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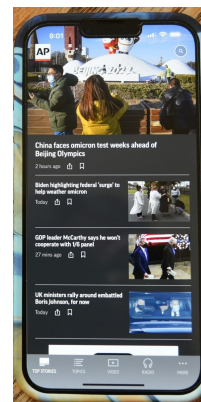
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Connecting

March 18, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this March 18, 2022,

Today's Connecting brings you the thoughts of colleagues who differ with the premise that "The era of the foreign correspondent is over" - a remark made in The New York Times by Justin Smith, former chief executive of Bloomberg Media, who with Ben Smith is launching a new media venture. (See Thursday's Connecting.)

CORRECTION: In the Bob Burns item in Thursday's Connecting, the AP national security writer was traveling to Brussels with Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin. Not James Mattis, Austin's predecessor.

Have a great weekend – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

A St. Patrick's Day parade he'll never forget

Christopher Bacey - *re St. Patrick's Day* - I will never forget one of the NYC St. Patrick's Day parades in the early '80s. I was in about my second or third year with AP and coming off a 5:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. shift at 50 Rock. Knowing I had several family members marching with the NYPD and one who was a Suffolk County executive, I figured I would go up the block to catch a few bagpipers coming up 5th Ave. before I left for home.

Minutes after I arrived, I heard saw a pick-up truck travelling down the parade route the wrong way and striking several pedestrians. The sound of both the vehicle's acceleration and slap of bodies hitting the pavement was quite distinct.

I immediately ran to a nearby pay phone (It was 1983!) and called the NY Buro to report what happened. I managed to give some details to whoever was on the desk at the time, and he immediately put some details out on the wire. (I think his name was "Jerry," but I cannot recall his last name. And I believe he may still be with the AP.)

The NY Post ran a short piece the next day with the details and so did the Times (see below). I felt like Jimmy Olsen or Cary Grant in Gotham City in a scene from His Girl Friday or Superman. ("Where's Kent? Get me rewrite and don't call me chief!"...)

I probably still have the clipping somewhere, but my only regret was that the writer quoted me by name and not as an "AP Newsman," which I really had wanted, especially at that young age. (It must have been because I had started in NY Sports and he didn't think I was a real news reporter! :)).

Anyway, it was something I'll never forget. Today, I googled the incident, filtering by year. Much to my surprise, I found a link to the NYT story about the incident, which contained a reference to the crash. It was also noteworthy because that year, the Grand Marshall of the parade was an IRA "supporter." The Times, as they often did, no doubt picked up AP's details about the crash occurrence.

Needless to say, I never did see any of my cousins marching but was always able to master the art of dictating stories on the fly after that (and some training by the guys in NY Sports and the NY Bureau.)

POLITICS AND TRADITION MIX AS IRISH MARCH

Mar 18, 1983 — Seven people were reported hurt by a truck that turned onto the parade route at West 54th Street. The driver was charged with drunken driving and attempted ...

At 1:45 P.M., according to the police, a pickup truck driven by a New Jersey man suddenly turned south onto Fifth Avenue from West 54th Street and sped down the west side of the avenue against the line of march.

The truck hit a barrier, struck two women watching the parade between 46th and 47th Streets, mounted the sidewalk and continued south on Fifth Avenue. It came to a stop after colliding with two vehicles crossing the avenue at 42d Street. Three police officers were hurt while chasing the truck on foot, and a fourth officer was struck by the barrier the truck hit. None of the officers was seriously injured.

The 'end of foreign correspondents'

Charlie Hanley – Re the NYT piece (Thursday's Connecting) on the start-up that plans "to compete with international outlets like Reuters, The Associated Press":

The entrepreneurial Messrs. Smith aren't making a lot of sense. The NYT paraphrased one Smith: "He asked why foreign readers would not prefer a homegrown English-speaking native to report the news in their region." But Indians don't rely on AP or Reuters for news in their region. They have India's own PTI and UNI. Japanese readers don't read our wires for Japan news. That's Kyodo's territory. But AP can supply India news to Japan, and vice versa.

As far as the "end of an era" when "news outlets based in London, New York or Washington dispatched journalists to foreign countries" (i.e., Americans, Brits), the Smiths haven't paid attention. If they had, they'd find homegrown "native" bylines galore on AP wires, from Moscow (Isachenkov et al.) to Mexico (Sanchez, Verza) to Tokyo (Yamaguchi et al.). Local hires are the backbone of AP's international coverage.

Perhaps our Paul Reuter wannabes should worry less about a clever name for their organization (how about "Smiths"?) and more about the nuts and bolts of global news (and of making sense to investors).

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Harry Dunphy - When Bangladesh was created in 1971 (I was in Karachi at the time) I was told a British tabloid correspondent sent this cable to London:

"I today rode into Dacca on a tank stop uppick agencies.

Not exactly cablese but revered Wall Street Journal editor Vermont Royster is said to have exclaimed at one point in the newsroom, "The next person who uses upcoming will be outgoing."

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Robert Wielaard - That 'new media venture' is old hat. I was the Brussels COB for 25 or so years. In that period, I had five US staffers, successively, in my newsroom, people sent from New York for a few years.

By the mid-1990s, there were a dozen staffers in all at APBrussels (news/photos /TV) of 11 nationalities! Canadian, Dutch, Belgian, German, Croat, Bosnian, Egyptian, British, French, Czech and a US correspondent. They all produced English-language news of the European Union and NATO.

"The era of the foreign correspondent" ended at APBrussels decades ago.

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[Steve Wolgast](#) - Do news organizations, particularly those with New York or Washington in their names, really “send some well-educated young graduate from the Ivy League to Mumbai to tell us about what’s going on in Mumbai in 2022,” as Justin Smith would have us believe?

That probably would be “sort of insane,” as he says. Which is why it doesn’t happen.

At least, it didn’t in my decade at The Times (the one with New York in the name), which ended in 2009. And I can’t imagine it’s any easier to get a foreign gig now.

Back then, I was but an editor in Times Square, at a time when no one became a foreign correspondent as a young graduate of any place. It took years of experience on the metro desk, then a stint as a national correspondent, before someone was sent overseas. The exception would be to help during breaking news, which would be for a short bout of reporting, or if the reporter had spent lots of time reporting on a big beat for a sizeable publication.

Everyone who reads this newsletter remembers what it’s like working those first few years as a young reporter, making all those usual mistakes — not just in print, which were probably few but embarrassing — in going about cultivating sources, reporting an enterprise piece, and negotiating with sources and editors. Sending a recent grad to do that in a foreign capital, whether the youngster knows the language or not, is setting someone up to fail.

That I saw first-hand because I was, sort of, one of those people Smith describes, but not for a brand-name publication. (And whether I was educated well or just adequately is something I’m still unsure of.)

Back in 1992, as a 25-year-old graduate of Columbia University’s journalism school, I took a job as a reporter in Tallinn, Estonia, covering the newly independent Baltic countries for The Baltic Independent. It was an English-language weekly, long since bought up by the competition. The paper was just a year or two old and our audience was mostly ex-pats and the business owners and bureaucrats in Tallinn, Riga, and Vilnius, so my colleagues and I were reporting for readers who were local or who had a distinct local connection (having emigrated during Soviet rule).

I made the kinds of mistakes with sources, writing, and editors that made me glad the circulation was only 5,000.

But we worked alongside locals. Natives who spoke English, plus their national language and Russian and sometimes another language too. They pointed us to helpful sources (and steered us from unreliable ones), set up interviews, and translated for us, every day. Smith surely knows that’s how any bureau of a foreign newsroom operates, and that sending long-time staffers, no matter their nationality, to cover distant cities gives the editors confidence that the reporting will meet their standards.

Another reason to have non-nationals as key reporters in another country is to avoid undue government influence over their reporting. As we’ve seen in the last couple of weeks in Russia, a power-hungry government can silence its foes in the press. A Russian citizen would think twice before calling the attack on Ukraine a “war,” but

foreign reporters can do so by leaving the country without leaving their families or jobs.

In short, a foreign bureau cannot function without locals who also speak English. Some of them went to school or college in the U.S., and some are outstanding journalists who end up hired as reporters on the staff in New York or Washington or anywhere else.

But saying that foreign newsrooms should only hire locals would mean a newspaper in Mumbai should hire only Americans to cover Washington for its readers in India, and that a TV station in Kyiv should hire only Russians to cover the Kremlin. It's a nice idea, and it could succeed financially and certainly have some journalistic success. It just seems too limited to compete with the organizations Smith wants to compete with.

More on Lead vs. Lede

[Frank Aukofer](#) - Another take on the lede vs. lead background. I worked as a compositor before I started as reporter. In doing makeup on a page, compositors sometimes had to stretch out a short column of type by "leading it out," which meant putting thin lead (tin and antimony and pronounced "led") spaces between the lines. So I have understood for many years that "lede" was developed as a way to distinguish the first line of a story from filling out a column by "leading (leding) it out."

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[Joe Galu](#) - 'Lede' may look out-of-date, but it's unique and has just one meaning -- the first paragraph of a story.

I have re-read the NYTimes report on the JFK assassination several times. It's solid, clear and precise. Almost everything else in the article is debatable, especially after the FBI tinkered with the numbered frames of the Zapruder film. Meanwhile, the lede stands solid.

It does no harm, leave it alone. Yea lede.

A surreal encounter with Mikhail Gorbachev



Dan Perry - This is a reminiscence of an AP meeting with Mikhail Gorbachev which appeared also in Times of Israel. Hilarious, Alison Mutler, who succeeded me as Romani correspondent 29 years ago, now is senior at this Bucharest website with Romanian and Hebrew editions and she picked it up (and there is a Romanian version as well).

Click [here](#) to read.

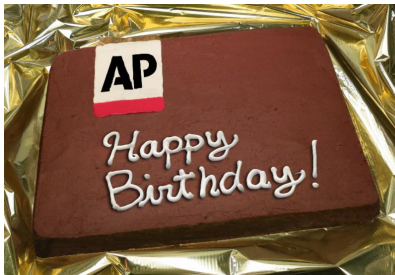
Newspapers in Art - Valencia, Spain



Kevin Walsh - Sketch for the poster for El Pueblo newspaper, done by acclaimed Spanish artist Joaquin Sorolla in 1894 when he was 31.

The oil on canvas is part of the Sorolla collection at the Museo de Belles Arts de València. Sorolla was born in Valencia.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Heidi Brown

On Saturday to...

Bruce Nathan

Rick Rogers

On Sunday to...

Giovanna Dell'Orto

Larry Margasak

Welcome to Connecting



Jeffrey Diamant

Mary Jo Rieth

Stories of interest

Mexican journalist killed 6 weeks after colleague's murder (AP)



A friend places a rose on the open-faced casket that contains the remains of slain journalist Armando Linares in Zitacuaro, in the state of Michoacan, Mexico, Wednesday, March 16, 2022. Linares was shot to death at a home in the town of Zitacuaro on Tuesday, the eighth Mexican journalist murdered so far this year. (AP Photo/Marco Ugarte)

By FABIOLA SÁNCHEZ

ZITACUARO, Mexico (AP) — Six weeks ago, journalist Armando Linares choked up in a video announcing the killing of a colleague and promised to continue doing journalism that exposed the corrupt. Now Linares too has been gunned down — the eighth journalist killed in Mexico this year.

On Wednesday, his wife, children, siblings and friends prepared to see him off inside a small funeral parlor.

After initially halting his reporting for a few weeks and closing the Monitor Michoacan office following the killing of camera operator Roberto Toledo, Linares returned to reporting and resumed publishing the online news site.

He wrote stories about the monarch butterflies that winter in the mountains around Zitacuaro, butterfly-related festivities and other hyper-local and state news — but gone was the criticism of local officials he was known for before Toledo's killing.

Still, the threat for journalists had persisted, something Linares seemed to expect.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

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US "looking very hard" at whether Russia is targeting journalists in Ukraine, secretary of state says (CNN)

From CNN's Jennifer Hansler

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the US is "looking very hard" at whether Russia is intentionally targeting journalists in Ukraine.

At least three journalists have been killed covering the war in Ukraine in the past several days — Pierre Zakrzewski, Oleksandra Kuvshynova and Brent Renaud — and at least two have been severely injured.

"We are looking very hard at the targeting that the Russian forces are doing, including whether they are deliberately, intentionally targeting civilians, journalists or anyone else," he said in an interview with NPR that aired Wednesday.

"This is something we're looking hard at, we're documenting. Others are looking at this. The deliberate targeting of civilians, journalists and others would constitute a war crime," he said.

Read more [here](#).

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Gannett's Wisconsin newspapers will move printing to Central Illinois (Poynter)

By: Rick Edmonds

Gannett has taken the trend of outsourced print production to new lengths, announcing Monday that the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and its 10 other Wisconsin dailies will be printed at the Peoria Journal Star beginning in May.

Peoria is 220 miles and three-and-a-half hours from Milwaukee. Other papers in the Wisconsin group, including the Green Bay Press-Gazette, are even further north.

The move will result in the shuttering of the Journal Sentinel's printing plant and the loss of 180 jobs.

The change will also push back deadlines, eliminating next-day coverage of night or early evening sports — no small thing in Milwaukee where the Bucks are NBA champions, the Packers are perennial contenders, and the Brewers are having a run of good seasons. The Journal Sentinel already publishes a digital supplement on nights after the Packers games and can be expected to turn print sports content to analysis and features while doing spot game coverage on its website or e-replica edition.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - March 18, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, March 18, the 77th day of 2022. There are 288 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 18, 1940, Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini met at the Brenner Pass, where the Italian dictator agreed to join Germany's war against France and Britain.

On this date:

In 1766, Britain repealed the Stamp Act of 1765.

In 1922, Mohandas K. Gandhi was sentenced in India to six years' imprisonment for civil disobedience. (He was released after serving two years.)

In 1925, the Tri-State Tornado struck southeastern Missouri, southern Illinois and southwestern Indiana, resulting in some 700 deaths.

In 1937, in America's worst school disaster, nearly 300 people, most of them children, were killed in a natural gas explosion at the New London Consolidated School in Rusk County, Texas.

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an executive order authorizing the War Relocation Authority, which was put in charge of interning Japanese-Americans, with Milton S. Eisenhower (the younger brother of Dwight D. Eisenhower) as its director.

In 1963, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Gideon v. Wainwright*, ruled unanimously that state courts were required to provide legal counsel to criminal defendants who could not afford to hire an attorney on their own.

In 1965, the first spacewalk took place as Soviet cosmonaut Alexei Leonov went outside his Voskhod 2 capsule, secured by a tether.

In 1974, most of the Arab oil-producing nations ended their 5-month-old embargo against the United States that had been sparked by American support for Israel in the Yom Kippur War.

In 2002, Brittanie Cecil died two days short of her 14th birthday after being hit in the head by a puck at a game between the host Columbus Blue Jackets and Calgary Flames; it was apparently the first such fan fatality in NHL history.

In 2016, police in Brussels captured Europe's most wanted fugitive, Salah Abdeslam, who was the prime suspect in the deadly 2015 Paris attacks.

In 2018, Vladimir Putin rolled to a crushing reelection victory for six more years as Russia's president.

In 2020, the U.S. and Canada agreed to temporarily close their shared border to nonessential travel.

Ten years ago: Mitt Romney scored an overwhelming win in Puerto Rico's Republican presidential primary, trouncing chief rival Rick Santorum.

Five years ago: Chuck Berry, rock 'n' roll's founding guitar hero and storyteller who defined the music's joy and rebellion in such classics as "Johnny B. Goode," "Sweet Little Sixteen" and "Roll Over Beethoven," died at his home west of St. Louis at age 90.

One year ago: The European Union's drug regulatory agency said that the AstraZeneca vaccine was not linked to an overall increase in the risk of blood clots and that the benefits of use outweighed the risks, paving the way for European countries to resume administering the shots. The Senate confirmed veteran diplomat William Burns as director of the CIA and California Attorney General Xavier Becerra as President Joe Biden's health secretary. The NBA said it was easing some of its health and safety protocols for individuals who were fully vaccinated.

Today's Birthdays: Composer John Kander is 95. Actor Brad Dourif is 72. Jazz musician Bill Frisell is 71. Singer Irene Cara is 63. Alt-country musician Karen Grotberg (The Jayhawks) is 63. Movie writer-director Luc Besson is 63. Actor Geoffrey Owens is 61. Actor Thomas Ian Griffith is 60. Singer-songwriter James McMurtry is 60. TV

personality Mike Rowe is 60. Singer-actor Vanessa L. Williams is 59. Olympic gold medal speedskater Bonnie Blair is 58. Actor David Cubitt is 57. Rock musician Jerry Cantrell (Alice in Chains) is 56. Rock singer-musician Miki Berenyi (ber-EN'-ee) is 55. Actor Michael Bergin is 53. Rapper-actor-talk show host Queen Latifah is 52. Former White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus (ryns PREE'-bus) is 50. Actor-comedian Dane Cook is 50. Country singer Philip Sweet (Little Big Town) is 48. Rock musician Stuart Zender is 48. Singers Evan and Jaron Lowenstein are 48. Actor-singer-dancer Sutton Foster is 47. Rock singer Adam Levine (Maroon 5) is 43. Rock musician Daren Taylor (Airborne Toxic Event) is 42. Olympic gold medal figure skater Alexei Yagudin is 42. Actor Adam Pally is 40. Actor Cornelius Smith Jr. is 40. Actor Duane Henry (TV: "NCIS") is 37. Actor Lily Collins is 33. Actor-dancer Julia Goldani Telles is 27. Actor Ciara Bravo is 25. Actor Blake Garrett Rosenthal is 18.

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.

Paul Stevens

Editor, Connecting newsletter

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