dick Cheney accidentally shot and wounded Harry Whittington, a companion during a weekend quail-hunting trip in Texas.

In 2008, the Pentagon charged Khalid Sheikh Mohammed (HAH'-leed shayk moh-HAH'-med) and five other detainees at Guantanamo Bay with murder and war crimes in connection with the Sept. 11 attacks.

In 2009, All-Star shortstop Miguel Tejada pleaded guilty to lying to Congress about steroids in baseball. (He was sentenced to a year's probation.) Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich., who first went to Congress in 1955, became the longest-serving member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

In 2012, pop singer Whitney Houston, 48, was found dead in a hotel room bathtub in Beverly Hills, California.

In 2013, with a few words in Latin, Pope Benedict XVI did what no pope had done in more than half a millennium: announced his resignation. The bombshell came during a routine morning meeting of Vatican cardinals. (The 85-year-old pontiff was succeeded by Pope Francis.)

Ten years ago: Egypt exploded with joy after pro-democracy protesters brought down President Hosni Mubarak, whose resignation ended three decades of authoritarian rule.

Five years ago: Surrounded by FBI agents in armored vehicles, the last four occupiers of a national nature preserve in Oregon surrendered, ending a 41-day standoff that left one man dead. Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders battled for the crucial backing of black and Hispanic voters during a Democratic debate in Milwaukee.

One year ago: Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders won New Hampshire's Democratic presidential primary, edging moderate Pete Buttigieg. Entrepreneur Andrew Yang and Colorado Sen. Michael Bennet each dropped out of the Democratic presidential race. The four lawyers on the Justice Department team that prosecuted longtime Trump ally Roger Stone quit the case after the department overruled them and said it would seek a reduced amount of prison time for Stone. Actor Jussie Smollett was indicted for a second time on charges of lying to police about a racist and anti-gay attack he allegedly staged on himself in downtown Chicago. A standard poodle named Siba won top honors at the Westminster Kennel Club show in New York.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Conrad Janis is 93. Gospel singer Jimmy Carter is 89. Fashion designer Mary Quant is 87. Bandleader Sergio Mendes is 80. Actor Philip Anglim is 69. Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush is 68. Actor Catherine Hickland is 65. Rock musician David Uosikkinen (aw-SIK'-ken-ihn) (The Hooters) is 65. Actor Carey Lowell is 60. Singer Sheryl Crow is 59. Former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin is 57. Actor Jennifer Aniston is 52. Actor Damian Lewis is 50. Actor Marisa Petraro is 49. Singer D'Angelo is 47. Actor Brice Beckham is 45. Rock M-C/vocalist Mike Shinoda (Linkin Park) is 44. Singer-actor Brandy is 42. Country musician Jon Jones (The Eli Young Band) is 41. Actor Matthew Lawrence is 41. R&B singer Kelly Rowland is 40. Actor Natalie Dormer is 39. Singer Aubrey O'Day is 37. Actor Q'orianka (kohr-ee-AHN'-kuh) Kilcher is 31. Actor Taylor Lautner is 29.

# 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](mailto:paulstevens46@gmail.com)

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