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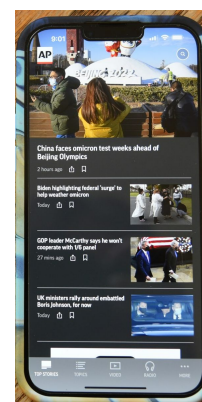
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Connecting

January 20, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this Jan. 20, 2022,

Our colleague **Henry Bradsher** shares another fascinating story from his AP career on an unusual place from which he reported - “behind the Himalayas”.

Connecting encourages you to continue the theme with your own experience of an unusual reporting locale.

Today’s issue brings comment from colleagues on the death of **BJ Reyes** – and his bravery in living a life with continual battles with cancer. Yesterday’s issue featured him.

Remember the days when many AP bureaus published state logs – and featured staff members as a way of introducing them to our members? Our colleague **Pete Mattiace** produced one as Charleston, W. Va., chief of bureau, and Corporate Archives tracked it down and shared the intro written by BJ in his very first AP bureau. We bring it to you

with colleague comments as our lead. Got a copy of a state log where you were featured? Send it along...

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

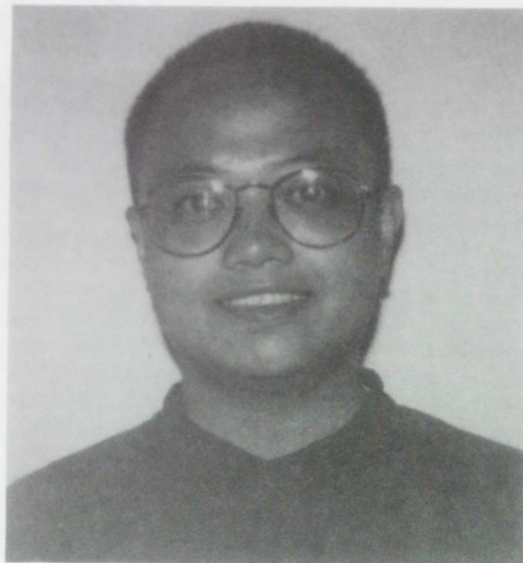
Paul

Remembering BJ Reyes

Page 6.

Meet The AP...

Name: Eriberto "B.J." Reyes.
Position: Newsperson.
Born: Nov. 30, 1971, Baltimore.
College: Penn State University, journalism, 1995.
Joined AP: Charleston, June 1995.
Other experience: Sioux Falls (S.D.) Argus Leader.
Family: Single.
Spare time: Reading and road trips.
Last book: "War and Peace" by Leo Tolstoy. (Really.)
Last vacation: I've never really had one.
Favorite television show: Any Cleveland Indians game.
Best thing about West Virginia: It's not as cold as Cleveland, where I grew up, or State College, Pa., where I went to school.
Best thing about my job: The people I meet with the variety of what we cover.
Most fun story so far: Interviewing Gov. Gaston Caperton about his computer. I had never met a governor before.



What's new?: I just bought a 1996 Geo Tracker and I'll be doing even more road trips.

Most people would be surprised to know: I've got a brother who is an Army officer and a sister who is a Navy officer.

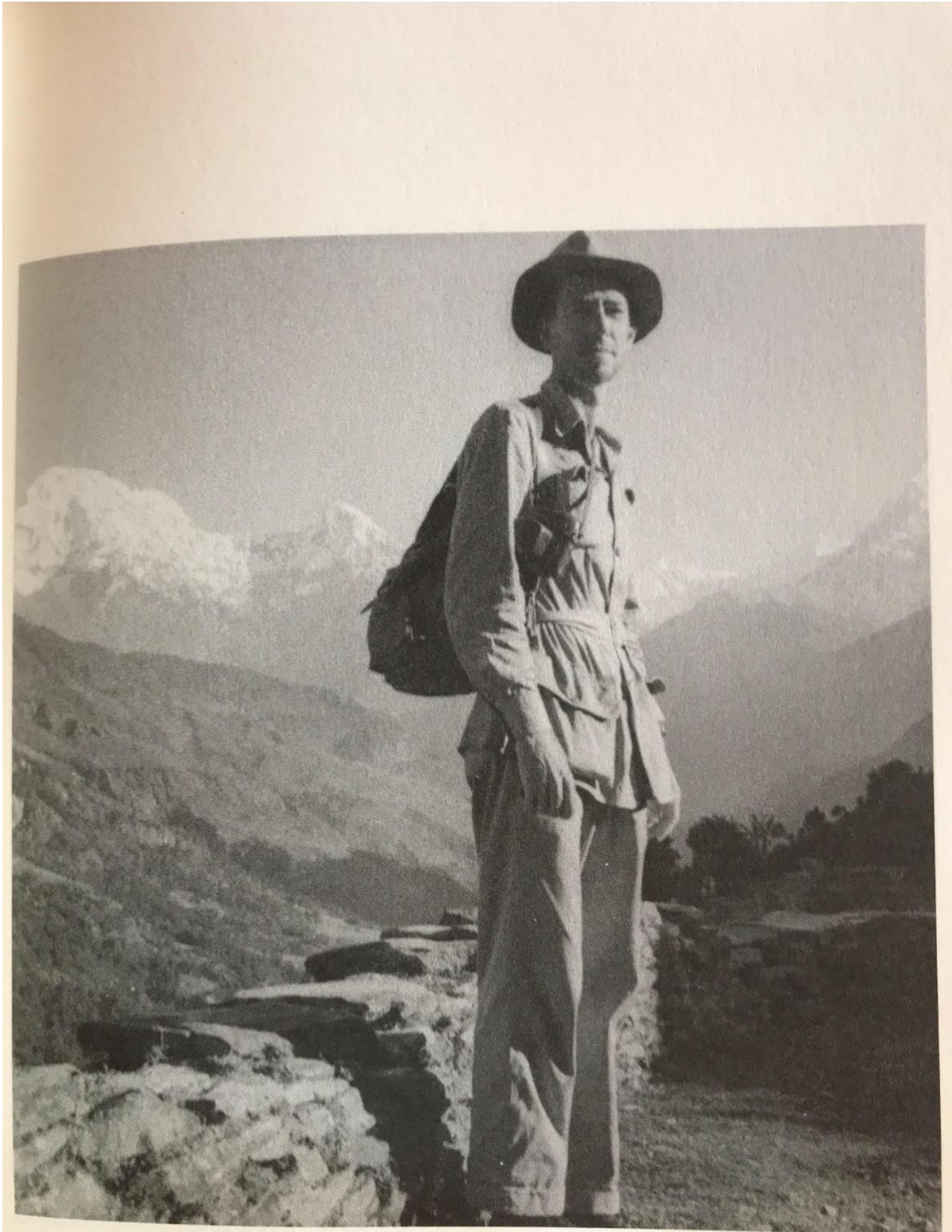
Michael Giarrusso ([Email](#)) – *AP global sports editor* - I met B.J. Reyes when he was still a Penn State student and I was AP correspondent in State College. He became our best freelancer and then applied for the AP internship program. His application never mentioned his disability or cancer survival. His work stood on its own. We stayed in touch and ended up working together on the AP General Desk in New York. Over the years, I marveled as he battled cancer and its aftereffects with mental and physical toughness. He never complained, even when we walked long icy blocks between Manhattan dive bars, usually walking faster than any of us. He showed me around Oahu when I visited Hawaii and always seemed happy exactly where he was. I loved talking to him about sports, Penn State, Filipino food and journalism. He will be missed by those he touched around the world. Sumalangit nawa my friend.

-0-

Tom Coyne ([Email](#)) - I was saddened to learn of the death of B.J. Reyes. I agree 100 percent with others who worked with B.J. who wrote about what a great co-worker and person he was. When I looked on the schedule and saw that I would be working with B.J. I knew that we were ready for any news that would be breaking that night. B.J. always was eager to jump into a news story. There were a lot of people like that in the Detroit bureau, but B.J. was special. He was never overwhelmed by the moment

and always eager to do whatever was needed to get the job done and usually with a smile. He will be missed.

Connecting series:
Unusual Reporting Place – ‘Behind the Himalayas’



Bradsher trekking “behind the Himalayas” in Nepal, October 1961

Henry Bradsher (Email) - Another unusual place from which I reported for AP was what I called "behind the Himalayas". But that was a perspective from my bureau in India. The New York desk changed the dateline to a Nepali village on the north side of the Himalayas facing Tibet.

I had in October 1960 spent my first vacation from the New Delhi bureau trekking through a 14,039-foot-high narrow crack in the Himalayas into the Karakoram mountains of northwestern India, and back through the Himalayas via a broad 13,058-foot pass. (This vacation was followed by an AP interview with the Dalai Lama at his nearby northwest India home in exile.) In 1961 I was looking for another interesting vacation trek destination in October, the time of clear mountain weather between monsoon rains and winter snow.

Nepal's ambassador in Delhi suggested that I go up near the Tibetan border in western Nepal. He said his government lacked control of the region of difficult access, but there were rumors of a CIA-supported guerrilla force of Tibetan exiles there raiding across into Tibet. Perhaps I could find out what was going on. He said he could finesse a permit for me to enter an area normally closed to foreigners. The excuse would be visiting a shrine sacred to both Hindus and Buddhists at Muktinath, 12,500 feet up on the north side of the Annapurna peaks.

The man whom I'd selected as AP's Kathmandu stringer helped me hire an experienced guide, K. B. Rana. We flew over to Pokhara, where I hired porters to carry our sleeping bags and some food; I carried camera equipment, binoculars and a few other things.

Setting out, we walked over high Himalayan spurs to reach the Kali Gandak river. It is one of five rivers flowing down from Tibet that had eroded their beds through the Himalayas as the plate tectonics of India's crunching into Asia pushed the mountains up over millions of years (still pushing with frequent earthquakes). Along the way I paid small bits for us to sleep on the floors of the few farmers' huts and eat their eggs and potatoes.



Walking on a rough path up the Kali Gandak, at Lete we passed at about 10,000 feet through the 26-mile gap between two of the world's highest peaks, Dhaulagiri and Annapurna, reaching the north side of the Himalayas.

At a narrow point in the rugged gorge, the only possible path north, I surprised three Tibetan men at a little folding table. As I kept going, one scrambled away, probably to radio my approach.

After five days of walking, we reached Jomsom, a village on the Kali Gandak near the Tibetan border. Eating dinner at the basic open-front shelter there were four hearty Tibetan men. They wore what looked like U.S. military camouflage uniforms without insignias and .45 pistols on web belts. They approached me. When they found that I did not speak Tibetan, they mumbled some words in English, made sure I saw their gold wristwatches, then raised a distant toast to me with their beer.

I assumed that, alerted by the men at that gorge table of the unusual passage of a Western man, they were waiting to find out if I was a CIA officer. I learned later that the headquarters for the guerrilla force raiding into Tibet was nearby. Less than two weeks after this, its most successful raid seized Chinese army documents of major importance to the U.S. government.

From Jomsom I went up to Muktinath. The temple there was one of the most beautiful places, beautifully located, that I had seen, its appeal no doubt enhanced by the effort to get there. But my trip had already been rewarded by finding strong signs of a CIA-supported guerrilla force.

After trekking back to Pokhara and flying back to Kathmandu, I mentioned my expedition to Elizabeth Hawley. She had in 1959 been assigned to Nepal by a CIA front, the Knickerbocker Foundation (although her recent obit hid that fact; the CIA later dropped her as unproductive and she became the Reuters stringer for Nepal and later the chronologer of mountain climbers' records).

She suggested that my finding might interest someone in the U.S. embassy whom I'd never met, a man with a Baltic name. I assumed he was a CIA officer, but I went to see him, hoping for more information. He was curious, but unforthcoming.

So I flew back to Delhi, took the Nepali ambassador to lunch, and filed a report on the strong indications of the CIA-supported Tibetan guerrilla force. It went on AP wires with the Jomsom dateline. But the trip was counted as vacation time.

Behind the Byline: Melissa Rayworth



Melissa Rayworth ([Email](#)) - executive editor of Kidsburgh

The Pittsburgh 100

It's easy to generalize about Pittsburgh families — what they need, their daily challenges and the resources that would best serve them. But the region is home to a diverse range of families, with a vast array of experiences and needs.

Local journalists have a responsibility to represent families from all walks of life through their coverage. Melissa Rayworth, the executive editor of Kidsburgh, makes this a priority in her work focused on education, families and communities in Pittsburgh.

We discussed a lot in our Behind the Byline interview, including her passion for preserving memories through storytelling and her exciting time living in China. Read

on for the full interview:

Where are you from?

I grew up on Long Island, sort of right at the edge of the Queens border, in a town called Garden City.

When my husband Ted and I first got married, we went to Beijing for three years. When we got to Beijing, I mostly did a lot of television. I got this incredibly fun job with an English teaching TV series, called Modern English. I was on the show, but I was also editing the English textbook and writing some of the episodes — it was a lot of fun.

We spent summer 2001 to summer 2004 in Beijing for Ted's work with the Associated Press, and then moved back to New York for a few years. In 2007, Ted's mom and dad were in their eighties, and they needed some help, so we decided to come here. New York is still home, and we have a tiny apartment there, but our kids have grown up here. Even while we spent 2014 through 2017 living in Bangkok, we kept our home in Hampton and stayed very connected to Pittsburgh.

Read more [here](#).

Melissa's AP background: "I worked for Jim Donna and Lou Boccardi from 1991-1995 doing board/annual meeting and other event planning, which included the events around Terry Anderson's return, the leadup to the 150th anniversary (which actually wasn't) and, sadly, several memorials for journalists the AP lost. Then I worked for Terry Taylor as office manager in NY Sports, arranging logistics for the journalists and helping plan big events, from 1996 through our departure for Beijing in 2001. Since then, in addition to my central work at other media outlets, I have been freelancing for AP on a regular basis, which continues to this day, largely around the subjects of design and parenting."

Miracle on the Hudson - 10 years ago



FILE - In this Jan. 15, 2009 file photo, a diver, left, aboard an NYPD vessel prepares to rescue passengers that escaped from the Airbus 320 US Airways aircraft made an emergency landing in the Hudson River in New York in what came to be known as the "Miracle on the Hudson" because everyone survived. It's been 10 years since US Airways flight 1549 landed on the Hudson River after colliding with a flock of geese just after takeoff. (AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews, File)

Colleen Newvine ([Email](#)) - My dad reminded me that this past weekend was the anniversary of Capt. Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger landed US Airways flight 1549 on the Hudson River. (Click [here](#) for AP's anniversary story.)

When I started working at AP headquarters, we were at 33rd Street and 10th Avenue. My office was on the top floor, and we had unobstructed views of the Hudson River.

Almost all of AP's executives in those days started out as reporters and worked their way up the ranks. I said more than once that if a plane ever crashed in the Hudson, all the VPs would probably grab notebooks and sprint for the doors.

It seemed so totally far fetched, so unlikely ... until people in our newsroom saw it happen right out our windows.

And proving me wrong, the first AP executive I saw out on our west-facing basketball court was our CFO Ken Dale, one of the only members of management committee who hadn't been a reporter.

That was in 2009. I didn't have an iPhone to record video. We had professionals with real equipment to capture the images.

I just stood there stunned, watching a plane float down the Hudson. The passengers hadn't even started to evacuate before it was moving out of view.

In honor of the anniversary, John and I watched the movie Sully, starring Tom Hanks. I felt close to tears for most of it.

And I realized part of me had never let go of feeling like somehow, I called this into being, and holding my breath on that cold January day, assuming surely the people inside must be dead.

When we got to the scene where passengers start filing out onto the wings and into life rafts, I sobbed with relief. I knew they all lived, but this weekend, I felt the gaping distance between what I feared on Jan. 15, 2009, and what actually happened.

Connecting mailbox

C-Rex for 2!



Charles Rex Arbogast ([Email](#)) – *Chicago AP photojournalist* - Just checking a few focus spots for my remote camera for tonight's Cleveland Cavaliers Chicago Bulls game. (AP Photo/Charles Rex Arbogast)

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Delivering covid vaccine in Kashmir



Dar Yasan ([Email](#)) - *AP photojournalist* - In Kashmir, young health workers are undertaking a door-to-door campaign in the region to deliver covid vaccine shots to teens and boosters to old people in remote mountain villages.

Eisenhower meets the press in London



Eisenhower meets the press at his London headquarters on Jan. 17, 1944. (Copyright: © IWM)

Marc Lancaster
World War II on Deadline

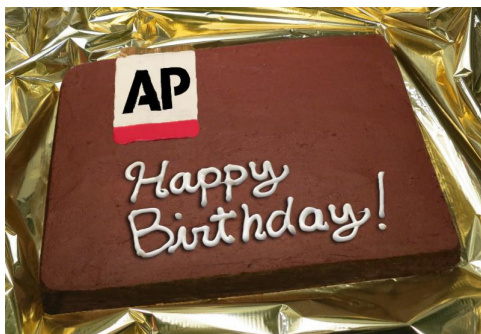
When we look back at Dwight D. Eisenhower now, knowing what he did and who he became, we can sometimes lose sight of the fact that none of the history we know was a given at the time.

Eisenhower was a somewhat unconventional choice for the role U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. George C. Marshall elevated him to -- first in North Africa and then leading the critically important invasion of Northwest Europe. But Marshall knew what everyone else would soon learn: Though Eisenhower had minimal battlefield experience, he was a master diplomat whose interpersonal skills were perfectly suited to his job as leader of multinational coalition bristling with massive egos.

Not least among those varied constituencies was the press, and Eisenhower quickly established a respectful rapport with journalists that would serve him well throughout the war. His handling of the controversy around the Patton slapping incidents in 1943 was a prime example of Eisenhower's skill in leading the media where he wanted them to go without the relationship becoming antagonistic.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Merrill Hartson

Welcome to Connecting



Richard Borreca

Stories of interest

*Biden's news conference takes abrupt, lengthy turn
(AP)*



President Joe Biden listens to a question from a reporter during a news conference in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2022. (AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — For the first half of one of his rare news conferences as president, Joe Biden stuck to an organized plan, calling on reporters from a list in a binder.

Then the president went rogue.

It started when CNN’s Jeff Zeleny broke in with a question that referenced concerns many Americans hold about the competence of government, after the chaotic Afghanistan withdrawal and the recent shortage of testing for COVID-19.

After Biden answered, Zeleny followed up: “I’m not sure if I heard that you would do anything differently. Would you do anything different or are you satisfied with your team?”

Zeleny’s question opened the floodgates. Biden took to calling on reporters at random, and what started as a very traditional presidential news conference became something else entirely, stretching to nearly two hours. Biden took some unusual — and unusually blunt — questions when the session was opened up to all the journalists in front of him.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Myron Belkind.

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Post-pandemic newsrooms have a new look (Editor and Publisher)

Rob Tornoe | for Editor & Publisher

The chances are good that you're reading this column from the cozy confines of your home office, which you may or may not share with an endless pile of children's toys and unwashed laundry.

As crazy as it seems, we're only a couple of months away from entering the third year of the coronavirus pandemic, and newsrooms across the country remain in flux amid the threat of variants and breakthrough cases.

At The Philadelphia Inquirer, where I work, our offices and newsrooms have remained closed since March 2020. They are currently being redesigned to accommodate a post-COVID reality of a hybrid workforce. Like everyone else, we've learned to work remotely, relying on Slack and a nearly endless list of Google tools to keep publishing without too many issues, though the less we speak about Zoom, the better.

We still don't know when we'll be back in the office, which seems to be the norm among many larger newsrooms. Dow Jones & Company, owned by News Corp and publisher of The Wall Street Journal, plans to delay any return to the office until March 2022 at the earliest. Initially, The New York Times hoped to get most staffers back in the office under a hybrid plan in early September. Still, thanks to the delta variant, the full reopening of their Manhattan headquarters has been pushed back to the first quarter of 2022.

Read more [here](#).

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A reporter reflects as a crisis hits close to home (Fort Worth Business Press)

Marice Richter

By Sunday evening, I was emotionally and physically exhausted. Since Saturday morning, my life had been consumed by the tragic invasion of Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville by an armed gunman, who held four people hostage during a nearly 11-hour standoff.

As a longtime member of CBI, I was horrified when I received a text Saturday morning from a friend and former member of the congregation, asking for help tracking down a phone number for a local FBI official.

"Rabbi Charlie is being held hostage in CBI right now," the text stated. A man "wants to kill him."

I quickly called my friend for more information. "Who knows about this?" I asked. Hardly anyone, she replied. But she told me that the livestream video was still running

on Facebook and everyone could watch it.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Linda Deutsch.

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Board of WBEZ parent company approves acquisition of Sun-Times (Sun-Times)

By David Roeder

The board that controls public radio station WBEZ on Tuesday approved the acquisition of the Chicago Sun-Times, taking a major step forward in a deal to create one of the largest nonprofit news organizations in the country.

The noncash transfer will not be final until contracts are approved, but both media organizations said they hope for a closing on or about Jan. 31. Under the deal, the Sun-Times would become an independent operation of WBEZ's owner, Chicago Public Media, and convert from for-profit to nonprofit status.

Both groups said they share a mission of investing in local journalism. While the news operations would remain separate, the combination will allow content to be shared on different platforms and gain a larger audience, the principal executives said.

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

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Opinion: Who was Carl Bernstein before Watergate? A natural newshound, learning the trade. (Washington Post)

By David Von Drehle
Columnist

By the time he was 43, newspaperman Carl Bernstein had been portrayed on the Hollywood big screen by two of the greatest actors of his generation, Dustin Hoffman and Jack Nicholson. (One version was mostly factual, the other somewhat fictionalized.) It's doubtful anyone in the history of ink-stained wretches can match that record.

And yet, as Bernstein's wonderful new memoir of his early days makes clear, this remarkable figure ran into a major roadblock as he hustled and legged his way into the trade. The young Bernstein was a natural newshound, but he was allergic to classrooms. And he ran up against a managing editor who wouldn't hire a reporter without a college degree.

He would have no better luck today. Over more than four decades in this business, I've rarely seen a journalist hired without a diploma. There have been lots of colleagues

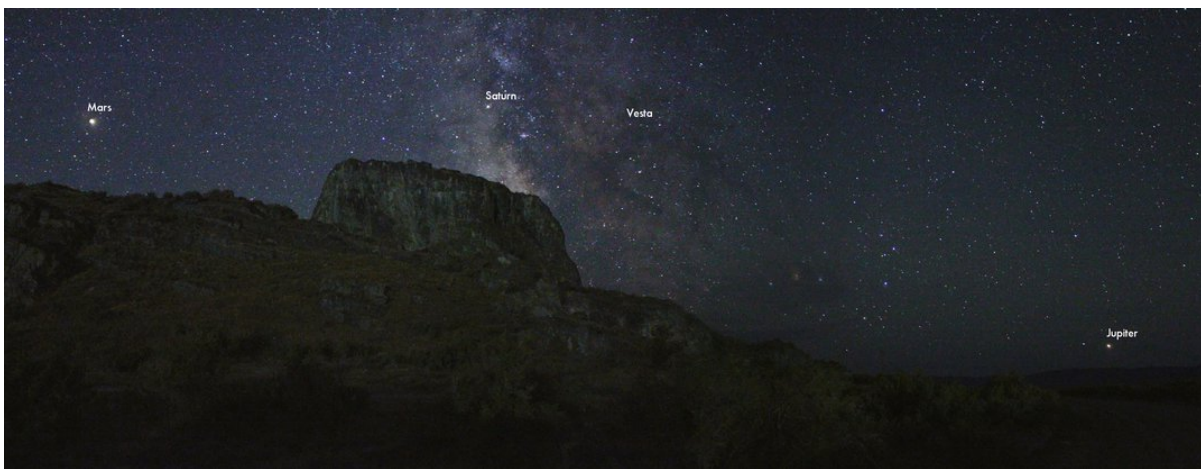
with master's degrees and even a few with doctorates.

Yet, as "Chasing History: A Kid in the Newsroom" makes clear, good journalism is not an academic exercise. It's more a trade than a science, more like plumbing than physics. Faulty stories, like unsound pipes, are prone to burst under pressure. To say this is not demeaning — as any adult likely knows, people are far more likely to need a plumber in an emergency than a physicist.

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

The Final Word

Ten Dazzling Celestial Events to See in 2022 (Smithsonian Magazine)



A photographer captured this wide-angled view of Mars, Saturn, Jupiter and the star Vesta while looking south in Skull Valley, Utah, around 1 a.m. on July 15, 2018. NASA / Bill Dunford

Nora McGreevy
Daily Correspondent

Despite another chaotic year on planet Earth, 2021 was a great time for amateur astronomers. Earthbound spectators witnessed a spectacular "ring of fire" solar eclipse, enjoyed exceptionally dark skies for the annual Perseid meteor shower and were treated to a surprise comet "Leonard" that streaked through the December sky. With any luck, another comet might become visible as it cruises through our solar system in 2022. And amateur stargazers can also view a host of meteor showers and lunar events with nothing more than a pair of binoculars, good weather and a patch of unpolluted night sky. To help you set your calendar, we've rounded up the ten most significant celestial events that viewers in North America can hope to glimpse in the new year.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Valerie Komor, Daryl Beall

Today in History - Jan. 20, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Jan. 20, the 20th day of 2022. There are 345 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 20, 1942, Nazi officials held the notorious Wannsee conference, during which they arrived at their "final solution" that called for exterminating Europe's Jews.

On this date:

In 1265, England's first representative Parliament met for the first time.

In 1801, Secretary of State John Marshall was nominated by President John Adams to be chief justice of the United States.

In 1841, the island of Hong Kong was ceded by China to Great Britain. (It returned to Chinese control in July 1997.)

In 1936, Britain's King George V died after his physician injected the mortally ill monarch with morphine and cocaine to hasten his death; the king was succeeded by his eldest son, Edward VIII, who abdicated the throne 11 months later to marry American divorcee Wallis Simpson.

In 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt became the first chief executive to be inaugurated on Jan. 20 instead of March 4.

In 1961, John F. Kennedy was inaugurated as the 35th President of the United States.

In 1964, Capitol Records released the album "Meet the Beatles!"

In 1981, Iran released 52 Americans it had held hostage for 444 days, minutes after the presidency had passed from Jimmy Carter to Ronald Reagan.

In 1986, the United States observed the first federal holiday in honor of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

In 2009, Barack Obama was sworn in as the nation's 44th, as well as first African American, president.

In 2011, federal authorities orchestrated one of the biggest Mafia takedowns in FBI history, charging 127 suspected mobsters and associates in the Northeast with murders, extortion and other crimes spanning decades.

In 2020, Chinese government experts confirmed human-to-human transmission of the new coronavirus, saying two people caught the virus from family members and that some health workers had tested positive.

Ten years ago: France threatened to withdraw early from Afghanistan after an Afghan soldier killed four French troops and wounded 15 in a setback for the U.S.-led coalition's efforts to build a national army and allow foreign troops to go home. Singer Etta James, 73, died in Riverside, California.

Five years ago: Donald Trump was sworn in as the 45th president of the United States, pledging emphatically to empower America's "forgotten men and women." Protesters registered their rage against the new president in a chaotic confrontation with police just blocks from the inaugural parade.

One year ago: Joe Biden was sworn in as the 46th president of the United States, declaring that "democracy has prevailed." Kamala Harris – the first female vice president, and the first Black woman and person of South Asian descent to hold the position – was sworn in by Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor. With Washington on edge, troops in riot gear lined the streets, and armored vehicles and concrete barriers blocked the empty streets around the Capitol building. Three new senators were sworn into office after Biden's inauguration, securing a Senate majority for Democrats. Donald Trump was at his Mar-a-Lago club in Florida by the time Biden was sworn in; he was the first president in modern history to boycott his successor's inauguration. Leaving the White House, Trump hinted at a comeback, saying, "We'll see each other again."

Today's Birthdays: Former astronaut Buzz Aldrin is 92. Olympic gold medal figure skater Carol Heiss is 82. Singer Eric Stewart is 77. Movie director David Lynch is 76. Country-rock musician George Grantham (Poco) is 75. Israeli activist Natan Sharansky is 74. Actor Daniel Benzali is 72. Rock musician Paul Stanley (KISS) is 70. Rock musician Ian Hill (Judas Priest) is 70. Comedian Bill Maher (MAR) is 66. Actor Lorenzo Lamas is 64. Actor James Denton is 59. Rock musician Greg K. (The Offspring) is 57. Country singer John Michael Montgomery is 57. Sophie, Countess of Wessex, is 57. Actor Rainn Wilson is 56. Actor Stacey Dash is 55. TV personality Melissa Rivers is 54. Actor Reno Wilson is 53. Singer Edwin McCain is 52. Actor Skeet Ulrich is 52. Rap musician ? uestlove (questlove) (The Roots) is 51. Former United Nations Ambassador Nikki Haley is 50. Rock musician Rob Bourdon (Linkin Park) is 43. Singer-songwriter Bonnie McKee is 38. Country singer Brantley Gilbert is 37. Rock singer Kevin Parker (Tame Impala) is 36. Actor Evan Peters is 35.

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 in Albany, St. Louis, Wichita, Albuquerque, Indianapolis and Kansas City.

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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