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Connecting

March 03, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this the 3rd day of March 2021,

The AP has bid farewell to 25-year veteran **Traci Carl** - and The New York Times welcomed her Tuesday as one of the newest members of its newly created Live Team.

That team is described as a “group of editors and correspondents — working with both words and visuals — (that) will help refine and expand upon the various Live forms we currently use to cover big stories and ensure that desks have the resources they need to take real-time journalism to the next level.”

I have been proud of Traci in all of her AP assignments since hiring her for a relief position in Topeka after she was recommended to the AP by the late **Tom Eblen**, then general manager of the University Daily Kansan at the University of Kansas. She served as Wichita correspondent before her career took her to New York, Mexico City, Phoenix and back to New York. We wish her well.

"I will miss all the friends and amazing colleagues I made at AP in the 26 years I called the company my work home," Carl told Connecting. "It was a fun ride and I am proud to have known so many talented and dedicated journalists."

We bring you that story in today's issue – and even more of your most-disliked jargon. Here's a challenge: send me poetry or prose using as many jargon terms as possible. We lead today's issue with one from AP poet laureate **Jim Reindl**.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

With Apologies to Frank Sinatra and the Authors of 'My Way'

By Jim Reindl ([Email](#))

And now, the bottom line is here
And so I face the final benchmark
My friend I'll say it clear, I'll state my case
I've used my bandwidth
Doing more with less
To reach out, touch base and check the boxes
And more, much more than this
I ruined the language

Direct reports, I've had a few
Uniquely qualified and laser-focused
Value added, results driven,
They hit the back of the net
They dotted I's and crossed the T's
But never moved the goal posts
But more, much more than this
They ruined the language

Yes, there were times
Synergy was offline
Level playing fields made us streamline
But through it all,
we played hardball
And ran ideas right up the flagpole
We circled back and with best practice, we ruined the language.

I've moved the needle and drilled down
I've had my fill of blue-sky thinking
And now, I must game plan
And brainstorm to get the ball rolling
No going back
To the drawing board

Oh, no, it's what it is
It's more so much more than this
It's a ruined language.

For what is a man if he works harder
Not smarter, that's a no-brainer
To re-invent the wheel and revert
Pick low-hanging fruit out of the loop
The record shows, my ducks in a row
I've ruined the language.

From Kansas City to Karachi, 3 New Live Team Members Have Had Datelines Galore

New York Times

As The Times works to create a Live operation that will build on the journalistic successes of the past year, Marc Lacey announces three new members of the team.

With our desire to bring more readers into New York Times journalism as it's breaking, through briefings, blogs, chats and more, it is clear that 2021 will be the Year of Live.

To help the newsroom build on all the journalistic successes of the past year, we're creating a Live Team that will be based in New York but have tentacles across our operation. This group of editors and correspondents — working with both words and visuals — will help refine and expand upon the various Live forms we currently use to cover big stories and ensure that desks have the resources they need to take real-time journalism to the next level.

I'll have more exciting news on the overall team soon, but today I'm introducing three new hires who will join this effort. They are creative and collaborative and have years of experience covering breaking news on every imaginable topic.

(Profile of one of them, Traci Carl of the AP)

Traci Carl will bring her 25 years as a reporter, editor and manager at The Associated Press to the Live team, where she'll work as a deputy based in New York. Traci has covered countless big stories, including the Iraq war, the San Bernardino shooting and the drug war in Mexico. Traci started her career in Kansas covering statehouse politics, agriculture and the Oklahoma City bombing. After a stint on The A.P.'s international desk, she became bureau chief in Mexico and Central America. Later, she built a regional editing desk for The A.P.

that oversaw news operations for 13 states west of the Rockies. Under her leadership, the West Desk pioneered The Latest, a new form of real-time filing that moved breaking news out faster for all customers, digital and print. She returned to New York in 2016 as international operations director and then became director of partnerships, digital and commercial. Her most recent role included working collaboratively with news, products and revenue to develop new business opportunities and reach new audiences. All those skills will come in handy on Live. Traci, a graduate of the University of Kansas, lives in New Jersey, with her husband, two daughters and a dog named Piglet.



Click [here](#) for a link to this story. Traci's email - tracicarmelchor@gmail.com

Myanmar authorities charge Associated Press journalist



This undated family handout photo provided on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 shows Associated Press journalist Thein Zaw in Myanmar.

YANGON, Myanmar (AP) — Authorities in Myanmar have charged Associated Press journalist Thein Zaw and five other members of the media with violating a public order law that could see them imprisoned for up to three years, a lawyer said Tuesday.

The six were arrested while covering protests against the Feb. 1 military coup in Myanmar that ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi. The group includes journalists for Myanmar Now, Myanmar Photo Agency, 7Day News, Zee Kwet online news and a freelancer.

Lawyer Tin Zar Oo, who represents Thein Zaw, said the six have been charged under a law that punishes anyone who causes fear among the public, knowingly spreads false news, or agitates directly or indirectly for a criminal offense against a government employee.

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

Connecting mailbox

Remembers Fred Waters for friendship, guidance

Neal Ulevich ([Email](#)) - Cliff Schiappa's memories of Fred Waters (in Tuesday's Connecting) took me back to my days in the St. Louis bureau in the late 1960s. I was a junior writer in the bureau. Fred was the rock that kept the bureau from flying apart. On learning I was studying Chinese he related stories of his years in Asia. When I at last quit St. Louis to depart for Hong Kong and other Asian points I quickly learned "I know Mizu" was often as much introduction as I needed. AP COB Woody Edwards in Hong Kong. Le Minh of Saigon Time Magazine (and formerly of AP). Maurice Cavaliere in Vientiane. Knowing Fred Waters was enough. To this day I'm grateful for his friendship and guidance in my St. Louis days. I miss him.

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New meaning to expression 'copy taster'

Steve Graham ([Email](#)) - *Nebraska may be home to the country's only newspaper/liquor store* (story in Tuesday's edition.)

This brings new meaning to this British expression:

Definition of 'copy taster'

copy taster

in British English

NOUN

a person who selects or approves text for publication, esp in a periodical

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This headline didn't pass: 'AP Two-timed by Pulitzer Committee'

Bruce Nathan ([Email](#)) - It was 1974 and I recently had been appointed AP Promotion Director by Conrad Fink, Vice President for Newspaper Membership. One of my duties was to create institutional and announcement advertising for trade publications.

In April the Pulitzer Prizes were announced and AP had won two of them — a rare occurrence. Fink told me to put together an ad celebrating the awards for Editor & Publisher magazine, the trade standard.

I got right on it and showed my copy to Fink. He seemed a bit hesitant to approve it, but ultimately did so. There was, however, one more obstacle: AP President Wes Gallagher had the final word on all ads.

The next day, ad mechanical in hand, I made my way with halting steps from the 7th floor office of Fink down the daunting corridor to Gallagher's office.

The ad's headline "AP Two-timed by Pulitzer Committee" was a play on words that was quickly expounded on in the body copy. Gallagher never got that far. His fist descended in an arc and pounded his mahogany desk. "It's a pun, I don't like puns" he roared. He applied his pen with force to the camera-ready mechanical, scratching out the headline and replacing it with, "AP Wins Two Pulitzer Prizes."

The ad ran thusly, and my "pun" never saw the light of day. I was more circumspect when composing subsequent ad headlines.

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Singing his way into retirement



Mike Holmes ([Email](#)) – Here is [a video by John Bridges](#), retiring editor of the Austin American-Statesman. (He's the brother of an old friend.) Of course, in the Live Music Capital of the World it would be done with a guitar. Bridges [will leave the Statesman](#) in March after 32 years. He rose through the newspaper's editing ranks to serve as managing editor for seven years and executive editor for the past two.

His brother, George, was a photo stringer for us when I was Austin correspondent, and also a frequent golf partner. George worked in Washington for a time and now lives in Houston. This accompanied George's Facebook posting of John's pressroom video: "...After 32 years at the Austin American-Statesman, working his way from copy desk to Executive Editor, my brother does a Big Pressroom Concert on his final day."

More of your least-favorite jargon

Until today, my most-hated piece of jargon was "task force," a term that once required at least an aircraft carrier or battleship.

Just now, I heard FBI Director Christopher Gray testify before the U.S. Senate that they have brought together a "fusion cell" to tackle domestic terrorism -- and repeated the term several times. (Steve Graham)

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And on least favorite jargon - flack to reporter: "You'll be the first to know." Oh sure. (Marc Humbert)

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As a sailor, few nouns flipped into verbs annoy me more than to helm, i.e., As CEO, he helmed the Fortune 500 company.

Okay, so let's pivot and reach out at the end of the day when we can unpack the history and find a takeaway on our journey to celebrate the one-year anniversary. (Michael Putzel)

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An important sub-genre of office jargon was technology jargon as deployed by non-techie posers such as myself. At a cocktail party pep talk for the AP booth staff at a trade show in Zurich, I expressed admiration for a pair of unisex spandex underpants I had seen while browsing storefronts in town. Among their features and functions:

- * Seamless user interface
- * Ample bandwidth for fast uploads and downloads
- * Platform agnostic design
- * Excellent compression ratio
- * Full support for all the standard output devices

(Dave Tomlin)

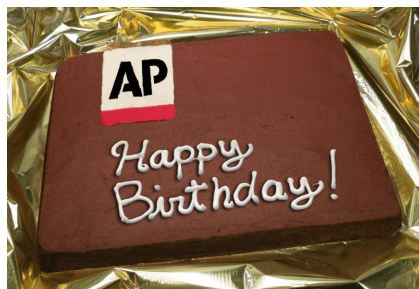
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The one missing in my opinion is..."set you up to fail". (Julie Thorson)

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"It is what it is." Oh, shut up. Everything in the cosmos is what it is! Show me something that isn't what it is. (Doug Tucker)

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Dan Beegan - daniel.beegan@gmail.com

Tom Goodman - fddodger@gmail.com

Stories of interest

Belarus journalist sentenced for report on protester's death (AP)

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — A court in Belarus on Tuesday handed a half-year prison sentence to a journalist on charges of revealing personal data in her report on the death of a protester, part of authorities' crackdown on demonstrations against authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko.

Katsiaryna Barysevich of the independent Tut.by online news portal has been in custody since November, following the publication of an article in which she cited medical documents indicating that protester Raman Bandarenka died of severe injuries and wasn't drunk — contrary to official claims.

Bandarenka died in a hospital on Nov. 12 of brain and other injuries. The opposition alleged that he was brutally beaten by police who dispersed a protest in the Belarusian capital, Minsk. Bandarenka's death caused public outrage and fueled more demonstrations.

On Tuesday, the Moskovsky District Court in Minsk sentenced Barysevich to six months in prison and a fine equivalent to \$1,100. It also handed a two-year suspended sentence to Artsyom Sarokin, a doctor who treated Bandarenka and shared his medical records with Barysevich, and fined him the equivalent of \$550.

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

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CNN's Chris Cuomo says he 'obviously' can't cover brother (AP)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK — CNN host Chris Cuomo told viewers Monday that he “obviously” couldn't cover the stories surrounding his older brother, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who has been accused of sexual harassment by three women.

The prime time host addressed the topic immediately at the start of his show, which airs at 9 p.m. Eastern, and just as quickly moved on.

Stories about the embattled governor's problems have been awkward for CNN, which allowed the two brothers to banter on the air several times last spring at the COVID-19 pandemic's start. The appearances charmed some viewers while making ethical experts queasy.

“Obviously, I'm aware of what's going on with my brother,” Chris Cuomo said on Monday. “Obviously, I cannot cover it because he is my brother. Now, of course CNN has to cover it. They have covered it extensively and they will continue to do so.”

Read more [here](#).

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They were arrested while covering protests last year. They're still in legal limbo.(Columbia Journalism Review)

By JON ALLSOP

ON JUNE 1, AS PROTESTS INTENSIFIED across the US following the police killing of George Floyd, Richard Cummings, a freelance photojournalist in Worcester, Massachusetts, saw dozens of police officers assembling in riot gear, even though the day's main demonstration had wound down. He started to film them and take pictures. "Worcester's never had anything with riot gear before," Cummings told me recently. "It looks like the end of the world. It was crazy." A few officers, Cummings said, were cracking jokes, including about shooting members of the public with their pepper guns; eventually, they noticed Cummings, who turned away. "I didn't want to pry into anything, or get anyone angry," he said. A different officer had given Cummings permission to stand nearby after he identified himself as a journalist, but after that officer moved on, the cops that Cummings had been filming tackled him. According to Cummings, who described his experience to me, one pinned him to a brick wall, twisted his arms and screamed about breaking them, called him a homophobic slur, cuffed him so tightly his arms bled, and dragged him over to a van carrying other detainees. Cummings's mask came off; the officer refused to help him put it back on. Police also confiscated Cummings's phone; when he eventually got it back, he noticed that videos had been deleted. "It really did freak me out," he said. "I didn't have any idea that there was even a chance I'd be arrested for anything."

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

Today in History - March 3, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, March 3, the 62nd day of 2021. There are 303 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 3, 1931, "The Star-Spangled Banner" became the national anthem of the United States as President Herbert Hoover signed a congressional resolution.

On this date:

In 1791, Congress passed a measure taxing distilled spirits; it was the first internal revenue act in U.S. history.

In 1845, Florida became the 27th state.

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed a measure creating the National Academy of Sciences.

In 1887, Anne Sullivan arrived at the Tusculum, Alabama, home of Captain and Mrs. Arthur H. Keller to become the teacher for their deaf-blind 6-year-old daughter, Helen.

In 1943, in London's East End, 173 people died in a crush of bodies at the Bethnal Green tube station, which was being used as a wartime air raid shelter.

In 1945, the Allies fully secured the Philippine capital of Manila from Japanese forces during World War II.

In 1960, Lucille Ball filed for divorce from her husband, Desi Arnaz, a day after they had finished filming the last episode of "The Lucille Ball-Desi Arnaz Show."

In 1974, a Turkish Airlines DC-10 crashed shortly after takeoff from Orly Airport in Paris, killing all 346 people on board.

In 1991, motorist Rodney King was severely beaten by Los Angeles police officers in a scene captured on amateur video. Twenty-five people were killed when a United Airlines Boeing 737-200 crashed while approaching the Colorado Springs airport.

In 1996, Israel declared "total war" against the militant group Hamas after a bus bomb in Jerusalem killed 19 people, including the bomber, the third such suicide attack in eight days.

In 2001, a plane carrying members of a National Guard engineering crew crashed in heavy rain near Macon, Ga., killing all 21 people on board.

In 2019, a tornado roared into the small community of Beauregard, Alabama, killing 23 people; it was the nation's deadliest tornado in nearly six years.

Ten years ago: Seeking to repair damaged relations, President Barack Obama and Mexican President Felipe Calderon agreed during a White House meeting to deepen their cooperation in combating drug violence and declared a breakthrough in efforts to end a long-standing dispute over cross-border trucking. Soldiers backing Ivory Coast's defiant leader, Laurent Gbagbo (loh-RAHN' BAHG'-boh), mowed down women protesting his refusal to leave power in a hail of gunfire, killing seven.

Five years ago: Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz leveled withering criticism at Donald Trump's "flexible" policy positions and personal ethics during a Republican

presidential debate in Detroit. President Barack Obama visited Milwaukee to highlight how his signature health insurance overhaul had helped millions of Americans gain coverage. North Korea fired six short-range projectiles into the sea hours after the U.N. Security Council approved the toughest sanctions on Pyongyang in two decades.

One year ago: In a surprise move, the Federal Reserve cut its benchmark interest rate by a half-point, its largest cut in more than a decade, to support the economy in the face of the spreading coronavirus. Stocks rallied briefly on the news, then went into another steep slide. The known virus death toll in the United States climbed to nine; most victims were residents of a Seattle-area nursing home. The number of virus patients who had died in Italy rose to 79, the most of any nation outside of China. The head of the World Health Organization asked people to stop hoarding masks, saying they were needed by health care workers. A series of tornadoes struck middle Tennessee, including one that carved a 60-mile path in and around Nashville; the storms left 24 people dead. Joe Biden scored wins in states across the Democrats' Super Tuesday presidential primary map.

Today's Birthdays: Singer-musician Mike Pender (The Searchers) is 80. Movie producer-director George Miller is 76. Actor Hattie Winston is 76. Singer Jennifer Warnes is 74. Actor-director Tim Kazurinsky is 71. Singer-musician Robyn Hitchcock is 68. Actor Robert Gossett is 67. Rock musician John Lilley is 67. Actor Miranda Richardson is 63. Rock musician John Bigham is 62. Radio personality Ira Glass is 62. Actor Mary Page Keller is 60. Olympic track and field gold medalist Jackie Joyner-Kersey is 59. Former NFL player and College Football Hall of Famer Herschel Walker is 59. Actor Laura Harring is 57. Contemporary Christian musician Duncan Phillips (Newsboys) is 57. Rapper-actor Tone Loc (lohk) is 55. Actor Julie Bowen is 51. Country singer Brett Warren (The Warren Brothers) is 50. Actor David Faustino is 47. Gospel singer Jason Crabb is 44. Singer Ronan Keating (Boyzone) is 44. Rapper Lil' Flip is 40. Actor Jessica Biel is 39. Rock musician Blower (AKA Joe Garvey) (Hinder) is 37. Musician Brett Hite (Frenship) is 35. Pop singer Camila Cabello is 24. Actor Thomas Barbusca (TV: "The Mick") is 18. Actor Reylynn Caster is 18.

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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