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## Connecting

May 17, 2021

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The building housing the offices of The Associated Press and other media in Gaza City collapses after it was hit by an Israeli airstrike Saturday, May 15, 2021. The attack came roughly an hour after the Israeli military warned people to evacuate the building, which also housed Al-Jazeera and a number of offices and apartments. There was no immediate explanation for why the building was targeted. (AP Photo/Hatem Moussa)

Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this 17th day of May 2021.

Journalists around the world expressed outrage after Israeli military on Saturday bombed a 12-story building in Gaza City housing the Associated Press, broadcaster Al Jazeera and other media. Occupants were given an hour's notice; AP staffers and others evacuated safely. Israel said it destroyed the building because, they claimed without offering immediate evidence, it housed Hamas military intelligence. "We have had no indication Hamas was in the building or active in the building," AP President and CEO **Gary Pruitt** said in a statement. "This is something we actively check to the best of our ability. We would never knowingly put our journalists at risk."

Today's issue deals almost exclusively with the bombing and includes a piece by former Middle East Editor **Dan Perry** saying destruction of the AP building had been "long dreaded:"

- AP executive editor **Sally Buzbee** called for an independent investigation of the bombing.
- Condemnation of Israel's actions was swift and extensive around the world.

- Former Middle East Editor: Israel's destruction of AP building "a calamity we had long dreaded."
- Correspondent **Fares Akram's** gripping account of fleeing a building he 24 hours earlier considered the only place in Gaza City where he felt somewhat safe.
- Israel: We showed the United States "smoking gun" on Hamas in office tower.

Consternation was tempered somewhat by conservative voices who decried Hamas' actions in the region. On Sunday, the Wall Street Journal editorial board [called on the Biden Administration](#) to not fall for what it said was a "trap" of Hamas playing up civilian casualties while blaming Israel for defending itself. "...So far the White House has supported Israel's right to self-defense. But the weekend bombing of a building in Gaza that housed media offices, including reporters from the Associated Press and Al Jazeera, has led to cries of outrage and an admonition from the State Department to Israel about protecting journalists in combat zones.

"But who's really endangering the journalists? Israel's government says the multistory building was also used by Hamas for intelligence purposes. AP says it had no knowledge of this, but this wasn't the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. Using civilians and journalists as shields is a common Hamas tactic, and Hamas isn't likely to have shared its plans with Western journalists."

After digesting what happened in Gaza City over the weekend, colleague [Amanda Barnett](#) likely speaks for everyone reading this newsletter: "Thinking of my AP colleagues today. If any of you know anyone in our office that was attacked, please pass along my outrage and support for their work."

**Paul Stevens** returns to the Connecting editor's desk today. Send stories, tips, photos to him at [paulstevens46@gmail.com](mailto:paulstevens46@gmail.com)

Enjoy the day. Stay safe.

- *Mark Mittelstadt*

## Top AP editor calls for independent investigation into Israeli airstrike (AP)

By HOPE YEN

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Associated Press' top editor on Sunday called for an independent investigation into the Israeli airstrike that targeted and destroyed a Gaza City building housing the AP, broadcaster Al-Jazeera and other media, saying the public deserves to know the facts.

Separately, media watchdog Reporters Without Borders asked the International Criminal Court to investigate Israel's bombing of a building housing the media organizations as a possible war crime.

[Sally Buzbee, AP's executive editor, said the Israeli government has yet](#)

[to provide clear evidence supporting its attack, which leveled the 12-story al-Jalaa tower.](#)

The Israeli military, which gave AP journalists and other tenants about an hour to evacuate, claimed Hamas used the building for a military intelligence office and weapons development. Israeli military spokesman Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus said Israel was compiling evidence for the U.S. but declined to commit to providing it within the next two days.



“We’re in the middle of fighting,” Conricus said Sunday. “That’s in process and I’m sure in due time that information will be presented.”

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel would share any evidence of Hamas’ presence in the targeted building through intelligence channels. But neither the White House nor the State Department would say if any American official had seen it.

Buzbee said the AP has had offices in al-Jalaa tower for 15 years and never was informed or had any indication that Hamas might be in the building. She said the facts must be laid out.

“We are in a conflict situation,” Buzbee said. “We do not take sides in that conflict. We heard Israelis say they have evidence; we don’t know what that evidence is.”

“We think it’s appropriate at this point for there to be an independent look at what happened yesterday — an independent investigation,” she added.

In remarks Sunday, Netanyahu repeated Israel’s claim that the building housed an intelligence office of Hamas. Asked if he had relayed supporting evidence of that in a call with President Joe Biden on Saturday, Netanyahu said that “we pass it through our intelligence people.”

The Paris-based Reporters Without Borders, known by its French acronym RSF, said in a letter to the court’s chief prosecutor that the offices of 23 international and local media organizations have been destroyed over the past six days.

RSF said it had strong reason to believe that the Israeli military’s “intentional targeting of media organizations and intentional destruction of their equipment” could violate one of the court’s statutes. It said the attacks serve “to reduce, if not neutralize, the media’s capacity to inform the public.”

RSF asked the international court, based in the Dutch city of The Hague, to include the recent attacks in a war crimes probe opened in March into Israel’s practices in Palestinian territories.

Buzbee said the AP journalists were “rattled” after the airstrike but are doing fine and reporting the news. She expressed concern about the impact on news coverage.

“This does impact the world’s right to know what is happening on both sides of the conflict in real time,” she said.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke by phone Saturday with AP's president and CEO, Gary Pruitt. The State Department said Blinken offered "his unwavering support for independent journalists and media organizations around the world and noted the indispensability of their reporting in conflict zones."

Buzbee and Conricus spoke on CNN's "Reliable Sources" and Netanyahu was on CBS' "Face the Nation."

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## AP 'horrified' by Israeli attack on its office (AP)

On Saturday AP President and CEO Gary Pruitt released the following statement:

We are shocked and horrified that the Israeli military would target and destroy the building housing AP's bureau and other news organizations in Gaza. They have long known the location of our bureau and knew journalists were there. We received a warning that the building would be hit.

The Israeli government says the building contained Hamas military intelligence assets. We have called on the Israeli government to put forward the evidence. AP's bureau has been in this building for 15 years. We have had no indication Hamas was in the building or active in the building. This is something we actively check to the best of our ability. We would never knowingly put our journalists at risk.

We are seeking information from the Israeli government and are engaged with the U.S. State Department to try to learn more.

This is an incredibly disturbing development. We narrowly avoided a terrible loss of life. A dozen AP journalists and freelancers were inside the building and thankfully we were able to evacuate them in time.

The world will know less about what is happening in Gaza because of what happened today.

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A policeman stands on rubble from a building housing AP office and other media in Gaza City that was destroyed after Israeli warplanes demolished it, Saturday, May 15, 2021. The airstrike Saturday came roughly an hour after the Israeli military ordered people to evacuate the building. There was no immediate explanation for why the building was targeted. (AP Photo/Hatem Moussa)

## Perry: Destruction of AP office tower 'calamity we had long dreaded'



*(Dan Perry was a longtime foreign correspondent for The Associated Press, serving as Middle East Editor based in Cairo. He is now managing partner of New York City-based communications firm Thunder11.)*

**By DAN PERRY**

Israel's destruction of the building housing the AP (and Al Jazeera) offices in Gaza by air force bombardment was a calamity we had longed dreaded.

During the last major round of fighting in 2014 I was Middle East Editor based in Cairo. We considered the mixed residential and office tower in Gaza City potentially vulnerable, because Israel claimed rockets were launched at its territory from nearby (Gaza is small; everything is nearby). I called the Israeli military spokesman to offer the building's precise coordinates and implore it stay unharmed. He promised only to warn us should an attack be imminent.

That warning, leaving staff minutes to scramble and collect valuables, came this weekend, and the building is now rubble ([read the moving report by Fares Akram,](#)

AP's unflappable correspondent in the city). Israel says it was being used by Hamas militants for a purpose important enough to justify such drastic action; AP has rightly demanded evidence and an independent investigation.

On Israel's all-news station i24 just now I was asked whether "reports" were true that AP staff "knew" about Hamas activities in the building – in addition to supposedly not reporting on rocket launches from nearby. I noted that I do not speak for the company but also that no one can control the comings and goings of Hamas. I emphasized that AP's video, photos, print and other staff in the strip have been heroic over the years in not being deterred by difficult circumstances (which include the undeniable reality of reporting from an unfree place) and in getting out the story.

Journalist groups demand reporters be allowed freedom to operate securely, perhaps especially during conflicts, and that is the main thing here. But frankly, it is also fascinating to consider how Israel could be so seemingly indifferent to the optics of this action, which risked not just tragedy and terrible PR but heightened diplomatic pressure to end the operation.

My experience tells me Israeli officials genuinely feel misunderstood, as if the foreign media through superficiality or malice were refusing to understand what Israel is up against. On another TV appearance this week, in Hebrew, I was actually asked whether foreign broadcasters issued instructions to journalists on the ground not to emphasize the suffering of Israelis.

This is remarkable, considering how little attention is paid in Israel itself to the tremendous toll on civilians across the border. Most people in most countries at war, I suppose, see mostly their own case. Rarely does myopia bring progress and peace. That's why the quality international news media is so critical, all over a world that grows ever more complex. The story AP tells is the more complete story. It's important first and foremost to those affected and involved.

Yes, no country can tolerate systematic rocket fire, and yes, Hamas runs a police state that's hostile to Israel and courts disaster by provoking it. But it's also true that Hamas' rockets are no match for F-16s and Hellfire missiles, that Israel's years-long blockade has failed as a strategy and that its bombings carry a horrifying human toll.

I feel very lucky that my former colleagues and current friends were not harmed this time. I'm sure they will continue their important work. The operating manual remains the same: Don't take sides but avoid false equivalence; treasure journalistic integrity as a professional lifeblood while claiming no mantle of perfection.

I am sure AP's Gaza crew will continue to do their best. And their best is very good. AP people past and present can be proud.

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## 'Silence the story:' Israeli bombing of media offices condemned (Al Jazeera English)

Press freedom advocates have sharply condemned Israel's bombing of a Gaza building that housed the offices of Al Jazeera and the Associated Press news agency, calling it a

brazen attempt to “silence” journalists covering the Israeli military’s ongoing offensive that has killed scores of people.

The 11-story al-Jalaa building, which also houses a number of residences and other offices, was destroyed in an Israeli strike on Saturday afternoon. Dust and debris kicked up into the air as the building tipped and came crashing to the ground.

“The attack on the building that we have seen is a shocking and, it seems to me, catastrophic attempt to shut down media, to silence criticism, and worst of all, to create a cloak of secrecy around this conflict,” said Aidan White, founder of the Ethical Journalism Network, a network of global journalists and press rights groups.

Read more [here](#).

**Fares Akram takes a selfie he posted on Twitter showing the bombed AP building he had left moments earlier.**

## DIARY: Shouts, a hurried evacuation, and then the bombs came

By **FARES AKRAM**

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — My colleagues’ shouts awakened me, and the pounding of my heart drowned out the racing of my mind. What was happening? Had someone been injured on the streets of Gaza City, or worse?



It was 1:55 p.m. on Saturday. I had been napping on the upper floor of the two-floor penthouse that served as The Associated Press’ offices in Gaza City since 2006. This was not unusual in recent days; since fighting began earlier this month, I had been sleeping in our news bureau until early afternoon, then working through the night.

I hurried downstairs and saw my colleagues donning helmets and protective vests. They were shouting: “Evacuation! Evacuation!”

The Israeli military, I would learn later, had targeted our building for destruction and offered up a brief advance warning: They had taken out three buildings so far this week, warning residents and occupants sometimes minutes beforehand to get out. Hurriedly, I was told: You have 10 minutes.

What did I need? I grabbed my laptop and a few other pieces of electronics. What else? I looked at the workspace that had been mine for years, brimming with mementos from friends, family and colleagues. I chose just a handful: a decorative plate bearing a picture of my family. A coffee mug given me by my daughter, now living safely in Canada with her sister and my wife since 2017. A certificate marking five years of employment at AP.

I started to leave. Then I looked back at this place that had been my second home for years. I realized this was the last time I might ever see it. It was just after 2 p.m. I



looked around. I was the last person there.

I put on my helmet. And I ran.

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After the most unsettling of days in the community where I was born and raised and now cover the news — in the place where my mother and siblings and cousins and uncles live — I am home now. I wish I could say I am safe here, but I can't. In Gaza, there is no safe place.

On Friday, an airstrike destroyed my family farm on the northern edge of Gaza. And now, my Gaza City office — the place that I thought was sacrosanct and would go untargeted because both AP and al-Jazeera's offices were located on its top floors — is a pile of rubble and girders and dust.

Many Gazans have fared worse. At least 145 of us have been killed since Monday, when Hamas began firing hundreds of rockets into Israel, which has pounded the Gaza Strip with strikes. In Israel, eight people have been killed, including a man killed by a rocket that hit in Ramat Gan, a suburb of Tel Aviv, on Saturday.

In our building, the clock in my head felt deafening as I ran out of the office. I ran down the 11 floors of stairs and into the basement parking garage. Suddenly I realized: My car was the only one there. All others had evacuated. I threw my belongings in the back, jumped in and drove off.

When I felt I was far enough away, I parked the car and got out, making sure I had a view of my building. I found my colleagues nearby. They were watching, waiting for what was next.

Nearby, our building's owner was on the phone with the Israeli military officer who had told him to get the place evacuated. The owner was begging for a bit more time. No, he was told. That won't be possible. Instead, he was told: Go back into the building and make sure everyone's out. You have 10 minutes. You'd better hurry.

I turned toward our building to watch. I was praying that maybe, maybe it wouldn't happen. I thought of the families that lived on the upper five floors of the building, below the media bureaus and above the offices on the lower floors. What would they do? Where would they go?

Other journalists clustered around, just at the edge of safety, steeled for what was next. My intrepid video colleagues tended to their live shot.

Then, in quick succession over the next eight minutes: a small drone airstrike, followed by another and another. And then three powerful airstrikes from F-16s.

At first, it looked like layers of something collapsing. I thought of a bowl of potato chips, and what might happen if you slammed a fist into them. Then the smoke and dust enveloped everything. The sky rumbled. And the building that was home to some people, an office to others and both to me disappeared in a shroud of dust.

In my pocket, I still had a key to a room that no longer existed.

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Standing with my colleagues about 400 meters (yards) away, I watched for a while and tried to process it all as the rubble started to settle. White smoke was overtaken by thick clouds of black smoke as the structure crumbled. Dust and pieces of cement and shards of glass scattered everywhere. What we knew so well was gone.

I thought of all of my hundreds of mementos that were now in splinters — including the 20-year-old cassette recorder I used when I first became a journalist. If I had had an hour, I would have grabbed everything.

It was one of the most horrible scenes I have ever witnessed. But while I was deeply sad, there was gratitude, too — as far as I knew, no people had been hurt — neither any of my colleagues nor anybody else. That would be confirmed in the coming hours, as more information came out and my bosses at AP condemned an attack that “shocked and horrified” them.

I wondered how long I should stay and watch. It was then that my years of instinct kicked in — the instinct of covering so much violence and sadness in the place that is my home.

Our building was gone and would not be coming back. Already, other things were happening that I needed to cover. You must realize: We journalists, we are not the story. The priority for us is not ourselves. It is to tell the stories of other people, those who are living their lives in the communities we cover.

So I spent a few more moments watching the end of the place that shaped so much of my life. And then I began to wake up from this nightmare.

I said to myself: It has been done. Now let's figure out what to do next. Let's keep covering it all. This is history, and there are more stories to tell. And like always, as the world shakes around us, it is up to us to figure out how.

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*Fares Akram is a journalist in Gaza for The Associated Press.*

[Previously: In Gaza, bombs drop and the conflict again hits home](#)

### ***Other coverage:***

[Reporters Without Borders asks ICC prosecutor to say whether Israeli airstrikes on media in Gaza constitute war crimes \(RSF\)](#)

[Israel: We showed US 'smoking gun' on Hamas in AP office tower \(Jerusalem Post\)](#)

[Opinion: IDF is undermining trust with media and it will hurt Israel \(Jerusalem Post\)](#)

[A press corps deceived, and the Gaza invasion that wasn't \(The New York Times\)](#)  
Shared by Sibby Christensen

[Israel argues tower it bombed 'not a media center' but Hamas HQ \(Newsweek\)](#)

## Venezuela seizes offices of independent newspaper (Wall Street Journal)

CARACAS, Venezuela—President Nicolas Maduro’s authoritarian government seized the headquarters of one of the country’s last remaining independent newspapers, in a move that could jeopardize the regime’s efforts to improve relations with Washington.

A judge accompanied by Venezuelan national guardsmen clad in bulletproof vests and maroon berets raided the 162,000-square-foot property of El Nacional late Friday in an industrial part of eastern Caracas. They acted on a Supreme Court order to take the property as part of a \$13 million judgment against the media outlet.

The headquarters was already largely vacant as workers have been contributing from home amid the pandemic, and the paper has been an exclusively online publication since 2018. It ceased its print edition after the government, which held a monopoly on imports, cut the company’s access to imported newsprint. The paper’s website, too, has been restricted by Venezuela’s telecommunications regulator on numerous occasions since then.

Read [more](#).

Shared by Doug Pizac

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President Joe Biden was informed on Thursday morning that the CDC announcement was coming — just hours ahead of time — according to a senior White House source. | Evan Vucci/AP Photo



## How the White House found out about the new mask guidance (Politico)

*Hint: AP staffers will not be surprised*

Happy Saturday — the first one when those of us who are vaccinated can gallivant around, mask-free, (almost) anywhere our hearts desire.

HOW THE WHITE HOUSE FOUND OUT — The CDC’s surprise decision this week to drop its recommendation that vaccinated Americans wear masks in public spaces was the best news some of us have received in months.

And it turns out the White House barely got any notice.

On Wednesday evening, a small huddle of senior White House aides were told about the CDC’s decision. President JOE BIDEN was informed on Thursday morning that the

announcement was coming — just hours ahead of time — according to a senior White House source.

But most staffers found out on Thursday, after a scoop from the AP, according to White House sources, and didn't receive an official WH email about it until after the CDC's Covid-19 briefing. That email, which a source read me over the phone, announced that masks were no longer required on White House grounds for fully vaccinated people, and promised that "[o]ther changes will follow as implemented by the CDC."

"The information wasn't widely shared before the CDC announcement because it was their decision to make, not ours," an administration official told me.

Read more [here](#).

Shared by Jim Hood

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## The Washington Post will soon have a woman as its top editor (Washington Post)

By MARGARET SULLIVAN

Katharine Graham, the revered former publisher of The Washington Post, famously told an interviewer that she wasn't particularly comfortable in her lofty perch.

"I think a man would be better in this job I'm in than a woman," she said. And she found it hard to imagine a woman serving as top editor of the newspaper.

Well, that was 1969. In the years that followed, Graham would grow into her own power and inspire a generation of leaders and journalists, especially young women. Her autobiography was admirably candid about her insecurities and how she overcame them.

More than half a century later, Sally Buzbee was named executive editor of The Post last week, making history as the first woman to hold the role, following such legendary editors as Ben Bradlee, Len Downie and, most recently, Marty Baron...

Buzbee has a stellar reputation as a journalist and newsroom leader; her appointment brought accolades from those who worked with her at the Associated Press, where she began in 1988 and rose to the top editing job.

It's telling that she succeeded another pathbreaking woman, Kathleen Carroll, in that role at the AP...

Read full story [here](#).

Shared by Harry Dunphy, Sibby Christensen

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## Connecting mailbox

## ***A night when Jim Klobuchar got pranked***

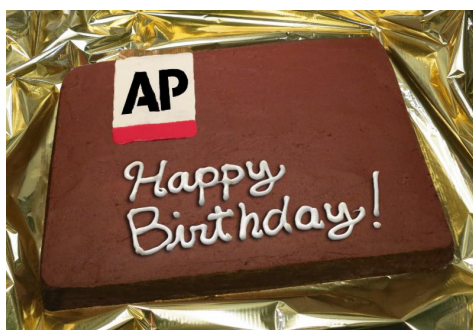
**Martha Malan** ([Email](#)) \_ Many years ago, the late, wonderful, mischievous Gale Tollin told me this story about Jim Klobuchar (Thursday Connecting) when he worked in the AP's Minneapolis bureau.

Jim had a habit of leaping to answer the phone whenever it rang. Regardless of what he, or anyone else, was doing, he grabbed the phone on its first half-rang. This bugged Gale.

One night, when the two were alone in the bureau, Jim went to the restroom, newspaper in hand. Gale took this opportunity to turn off the lights in the newsroom, pick up Line 1 and call Line 2.

On the third ring, Jim burst from the restroom, pants around his ankles. As he let forth with an expletive, Gale turned on the lights. Eventually, Jim also found it funny.

## **Connecting wishes Happy Birthday**



Molly McMillin - [mollymc2010@hotmail.com](mailto:mollymc2010@hotmail.com)

## **Stories of interest**

### **Facebook's 'fact checks' suppress debate (Wall Street Journal)**

This paper published Mark Mills's review of "Unsettled," my book on climate science, on April 25. Eight days later, 11 self-appointed "fact checkers" weighed in with a 4,500-word critique on the website ClimateFeedback.org. Facebook is waving that fact check as a giant red flag whenever the review appears in anyone's feed.

By branding Mr. Mills's review with "very low scientific credibility," the company directs its billions of users to a website that claims to discredit the review and, by

direct implication, my book. This action adds to the growing suppression of open discussion of climate complexities.

ClimateFeedback bills itself as “a worldwide network of scientists sorting fact from fiction in climate change media coverage.” Its modus operandi is to label necessarily brief media statements as misleading or inaccurate, often because they lack context. While acknowledging that “global crop yields are rising,” for instance, they add the untestable claim that yields might have been greater absent human-caused climate change. The gang of enforcers who “fact checked” Mr. Mills’s review included professors from Stanford, UCLA and MIT.

Read full column [here](#).

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## Student reporter who interviewed Obama at White House dies at 23 (Politico)

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — The student reporter who gained national acclaim when he interviewed President Barack Obama at the White House in 2009 has died of natural causes, his family says.

Damon Weaver was 23 when he died May 1, his sister, Candace Hardy, told the Palm Beach Post. Further details were not released. He had been studying communications at Albany State University in Georgia.

Weaver was 11 when he interviewed Obama for 10 minutes in the Diplomatic Room on Aug. 13, 2009, asking questions that focused primarily on education. He covered school lunches, bullying, conflict resolution and how to succeed.

Read full [story](#).

Shared by Dennis Conrad

## TV's top White House correspondents (all female) on covering Trump, Biden, and becoming the story (The Hollywood Reporter)

Before NBC News veteran and current chief White House correspondent Kristen Welker appeared on Today on April 23 to break an exclusive story, the most personal of her nearly 20-year on-camera career, she did something inconceivable in the elbow-bumping world of Washington, D.C., reporting: She tipped off the competition. “I told them before the announcement was coming because while we are competitors, we’re also friends,” Welker, 44, says of breaking the news to her rival chief White House correspondents that she and husband, John Hughes, are expecting a baby via surrogate. “When you are struggling with infertility, you feel very alone, and my fellow chief White House correspondents have been there for me throughout.”

It’s a group that includes Welker (who shares her title with Peter Alexander); Cecilia Vega, 44, of ABC News; Nancy Cordes, 46, of CBS News; Kaitlan Collins, 29, of CNN;

and Yamiche Alcindor, 34, of PBS, marking the first time that women hold the top White House reporting jobs at the major U.S. networks.

Read story [here](#).

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## Secret sharers: The hidden ties between private spies and journalists (New York Times)

Some journalists are happy to knock on the doors of strangers. I was never one of them, but Christopher Steele, the ex-British spy behind the infamous Trump dossier, left me no choice. During the 2016 presidential campaign, Mr. Steele had been hired by an investigative firm called Fusion GPS to gather dirt about Donald J. Trump and Russia. The firm's founders, two former Wall Street Journal reporters, made it clear they would not talk to me for a book I was writing about the business of private intelligence. So on an early summer morning in 2019, I arrived at Mr. Steele's home in Farnham, a picturesque English village.

More [here](#).

Shared by Michael Rubin

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## Longtime Chicago political reporter Dick Kay dies at 84 (Chicago Tribune)

Veteran Chicago broadcaster Dick Kay — a fearless reporter who was well sourced and deeply knowledgeable about politics — died early Thursday at Northwestern Medicine Delnor Hospital in Geneva, his family said. He was 84. Kay, who was living in the St. Charles area, suffered a brain hemorrhage earlier in the week, according to his family. Born Richard Snodgrass, Kay was remembered for his lengthy journalism career, which included 38 years at WMAQ-Ch. 5. After retiring from the NBC-owned station in 2006, he worked briefly as then-Gov. Rod Blagojevich's "special advocate for health care."

Read more [here](#).



### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

To celebrate AP's 175th anniversary, the Corporate Archives has organized "AP at 175: Conversations with History," a series of three webinars.

They are:

**The AP at its beginnings and the development of a national communications system in the 19th century: Prof. Menahem Blondheim in conversation with AP Editor at Large Jerry Schwartz.**

**When: Thursday, May 20, 2021 11:00 AM-12:00 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).**

**Where: Zoom: <https://ap.zoom.us/j/96043360939>**

**This event will feature**

A longtime friend of the Corporate Archives, Menahem Blondheim is the Newhouse Professor of Communication in the department of communication and the department of history at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He also serves as the academic director of undergraduate studies at HU's Rothberg International school, and previously as head of the Truman Institute for the advancement of Peace. He received his BA from the Hebrew University and his MA and PhD from Harvard University in American History. An Israeli Americanist interested in things Italian, he has been a visiting professor at the University of Pennsylvania, Columbia University, New York University, Ca' Foscari University in Venice, Sapienza University of Rome and Lumsa University, also in Rome.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://ap.zoom.us/j/96043360939>

Meeting ID: 960 4336 0939



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**The only perfect method: Kent Cooper and the birth of AP Wirephoto: Prof. Gene Allen in conversation with Creative Services Special Projects Manager Chuck Zoeller.**

When: Thursday, June 03, 2021 11:00 AM-12:00 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).

Where: Zoom: <https://ap.zoom.us/j/99279521949>

Gene Allen is a Professor in the School of Journalism at Ryerson University (Toronto) and a faculty member in the Ryerson-York Joint Graduate Program in Communication and Culture. He had an extensive and varied career as a television news and documentary producer – including a position as director of research for the CBC/Radio-Canada television series Canada: A People's History -- and as an editor and reporter for The Globe and Mail before joining Ryerson's Journalism faculty in 2001. Gene is the author of Making National News: A History of Canadian Press, which was a finalist for the Canada Prize for the Humanities in 2015. He recently completed a biography of Kent Cooper, the general manager and executive director of Associated Press from 1925 to 1951.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://ap.zoom.us/j/99279521949>

Meeting ID: 992 7952 1949

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**AP correspondents bring home the world: Their history in their own words: Prof. Giovanna Dell'Orto in conversation with Vice President and Editor at Large for Standards John Daniszewski.**

When: Thursday, June 17, 2021 11:00 AM-12:00 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).

Where: Zoom: <https://ap.zoom.us/j/94209986199>

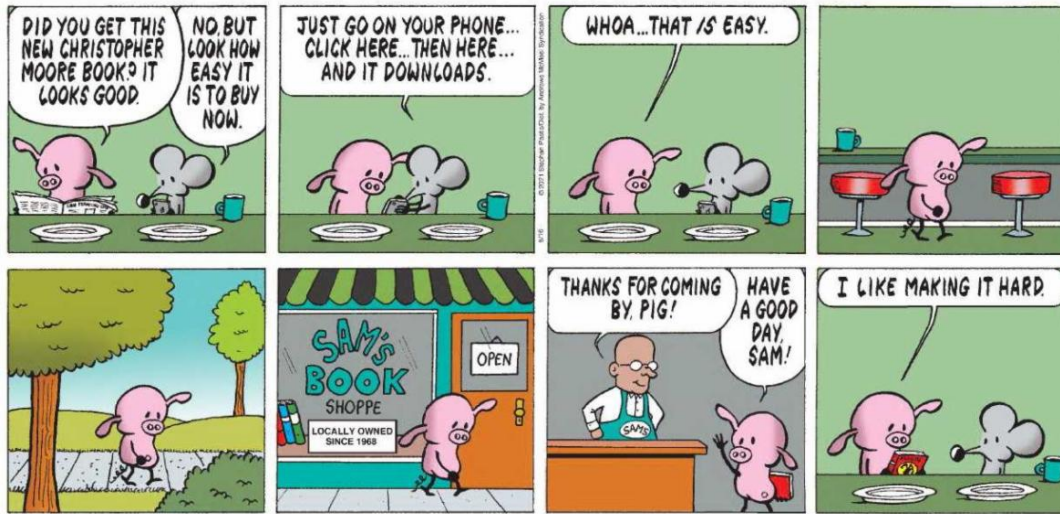
Giovanna Dell'Orto, Ph.D., is a former newswoman with The Associated Press (in Minneapolis, Rome, Phoenix and Atlanta). Now Associate Professor of journalism at the University of Minnesota, she teaches and researches the interplay of news production, news content and international affairs. She is the author or senior editor of six books on this topic, including an oral history of AP foreign correspondence from the Second World War to the 2010s, published by Cambridge University Press in 2015.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://ap.zoom.us/j/94209986199>

Meeting ID: 942 0998 6199

## The Final Word

**PEARLS BEFORE SWINE****BY STEPHAN PASTIS**

Shared by Adolphe Bernotas from the North Port Sun

## Today in History - May 17, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, May 17, the 137th day of 2021. There are 228 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On May 17, 1954, a unanimous U.S. Supreme Court handed down its *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* decision which held that racially segregated public schools were inherently unequal, and therefore unconstitutional.

### On this date:

In 1792, the New York Stock Exchange had its beginnings as a group of brokers met under a tree on Wall Street and signed the Buttonwood Agreement.

In 1875, the first Kentucky Derby was run; the winner was Aristides, ridden by Oliver Lewis.

In 1946, President Harry S. Truman seized control of the nation's railroads, delaying – but not preventing – a threatened strike by engineers and trainmen.

In 1973, a special committee convened by the U.S. Senate began its televised hearings into the Watergate scandal.

In 1980, rioting that claimed 18 lives erupted in Miami's Liberty City after an all-white jury in Tampa acquitted four former Miami police officers of fatally beating Black insurance executive Arthur McDuffie.

In 1987, 37 American sailors were killed when an Iraqi warplane attacked the U.S. Navy frigate Stark in the Persian Gulf. (Iraq apologized for the attack, calling it a mistake, and paid more than \$27 million in compensation.)

In 1996, President Bill Clinton signed a measure requiring neighborhood notification when sex offenders move in. ("Megan's Law," as it's known, was named for Megan Kanka, a 7-year-old New Jersey girl who was raped and murdered in 1994.)

In 2002, former President Jimmy Carter ended a historic visit to Cuba sharply at odds with the Bush administration over how to deal with Fidel Castro, saying limits on tourism and trade often hurt Americans more than Cubans.

In 2004, Massachusetts became the first state to allow same-sex marriages.

In 2010, the Supreme Court ruled 5-4 that young people serving life prison terms should have "a meaningful opportunity to obtain release" provided they didn't kill their victims.

In 2015, a shootout erupted between bikers and police outside a restaurant in Waco, Texas, leaving nine of the bikers dead and 20 people injured.

In 2017, the Justice Department appointed former FBI Director Robert Mueller as a special counsel to oversee a federal investigation into potential coordination between Russia and the 2016 Donald Trump campaign.

Ten years ago: Queen Elizabeth II began the first visit by a British monarch to the Republic of Ireland, a four-day trip to highlight strong Anglo-Irish relations and the success of Northern Ireland peacemaking. Former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger confirmed a Los Angeles Times report that he had fathered a child with a woman on his household staff more than a decade earlier. (Schwarzenegger and his wife, Maria Shriver, had announced their separation on May 9, 2011.) Baseball Hall of Famer Harmon Killebrew, 74, died in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Five years ago: Bernie Sanders won Oregon's Democratic presidential primary while Hillary Clinton eked out a razor-thin victory in Kentucky. Federal investigators concluded that a speeding Amtrak train that crashed in Philadelphia in May 2015, killing eight people, most likely ran off the rails because the engineer was distracted by word of a nearby commuter train getting hit by a rock. Guy Clark, the Grammy-winning musician who mentored a generation of songwriters, died in Nashville at age 74.

One year ago: New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo was tested for the coronavirus on live TV as he announced that all people in the state who were experiencing flu-like symptoms were eligible for tests. Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell expressed optimism that

the U.S. economy could begin to recover in the second half of the year, assuming that there would not be a second wave, but he suggested in a CBS "60 Minutes" interview that a full recovery would likely not be possible before the arrival of a vaccine. A spokesman for Afghan President Ashraf Ghani said Ghani and his political rival Abdullah Abdullah had signed a power-sharing agreement, two months after both men declared themselves the winner of the country's presidential election.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Peter Gerety is 81. Singer Taj Mahal is 79. Rock musician Bill Bruford is 72. TV personality Kathleen Sullivan is 68. Boxing Hall of Famer Sugar Ray Leonard is 65. Actor-comedian Bob Saget is 65. Sports announcer Jim Nantz is 62. Producer Simon Fuller (TV: "American Idol") is 61. Singer Enya is 60. Actor-comedian Craig Ferguson is 59. Rock singer-musician Page McConnell is 58. Actor David Eigenberg is 57. Singer-musician Trent Reznor (Nine Inch Nails) is 56. Actor Paige Turco is 56. R&B musician O'Dell (Mint Condition) is 56. Actor Hill Harper is 55. TV personality/interior designer Thom Filicia is 52. Singer Jordan Knight is 51. R&B singer Darnell Van Rensalier (Shai) is 51. U.S. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo is 50. Actor Sasha Alexander is 48. Rock singer-musician Josh Homme (HAHM'-ee) is 48. Rock singer Andrea Corr (The Corrs) is 47. Actor Sendhil Ramamurthy (SEN'-dul rah-mah-MURTH'-ee) is 47. Actor Rochelle Aytes is 45. Singer Kandi Burruss is 45. Actor Kat Foster is 43. Actor Ayda Field is 42. Actor Ginger Gonzaga is 38. Folk-rock singer/songwriter Passenger is 37. Dancer-choreographer Derek Hough (huhf) is 36. Actor Tahj Mowry is 35. Actor Nikki Reed is 33. Singer Kree Harrison (TV: "American Idol") is 31. Actor Leven Rambin is 31. Actor Samantha Browne-Walters is 30. Actor Justin Martin is 27.

## 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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