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Connecting

April 07, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this the 7th day of April 2021,If The Associated Press ever starts a Hall of Fame, **Sharon Cohen** would be inducted on the first ballot.That's a thought shared by veteran Cincinnati Correspondent **Dan Sewell** on Sharon, Chicago-based national writer for The Associated Press, who died Monday at the age of 68. We lead today's issue with her colleagues' thoughts about her - a sampling of the love and respect that has poured out for her on social media sites and throughout the AP.**Remember national broadcast meetings?** We bring you recollections of the days when the AP held national broadcast editor meetings in Washington as a way to help improve the quality of state broadcast reports, provide training and develop camaraderie among broadcast editors. **Jim Bagby**, longtime Kansas City broadcast editor, brings you the report and we invite others who took part in these meetings to share their memories.

Did you rock in a garage band? Today's issue brings first responses to Connecting's call for those of you who once took part in a garage band. Hope you share your own story.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

AP's Sharon Cohen left behind many fond memories



Associated Press journalist Sharon Cohen poses for a photo overlooking the Seine in Paris in 2019. Cohen, a matchless reporter who told American stories with great skill and compassion over more than four decades at The AP, died Monday, April 5, 2021, at her Chicago home. She was 68. (Courtesy of Mike Robinson)

Nancy Benac ([Email](#)) – Sharon's stories were pure gold - and she fought for every precious word. When I would give her a word limit for political takeouts, I remember her subtracting every word of the editors' notes at the bottom, arguing those words shouldn't count against her limit.

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Dave Carpenter ([Email](#)) - Sharon was a gem to work with, and share funny stories and reporters' gripes with, during my 13 years in the Chicago AP bureau. An all-time great reporter and writer, as others have noted. She could be fiercely competitive in

her pursuit of the perfect story (and she usually came close) but always had a soft spot for underdogs, animals and her friends. About those "countless" Lisagor awards she won: She knew the exact total -- she once quietly corrected me when I underestimated the number (something north of 25) -- but was self-deprecating about her immense talent. Every year when I congratulated her for being a Lisagor finalist again, she would say in dead earnest, "That wasn't that good a story -- I don't have a chance to win." And I would laugh at her poor prediction, because of course she did win, almost every time. RIP my kind and extraordinary friend.

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John Dowling (Email) - One thing that needs to be said is that Sharon's work was so good because she worked so hard at it. Non-journalists sometimes seem to think that someone is a "great writer" because they have a magic wand, that they just do a few interviews then sit down and start typing. They don't see how steep is the ratio of work to verbiage for the best journalism because so much of the work is invisible.

For Sharon maybe the least visible bit was how hard she worked at ideas for stories. I couldn't begin to estimate what proportion of her working time she spent finding and vetting story ideas. One-fourth? One-third? Not just finding the idea but kicking the tires until they leaked. Had the story received too much exposure elsewhere? Were the primary sources accessible and willing to talk? Would they be a good interview? Was the New York Times or 60 Minutes working on it? Can the story be completed, subjected to editing and move before it's out of date? Is the hero truly a hero, or will they be exposed as a serial killer after the story runs? Perhaps most fraught: Will the story get the green light from whichever editor is vetting her proposals at the moment, and will said editor spring for the few hundred dollars in travel expenses required for reporting? (We used to joke about her inerrant ability to choose the most glamorous destinations for reporting trips, usually somewhere in North Dakota that could be reached only by twin-engine prop plane, where she would stay in a budget motel in the dead of winter and eat McDonald's for dinner by herself in her room.)

The ratio of intriguing possibilities to completed stories is another that I can only guess at. Fifteen to one? That might be low. It was a measure of her stature within AP that, at least in the last 20 years or so, she was allowed to spend so much time on work so far removed from putting a story on the wire. She had demonstrated that she would deliver.

And it's a vital lesson for reporters and editors working now. Once in a long while a great story falls into your lap because you're in the right place at the right time, or because you get lucky and knock on the right door. But most great stories come from the reporter knowing where to look and asking the right questions, working hard to find and vet a great idea, the golden nugget in the pile of gravel.

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Debra Hale-Shelton (Email) - Sharon always wore high heels when working. When a bully TV camera guy was not treating the rest of us with respect at a news event, a heel ended up pressing into one of his shoes.

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Tamara Lush (Email) - Sharon was assigned to be my AP mentor when I was hired in 2008. She took time out to have long phone conversations with me and patiently explained the mysterious ways of the AP. Later, when I was in Chicago for a visit, she took me to Lou Malnati's and we shared a pizza. She was so instrumental in my AP career and I will forever be grateful for her kindness and mentorship.

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Jim Rowley (Email) - I want to offer my condolences for Sharon's death. She was such a wonderful person. I don't have any good anecdotes to illustrate what Sharon meant to me but I recall every time I talked with her on the phone when we consulted on stories that I always felt she was a very supportive, collegial collaborator in the work we do.

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Dan Sewell (Email) - Jerry Schwartz's obituary and Chris Sullivan's tribute (in Tuesday's Connecting) really captured Sharon, and I loved the photo of her and Mike on the beach.

I mainly worked with Sharon when "parachuting in" on disasters around the Midwest. We always knew she was going to come up with a detail-rich, compelling and poignant way to tell the story.

If The AP ever starts a Hall of Fame, that White Sox fan will be a first-balloter.

Her stories live on.

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John Swart (Email) - Sharon's love of chocolate is well known and she never missed an opportunity to expand her taste buds' knowledge of the subject. I'm not sure how the tradition began, but each of the 10 years I covered Spring Training in Florida for the AP her only request was to bring back a box of the god-awful (my description) chocolate-covered coconut patties. I can't prove this but my belief is the only state that would possible allow these to be sold is Florida, where you can find them prominently displayed at every airport gift stand. She must have thought me the perfect mule because there was no way on earth I would ever eat one. On a whim after more than 20 years I sent Sharon a box on my last trip to Florida before COVID hit little realizing it would be my last chance. I know the next time I pass by a stack of the yellow boxes in a Florida airport I'll think of Sharon and shed a tear for my friend.

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Marty Thompson (Email) - Jerry Schwartz captures Sharon Cohen well in his story on the passing of a fellow wordsmith.

Sharon was that rare writer who makes an editor, including one half a country away from Chicago, feel very good about being in journalism and being part of an outfit that

included Sharon. She was a terrific writer, on top of being a good person.

Remembering National AP Broadcast Editors Meetings



From a national AP Broadcast Editors annual meeting in Washington in the 1990s. Back, left to right : Rachel Ambrose, California broadcast editor; Gordon Sakamoto, Hawaii bureau chief; Jeff Baenen, Minnesota broadcast editor. Front, left to right: Gretchen Ehlke, Wisconsin broadcast editor; Diana (Jensen) Heidgerd, Texas broadcast editor; Melanie Welte, Iowa broadcast editor.

Jim Bagby ([Email](#)) – *retired Kansas City broadcast editor* - Sometime in 1987, two key figures at one of the most active news centers in Washington DC were deep in discussion, about AP news going out 24 hours a day across the country to radio and television outlets.

That was at the Associated Press Broadcast News Center, better known then and now as the BNC.

Brad Kalbfeld, Deputy Director and Broadcast Managing Editor, recalls his talks with Andrea Weisberger Rader, assistant director for technology, who was working on a technical change affecting the state reports – prior to computers. “So she wanted to get the state broadcast editors together to train them on (the Vax)...

“I think we agreed to do a joint budget proposal for tech and editorial training.” The concept was to invite one person from each of the 50 states for a weekend in

Washington: broadcast editors where there was one, otherwise the news editor, correspondent or chief of bureau.

And thus it came to be: about 50 broadcast editors, some of them with spouses, descended on DC the following September of 1988 for a three-day weekend. It was a rousing success that was repeated in 1990, 1993 and 1994. Later, there were regional meetings.

Kalbfeld said top staffers at the time, including Barbara Worth and Evelyn Dalton, felt the national meetings were significant investments of time and money. "We were fortunate that both (Director) Jim Williams and (President) Lou Boccardi, two tough gatekeepers, saw the value and supported the investment."

Kalbfeld described the broadcast editors as "critical to AP's business success in that era. They were our most direct editorial connection to the members, daily encouragers of member contributions." Most of all, he called them "the people who wrote and sent the most valuable part of the broadcast report (state news) every day."

Rader said, "We got lots of kudos for getting everyone together...they really liked meeting colleagues from across the country."

The meetings included more than just work. We were treated to a White House tour one year, a Potomac River boat ride another and always wonderful dinner outings at night.

And they led to broadcast editor exchanges, where one BNC staffer traded places for a week in the bureau of a broadcast editor who took his or her place at the BNC.

Invitation for friends of Edie Lederer

Bill Holstein ([Email](#)) - Dear Edie friends, Edie has asked me, as president of the Overseas Press Club Foundation, to invite you to view this hour-long online video production Thursday at 4 p.m. Eastern U.S. time.

The foundation launches the careers of college students who wish to become foreign correspondents. As some of you may know, we are launching an award in Edie's name and the two of us interviewed some of our winners from previous years on camera and we will show a segment of that. So you will be able to see Edie engage with younger correspondents in Beijing, Paris and Nairobi. She really enjoyed it. One of them, Dake Kang, won an OPC award for his coverage of China just days after we recorded the segment. Click [here](#) to register. You will receive updates and a link to the actual session.

Hope to be "seeing" you. A recording of the event will be on the OPC channel on YouTube. Simply go to YouTube and enter "Overseas Press Club."

AP wins 2 Overseas Press Club Awards



A little girl holds palm oil fruit collected from a plantation in Sumatra, Indonesia, Nov. 13, 2017. (AP Photo/Binsar Bakkara)

By Patrick Maks

The Associated Press has won two prestigious awards from the Overseas Press Club of America for an investigation exposing abuse in the lucrative palm oil industry and for reporting that held China accountable for its early mishandling of COVID-19 and human rights violations against the Uighurs.

AP investigative reporters Margie Mason and Robin McDowell won the Joe and Laurie Dine Award for best international reporting dealing with human rights, for an incisive investigation that uncovered the exploitation of an invisible workforce of millions of men, women and children from some of the poorest corners of Asia.

They traced the oil to major brands such as Nestle, Unilever, Kellogg's and PepsiCo, prompting the U.S. government to ban shipments from two major Malaysian palm oil producers.

The judges said:

A powerful story of exploitation, slavery, human trafficking, sexual harassment, and greed in the making of palm oil — an ubiquitous ingredient which Americans consume daily. As one source interviewed for the series put it: "When Americans and Europeans see palm oil is listed as an ingredient in their snacks,' he said, they should know 'it's the same as consuming our sweat and blood.'

The investigation has also earned the Anthony Shadid Award for Journalism Ethics, the Selden Ring Award for Investigative Reporting and an Investigative Reporters and Editors award.

AP staff also won the OPC Roy Roman Award for best investigative reporting on an international story. Relying on thousands of pages of exclusive government documents, hundreds of interviews and more, AP held China to account for how it responded to COVID-19 and for human rights abuses against the Uighurs.



People walk by a giant TV screen at a Beijing shopping mall broadcasting news of Chinese President Xi Jinping talking to medical workers at Huoshenshan Hospital in Wuhan, March 10, 2020. (AP Photo/Andy Wong)

Led by Beijing-based video journalist Dake Kang, AP investigated how China's official narrative was covering up the truth of how COVID-19 swept through Wuhan in January 2020.

AP also exposed how China forced Uighurs to cut births with IUDs, abortions and sterilization, reporting that drew global outrage. The stories on China's Uighurs grew from extensive AP reporting on human rights abuses in Xinjiang in recent years.

The judges said:

The AP disclosed how specific actions by China all but assured the spread of COVID-19 around the world and inflicted draconian human rights abuses on the nation's Uighur minority. Led by AP Beijing reporter Dake Kang, the series revealed that for six days China's leaders held off alerting the public as to the great danger posed by the virus, setting the stage for its global spread.

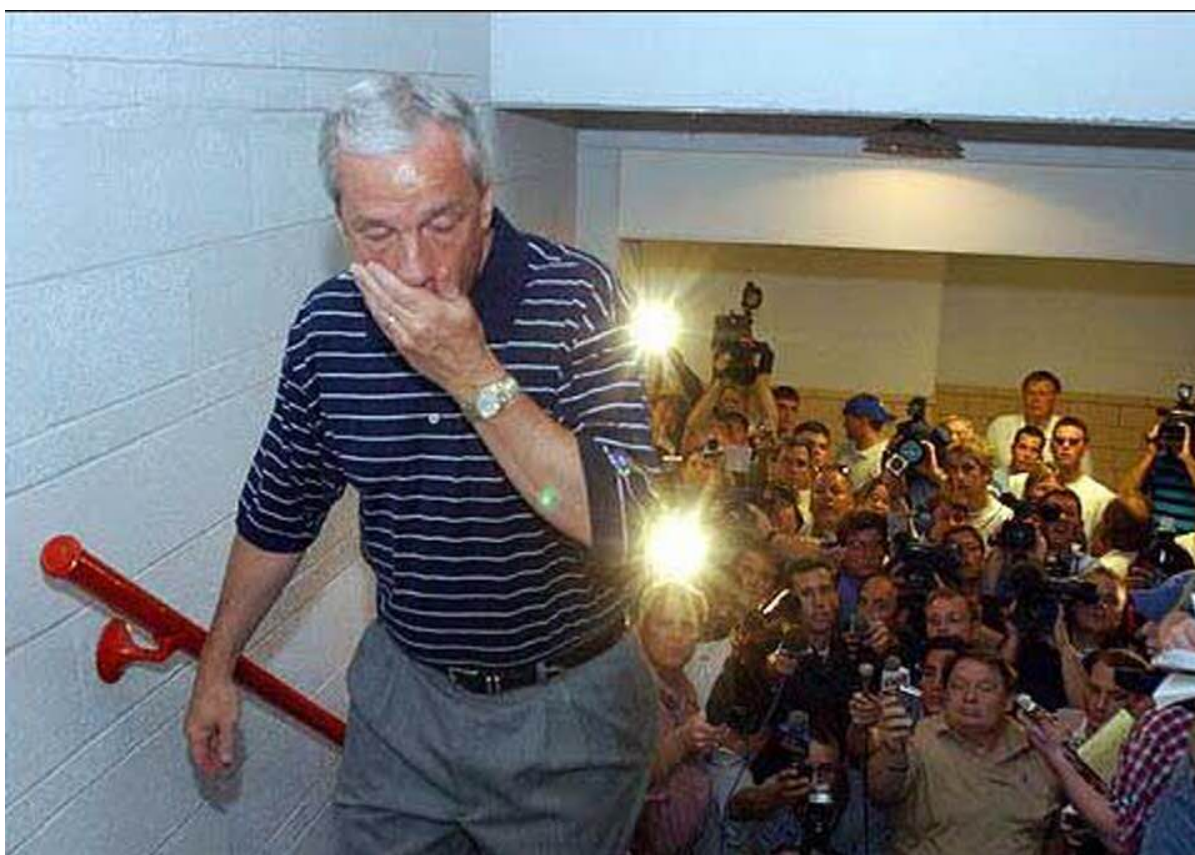
AP also earned two OPC citations.

Cairo-based photographer Nariman El-Mofty earned a Robert Capa Award citation for gripping photographs of Ethiopians fleeing war.

Photographer Emilio Morenatti, based in Madrid, earned a Feature Photography Award citation for poignant images illustrating the pandemic's toll on Spain's elderly population.

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

Dadgummit, here's wishing Roy Williams a long, happy retirement



Kansas basketball coach Roy Williams ascends a staircase in Allen Fieldhouse in 2003 on his way to the plane that flew him to North Carolina to become UNC head coach; Doug Tucker (tan shirt, with mic) at head of media pack below. Photo by Richard Gwin, Lawrence Journal-World

Doug Tucker ([Email](#)) - Dadgummit, here's wishing Roy Williams a long, happy retirement. So what if one night the folksy coach who shuns actual cuss words like unforced turnovers had people all over the state thinking maybe I was at death's door?

Dangnabit, all is forgiven!

Of course, Roy never meant to create confusion. He was only making a light-hearted joke. And levity was sorely needed after several days of tension for himself, his family and a state full of stressed-out Kansans who were worried sick their beloved coach was about to bolt for North Carolina.

But that didn't stop my wife from spending the evening assuring callers there was no need for prayers or flowers, that I was OK.

The drama began the minute Bill Guthridge, three years after succeeding Dean Smith, was not retained after the 1999-2000 season. Speculation immediately centered on Williams. Jayhawk fans had always felt a bit insecure anyway since Roy, a former North Carolina assistant and Dean Smith's most accomplished protege, had naturally seemed groomed to take charge in Chapel Hill.

For several days, Roy agonized and Kansans sweated. More than once, he seemed lost in thought while strolling around the picturesque, tree-lined campus in the little eastern Kansas town that William Quantrill's Raiders sacked, burned and shot-up in 1863.

Some people even joked that Lawrence had not known such consternation since Quantrill's bloody visit.

Needless to say, a flagging band of photographers and sportswriters had practically been living out of their cars all this time keeping tabs on ol' Roy. I was right there with them.

Finally, we got word there'd be a news conference. Practically every television station in Kansas and western Missouri went live as Roy announced with his familiar grin, "I'm stayin'."

Of course, three years later we learned he was goin'. The Tar Heels would not be rejected twice by this native son with the thick Carolina twang.

But for that night at least, Kansas could breath again. While TV cameras rolled, Roy agreed that things had been pretty hectic for several days.

"I was afraid Doug Tucker was going to have a heart attack," he said.

Nobody's microphone picked up my reply.

"I was afraid the entire state was about to lapse into cardiac arrest, coach."

My wife, watching at home, knew I was OK. I had called a few minutes before the newser.

But about 60 seconds later her phone began to ring. And ring.

"Is Doug all right."

"Is Doug in the hospital."

"Phyllis, can we do anything?"

Apparently, people were so relieved with "I'm stayin'" they sort of stopped listening closely. They didn't realize, or weren't sure, that Roy was only being playful. After an hour or so, Phyllis' phone finally quit ringing.

It was quite a night. And truth be told, I thought it was kinda nice that so many people cared.

Rocking on – in a garage band

Joni Beall ([Email](#)) - It wasn't a garage band, but a backyard band. I was in 7th or 8th grade and my stint with the band was very short. A friend was starting a band and asked if I wanted to be in it. One hitch -- I didn't play an instrument. She said no problem, I could sing and play tambourine. At the first rehearsal she quickly found out I couldn't sing or play tambourine. My day in a band was over.

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David Tirrell-Wysocki ([Email](#)) - From 1967-69 I was in The Syndicate of Soul in Baltimore. That's me in above photo, third from the right, on the tenor sax. We were a pretty hot item for a couple of years – battles of the bands, teen dances every weekend, turquoise tuxedos and high-water pants. We're even mentioned in the music history book "Baltimore Sounds."



Since 1982, I've been in the Freese Brothers Big Band in N.H. That's me on the left. At one time, we played the 60's hit "Soul Man" and I squeezed into my Syndicate of Soul tux for the performance. A couple of bandmates had to help me get out of it. The band is a nonprofit that raises money for music scholarships.

What AP is up to around the world



GMS camera operator Luke Mailander, left, conducts a live shot with a CGTN reporter outside the fenced courthouse where the trial of an ex-police officer charged with George Floyd's murder is taking place in Minneapolis, March 29, 2021. (AP Photo/Philip Crowther)



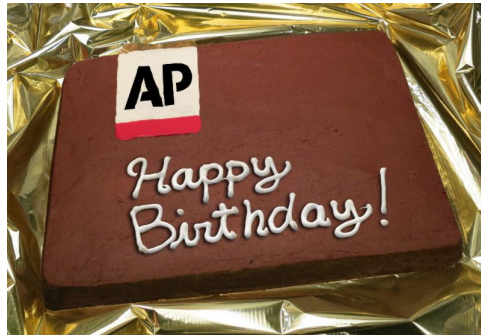
Video journalist Mohaned Blal, left, and East Africa correspondent Cara Anna, center, interview surgeon and doctor-turned-refugee, Dr. Tewodros Tefera, on the banks of the Tekeze River, on the Sudan-Ethiopia border in Hamdayet, eastern Sudan, March 16, 2021. (AP Photo/Nariman El-Mofty)



Sports reporter Janie McCauley, in San Francisco, receives the Hall of Achievement Award from the Edward R. Murrow College of Communication at Washington State

University, her alma mater, during a virtual ceremony, March 31, 2021. (AP Photo/Corporate Communications)

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Brian Burnes – bburnesiii@gmail.com

Juliet Williams - jawilliams@ap.org

Stories of interest

What we lost and what we found after a year working from home (Poynter)

By: Kristen Hare

Just after the NBA announced it was shutting down last March, the staff of the Orlando Sentinel started getting emails that they might need to work from home.

They soon called a meeting and announced they'd give it a try.

"We'll see each other in a couple weeks," managing editor Roger Simmons told staff. "Which is what I actually thought ... and then our company made the decision that we were going to leave our newsroom permanently."

The next time staff was all together was at the end of August for a socially distant champagne toast to say goodbye to the Sentinel's downtown offices after owner Tribune closed some newsroom office spaces.

Most journalists have not said goodbye, forever, to the spaces where they worked and met. But since last March, a lot of us have worked from home without the hum of phone calls and conversations, shouts of news, sad desk lunches, coffee breaks, tedious meetings, supply runs or any of the other things that make a workplace an actual place to work.

It's been a long, tragic year since our homes became our offices.

Read more [here](#).

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Blood-Sucking Hedge Fund Alden Global Capital May Be Foiled in its Bid for Tribune (Vanity Fair)

By CHARLOTTE KLEIN

Hope may yet spring eternal for Tribune Publishing, the newspaper company that in February struck a \$635 million deal with Alden Global Capital, the hedge fund notorious for acquiring local papers and then gutting them. Two wealthy bidders have submitted a \$680 million rival offer to buy Tribune, the Wall Street Journal reported Sunday, a fully financed deal superior to Alden's proposal that, if successful, could save papers within the Tribune portfolio—including the Chicago Tribune, the New York Daily News, and The Baltimore Sun—from certain decimation. The white knights behind the alternate bid, Maryland hotel executive Stewart Bainum and Swiss billionaire Hansjörg Wyss, are together said to have committed more than \$600 million of their own money for the effort, which valued Tribune at \$18.50 a share, compared to Alden's proposal of \$17.25.

After the Journal reported that Tribune was leaning toward the offer, the board on Monday issued a statement saying that the nonbinding deal proposed by Newslight, Bainum and Wyss' group, "would reasonably be expected to lead to a 'Superior Proposal' as defined in Tribune's merger agreement with affiliates of Alden Global Capital LLC." That determination "allows Tribune to engage in discussions and negotiations with, and provide diligence information to, Newslight," the publisher said, but does not allow it "to terminate the Alden Merger Agreement or enter into any merger agreement with Newslight, Mr. Bainum or Mr. Wyss." If Tribune accepts Newslight's offer, Alden would then have four days to match the rival bid or receive a breakup fee, according to the Journal.

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

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The Trump White House provided reporters with a gusher of leaks. With Biden, everything's changed. (Washington Post)

By Paul Farhi

After two and a half months of Joe Biden's presidency, something is missing from the news coverage of his administration: leaks.

Juicy details about the president's behind-the-scenes conduct and decision-making? No one seems able to dig up anything interesting.

Early forecasts of major policy proposals on the horizon, a.k.a. the grand tradition of the Washington trial balloon? A story we're not getting to read these days.

Insider accounts of West Wing rivalries, analyses of who wields influence with the president, detailed lists of Oval Office visitors? No such thing anymore.

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

Today in History - April 7, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, April 7, the 97th day of 2021. There are 268 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 7, 1915, jazz singer-songwriter Billie Holiday, also known as "Lady Day," was born in Philadelphia.

On this date:

In 1862, Union forces led by Gen. Ulysses S. Grant defeated the Confederates at the Battle of Shiloh in Tennessee.

In 1922, the Teapot Dome scandal had its beginnings as Interior Secretary Albert B. Fall signed a secret deal to lease U.S. Navy petroleum reserves in Wyoming and California to his friends, oilmen Harry F. Sinclair and Edward L. Doheny, in exchange for cash gifts.

In 1927, the image and voice of Commerce Secretary Herbert Hoover were transmitted live from Washington to New York in the first successful long-distance demonstration of television.

In 1945, during World War II, American planes intercepted and effectively destroyed a Japanese fleet, which included the battleship Yamato, that was headed to Okinawa on a suicide mission.

In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower held a news conference in which he spoke of the importance of containing the spread of communism in Indochina, saying, "You have a row of dominoes set up, you knock over the first one, and what will happen to the last one is the certainty that it will go over very quickly." (This became known as the "domino theory," although Eisenhower did not use that term.)

In 1957, shortly after midnight, the last of New York's electric trolleys completed its final run from Queens to Manhattan.

In 1962, nearly 1,200 Cuban exiles tried by Cuba for their roles in the failed Bay of Pigs invasion were convicted of treason.

In 1966, the U.S. Navy recovered a hydrogen bomb that the U.S. Air Force had lost in the Mediterranean Sea off Spain following a B-52 crash.

In 1984, the Census Bureau reported Los Angeles had overtaken Chicago as the nation's "second city" in terms of population.

In 1994, civil war erupted in Rwanda, a day after a mysterious plane crash claimed the lives of the presidents of Rwanda and Burundi; in the months that followed, hundreds of thousands of minority Tutsi and Hutu moderates were slaughtered by Hutu extremists.

In 2010, North Korea said it had convicted and sentenced an American man to eight years in a labor prison for entering the country illegally and unspecified hostile acts. (Aijalon Mahli Gomes was freed in August 2010 after former U.S. President Jimmy Carter secured his release.)

In 2015, Michael Thomas Slager, a white South Carolina police officer, was charged with murder in the shooting death of Black motorist Walter Lamer Scott after law enforcement officials saw a cellphone video taken by a bystander. (Slager pleaded guilty to federal civil rights charges and was sentenced to 20 years in prison; prosecutors agreed to drop state murder charges that remained after a jury couldn't agree whether he had committed a crime.)

Ten years ago: A man shot and killed 12 children at the Tasso da Silveira public school in Rio de Janeiro; the gunman, a onetime student at the school, shot and killed himself after being cornered by police. A powerful aftershock struck Japan near the same area that had been devastated by a mighty earthquake and tsunami nearly a month earlier; no giant wave or loss of life was reported.

Five years ago: Russian President Vladimir Putin denied any links to offshore accounts and described the Panama Papers document leaks scandal as part of a U.S.-led plot to weaken Russia. In a brazen assault near the Syrian capital, Islamic State militants abducted 300 cement workers and contractors from their workplace northeast of Damascus. "American Idol" crowned 24-year-old Trent Harmon its 15th and final winner as the influential TV show came to an end.

One year ago: Wisconsin went ahead with in-person voting after the state Supreme Court blocked the governor's order to postpone the primary; thousands waited in line in Milwaukee amid fears that the voting would bring a spike in the state's coronavirus cases. Acting Navy Secretary Thomas Modly resigned after lambasting the officer he'd fired as the captain of the USS Theodore Roosevelt, which had been stricken by a coronavirus outbreak; James McPherson was appointed as acting Navy secretary. President Donald Trump removed Glenn Fine, the acting Defense Department inspector general, who was supposed to oversee the \$2.2 trillion rescue package for businesses and individuals affected by the coronavirus.

Today's Birthdays: Country singer Bobby Bare is 86. R&B singer Charlie Thomas (The Drifters) is 84. Former California Gov. Jerry Brown is 83. Movie director Francis Ford Coppola is 82. Actor Roberta Shore is 78. Singer Patricia Bennett (The Chiffons) is 74. Singer John Oates is 73. Former Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels is 72. Singer Janis Ian is 70. Country musician John Ditttrich is 70. Actor Jackie Chan is 67. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Tony Dorsett is 67. Actor Russell Crowe is 57. Christian/jazz singer Mark Kibble (Take 6) is 57. Actor Bill Bellamy is 56. Rock musician Dave "Yorkie" Palmer (Space) is 56. Rock musician Charlie Hall (The War on Drugs) is 47. Former football player-turned-analyst Tiki Barber is 46. Actor Heather Burns is 46. Christian rock singer-musician John Cooper (Skillet) is 46. Actor Kevin Alejandro is 45. Retired baseball infielder Adrian Beltre is 42. Actor Sian Clifford is 39. Rock musician Ben McKee (Imagine Dragons) is 36. Christian rock singer Tauren Wells is 35. Actor Ed Speleers is 33. Actor Conner Rayburn is 22.

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

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