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Connecting

January 03, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this Jan. 3, 2022,

Here's the first Connecting issue of 2022.

Our newsletter, which started in 2013 with about a dozen colleagues, has grown by more than 100 readers in the past year and we're now nearing the 1,700 mark. All the growth has been by word of mouth...or eyes. If you know someone who might enjoy receiving it, send me a note.

I hope you resolve in 2022 to share your stories of a topical event or of any other AP experience that you care to share. Note the listing of story ideas at the end of this and every issue.

Today's issue features a continuation of memories of two key editors on the New York Foreign Desk – [Frank Crepeau](#) and [Nate Polowetzky](#). Nate died in 1994 and Frank died in 2006 - but they are remembered so fondly by those they worked with at AP headquarters at 50 Rockefeller Plaza.

And our colleague **Mike Feinsilber** invites you to take part in his annual first-of-the-new-year survey.

CORRECTION: An editor's error: In the story in Connecting last Thursday from **Brian Friedman**, the correct date for the resignation of Mikhail Gorbachev as president of the Soviet Union should have been Dec. 25, 1991; the farewell to his staff at a party was held the next day.

We lead with a few New Year's resolutions that arrived over the weekend including another from that Twain fellow, courtesy of colleague **Jim Spehar**:

"Now is the accepted time to make your annual good resolutions. Next week you can begin paving hell with them as usual." – Mark Twain

Here's to a wonderful and safe and healthy new year for all.

Paul

Your New Year's Resolutions

John Wylie ([Email](#)) - 1. To use my favorite Christmas gift, from my son, a pre-inked, spring loaded large rubber stamp to go atop certain publications or stories noted for producing the world's deadliest sin. That sin is, and the stamp identifies it as:

FAKE NEWS.

2. To demand that newspapers restore excellent copy editors and proofreaders to their staff. Instead of claiming, "Readers don't care," the newspaper buzzards need to understand that readers don't care to read newspapers crammed with grammatical, factual, punctuation and spelling errors. Works fine as long as their diet of carrion isn't disrupted, but not so well when all the living newspapers have disappeared, rotted and been devoured. Then what will they eat?

3. To remember that legitimate news --about true successes, good deeds, lives well lived and good people helping others--uplift readers and makes the valuable exposes more effective by showing that they are exceptions that informed citizens can end.

4. To help have a 2022 so much better than 2021 has been that no 2023 resolutions will be needed.

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Rick Cooper ([Email](#)) - On December 31, 1999, I made the following New Year's resolution for the millennium:

"Henceforth, I will forego any future New Year's resolutions."

It is the only New Year's resolution I have ever been able to keep.

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Michael Harris (Email) - Saw this on Facebook, posted by longtime AP photographer Chuck Burton. This seems like a pretty good New Year's resolution...

"This year I will be more thoughtful of my fellow man, exert more effort in each of my endeavors, professionally as well as personally. Take love wherever I find it, and offer it to everyone who will take it. In this coming year I will seek knowledge from those wiser than me and try to teach those who wish to learn from me. I love being alive and I will be the best man I possibly can." — Duane Allman, Jan. 1, 1969.

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Bob Daugherty (Email) - I decided to come up with a new year resolution. I installed a new blade in my razor. With the cost of blades, I tend to hang on to each blade a bit beyond its useful life. Cheers!

The rope of hope

Gene Herrick (Email) - Ole year 2021 has come and gone, and has left its mark on history.

The usual New Year's Eve parties have come and gone. Now mankind has awakened to face the morning light, the same ole light he faces every morning.

He reluctantly gets up, stumbles to the coffee pot, and with the hot brew sits down to watch the morning news. Oh yes, the same old stuff. The "Virus." Not only the one we have battled, but now an additional one. If it wasn't one fear, now it is two.

So what. We also see and hear the same ole political garbage. Nothing has changed. The Congress is still split on their thinking, and allegiance, some raucously. A recently former president continues to stir the pot of distension.

For a moment, just imagine a laundry rope stretched from coast to coast, and reachable by all. Every morning our fair-minded people would reach up and hold that line as they heard an unbiased and loving word from God. Maybe, just maybe, the peoples of this country would awaken to the need for civility, and the bonding of true faith. Not political faith.

Oh, I know this is fantasy, but...

Take this quiz on an unfolding new year

Mike Feinsilber (Email) - Fellow Connectors:

Here's a predicting quiz I generally share with a dozen Washingtonians but invite you to participate and send me (mikefeinsilber@gmail.com) your answers by the end of this week. Even by 2022's end, we may not know the answers to some of the questions — Will Biden run again? Will Trump? — but I solicit your best guess.

In responding, please give me your name.

First, a few general questions: Do you think mankind is inescapably doomed by climate change? Or do you think we (we humans) will do enough to waylay the ultimate destruction of the world? Do you think the press is giving the issue adequate attention? I'd welcome a short paragraph (or a long one, if you wish) on this. Maybe when the answers arrive I can put them together in a short, no-names-mentioned essay which I can share with Connecting.

_____ Your name, please.

OK, the questions. Of course, we won't know some answers for a long time. But give it your best shot. In this quiz there is no winner or loser, no scorekeeping, just guessing.

1. Will Covid be largely gone in most of its manifestations by this time next year (BTTNY)? _____ Yes! _____ Nope.

2. If not, will we still be wearing masks by this time next year (BTTNY)? _____ Yes. _____ No.

3. Will the world largely be engaged in meaningful and evidently effective steps to halt or at least slow down climate change BTTNY? _____ Yes. _____ No.

4. An unavoidable question: By year's end, will it appear likely that Trump will run again? _____ Yes. _____ No.

5. If you said yes, will it appear likely that he'll be the GOP nominee? _____ Yop. ___ Nope.

6. If he does seek the nomination, will other(s) in the GOP challenge him in the primaries? _____ Yes. _____ No.

7. Will Trump be indicted for a criminal offense in 2022? ___ Yes. ___ No.

8. BTTNY will Biden seem likely to seek re-election? _____ Yes. _____ No. _____ Yes, if he's in good health.

9. If Biden says he isn't going to run, will Kamala Harris seem likely to capture the presidential nomination? _____ Yes. _____ No.

10. Will, as often predicted, the Republicans win control of both houses of Congress in the 2022 elections? _____ Yes. _____ No.

Of the House but not the Senate. _____ Yes. _____ No.

The Senate but not the House? _____ Yes. _____ No.

11. Will the Senate change or kill the filibuster in 2022?

_____ Yes. _____ No.

12. Will the Supreme Court be enlarged in 2022? _____ Yes. _____ No.

13. Will the court have the same nine members BTTNY as it does today? _____

Yes. _____ No.

14. Will the court largely uphold Texas’s anti-abortion law? _____

Yes. _____ No.

15. Will Congress enact Biden’s Build Back Better bill in some form in 2022? _____ Yes. _____ No.

16. Will inflation still be a big problem BTTNY? _____ Yes. _____ No.

The Sports Department:

17. And what would you name the Washington Football Team

_____ to replace the team’s racist old name, dropped in disgrace after many people and the Washington Post editorial page campaigned for a replacement? The Post stopped using the team’s old name anywhere in the paper.

My nominations for a new name: “the Washington Filibusters.” Or “the Washington Continuing Resolution.” Or: “the National Debt.” Or “the Washington Stalemate.”

Your memories of Nate Polowitzky, Frank Crepeau



Nate Polowetzky



Frank Crepeau

(Photos courtesy AP Corporate Archives)

Charlie Hanley ([email](#)) - The Noblet/Gordy tributes to the memory of Frank Crepeau (assistant foreign editor) and Nate Polowetzky (foreign editor) transported this ex-Foreign Desk hack back to the '70s and '80s, and days of sound and fury at 50 Rock. And of laughs. Especially the Polowetzkiian cackle that would echo across the 4th floor.

Frank was charming, warm, prized for his patience in dealing with our pricklier colleagues, but perhaps even more prized for his spontaneous wit. Would that my feeble memory could reel off a dozen of his *bon mots*. But just a sample:

A dozen of us are crowded around the table for the morning news meeting. Story after story is pithily previewed. "A lone Japanese balloonist seeking to circumnavigate the globe has set out across the Pacific." Frank, not missing a beat: "Has anyone alerted Pearl Harbor?"

Nate was more given to off-color jokes than to wisecracks. But even amid those intense, pressure-filled days (he providing most of the intensity and pressure), Nate could supply laughs, even if inadvertently. To wit:

He was notoriously disdainful of AP computers. His sat beside him for years untouched. (He would type out messages and hand them to us minions to input.) One day, his birthday, a General Desk clerk came by and asked if he'd gotten her "card" in the computer. He was baffled, knowing nothing of our in-house text messaging. She helpfully tapped into his machine, and up scrolled weeks, months, years of messages to Nate. Among them was a series from a young General Desk editor seeking a Foreign Desk slot, a foreign posting, a glamorous future in a trench coat. We could see his messages, unanswered, grow increasingly pleading over time, desperate, until finally, "Thank you. It seems you're not interested." Sad (but, alas, hilarious to our jaded crew).

Disdainful of computers, but Nate was devoted to the telephone, which allowed him to raise his voice at his cowering, far-flung correspondents in a way wire messages wouldn't. When speed dialing was introduced, putting six continents just three buttons away, it was a godsend. One afternoon, night editor Jim Watson took a call for Nate, then slipped him the message. The boss's fingers immediately hit the three digits for Rome, where John Miller, buro nightside, picked up. "Whaddya want?" demanded Nate. John was stumped. "You called! Whaddya want?" Nate repeated (*alto voce*). No, I didn't, John protested right back.

Finally hanging up, Nate turned to Watson. "Jim, what's this, 'Call Rome'?"

"Call Rome? Call Rome?" wondered Watson. "No, no, Nate. That says, 'Call Home'."

Nate could be tough, and yet he was an inspiration to cohorts of foreign correspondents over decades. I was privileged to speak at his 1994 memorial, when I tried to explain:

"He was a complex man, a combination of strength and intelligence and wonderful humor, of knowingness, of self-knowledge, of self-confidence that made you realize that here's the real thing, the genuine article, the one you'll go into the trenches for. And of passion and compassion, of sparks and conflagrations of creativity, of joy in journalism, joy in living, joy in people."

Nate Polowetzky, Frank Crepeau, great journalists to work for and with.

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Ford Burkhardt (Email) - A few memories of Nate Polowetzky.

I landed on the Foreign Desk in 1971, initially working for Ben Bassett, the epitome of the silent curmudgeon as desk editor. Nate joined the desk around then, and soon became foreign editor, adding one more lively character to a stellar crew including a gruff Harris Jackson on overnight (who would arrive in a tuxedo coming from a ballet or opera), Shirley Christian, Vic Simpson and others.

Two stories about Nate:

When I was sent to China for a month of reporting in 1973 including a congressional tour, I had to collect the usual packet of cash, then fly to Washington on a Friday to pick up a press visa at the Chinese liaison office. On Saturday morning, I was off to the airport for a flight to Shanghai when it occurred that I didn't have any marching orders. I called Nate at home to ask how to approach the assignment. "Cover it on its merits," Nate growled. Click. I did. It worked. And I've used that story with Russian and Chinese journalists to illustrate the freedom American reporters had to tell their own story each day.

Later that year, the military coup against Salvador Allende in Chile began one morning while I was just settling in on the Foreign Desk. An AP reporter in a coffee shop in Chile dialed up the desk and I took the call. Looking out the shop window, he described tanks and military aircraft heading for the La Moneda presidential palace. I typed it out as fast as one could on one of the old upright typewriters. Within seconds, Nate, whose desk was just a few feet away, sensed urgency. He jumped up and took a few steps to my side. After a glance, he ripped the paper out of the typewriter, marked it BULLETIN, and said, "This isn't a tea party. Give me the first add..." He had the operator ring the bells on the AAA wire, run the ticker tape, and the coup was history, way ahead of UPI, of course. That's part of what a Foreign Editor did, giving us lessons, as Connecting put it, "beyond price."

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Harry Dunphy (Email) - In the late 1970s when I was preparing to go from Cairo to Moscow as COB, I asked Frank Crepeau, who had served there, for advice. He was news editor in Tel Aviv with COB Hal McClure and we had been in touch from time to time on various Arab-Israeli issues. Back came a single-spaced four-page letter on flimsy AP air mail stationery loaded with professional and personal advice down to take toothpaste. Some of what's in the letter is quite candid and obviously I can't reproduce it all but I can give excerpts. Keep in mind we are talking about the Soviet era.

"As Dave (Mason my predecessor) said, it is really impossible to prepare someone for Moscow. There is little point in filling someone in with horrors stories. For many reasons, it is a hardship post, but Cairo is no picnic.

“There is also no point in telling you what you can’t do. At one time we were told we couldn’t cover the dissident story (one long-termer screamed at me once: ‘You’re going to kill (Andrei) Sakharov by covering him the way you do, the Soviets won’t permit it.’) or that nobody could get to Alexander Solzhenitsyn. ...Don’t be afraid to try new ideas for looking silly. And maybe some things will work out.

“...Dissidents can be a pain, but cannot be ignored. Somebody has to do it and I feel it would be a mistake for the COB to completely miss that scene. It tends to make you overlook some of the key things the Soviet Union is all about.

“And some night when it will be inconvenient for you and a terrible imposition go with George (Krimsky) or go by yourself or with another correspondent to see one of the dissidents who calls.

“Such trips give you a good idea of the texture of Soviet life. And you will gain the respect of the staff and other MW correspondents for doing it.”

He says sometimes the situation can be scary as it was not uncommon after seeing a dissident to come out and find the KGB had let the air out of your car tires.

He says I should travel as much as I can and read as much as I can before going (Solzhenitsyn, Robert Conquest, Tolstoi).

“You will find that people who haven’t worked in Moscow can never really understand it. You and I will always have something in common because we both will have worked there and will be able to understand things outsiders never will. There are, of course, those who will live in Moscow and cover it like it was a normal place like London or anywhere else. I don’t believe aware reporters can do that, so don’t restrict yourself to diplomatic circles.”

He talks about me getting on with various members of the staff, but (I) “can’t see how a cagey and devious Arabist who wrong-headedly suspects the clear, honest statements of the Israeli government could fail.”

“From what I know of you, it appears you are civilized and have a good sense of humor that will see you through” without the handicap of an academic background in the Soviet Union, “which sometimes implants rigid truisms about the country, people and system that are hard to eradicate from a correspondent.”

He closes by saying ask if I ever need anything, wishes me good luck and says let’s stay in touch.

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Tom Kent (Email) - I’d just like to add a brief word re Frank Crepeau to the kind comments by Kevin Noblet and Molly Gordy. Along with his virtuoso journalistic skills, Frank was known by the Foreign Desk staff as one of the most compassionate executives in New York.

Foreign Desk staffers constantly turned to Frank for advice or consolation. All were in a state of daily trepidation as to when, or if, they would finally be posted abroad. They mined every glance from top managers for anything it might mean about their future; whenever a foreign post became vacant, they speculated frantically as to whether the fix was already in on who would get it. When staffers did something wrong – which was all the time, in the view of the desk's crusty senior editors – they panicked over just how bad the transgression had been, and if their chances for a foreign assignment had been irreparably damaged.

Through it all, Frank was not only kind, but actually had time to talk. Staffers would approach him, eyes cast downward, wondering if he had a free moment. Sure, he'd say ... how about a cup of tea? Facetime (the old kind) with a real AP decision-maker was an incredible event in those days; many times I'd see him in the fourth-floor cafeteria, calming a staffer who sometimes seemed near tears. They saw him as their intercessor in AP's top circles, a person who knew them well and would go to bat for them at crucial moments. Frank was an AP treasure, beloved by all those who were fortunate enough to work with him.

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Lee Mitgang (Email) - Frank Crepeau was a regular participant in the AP Sunday morning family softball games in Prospect Park, Brooklyn, that I co-founded with Tom Jory in the '80s. Frank was a lefty pull hitter and we found that we could handle most of his right-field drives with our version of the "McCovey shift." Frank's and my post-game chats about books and politics were much less predictable, went to all fields, and usually pushed me to rethink cherished beliefs. Recalling him many years later makes me appreciate, again, what an amazing collection of people I worked with at the AP.

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Dan Sewell (Email) - Nate always seemed to me to be torn between being an intimidating, demanding, editor and a kind, fatherly, figure.

Example: he threatened to fire me over a Grenada story in the NYT I didn't have, just a few months after he and Lou put me up for a Pulitzer for Grenada coverage.

But we never had two bad conversations in a row.

After a few years in Miami, which was a lot like covering a foreign country, I got to jump the line to go to San Juan after just a few weeks of orientation in NY on the Cables desk.

What I remember about Frank was he was so steady in running stories and cheerful and even-tempered in dealing with the many colorful characters on the desk and in the field.

Just before I left NY, Nate told me to come up to his desk and pull up a chair.

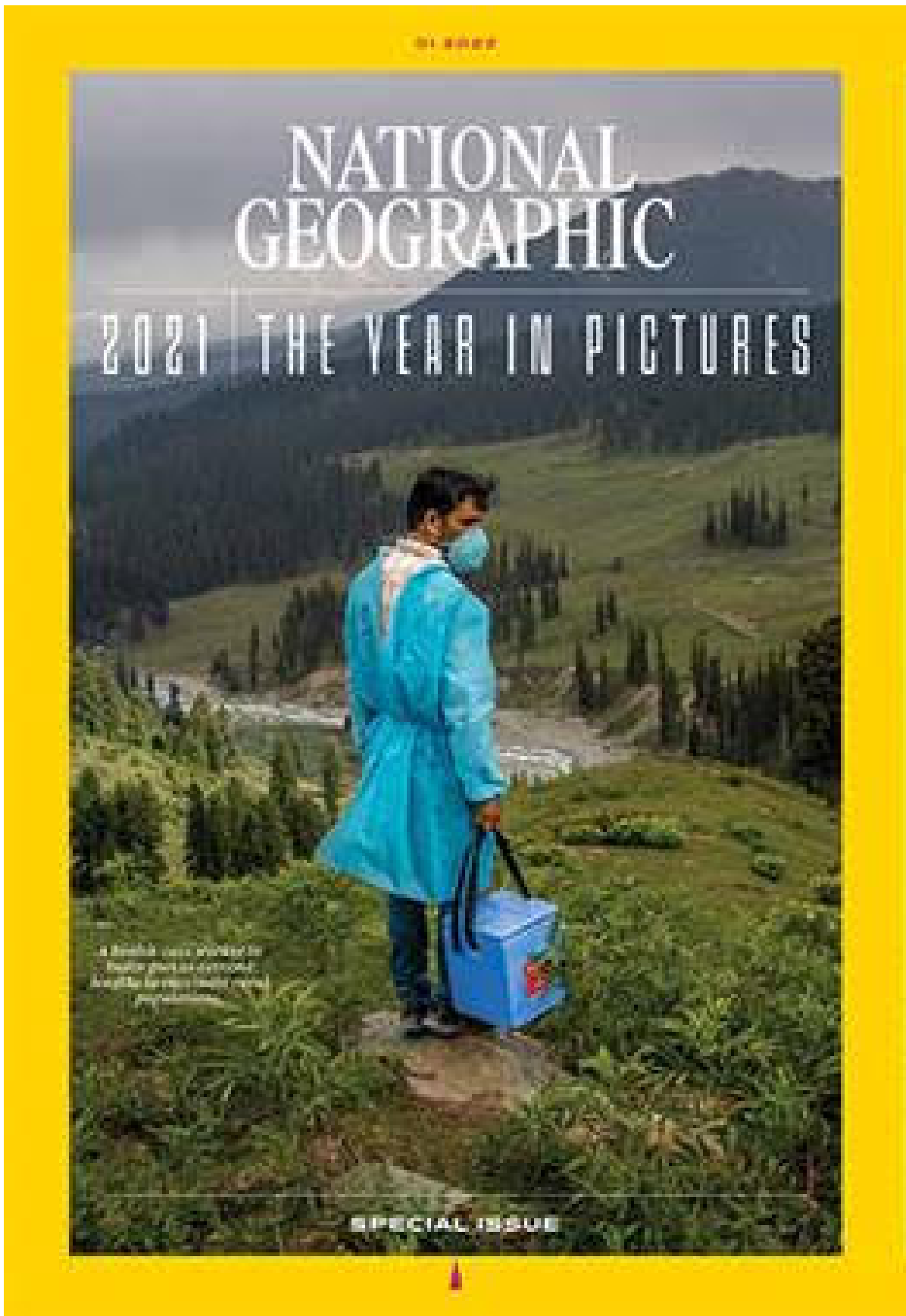
He didn't want formulaic stories - no interviewing cab drivers for your local color.

He told me to find out what people were reading, what music they listened to, what their fashion styles were. Really immerse myself in the countries and people.

He told me to subscribe to “Vanity Fair” for the kind of richly detailed and authoritative writing he wanted.

I still do.

Photo by Dar Yasin featured on National Geographic cover



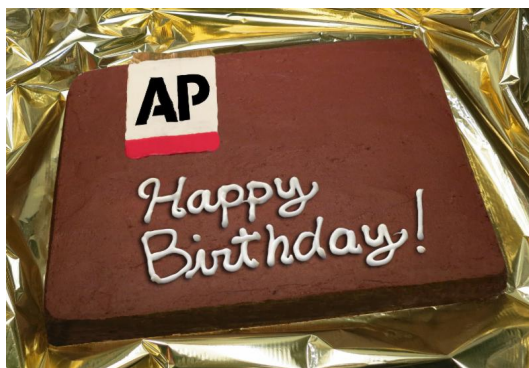
AP Connections

A photo by Srinagar, India-based photographer Dar Yasin is featured on the cover of National Geographic's "2021 Year in Pictures."

“Making the cover of National Geographic is a big deal in the photography world and it is really rare for a wire service photojournalist to land there,” said Director of Photography David Ake. “I can’t remember the last time an AP photographer graced the cover with a daily assignment image.”

The feature can be seen on National Geographic, behind a paywall.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Gary Sosniecki

Soll Sussman

Stories of interest

The Ghislaine Maxwell verdict wouldn't have happened without local journalism. Keep it going.

(Miami Herald)

BY RICK HIRSCH

On Wednesday, a federal jury in New York convicted sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein's partner and confidant, Ghislaine Maxwell, of recruiting and grooming young girls for his perversions and pleasure.

It's an important verdict and a story of international impact and attention, one that gives voice and perhaps some measure of validation to his victims and their families.

It also powerfully demonstrates the importance of local news organizations like the Miami Herald.

I'm writing this as my retirement as managing editor at the Miami Herald approaches, and I'd like to take this moment to highlight the role journalism — local journalism —

played in this saga.

Without the Miami Herald — and if you are a subscriber, I'll say, without YOUR Miami Herald — the stories of these abused women would not have been told.

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

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Hong Kong news site to shut; pro-Beijing lawmakers sworn in (AP)

By HUIZHONG WU and ZEN SOO

HONG KONG (AP) — A group of lawmakers loyal to China's Communist Party were sworn in to Hong Kong's Legislature on Monday following an election without opposition candidates, as yet another pro-democracy news outlet announced it could no longer operate amid a growing crackdown on freedoms in the territory.

The former British colony that was returned to China in 1997 was once known as a haven for dissent and freedoms of the press and expression not seen on the mainland. But the central government in Beijing has clamped down in the last year, leading to the closure of independent news outlets, the removal of monuments to dissent, and a poorly attended election swept by pro-Beijing politicians.

The founders of news outlet Citizen News said the news site will stop publishing on Tuesday. While they have received no order to close, they said Monday that deteriorating media freedoms in the financial hub put them in an impossible position.

"We all love this place, deeply. Regrettably, what was ahead of us is not just pouring rains or blowing winds, but hurricanes and tsunamis," Citizen News said in a statement on Sunday, when it announced the closure.

Read more [here](#).

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Happy New Year - We wish you a happy and healthy 2022. Below, a look at some unusual New Year's Eves. (New York Times)

THE NEW YORK TIMES, THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 1942

LAST NIGHT'S CELEBRATION IN TIMES SQUARE—SAME OLD CROWD, SAME OLD SPIRIT



A view from Times Tower as throngs of New Yorkers and visitors took part in their first wartime New Year's fete since 1918. This picture is similar to those of recent years with the exception that the space in front and to the rear of the Information Booth, at Forty-third Street, was roped off for the use of police in the event of an emergency.

The New York Times, (by Ernest Sizoo)

GAY CROWDS GREET 1942 IN TIMES SQ.

Continued From Page One

were too young to recall it, but New Year's Eve in the Square last night was far and away a happier night than New Year's Eve 1917. The populace generally seemed to have the thumbs-up spirit last night in spite of discouraging news from Manila.

groups of them. Five and six bloomed where, in previous New Year's Eve celebrations, only one had bloomed along Broadway's garden of neons and incandescents. Mounted men walked their horses in the side streets all through the Forties and Fifties.

lic feeling, had guessed the night would be gay in spite of dark war news. The State Liquor Authority announced that 2,091 New York bars had bought special all-night licenses. Flower peddlers seemed to be doing inordinately well at Square crossways. New York was in a tin

'DUTIES' OF CHURCHES TO AID WAR LISTED

Dr. Clinchy Finds Need for Unity of Denominations

By Ian Prasad Philbrick

David Carr, the late Times columnist and media critic, starred in videos years ago that were shot in Times Square. At the end of them, he cheerily said: "They call it Times Square for a reason."

Carr's point was that many people don't know that the square is named for the newspaper. New York City changed the name from Longacre Square in 1904, in honor of The Times moving its offices there.

Adolph Ochs, who was the publisher of The Times at the time, celebrated the move by staging a New Year's Eve fireworks display in the square. He organized the first midnight ball drop three years later, a tradition that continues even though The Times no longer occupies the building at the center of the square.

This year's celebrations will be muted as coronavirus cases surge. Attendance will be limited to 15,000 people instead of the usual 58,000. Paris, Los Angeles and other cities are also downsizing their celebrations.

Today, we're looking back. We focused on past New Year's events that resonated in this unusual year.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Sibby Christensen.

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The five biggest media stories of 2021 (The Hill)

BY DOMINICK MASTRANGELO

It was a busy year for the news media in 2021, as the industry moved past the Trump era while not escaping the COVID-19 pandemic.

Most news organizations dealt with a post-Trump slump in ratings and traffic, while a few saw their fortunes soar.

It was also a busy year for media deals and mergers.

Here are the five biggest stories.

Fox navigates a post-Trump world

Fox News ended the year as the most watched and influential cable news network in the country despite the absence of former President Trump in the White House and a steady stream of controversy surrounding the work of its leading prime-time host.

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

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These student journalists were determined to report on COVID-19 — with or without the University of Alabama's support (Poynter)

By: Barbara Allen

The Crimson White pitched an ambitious plan to the Poynter College Media Project in the spring of 2021: to create its own COVID-19 dashboard that would reflect a more accurate count of cases and vaccination rates than the University of Alabama was reporting.

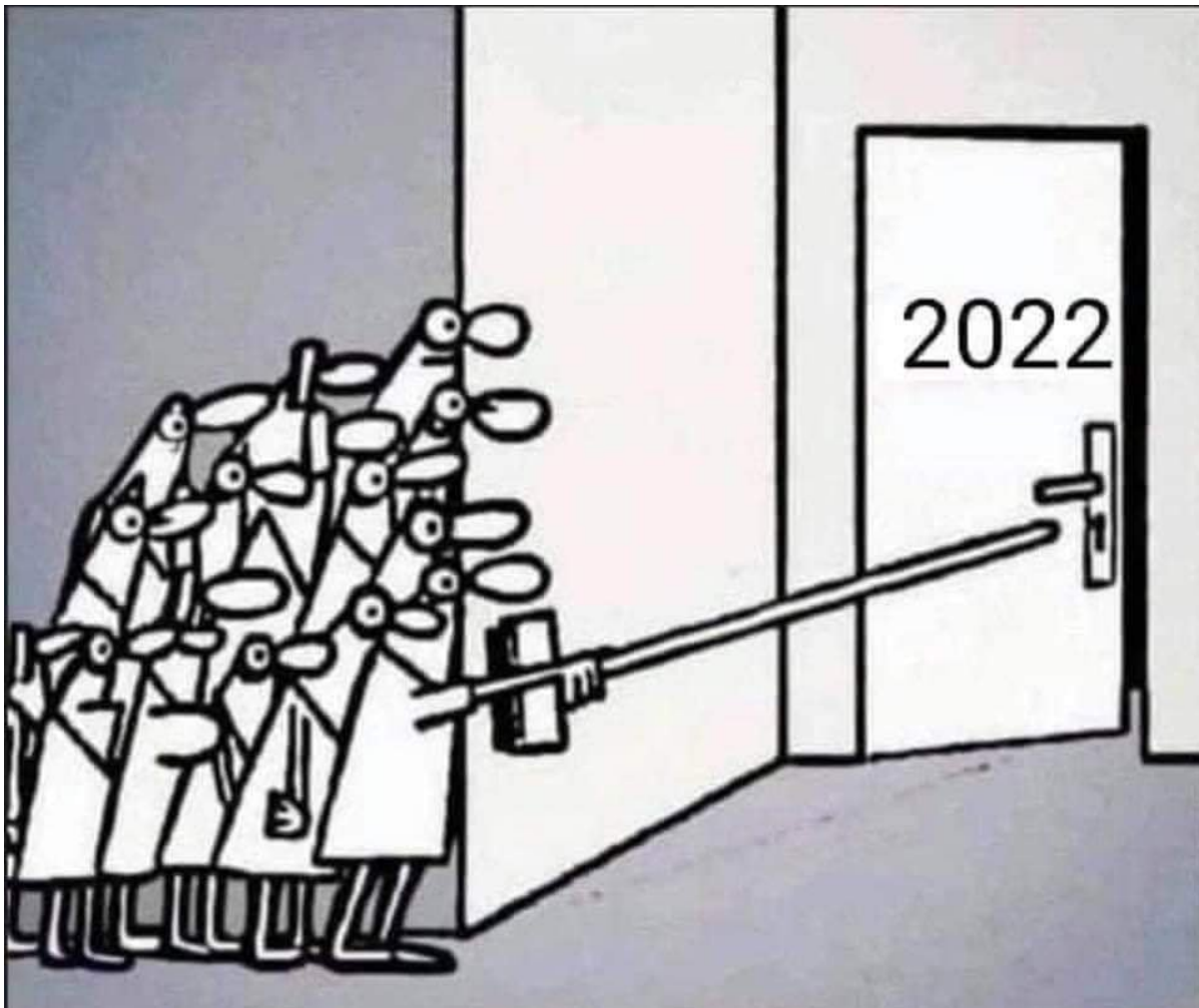
The university, however, wasn't jumping to help its student newspaper. So the team pivoted as it submitted open records requests and met with sources, still hoping to get access to what seemed like documents that should be public. They provided regular coverage of the pandemic as students returned to the sprawling Southern campus where rates of vaccinations were low and caseloads high.

Student journalists in the Poynter College Media Project were selected through an application process in the spring of 2021 that asked them to propose an investigation that centered on a problem or issue facing their campus. Dozens of student media outlets applied, and seven were selected for the program, which provided custom project planning, ongoing support from Poynter personnel and a slate of high-profile speakers. They included four-time Pulitzer winner David Barstow, Atlantic staff writer Ed Yong and Sara Ganim, who broke the Jerry Sandusky story as a young reporter.

The project was supported by a grant from the Charles Koch Foundation.

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

The Final Word



Shared by John Clements.

The Final, Final Word

Steelers QB Ben Roethlisberger Gets Hilarious Front Page Tribute In Pittsburgh Newspaper (Whiskey Riff)



Wes Langelier

OOF...

Longtime Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger might be playing his last game at Heinz Field, as the Steelers face off against the Cleveland Browns on Monday Night Football tomorrow.

Naturally, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette wanted to give Big Ben a heartfelt thank you for leading the Steelers to two Super Bowl wins during his tenure with the team, a number of post season appearances, and overall, being the leader of a team that has consistently produced winning seasons for nearly 20 years.

Love him or hate him, Big Ben is a legend in Pittsburgh, bound for the NFL Hall of Fame, and it would be more than appropriate to put his mug on the front page of the newspaper. I mean, it's probably the least they could do...

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - Jan. 3, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Jan. 3, the third day of 2022. There are 362 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 3, 1990, ousted Panamanian leader Manuel Noriega surrendered to U.S. forces, 10 days after taking refuge in the Vatican's diplomatic mission.

On this date:

In 1777, Gen. George Washington's army routed the British in the Battle of Princeton, New Jersey.

In 1861, more than two weeks before Georgia seceded from the Union, the state militia seized Fort Pulaski at the order of Gov. Joseph E. Brown. The Delaware House and Senate voted to oppose secession from the Union.

In 1868, the Meiji Restoration re-established the authority of Japan's emperor and heralded the fall of the military rulers known as shoguns.

In 1959, Alaska became the 49th state as President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a proclamation.

In 1961, President Dwight D. Eisenhower announced the United States was formally terminating diplomatic and consular relations with Cuba.

In 1967, Jack Ruby, the man who shot and killed Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy, died in a Dallas hospital.

In 1977, Apple Computer was incorporated in Cupertino, California, by Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak and Mike Markkula (MAHR'-kuh-luh) Jr.

In 2002, a judge in Alabama ruled that former Ku Klux Klansman Bobby Frank Cherry was mentally competent to stand trial on murder charges in the 1963 Birmingham church bombing that killed four black girls. (Cherry was later convicted, and served a life sentence until his death in November 2004.)

In 2007, Gerald R. Ford was laid to rest on the grounds of his presidential museum in Grand Rapids, Michigan, during a ceremony watched by thousands of onlookers.

In 2008, Illinois Sen. Barack Obama won Democratic caucuses in Iowa, while Mike Huckabee won the Republican caucuses.

In 2013, students from Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, reconvened at a different building in the town of Monroe about three weeks after the massacre that had claimed the lives of 20 first-graders and six educators. The new 113th Congress opened for business, with House Speaker John Boehner (BAY'-nur) re-elected to his post despite a mini-revolt in Republican ranks.

In 2020, the United States killed Iran's top general in an airstrike at Baghdad's international airport; the Pentagon said Gen. Qassem Soleimani, the head of Iran's elite Quds force, had been "actively developing plans to attack American diplomats and service members" in Iraq and elsewhere. Iran warned of retaliation.

Ten years ago: The Iowa Republican Party held its caucuses; although Mitt Romney was originally considered the winner by an extremely narrow eight-vote margin, officials later said that Rick Santorum had in fact beaten Romney by 34 votes; in the Democratic caucuses, President Barack Obama ran unopposed.

Five years ago: Ford Motor Co. canceled plans to build a new \$1.6 billion factory in Mexico, and said it would invest at least some of the savings in new electric and autonomous vehicles. The national president of the NAACP and five others were arrested after staging a sit-in at the Alabama office of Sen. Jeff Sessions, President-elect Donald Trump's nominee for U.S. attorney general. It was announced that Fox News star Megyn Kelly would be leaving the network to work at NBC News.

One year ago: An outpouring of current and former Republican officials warned that President Donald Trump's effort to overturn the election result was undermining Americans' faith in democracy. A bipartisan group of 10 senators issued a statement saying that the election was over, and that further efforts to cast doubt on the result were "contrary to the clearly expressed will of the American people." All 10 living former secretaries of defense, writing in the Washington Post, warned against any move to involve the military in pursuing claims of election fraud, saying it would take the country into "dangerous, unlawful and unconstitutional territory." Nancy Pelosi was narrowly reelected as speaker, giving her the reins of Democrats' slender House majority. Gerry Marsden, lead singer of the 1960s British group Gerry and the Pacemakers, died at 78.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Dabney Coleman is 90. Journalist-author Betty Rollin is 86. Hockey Hall of Famer Bobby Hull is 83. Singer-songwriter-producer Van Dyke Parks is 79. Musician Stephen Stills is 77. Rock musician John Paul Jones (Led Zeppelin) is 76. Actor Victoria Principal is 72. Actor-director Mel Gibson is 66. Actor Shannon Sturges is 54. Actor John Ales is 53. Jazz musician James Carter is 53. Contemporary Christian singer Nichole Nordeman is 50. Musician Thomas Bangalter (Daft Punk) is 47. Actor Jason Marsden is 47. Actor Danica McKellar is 47. Actor Nicholas Gonzalez is 46. Singer Kimberley Locke (TV: "American Idol") is 44. Actor Kate Levering is 43. Former NFL quarterback Eli Manning is 41. Actor Nicole Beharie is 37. Pop musician Mark

Pontius is 37. R&B singer Lloyd is 36. Pop-rock musician Nash Overstreet (Hot Chelle (shel) Rae) is 36. Actor Alex D. Linz is 33.

Got a story or photos to share?

Connecting is a daily newsletter published Monday through Friday that focuses on retired and former Associated Press employees, present-day employees, and news industry and journalism school colleagues. It began in 2013 and past issues can be found by clicking Connecting Archive in the masthead. Its author, Paul Stevens, retired from the AP in 2009 after a 36-year career.

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:

- **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.
- **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?
- **Most unusual place a story assignment took you.**



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