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Connecting
May 26, 2021

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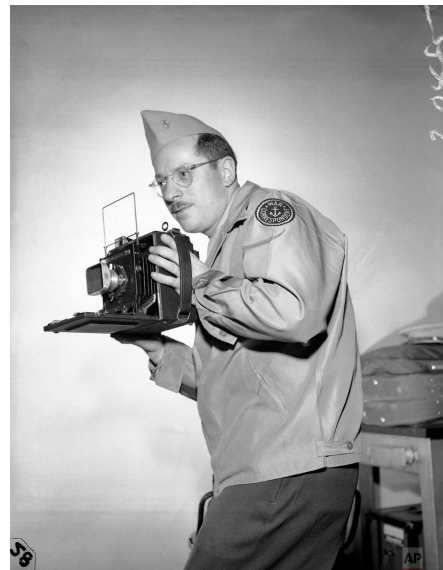
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ABOVE: This is a full frame scan of the 4x5 negative of Joe Rosenthal's iconic Iwo Jima flag-raising photo from Feb. 23, 1945 and seen Oct. 24, 2017 in the Associated Press Photo Library in New York City. (AP Photo)

AT RIGHT: Associated Press staff photographer Joe Rosenthal is pictured in San Francisco prior to his departure for Honolulu for a pool assignment with the Pacific fleet, March 25, 1944. (AP Photo/Ernest K. Bennett)



Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this the 26th day of May 2021,

Today's Connecting brings you the fourth in an eight-part monthly blog, "AP at 175."

The Associated Press celebrates its 175th birthday this month and to mark this milestone, AP Corporate Archives assembled a concise visual history – each of which has been presented to date in our newsletter. Our thanks to Archives director **Valerie Komor** and archivist **Francesca Pitaro** for their fine work in assembling the text and photo editing.

Today's issue brings more of your colleagues' thoughts on the blowback from the AP's firing of Emily Wilder for violation of social media guidelines. Your own thoughts are welcomed.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

AP at 175, Part 4: Modernity, 1926-45



Rescuers with survivors of the plane which went down in the Adirondacks are shown on Dec. 31, 1934. Left to right are, R. W. Hambrook, passenger, John Pertrello, J. W. Brown, Dale Dryer, Lester Pertrello and Floyd Kreutzer. The Pertrellos and Kreutzer are rescuers. (AP Photo)

As news staff and technicians gathered around the newly installed Wirephoto equipment in the AP newsroom, Harold Carlson, AP's chief engineer, placed a photo

on the cylinder and alerted twenty-five cities: "This is New York calling all points. The first picture will be a shot of the plane survivors just rescued in the Adirondacks. Are you ready?" Under the hood of the Wirephoto transmitter, a photocell scanned the picture as it turned, converting it into electronic impulses which were flashed to the receiving unit and reconverted into a negative that was then printed. Transmission took less than 15 minutes. The obstacles of time and distance that had prevented pictures from arriving alongside words were overcome.



Staff in the AP's Washington, D. C. Bureau examine the layout of 153 pictures sent by Washington by Wirephoto during the first four and a half days of the Normandy Invasion, from June 6 through June 10, 1944. During that same period, all other points combined sent only 111 pictures. (AP Photo/Corporate Archives)



Associated Press photographer Max Desfor is pictured with AP wartime correspondent Bonnie Wiley on Okinawa, 1945. (AP Photo)

Part 4: Modernity, 1926-45

No one had more ambitions for the Associated Press (or, it must be said, for himself) than Kent Cooper. Joining AP in 1910 at age 30, he rose from head of traffic to assistant general manager, succeeding Frederick Roy Martin as general manager in 1925. Special correspondent Hal Boyle would call him a “tradition-smasher” and an “applecartupsetter.” He was both.

Almost singlehandedly, he made AP modern. He elevated its global stature by ending the cartel control of international news. He redefined the nature of news as “the true day to day story of humanity,” expanding the field of play to include longform features, sports, finance and entertainment. And he built up the organization’s institutional strength by implanting a culture of innovation that has long survived him. Throughout his career, he displayed an uncanny ability to identify emerging technologies and modify them to meet AP requirements. In 1943, he prophesied an “automatic, pocket ‘bulletin’ newspaper, to which you could subscribe from your regular newspaper and carry around with you.”

Cooper began early to lay the groundwork for his biggest triumph, Wirephoto. In 1926, he told the Board of Directors he wanted a faster way to get photographs into newspapers. He set up the News Photo Service in 1927, which distributed pictures by mail to members--the kind of service already used by Scripps Howard, Hearst and the New York Times. In 1928, AP hired its first photographers. Now Cooper went after the big prize: a rapid-transmission picture network.



AT&T had introduced a network of sorts in 1924. The Telephoto service sent pictures city to city over telephone lines, but Cooper never considered it seriously. He was not keen on submitting AP photos to AT&T for individual transmission on a per-occasion basis. He wanted a leased wire system-- like the one established for text in 1875--of permanent circuits operated by AP that would link all receiving points simultaneously. When AT&T cancelled Telephoto in 1934, Cooper seized the opportunity to gain exclusive access to the technology and make it work on a network. In the meantime, he and the Board began selling the expensive service to the membership.

Wirephoto came into its own during World War II, as newspapers clamored for pictures from the front. And the expansion of AP’s presence in Europe after 1934 (when AP gained the right to do its own reporting instead of relying on the European agencies) made it possible to contend with the sudden avalanche of war news. Pre-war wordage from all cables had been about 18,000 words transmitted daily. On September 1, 1939, the day Hitler invaded Poland, that number rose to 41,000 in a single day.

From 1939 to 1945, more than 175 correspondents and photographers brought the war home to 1271 U.S. member newspapers. Six staffers won Pulitzers for their work during the war.

Hal Boyle, Dan DeLuce and Larry Allen won for reporting. Frank Filan, Frank Noel and Joe Rosenthal won for photography. Witt Hancock, Harry Crockett, Bede Irvin, and Asahel “Ace” Bush died while covering the war. Joseph Morton was executed at the Mauthausen-Gusen concentration camp in 1945. He was the only Allied correspondent to be killed by the Axis powers.

Read and view more [here](#).

AP Reporter Runs for Cover After Gunshots Ring Out During Report on Anniversary of George Floyd's Death



By Ken Meyer
MEDIAite

Associated Press journalist Philip Crowther, reporting from Minneapolis on the one year anniversary of George Floyd's murder by a police officer, had to duck for cover as gunshots rang out in the middle of his coverage.

Reporters descended on George Floyd Square on Tuesday to cover the scene a year after Floyd was murdered by former police officer Derek Chauvin, in a brutal killing that was caught on video by bystanders and sparked global protests against police brutality and racial injustice.

Crowther was on the scene filming a report when a series of bangs erupted, forcing him and others to run for shelter.

Crowther uploaded the raw footage of his interrupted report to Twitter, along with an update that "we see one broken window, apparently from one of the shots fired. Consensus among reporters here at George Floyd Square was that we heard anywhere between a dozen and two dozen shots fired."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Pizac.

The Real Problem With the AP's Firing of Emily Wilder

By JANINE ZACHARIA

Janine Zacharia reported on the Middle East and foreign policy for close to two decades including stints as Jerusalem Bureau Chief for the Washington Post, State Department correspondent for Bloomberg News, Washington bureau chief for the Jerusalem Post, and Jerusalem correspondent for Reuters. She is currently the Carlos Kelly McClatchy lecturer in the Department of Communication at Stanford University, where she teaches news reporting and writing fundamentals and foreign correspondence. She is the co-author of How to Responsibly Report on Hacks and Disinformation.

In the aftermath of the Associated Press' May 19 firing of Emily Wilder, a spirited discussion has broken out about social media policies and practices in newsrooms. Wilder, a 22-year-old news associate in Arizona with an online record of pro-Palestinian activism in college, was dismissed, according to the AP, for "some tweets" it said "violated AP's News Values and Principles." Which tweets? The organization didn't say. But Wilder's firing came on the heels of a campaign by the Stanford College Republicans and allies to portray her as an "anti-Israel agitator" and thus call the AP's objectivity on the issue into question.

For me, the issues surrounding her firing are important for journalism, but they're personal, too: She was my student at Stanford.

Since her dismissal, many journalists and commentators have focused on the dissatisfaction and disagreements in newsrooms over how reporters should behave online. It's a cacophony that's creating headaches for reporters and managers alike. Without consensus, McClatchy News, for example, says it's okay to put #BlackLivesMatter in your Twitter handle, while Wilder's AP editor told her to delete it from hers.

This all needs to be fixed. But unclear, opaque and unevenly enforced social media policies aren't the biggest problem here. For the AP and other news managers, the most urgent issue in Wilder's dismissal is that a reporter was targeted by a disinformation campaign—in this case, by people who took issue with Wilder's documented pro-Palestinian views—and rather than recognizing it as such, the organization essentially caved to it.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Kevin Walsh.

More on social media and Emily Wilder

Larry Blasko ([Email](#)) - Interview and program you need on the Wilder story: I watched all 46 minutes and thought it was time well spent:

I Will Not Yield My Values: Fired AP Journalist Emily Wilder Speaks Out After Right-Wing Smears

In her first TV interview, we speak with Emily Wilder, the young reporter fired by the Associated Press after she was targeted in a Republican smear campaign for her pro-Palestinian activism in college. Wilder is Jewish and was a member of Students for Justice in Palestine and Jewish Voice for Peace at Stanford University before she graduated in 2020. She was two weeks into her new job with the AP when the Stanford College Republicans singled out some of her past social media posts, triggering a conservative frenzy. The AP announced Wilder's firing shortly thereafter, citing unspecified violations of its social media policy. "Less than 48 hours after Stanford College Republicans began to post about me, I was fired," says Wilder. "I was not given an explanation for what social media policy I had violated." Over 100 AP journalists have signed an open letter to management protesting the decision to fire Wilder, which came just days after Israel demolished the building housing AP offices and other media organizations in Gaza. Journalism professor Janine Zacharia, a former Jerusalem bureau chief for The Washington Post who taught Wilder at Stanford, says the episode is an example of how much pressure news organizations face on Middle East coverage. "I am very aware, perhaps more than most, to the sensitivities around the questions of bias and reporting on the conflict," says Zacharia. "In this case it wasn't about bias."

View [here](#).

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Pauline Arrillaga (Email) - In some of the very black and white comments I'm seeing here about Emily Wilder's dismissal, important nuances are getting overlooked. A company can have whatever social media policies it deems fit. The issue then becomes whether leadership is applying those policies and punishments in a way that is fair and equitable. The fact is there are longtime, current AP employees who have posted opinions and bias about matters or individuals they actually cover. Some have been warned on multiple occasions and given second, even third, chances. Not so in the case of Wilder. And AP employees are quite right in asking why and quite right in worrying: "Could I, then, be next?"

The questions around Wilder's firing need to be asked and appropriate remedies should be instituted. Was she let go because she was an entry-level, probationary employee instead of someone who'd been around for some time and somehow seen as "deserving" of another chance? If so, that very way of thinking is what's wrong here. You don't punish the less powerful while continuing to give others another shot. The biggest question – one AP employees have been asking – is why Wilder wasn't given a stern warning and another chance?

If her violation was so egregious as to warrant immediate dismissal, then the AP should try to find some way of reflecting that in its public statements.

There is no doubt that strong social media and ethics policies are necessary to ensure the AP's long-standing reputation as a credible, fact-based, unbiased source of information. But those policies should be policed and applied consistently. If that

doesn't happen, the AP and other media outlets grappling with these issues will continue to open themselves up to this kind of blowback.

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Sibby Christensen (Email) - Whatever its literal meaning, the popular "social media" tag implies interpersonal bias for anyone out there checking Google/Bing. And anyone out there will be getting propaganda along with solid background and interpretive information. We're stuck with the terms - and the dedicated outlets - until better ones come along.

The AP guidelines encourage the use of whatever-you-call-it, and that signals staff is using its @ap.org accounts for this additional information. Part of the job.

The young woman involved in this discussion may have committed a freshman error, but many of our Pulitzers and similar honors recognize editors and writers following the same instincts.

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Jim Limbach (Email) - Re: Wilder incident: one lesson to come out of this: just because you think it doesn't mean you have to say it.

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Mike Rouse (Email) - If Emily Wilder tweeted or even hinted on Twitter that she favored one side in the war, then firing her was necessary. The AP obviously can't publicize details from her personnel file and it was wrong for staffers to demand that.

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Larry Thorson (Email) - In my email inbox came a bit of outrage from a Miami lawyer I know who said more or less the following about a fellow lawyer, a blogger who normally writes about judges and trials and lawyers with full frankness:

"There's a criminal justice blog in Miami called Justice Building. The blogmeister is anonymous, calls himself Horace Rumpole. Last week he posted a column about the hideous injustice of the occupation and America's role in maintaining it. He expressly anticipated blowback.... The next day he posted that he would refrain in the future from posting about the occupation because the hostile comments (which he didn't make public) had overwhelmed him. This is a guy who's tried criminal cases for decades. He routinely posts scathing criticisms of sitting judges and, where warranted, practicing attorneys. He lambasted Trump for four years, with lots of blowback from Trumpists, who did not silence him. Now he will be silent about the occupation. These attacks work as intended."

The blog can be found at <http://justicebuilding.blogspot.com/>. Scroll down to May 16 to read what the blogger posted. To May 17 for the blogger's reaction to the onslaught of outrage and what's next: "Back to law."

As my lawyer friend said, "These attacks work as intended." I don't think it helps to fire, as the AP did, a young journalist who pulled the chains of blowback artists ever eager to destroy careers over choice of words. Freedom of expression has to mean something real. We could call this a teaching moment and perhaps make some progress.

I come to this with full appreciation for the need to protect AP people everywhere. I was Tel Aviv bureau chief in the early 1980s and sent Terry Anderson, later kidnapped and held hostage for many years, across the border into Lebanon into danger, I went myself, sent many others. Yes, the staff must be protected. And the staff know perfectly well the protection will never be 100 percent solid.

Connecting mailbox

Gaza evidence is overdue

Charlie Hanley ([Email](#)) – Like Terry Anderson, I was taken aback last week to see Connecting colleagues blindly accept the Israel Defense Force's stated reason for destroying the AP buro in Gaza, that the building housed Hamas intelligence assets. "The AP has some answering to do" seemed to be the theme. But it's the IDF that first has some answering to do: Where's the evidence?

"In a few days," "in due course," said Israeli spokespeople. Well, it has been 10 days or so. It's overdue. The U.S. government is said to have received relevant "information," but then where's a U.S. pronouncement on this attack on the leading U.S. news agency? We don't know what may be going on among the AP, Washington and Israel. But we do know the bombing served Israel's interest by crippling the media's ability to inform the world – including Al Jazeera's ability to inform the Arab world -- about the devastation of that crowded enclave. We also know the IDF has shown itself capable of tracking and destroying an automobile with drone-fired missiles, the kind of precision strike that could have eliminated any Hamas operation while sparing the equipment, files and mental health and haven of our AP brothers and sisters.

Perhaps some sort of evidence will emerge, real or fabricated. But when it comes to war and governments and their militaries, skepticism should be the first rule of reporting.

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Do you recall this spying episode?

Notable & Quotable: The 'Holder Model'

From the transcript of the May 21 White House press briefing:

Q: What did you mean when you said that . . . when it comes to spying on journalists, this DOJ is going to follow the "Holder model"? Because Eric Holder was the attorney general when the DOJ was spying on the Associated Press and was obtaining phone records for bureaus and individual journalists.

Ms. Psaki: Well, the question that was asked, which was a good question, was about the—the records that were taken or seized or whatever—however you want to characterize it—during the last administration. And we're not going to follow the "Barr model." . . .

Q: But you said the "Holder model," and Eric Holder did monitor the phone records of journalists.

Ms. Psaki: I think I would point

to the Department of Justice here. This—all these decisions would be made by our attorney general and the Department of Justice. And again, they are going to be meeting with journalists to hear their concerns. And certainly, we will continue to advocate for freedom of press, freedom of expression in the United States, of course, but also around the world.

Thank you everyone.

Paul Albright ([Email](#)) - A suggestion: This snippet was in the May 24 Wall Street Journal. Note the reference to the DOJ "spying" on The AP and obtaining phone records of bureaus and individual journalists. Passing it along in case some Connecting participants recall this spying episode and want to share some insights.

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More on Alden

Jim Spehar ([Email](#)) - The video in the [attached link](#) may be interesting to our Connecting colleagues. It explores the Denver Post staff revolt against Alden. Free viewing expires in a day or so.

Follows the desperate attempt by Colorado journalists to save the 125-year-old Denver Post from slow death at the hands of hedge fund owner Alden Global Capital, while trying to cut through the noise of social media and opinion news outlets. Aired: 04/27/21. Expires: 05/28/21.

Two in class from AP

Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard announces the 84th class of fellows



Top row, from the left: Caelainn Barr, Selase Kove-Seyram, Natalia Viana, Shereen Marisol Meraji, Jakob Moll, Fu Ting, Pranav Dixit. Second row: Dave Mayers, Marisa Palmer, Jonathan Rabb, Choy Yuk-ling (Bao Choy). Third row: Sammy Jo Hester, Jim Urquhart, Gabrielle Schonder, Bill Barrow. Fourth row: Reuben Fischer-Baum, Patricia Laya, Pacinthe Mattar, Julia Lurie, Jorge Caraballo Cordovez, Felice León, Deb Pastner.

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — The Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard University, a center internationally recognized for its fellowships, publications and programs, has selected 22 Nieman Fellows from across the globe for a year of on-campus study. The journalists will focus their work on some of the most urgent issues facing the industry, ranging from racial justice to disinformation.

The fellows forming the Nieman class of 2022 will begin their two semesters of studies this fall. They represent 10 countries, including the United States, and the spectrum of media from young digital newsrooms to legacy newspapers. Their work has centered on areas of vital importance to journalism, from trust and far-right movements to innovations in audience growth and virtual reality. They cover politics, technology, race and child welfare, and work as investigative reporters, podcasters and data specialists. The class is especially rich in visual journalism expertise and includes photo and graphics editors, video producers, photographers and documentary filmmakers.

From the AP:

Bill Barrow, a national political reporter based in Atlanta for The Associated Press, will examine the intersection of movement and party politics in the United States, focusing on the institutional structures and prevailing social dynamics that are reshaping Democratic and Republican alliances in the early 21st century.

Fu Ting, a Chinese journalist reporting for The Associated Press from Thailand, will research China's global expansion, domestic living standards and ongoing brain drain in the face of an economic slowdown that follows years of rapid growth. She will

examine how the country and the wider world are addressing the downturn and the resulting social challenges.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Ed Williams.

Exclusive: AP and FanDuel team up on sports betting odds

By Sara Fischer, author of Media Trends
Axios

FanDuel and The Associated Press have reached an agreement to make FanDuel the exclusive provider of sports odds across AP's global sports report, executives tell Axios.

Why it matters: While traditional advertising is an effective customer acquisition tool, FanDuel Chief Marketing Officer Mike Raffensperger says "I think the thing where we move the needle is partnerships with media companies."

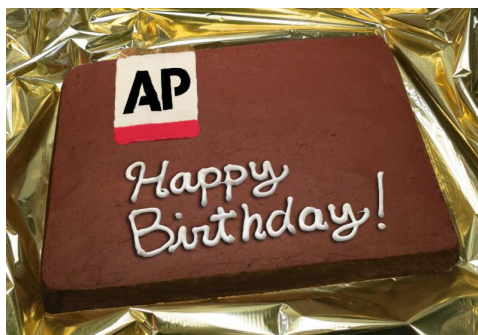
FanDuel spent more than any other sports book on advertising around online gambling content in Q1 2021, per Nielsen.

Details: Under the terms of the agreement, the AP will include FanDuel sportsbook odds exclusively in its daily sports odds fixtures, game previews, and other sports stories where odds are mentioned.

FanDuel is paying the AP an undisclosed amount to be the AP's exclusive partner.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Harry Weber - harryweber263@yahoo.com

Welcome to Connecting



Gerry Price - doodlesdad@aol.com

Stories of interest

Emily Wilder, tradition, and the double standards around objectivity (Columbia Journalism Review)

By JON ALLSOP

THREE WEEKS AGO TODAY, Emily Wilder, a twenty-two-year-old journalist, joined the Associated Press as a news associate for the Western US region, based in Phoenix, Arizona. A week or so later, conflict in Israel and Palestine started to consume the news cycle. It would go on to consume Wilder's AP career. Wilder retweeted other people's thoughts about the story, and offered her own reflection on the way it was being covered in the US: "'Objectivity' feels fickle when the basic terms we use to report news implicitly stake a claim," she wrote last Sunday. "Using 'Israel' but never 'Palestine,' or 'war' but not 'siege and occupation' are political choices—yet media make those exact choices all the time without being flagged as biased." The next day, college Republicans at Stanford University, where Wilder, who is Jewish, was a student, posted a thread accusing Wilder of being an "anti-Israel agitator" and of making anti-Semitic remarks during her time on campus. The Stanford Republicans' account has fewer than two thousand followers, but the thread was soon amplified by prominent conservative politicians and media outlets, who used it as grist for the broader right-wing argument that the AP is biased against Israel, and favorable toward Hamas. Days earlier, Israeli forces had destroyed the AP's offices in Gaza City, alleging that Hamas operated out of the same building. (The AP has denied knowledge of this. Israeli officials have yet to publish proof of their claim.)

This had really nothing to do with Wilder—but by Wednesday, the AP had fired her anyway, citing violations of its social-media policy. "We have this policy so the comments of one person cannot create dangerous conditions for our journalists covering the story," an AP spokesperson told my CJR colleague Shinhee Kang last

week. “Every AP journalist is responsible for safeguarding our ability to report on this conflict, or any other, with fairness and credibility, and cannot take sides in public forums.” The spokesperson said that the violations in question occurred while Wilder was employed at the AP, but did not specify which of her posts were at issue. In a statement over the weekend, Wilder said that she, too, has no idea how or when she violated the policy, and that her bosses refused to tell her when she asked; she believes that she was actually “hung out to dry” in response to the right-wing mob’s loud baying about her past activism. “I have to ask what kind of message this sends to young people who are hoping to channel righteous indignation or passion for justice into impactful storytelling,” she wrote. “What future does it promise to aspiring reporters that an institution like the Associated Press would sacrifice those with the least power to the cruel trolling of a group of anonymous bullies?” Since her firing, Wilder has given interviews, too, including to the Washington Post and SFGATE. She told the latter, “There’s no question I was just canceled.”

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady.

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Can cable news win over young viewers? At MSNBC, a 40-year-old new president is going to try. (Washington Post)

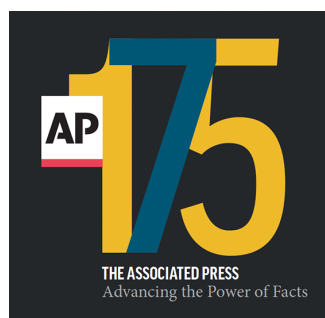
By Jeremy Barr

Cable news is not for the young.

In recent years, the median age of viewers who watch the big three cable news networks — CNN, Fox News Channel and MSNBC — has been in the 60s, an audience that television news industry analyst Andrew Tyndall calls positively “geriatric.” At MSNBC, the median age this year has been 68, four years older than CNN, according to the latest data from Nielsen. That’s up from a median age of 65 in 2017.

Which makes it all the more noteworthy that MSNBC’s newly appointed president is a 40-year-old “digital native” millennial named Rashida Jones.

Read more [here](#).



A special section

celebrating AP's 175th

AP Through Time: A Photographic History



AP Through Time: A Photographic History” - created by Director of Corporate Archives, Valerie Komor, is a keepsake commemorating AP’s 175th year. Small in size (6 ¾ x 6 ¾ in.), it is organized chronologically in eight segments that trace the broad outlines of AP’s development from 1846 to the present: Beginnings, Evolution, New Century, Modernity, Expansion, One World, Speed, and Transformation. Click [here](#) to view and make an order.

AP store for 175th merchandise



The AP has created a store with 175th anniversary merchandise available for purchase. You can view and order items by clicking [here](#). More items are planned to be added later.

AP at 175 video

This video celebrates the unique role AP has played since 1846.

Oops!

The embed code for this video is not valid.



UPCOMING WEBINARS

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

Upcoming are:

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

Today in History - May 26, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, May 26, the 146th day of 2021. There are 219 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 26, 1940, Operation Dynamo, the evacuation of some 338,000 Allied troops from Dunkirk, France, began during World War II.

On this date:

In 1864, President Abraham Lincoln signed a measure creating the Montana Territory.

In 1938, the House Un-American Activities Committee was established by Congress.

In 1954, explosions rocked the aircraft carrier USS Bennington off Rhode Island, killing 103 sailors. (The initial blast was blamed on leaking catapult fluid ignited by the

flames of a jet.)

In 1972, President Richard M. Nixon and Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev signed the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty in Moscow. (The U.S. withdrew from the treaty in 2002.)

In 1977, George Willig scaled the outside of the South Tower of New York's World Trade Center; he was arrested at the top of the 110-story building.

In 1981, 14 people were killed when a Marine jet crashed onto the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz off Florida.

In 1994, Michael Jackson and Lisa Marie Presley were married in the Dominican Republic. (The marriage ended in 1996.)

In 1998, the U.S. Supreme Court made it far more difficult for police to be sued by people hurt during high-speed chases. The Supreme Court also ruled that Ellis Island, historic gateway for millions of immigrants, was mainly in New Jersey, not New York.

In 2004, nearly a decade after the Oklahoma City bombing, Terry Nichols was found guilty of 161 state murder charges for helping carry out the attack. (Nichols later received 161 consecutive life sentences.)

In 2005, President George W. Bush received Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas at the White House; Bush called Abbas a courageous democratic reformer and bolstered his standing at home with \$50 million in assistance.

In 2009, President Barack Obama nominated federal appeals judge Sonia Sotomayor to the U.S. Supreme Court. California's Supreme Court upheld the Proposition 8 gay marriage ban but said the 18,000 same-sex weddings that had taken place before the prohibition passed were still valid.

In 2015, challenging Hillary Rodham Clinton from the left, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders formally kicked off his Democratic presidential bid in Burlington, Vermont, with a pitch to liberals to join him in a "political revolution" to transform the nation's economy and politics.

Ten years ago: Congress passed a four-year extension of post-Sept. 11 powers contained in the Patriot Act to search records and conduct roving wiretaps in pursuit of terrorists; President Barack Obama, in France, signed the measure using an autopen machine minutes before the provisions were set to expire at midnight. Ratko Mladic (RAHT'-koh MLAH'-dich), the brutal Bosnian Serb general suspected of leading the massacre of 8,000 Muslim men and boys, was arrested after a 16-year manhunt. (Mladic was extradited to face trial in The Hague, Netherlands.)

Five years ago: President Barack Obama, visiting Japan, said foreign leaders were "rattled" by Donald Trump and had good reason to feel that way, as he accused the presumptive Republican presidential nominee of ignorance about world affairs. First lady Michelle Obama told graduates at a Native American high school in Santa Fe, New Mexico, to take pride in their history and cultures at a time when she said the "loudest voices in the national conversation" suggested turning away from the tribal values that were part of their education.

One year ago: Minneapolis police issued a statement saying George Floyd had died after a “medical incident,” and that he physically resisted officers and appeared to be in medical distress; minutes after the statement was released, bystander video was posted online. Protests over Floyd’s death began, with tense skirmishes developing between protesters and Minneapolis police. Four police officers who were involved in Floyd’s arrest were fired.

Today’s Birthdays: Sportscaster Brent Musberger is 82. Rock musician Garry Peterson (Guess Who) is 76. Singer Stevie Nicks is 73. Actor Pam Grier is 72. Actor Philip Michael Thomas is 72. Country singer Hank Williams Jr. is 72. Former British Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn is 72. Actor Margaret Colin is 63. Country singer-songwriter Dave Robbins is 62. Actor Doug Hutchison is 61. Actor Genie Francis is 59. Comedian Bobcat Goldthwait is 59. Singer-actor Lenny Kravitz is 57. Actor Helena Bonham Carter is 55. Distance runner Zola Budd is 55. Rock musician Phillip Rhodes is 53. Actor Joseph Fiennes (FYNZ) is 51. Singer Joey Kibble (Take 6) is 50. Actor-producer-writer Matt Stone is 50. Singer Lauryn Hill is 46. Contemporary Christian musician Nathan Cochran is 43. Actor Elisabeth Harnois is 42. Actor Hrach Titizian is 42.

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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