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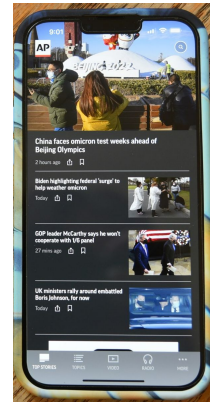
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Connecting

March 17, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this March 17, 2022,

And...Happy St. Patrick's Day! May your day be touched by some Irish luck! (Re [above image](#).)

“The era of the foreign correspondent is over.”

That’s part of the lead of [a New York Times story](#) by Michael M. Grynbaum, headlined: *‘The Era of the Foreign Correspondent Is Over’: Justin Smith on His Media Start-Up*

The story continues:

These are among the ideas in store for the new media venture led by Justin Smith, the former chief executive of Bloomberg Media, and Ben Smith, the former editor of BuzzFeed and media columnist for The New York Times, according to remarks by Justin Smith during an online seminar on Tuesday.

The Smiths, who are not related, have been tight-lipped about plans for their new company, which has captured the fascination of the media industry because of its high-profile founders and their ambitious pledge to compete with international outlets like Reuters, The Associated Press and The Times.

In the story, “Mr. Smith also shared his thoughts about what he called the end of an era when news outlets based in London, New York or Washington dispatched journalists to foreign countries to report on the goings-on there. He asked why foreign readers would not prefer a homegrown English-speaking native to report the news in their region.”

Give the story a read, especially those of you who have worked overseas, and send your thoughts to Connecting on whether you agree, and why.

And I call your attention to this from [David Leonhardt’s daily briefing](#) in The New York Times, spotted by colleague **Sibby Christensen**:

Mariupol — in southeastern Ukraine, near the Russian border — has been under siege for more than two weeks. It is the city where Russia last week bombed a maternity hospital and yesterday [attacked a theater](#) that hundreds of civilians were using as a shelter. It was unclear how many of those sheltering survived, according to a Ukrainian official.

Since the war began, two of the few working journalists in Mariupol have been Mstyslav Chernov and Evgeniy Maloletka of The Associated Press. My colleagues and I were deeply affected by their dispatch, and we’re turning over the lead section of today’s newsletter to an excerpt from it.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Marty Merzer: It's his DNA to be out front

Rick Spratling - "Lead writer" fit Marty Merzer perfectly in two ways: because his copy was so invariably quick and clean, and because of his endless passion to lead the way on breaking news. (Re Wednesday's Connecting)

I recall one day when the Miami bureau was chasing a developing story. Marty was doing a phone interview and making notes on the computer screen. Suddenly he raised one hand in the air, snapping his fingers and waving to let the desk supervisor know a new lede was in the works -- all the while continuing his interview and making notes one-handed!

Whatever lies ahead on the medical path, I suspect The Merz will have the news ahead of the experts. It's his DNA to be out front.

Peace and happiness, Marty.

Another vote against use of 'lede'

Bruce Handler - Include me in the group of those who think "lede" is unnecessary archaic journalistic inside lingo.

I still can remember working the overnight in PD (Portland, OR) in 1967 and going down to The Oregonian's hot-type composing room around 3 a.m. to get the "galley's" to see if there were any local items the AP might want to use in the "PMs" summary the overnight guy was supposed to leave ready for dayside.

Anyway, after becoming a correspondent overseas, I quickly forgot all that 1st Lede Writethru stuff and just wrote stories.

But we can go back even further in AP nostalgia that nobody else understands. Does anyone remember "cablese?" That was when private telegraph companies such as Western Union and Cable & Wireless charged far-flung correspondents by the word for their dispatches back to the home office. Thus, "It is not known" became "unknow" or "unclear." Every nickel counts, right?

Well, this nonsense continued for years on internal messages between AP foreign bureaus and NY news desks -- even though by then the AP was using leased telegraphic circuits ("wires") that cost the same per month whether you sent "Hi, Mom" or copied the Rio de Janeiro phone book.

Still, you got exchanges such as NY to Rio: "OSN has 13 dead Brazil bus crash. Where ours?" Answer: "OSN overstated. Upworking. Filing soonest." Ah, the bad ole days....

Hello, Brussels – likely to be last of Bob Burns' overseas trips with Pentagon leaders



Bob Burns – Hello, Brussels – on what is likely the last of 100-plus overseas trips I've made with senior Pentagon leaders since my first, in 1991 with then-Defense Secretary Dick Cheney.

(Burns, AP national security writer, will retire May 1. He accompanied Secretary of Defense James N. Mattis and filed this report:

[Ukraine war may lead to rethinking of US defense of Europe](#)

The lead:

WASHINGTON (AP) — Russian President Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine and his push to upend the broader security order in Europe may lead to a historic shift in American thinking about defense of the continent. Depending on how far Putin goes, this could mean a buildup of U.S. military power in Europe not seen since the Cold War.

'Well, it finally happened, I died'

Yvonne L. Miles
(Published in Louisville Courier-Journal)

Louisville - Well, it finally happened, I died. At 68 years of age, I stopped harassing people on 9-March, 2022. I was a retired paralegal and had been in the legal field for over 40 years and loved every minute of it - especially being the official Dubois Circuit Court Reporter in Jasper, Indiana. Murder trials were fascinating to me. But the best civil case was the "Chicken Blowout" trial.

As most of you know, I was an avid IU Basketball fan. I also cheered for any team that played and beat UK.

I am survived by my wonderful husband, Brian J. Miles and his immediate family. I also leave behind my awesome, sweet little family of my son, Michael F. Sutton and his wife, Laura (Scheuer) and my brilliant grandson Dashel whom I will miss the most. Dashel was the light of my life. The time I spent with him was precious. I always said that the best day of my life was the day Dashel was born.



Read more [here](#).

AP sighting – in Colorado



Dave Zelio - An AP sighting in a Colorado parking lot. This stands for All Phase Restoration, which no doubt gives editors everywhere a smile!

Doon Campbell, one-handed war correspondent

Marc Lancaster
World War II on Deadline

Archibald Doon Campbell of Reuters was one of the youngest correspondents in the field during World War II, but he never really gave that much thought — just as he had never spent much time dwelling on his most noticeable physical characteristic.

Campbell was born March 11, 1920 without the lower portion of his left arm. The son of a Presbyterian minister, he spent most of his childhood in Linlithgow, a small town west of Edinburgh. He wrote in his memoir, *Magic Mistress*, that it wasn't until he went to school that he realized he was "somewhat unusual in that I only had one hand."

"Nothing had changed," he wrote. "Since birth I had always had a half-empty left sleeve, but that had never mattered or had never seemed to matter. ... No one ever talked it it (at home) or seemed to think it was something that needed to be talked about. It was of no consequence, almost an irrelevance."



Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Dennis Anderson](#)

[Leanne Italie](#)

[Carl Leubsdorf](#)

[Arlene Levinson](#)

[Jeffrey Robbins](#)

Welcome to Connecting



[Jeffrey Diamant](#)

[Mary Jo Rieth](#)

Stories of interest

Opinion: Ukraine shows the press is the enemy of tyrants, not the people (Washington Post)

By Jennifer Rubin

Global press freedom has been under assault from authoritarians and right-wing populist movements for years, as Freedom House has documented. Rarely has this been as clear as it is in the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Russian President Vladimir Putin felt so threatened by independent reporting that he cut off his country's access to Twitter and Facebook and imposed a 15-year prison sentence for anyone who spreads information that runs counter to the government's narrative of the war. The New York Times reports that, according to data from Amnesty International, "150 journalists had fled the country to avoid the new law, which Marie Struthers, the group's director for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, called 'a scorched-earth strategy that has turned Russia's media landscape into a wasteland.'"

Read more [here](#). Shared by Michael Rubin.

-0-

Russia's state TV hit by stream of resignations (BBC)

By Paul Kirby

When Marina Ovsyannikova burst into Russian living rooms on Monday's nightly news, denouncing the war in Ukraine and propaganda around it, her protest highlighted a quiet but steady stream of resignations from Russia's tightly controlled state-run TV.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has thanked her, appealing to anyone working for what he calls Russia's propaganda system to resign. Any journalist working in what he calls the fourth branch of power risks sanctions and an international tribunal for "justifying war crimes", he warns.

Some of Russian President Vladimir Putin's biggest cheerleaders on state-run TV have already faced sanctions, including Vladimir Solovyov who presents a talk show on Russia's biggest channel Rossiya-1, and Margarita Simonyan who has accused anyone ashamed of being Russian at this point as not really being Russian.

Russia's state-run channels are required to toe the Kremlin line, so who has quit in response to the war?

Read more [here](#). Shared by George Arfield.

-0-

Fired CNN anchor Chris Cuomo seeks \$125 million in compensation (Washington Post)

By JEREMY BARR

Chris Cuomo, who was fired from his prime-time perch at CNN in December for inappropriately aiding his governor brother's response to a sexual harassment scandal, has filed an arbitration claim seeking \$125 million in compensation from the company.

In a statement, Cuomo's attorney argued that CNN "wrongfully terminated" its star anchorman and "violated the express terms of his employment agreement by allowing its employees to disparage him."

Bryan Freedman, the powerful Hollywood litigator who is representing Cuomo, went on to argue that CNN made Cuomo "the scapegoat" of a broader scandal over CNN's dealings with the Cuomo brothers that culminated in the eventual ouster last month of network president Jeff Zucker and his longtime lieutenant, Allison Gollust.

Since his dismissal, Cuomo's team has insisted that CNN's top brass was always aware of the role he played in helping then-New York Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo, even while Zucker told employees that he was misled on this point by Chris Cuomo, formerly a close friend.

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

-0-

Ben and Justin Smith Name Gina Chua as Executive Editor at News Start-Up (New York Times)

By Katie Robertson

Gina Chua, a top editor at Reuters, will become the executive editor of a new media start-up helmed by Ben Smith and Justin Smith.

Ms. Chua's hire was announced on Tuesday by Ben Smith, who left his role as a media columnist for The New York Times in January to start a global news organization with Justin Smith, the former chief executive of Bloomberg Media. Ben Smith will serve as editor in chief of the new outlet, with Ms. Chua reporting to him.

Since April, Ms. Chua has been the executive editor of Reuters and in charge of its editorial operations, which include 2,500 journalists around the world. She reports to Alessandra Galloni, the editor in chief. Reuters announced Ms. Chua's departure from the company in a memo to staff on Tuesday.

Ms. Chua, 60, was previously the editor in chief of the South China Morning Post in Hong Kong and the Asia edition of The Wall Street Journal. She is also one of the most senior transgender journalists in the United States.

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

The Final Word

How stronger hands lengthen your life (Axios)

Erica Pandey, Jim VandeHei

The single most effective set of muscles you can work to extend your life is your hands.

Why it matters: This shocked us, too. But many health and fitness experts argue that since falling is the leading cause of injury-related death once we cross 65 years old, we should start strengthening our hands now.

Stunning stat: The threat is getting worse. Death by falling increased 30% from 2009 to 2018, according to CDC data.

Stronger hands grip tighter to prevent falls — and brace stronger when you tumble.

Grip strength is especially important for older adults who use canes, walkers or handrails or need assistance getting out of chairs, says David Bellar, a kinesiologist at UNC Charlotte.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - March 17, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, March 17, the 76th day of 2022. There are 289 days left in the year. This is St. Patrick's Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 17, 1969, Golda Meir became prime minister of Israel.

On this date:

In 1762, New York held its first St. Patrick's Day parade.

In 1776, the Revolutionary War Siege of Boston ended as British forces evacuated the city.

In 1905, Anna Eleanor Roosevelt married Franklin Delano Roosevelt in New York.

In 1941, the National Gallery of Art opened in Washington, D.C.

In 1942, six days after departing the Philippines during World War II, Gen. Douglas MacArthur arrived in Australia to become supreme commander of Allied forces in the southwest Pacific theater.

In 1950, scientists at the University of California at Berkeley announced they had created a new radioactive element, "californium."

In 1966, a U.S. Navy midget submarine located a missing hydrogen bomb that had fallen from a U.S. Air Force B-52 bomber into the Mediterranean off Spain. (It took several more weeks to actually recover the bomb.)

In 1970, the United States cast its first veto in the U.N. Security Council, killing a resolution that would have condemned Britain for failing to use force to overthrow the white-ruled government of Rhodesia.

In 2003, edging to the brink of war, President George W. Bush gave Saddam Hussein 48 hours to leave his country. Iraq rejected Bush's ultimatum, saying that a U.S. attack to force Saddam from power would be "a grave mistake."

In 2010, Michael Jordan became the first ex-player to become a majority owner in the NBA as the league's Board of Governors unanimously approved Jordan's \$275 million bid to buy the Charlotte Bobcats from Bob Johnson.

In 2016, finally bowing to years of public pressure, SeaWorld Entertainment said it would no longer breed killer whales or make them perform crowd-pleasing tricks.

In 2020, the Kentucky Derby and the French Open were each postponed from May to September because of the coronavirus.

Ten years ago: Twin suicide car bombings killed at least 27 people near intelligence and security buildings in the Syrian capital of Damascus. John Demjanjuk (dem-YAHN'-yuk), 91, convicted of being a low-ranking guard at the Sobibor death camp as he maintained his innocence, died in Bad Feilnbach (bahd FYLN'-bahk), Germany.

Five years ago: President Donald Trump and German Chancellor Angela Merkel (AHN'-geh-lah MEHR'-kuhl) tried to sidestep their differences in a meeting at the White House, but their first public appearance was punctuated by some awkward moments (during a photo op in the Oval Office, the two did not shake hands before reporters). Secretary of State Rex Tillerson visited the world's most heavily armed border, greeting U.S. soldiers on guard near the tense buffer zone between rivals North and South Korea.

One year ago: In an unclassified intelligence report, U.S. officials warned that violent extremists motivated by political grievances and racial biases posed an "elevated threat" to the United States. President Joe Biden told ABC that senators who wanted to oppose his legislative agenda through a filibuster should have to actually stand and talk for hours, rather than simply signaling their objection. Ford Motor Company told about 30,000 employees worldwide who had worked from home during the pandemic that they could continue to do so indefinitely, with flexible hours approved by their managers.

Today's Birthdays: The former national chairwoman of the NAACP, Myrlie Evers-Williams, is 89. Former astronaut Ken Mattingly is 86. Singer-songwriter John Sebastian (The Lovin' Spoonful) is 78. Former NSA Director and former CIA Director Michael Hayden is 77. Rock musician Harold Brown (War; Lowrider Band) is 76. Actor Patrick Duffy is 73. Actor Kurt Russell is 71. Country singer Susie Allanson is 70. Actor Lesley-Anne Down is 68. Actor Mark Boone Jr. is 67. Country singer Paul Overstreet is

67. Actor Gary Sinise is 67. Actor Christian Clemenson is 64. Former basketball and baseball player Danny Ainge is 63. Actor Arye Gross is 62. Actor Vicki Lewis is 62. Actor Casey Siemaszko (sheh-MA'-zshko) is 61. Writer-director Rob Sitch is 60. Actor Rob Lowe is 58. Rock singer Billy Corgan is 55. Rock musician Van Conner (Screaming Trees) is 55. Actor Mathew St. Patrick is 54. Actor Yanic (YAH'-neek) Truesdale is 53. Rock musician Melissa Auf der Maur is 50. Olympic gold medal soccer player Mia Hamm is 50. Rock musician Caroline Corr (The Corrs) is 49. Actor Amelia Heinle is 49. Country singer Keifer Thompson (Thompson Square) is 49. Actor Marisa Coughlan is 48. Actor Natalie Zea (zee) is 47. Sports reporter Tracy Wolfson is 47. Actor Brittany Daniel is 46. Singer and TV personality Tamar Braxton is 45. Country musician Geoff Sprung (Old Dominion) is 44. Reggaeton singer Nicky Jam is 41. TV personality Rob Kardashian (kar-DASH'-ee-uhn) (TV: "Keeping Up With the Kardashians") is 35. Pop/rock singer-songwriter Hozier is 32. Actor Eliza Hope Bennett is 30. Actor John Boyega is 30. Olympic gold medal swimmer Katie Ledecky is 25. Actor Flynn Morrison is 17.

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 as a newsman in Albany and St. Louis, correspondent in Wichita, chief of bureau in Albuquerque, Indianapolis and Kansas City, and Midwest vice president based in 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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