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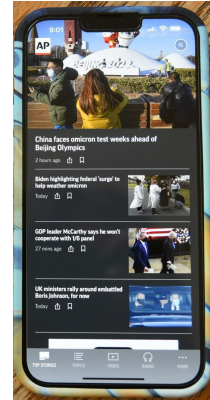
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Connecting

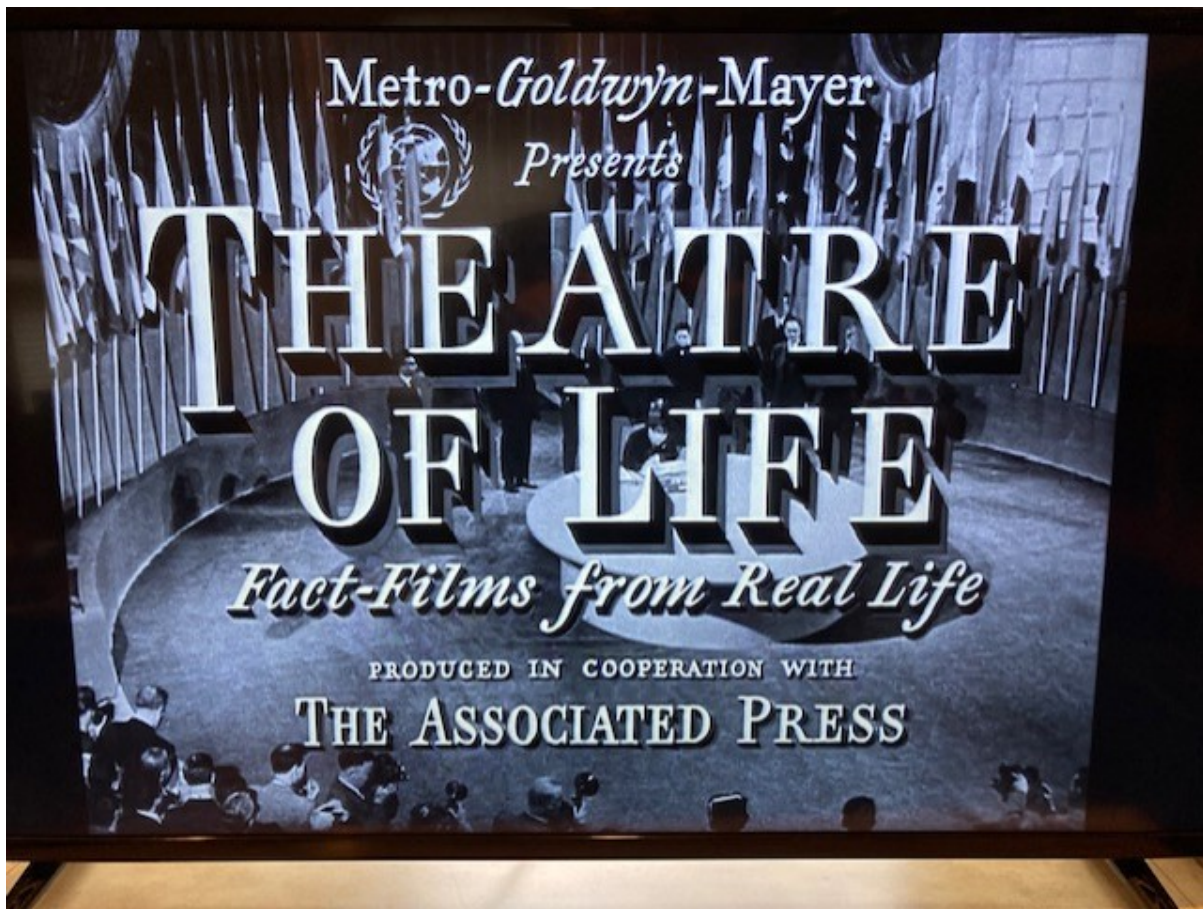
April 12, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this April 12, 2022,

Here's something you may not know about The Associated Press: a film it produced with MGM was once nominated for an Oscar.

Our colleague [Marty Steinberg](#) came across the movie on Turner Classic Movies channel and dropped a note to Connecting asking, "Does anybody know the backstory to it?"

[Francesca Pitaro](#) of AP Corporate Archives took on the challenge and found this:

"It seems that the AP entered into an agreement with MGM in 1946 to produce "fact-films." The first film was 'Traffic with the Devil,' about traffic safety. The image that Marty sent was for a film called 'Give Us the Earth,' which was the second of the films produced. You can watch it on YouTube. It was nominated for an Oscar in 1947 in the category Best Short Subject. The film tells the story of Dr. D. Spencer Hatch, an agricultural specialist with the YMCA, and his efforts to bring soil conservation methods to a Mexican village. It opens in an AP office with a story about Hatch's appointment being typed up on the teletype and going out on the wire."

You can watch the movie [here](#).



"I'm not sure how many movies came out of this collaboration," Pitaro said, "but I'm attaching an ad for a third one on firefighters. More fun things we didn't know about the AP."

Today will be the first time many AP employees return to work in their offices after two years of working remotely. Our **Francesca Pitaro** reports, "Sending this from 200 Liberty, where my desk appears to be just as I left it on March 13, 2020. After clearing out some antique snacks from my desk drawer, it's like I never left."

Have a great day!

Paul

Memories of the late Mike Rouse

Robert Reid - Mike Rouse was my first news editor when I joined the AP in Charlotte in March 1969. It didn't take long to realize that back in those days, bureau chiefs had the big job title, but news editors ran the news report. Mike performed his job superbly and with minimal drama.

That was no easy task. Charlotte was the control bureau for the two Carolinas, and the staff was spread over three offices in two states. It was a pretty eclectic bunch – one slumlord, several NASCAR enthusiasts, a malcontent who walked off a radio shift and was never seen again, and another guy who could write the fastest, cleanest and most coherent prose after a half bottle of Bourbon.

The best copy editors seemed to be the teletype operators, some of whom were exiled from New York to a right-to-work state after the AP's first and only strike.

The editorial staff fell generally into two camps – old-timers marking the days until retirement and a bunch of cutthroat young guys all competing to see who could get promoted out of Charlotte first. None of this seemed to rattle the calm, soft-spoken Mike.

I figured my ticket out was to write as many enterprise stories as possible, preferably ones that might hit the A-wire. I'd submit my material to Mike. He'd come back in a day or two, smiling and telling me how good my story was. "I made a few changes," he'd say. I'd then read it over carefully, struggling to find a sentence that I had any memory of actually writing.

But he seemed happy, and I don't recall any of them getting spiked. And if Mike was happy, I was happy. I learned a lot of writing techniques from him.

He and I parted ways, me to the Army and Mike to top jobs at newspapers in Durham, Fayetteville and Goldsboro after he turned down a transfer to Chicago. After I returned from the Army, I eventually got his old job, and learned to appreciate how good a news editor he was. I did not learn his calm patience.

We kept in touch sporadically over the years, trading observations about the state of journalism and the world – and the risks of retiring to the hurricane-prone North Carolina coast. I always remembered him as one of the good guys, and only wished we'd worked together longer.

Another time, another America

[Norm Abelson](#) - I have a great deal of sympathy for those living on the edge, who are having a hard time paying the rising costs of gasoline, heating products, food, and other necessities. But I can't figure those with sufficient money - driving gas-guzzlers, buying tons of stuff they don't need - whining about paying another buck for a pizza or a fast-food burger.

We are living in a nation where any inconvenience seems to be equated with sacrifice. Perhaps those of us in the middle and upper classes have been spoiled by being able to obtain pretty much anything we wanted, any time we chose, often at good prices. Now, an empty supermarket shelf or a package that doesn't arrive almost immediately, seems nearly tragic.

I'm old enough to remember a different time, when nearly everything was in short supply, or totally unavailable. It was World War II, and the nation suddenly had to pull together. In those days, complying without complaint was equated with patriotism. After December 7, 1941, it seemed that just about everything we had taken for granted was needed for "the war effort," and it was needed immediately. Among the many other things either unavailable or deeply rationed for the entire course of the war, were cars, gasoline, coal, oil, kerosene, butter, meat, fish, metals, and clothing.

Every car had a windshield sticker, denoting the amount of gas the owner could purchase per week. The general public got an A, which earned a mere four gallons a week. Workers in a factory making war materials, as well as doctors and nurses, were allowed eight gallons a week. Folks had to keep their cars in good repair, as auto companies were only turning out things like jeeps and tanks. No one was allowed to own more than five tires, as rubber supplies were cut off.

Kids had to dig for an extra penny (war tax) for a 10-cent movie ticket. In school we all bought War Stamps (a dime each); when it got to about \$18, we would earn a War Bond, redeemable for \$25 after the war. The Office of Price Administration (OPA) was created to oversee fair costs and punish any price gouging.



At home we contributed our aluminum pots and pans, anything made of rubber, all newspapers and paper goods. These products and others were carried (usually by me) to Malden Square and dumped into big collection bins – to be re-configured and used in the war effort.

Huge numbers of young men volunteered or were called up for military service. Many women went to work in aircraft manufacturing plants, symbolized by “Rosie the Riveter” billboards. Other women volunteered for the Women's Army Corps, or the Navy equivalent, the WAVES. My Dad, disappointed he was rejected as over-age when trying to enlist, became an air raid warden; his brother – my Uncle Sammy – was an auxiliary firefighter. My Mom rolled bandages for the Red Cross.

Test air raid sirens were sounded without warning; all activity ceased as we hid in “safe” corners at home or in school. There was a 9 p.m. curfew for minors. All windows were covered with heavy blackout drapes. The top half of all car headlights were painted black so they couldn't be seen by air.

In the evening, the family would gather around the big parlor radio to hear soothing re-assurances from President Roosevelt, and the war news. (What I couldn't know then was that my future wife and her family were already prisoners at Auschwitz.)

In 1943 when I was 12, I had this, my first published piece, appear in the American Legion Magazine:

Mr. Smith's boy is fighting on the front lines.
so don't worry about gas or butter;
for if you only know what he's going through
you would surely shake and shudder.

It was but a year ago that he left home,
then he joined the Army and started to roam.
I did not know where he was since then;
he went to war with the rest of the men.

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Mr. Smith got a telegram today
from the War Department of the U.S.A.
It said Johnny was killed on Monday morn.
I can hardly believe that he is gone.

His was the courage of a hero true
he was fighting and dying for me and for you.
So if you start to grumble and complain,
think of the things this boy died to maintain.

Ole Rockin' Chair Thoughts

Gene Herrick - The weather outside continues to be lousy. One would think that the powers of decision would get another head weatherman/woman. The ones we have now, I hear through the tube, are ones installed some 100 years ago. Time for a change.

Anyway, ole Rockin' Chair and I are operating inside, and the thought the other day was the shape of mankind as we see and hear it today. As they say in German, "Vas ist das?"

I got to wonderin' what children of today are thinking of this mess. And these problems always seem to bring up the answer mankind has used for centuries – Libation. If one cannot solve the problem, drink to it. I seem to remember my grandmother saying that. I followed her rule.

My TV watching has diminished. Those people running the tube are just beside themselves. They get all worked up and sweaty. I giggle because the announcers are often very young ladies, and probably fresh out of college. And, they speak with such authority.

Have they ever seen, or covered a major disaster involving people? Have they ever covered a dangerous story – like a war -I dare say NO. We all had to learn, but we learned doing. I don't care what "They" say, 'If you haven't been in a war as a military person, or covered one as a correspondent, you do NOT know the feelings and emotions of those who have, or the sacrificing people who have.

Well, I need to recover from my un-healthy attitude. And the first thought almost brought tears to my eyes. Yep, I thought about that beautiful lady. You remember the

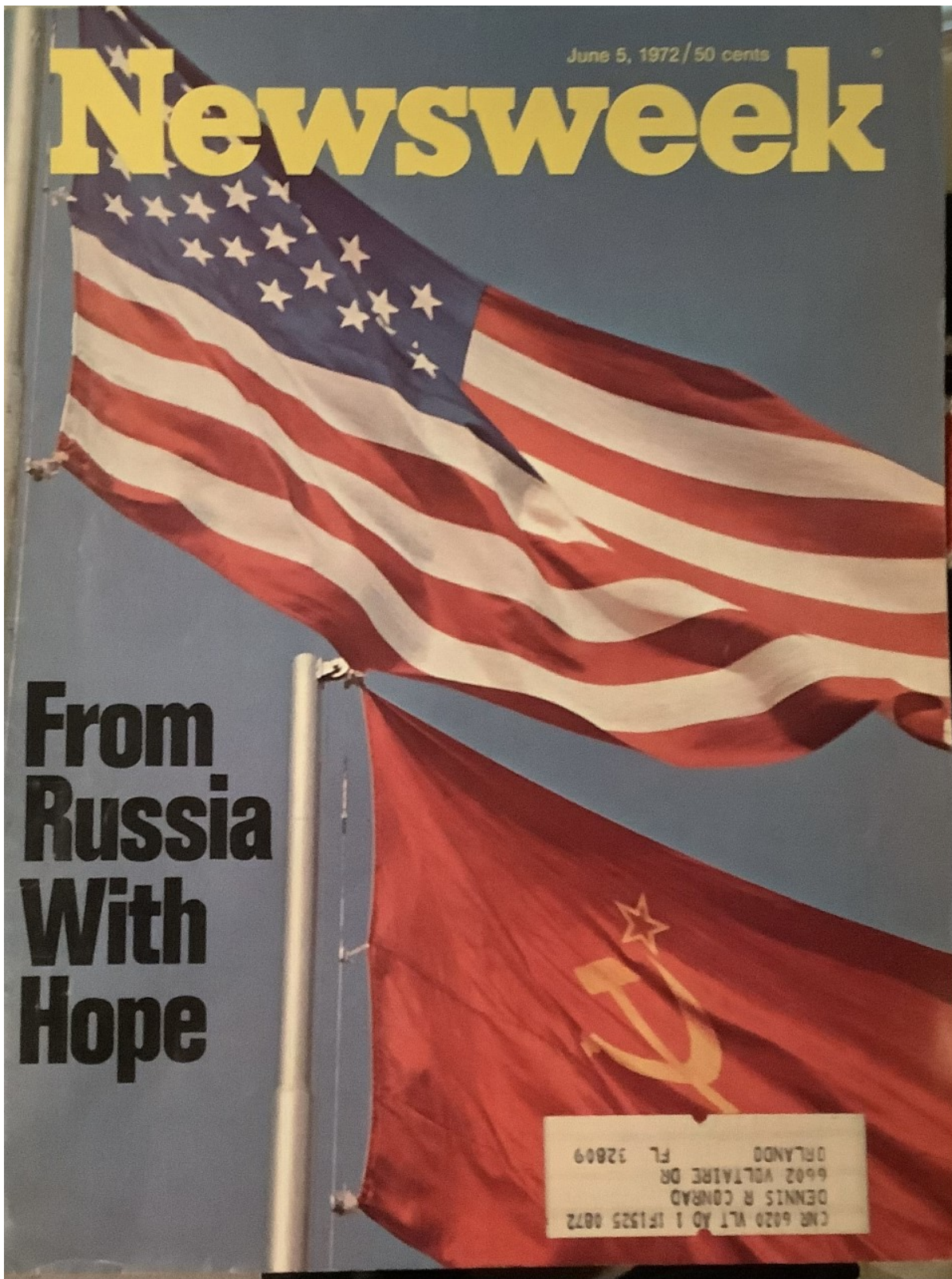
love of our hearts – yep, Sister Donalda, the wonderful, great, communicator. She was certainly one of God’s examples of goodness, love, and letter writing.

She died this year, two days after her 95th birthday in a convent in Dubuque, Iowa, where she wrote epistles to many Connecting members. Her letters are examples of love, knowledge, caring, and various kinds of poetry, and Christian knowledge. She was not teaching but exposing her friends to knowledge. I have kept all that she sent me. I just hope that God has some typewriters in Heaven, and a way for Sister to continue dispensing her love and knowledge.

In one of the books I have recently written – in fantasy - I used the Holy Spirit to “Transmit” the news story I had just written to an angel on earth in Jerusalem, who then gave it to the newspaper editor. Maybe Sister could do the same. Sister, if you receive Connecting in Heaven, let us hear from you. I am not a world diplomat, but it seems strange to me that some person/organization, by now, could/should have found a way to make in-operable, that dude in Moscow.

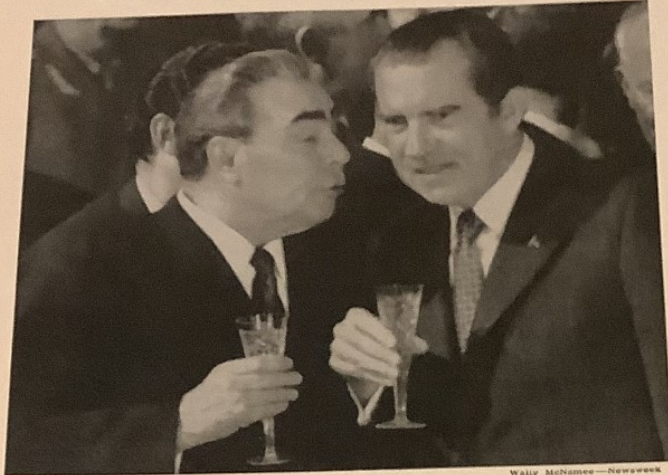
I’ve got to get the oil can – my rocker is squeaking.

**I think I held on to this Newsweek cover
for a HALF CENTURY for a reason**





FROM RUSSIA WITH HOPE



Brezhnev and Nixon: After a 'mushroom rain,' a new relationship bloomed

It was a distinctively Russian setting, right out of "Nicholas and Alexandra." In the glittering surroundings of St. George's Hall in the Great Kremlin Palace, the President of the United States and his Soviet hosts chatted amiably over vodka and caviar. It was the first day of Richard Nixon's visit, and one of the Kremlin leaders came up with an old Russian saying to put his guest in the right mood. "Mr. President," he said, "just before your plane landed there was a warm shower, then the sun came out. The peasants call this a 'mushroom rain' because it makes the mushrooms grow. It is a good omen for crops, and we hope that today's rain is a good omen for our meetings as well."

As Mr. Nixon wound up his eight-day Russian summit early this week, the sprouts of a new U.S.-Soviet relationship were indeed bursting forth for all to see. In marathon bargaining sessions—lasting more than twenty hours in all—the President and Soviet party chief Leonid Brezhnev ratified a number of prearranged agreements and hammered out last-minute details on several new ones. Almost daily, they appeared in the Great Kremlin Palace to announce new pacts ranging from one for increased scientific exchanges to a historic arms-limitation agreement that marks the first attempt to freeze the nuclear balance of terror. And although they stumbled a

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bit over matters of trade and made no headway on the sticky issue of Vietnam, both sides seemed convinced that they had laid the groundwork for bigger things to come.

In his toast to the Soviet leaders at the final state dinner of the visit, Mr. Nixon even raised the possibility of a return summit engagement in the U.S. "We look forward to the time when we shall be able to welcome you in our country," he declared. "This is the first meeting. There will be others." Throughout the week, the President underscored the new spirit of cooperation. Recalling the 1945 meeting between U.S. and Soviet soldiers at the Elbe, Mr. Nixon declared in a TV speech to the Russian people early this week: "As great powers, we will sometimes be competitors, but we need never be enemies."

As the Presidential rhetoric suggested, the Americans and the Soviets bargained at the summit as equals, and in that respect, the Moscow sessions were far different from Mr. Nixon's mission three months ago to Peking. There, simply "opening" China seemed to be the central theme, and the President's colorful side trips to the Great Wall and the Ming tombs were clearly designed to bolster that image. In Moscow, the trailblazing was less visible. While Mr. Nixon closeted himself with Soviet leaders, the First Lady was left to carry the cere-

monial duties (page 31). But if the TV pictures were less stirring than from Peking, the spectacle of an American President sitting down in the Kremlin with the heirs of Lenin and Stalin may have held more meaning—both for the two powers involved and for the complex world in which they operate.

In one sense, Mr. Nixon's two trips to the summit were of a piece. By opening the door to China, he had forced open the gates of the Kremlin—and those feats were testimony to the success of the foreign policy devised by Mr. Nixon and his geopolitical strategist, Henry Kissinger. In turn, that success seemed likely to rebound to Mr. Nixon's political advantage back home. Already, his campaign manager, John Mitchell, had plotted an approach to the coming battle against the Democrats in which Mr. Nixon would take the Presidential high road and capitalize on his statesmanlike image. After Moscow, that prospect appeared to worry the Democrats more than ever, and it was significant that both Hubert Humphrey and George McGovern seemed at a loss last week to find a way to fault Mr. Nixon on his summit performance. In short, the President had gambled—successfully, it seemed—on the Moscow summit to kick off his 1972 campaign.

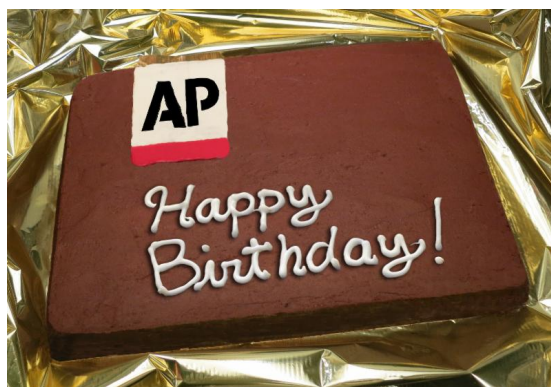
At the outset of last week's visit, however, there was some concern about just what kind of reception the President would receive in Moscow. As Mr. Nixon's jet, the Spirit of 76, neared Vnukovo Airport, members of the Presidential party confidently predicted that Brezhnev would bend protocol a bit and be on hand personally to greet the U.S. Chief of State. But just minutes before scheduled touchdown, the word was radioed from the ground: "No Brezhnev." Instead Mr. Nixon was met by Premier Aleksei Kosygin, President Nikolai Podgorny and a decidedly unenthusiastic "crowd" of some 500 Soviet citizens bused out for the event. As Podgorny and Mr. Nixon stood side by side, listening to the ritual playing of national anthems and then reviewing a goose-stepping Russian honor guard, the scene was eerily reminiscent of the President's initially chilly reception in Peking.

If anything, the reception seemed to grow even frostier during the 18-mile motorcade from the airport to the Kremlin. Speeding along at up to 65 miles an hour, the President could only catch

The President in face-to-face negotiations with Premier Kosygin, party leader Brezhnev and President Podgorny; laying wreath at Unk. Soldier's Tomb at Kremlin wall; signing pact in Saint Vladimir's

Shared by [Dennis Conrad](#)

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Jim Lloyd

Nick Ludington

Stories of interest

Stonewalling the press as political strategy (Editor and Publisher)

Gretchen A. Peck | for Editor & Publisher

The pandemic made us all appreciate face-to-face interactions — the ability to have personal, close and even candid conversations. While it’s something many of us take for granted, reporters know how vital it can be to query a source in person. Take, for example, reporters working at municipal and state government seats all across the country. A phone call or even a video interview with a legislator can never wholly substitute a conversation had in person, even during a press gaggle, or by way of a chance encounter in the hallway. When that ability or access is impeded for journalists, it makes the reporting more difficult, certainly, but it also potentially harms the public’s ability to know what their elected officials are up to.

The case of the Iowa Senate’s “repositioning” of journalists garnered national attention. In late 2021, the state Senate decided that the 2022 session would begin with a new rule for journalists: They’d be moved from the “press bench” and relegated to the upper-level gallery, reserved for the public. Reporters can still see and hear the proceedings down below, but they no longer have the opportunity to ask immediate follow-up questions of debating legislators. As The Washington Post’s Kim Bellware pointed out in her reporting on the move, the rule change “breaks with a more than 140-year tradition at the Iowa Capitol.”

Read more [here](#).

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In a vulnerable media economy, journalists are demanding ownership of their work (Poynter)

By: Alex Sujong Laughlin

Emma Gray and Claire Fallon were two rare millennial journalists who had worked for the same digital media organization for a decade.

By 2021, Gray was a senior women's reporter and Fallon was a culture writer, both at HuffPost. Together, they hosted a successful "Bachelor" recap podcast called "Here to Make Friends."

They enjoyed their jobs and had no plans to become "Substack people," as many of their peers had done. But in early 2021, less than a month after BuzzFeed acquired HuffPost, it laid off 47 U.S. staffers, including Gray, Fallon, and their producers, Nick Offenberg and Sara Patterson.

Suddenly they had no income, significant responsibilities — Fallon was a new parent and Gray had a mortgage — and no claim to the podcast they'd created and built over six years. Under their general employment contract with HuffPost, the intellectual property of the podcast they'd created — the concept, the title, the branding, and the feed — was wholly the property of their employer, which was now BuzzFeed.

Read more [here](#).

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Rachel Maddow returns to MSNBC, will switch to once a week^(AP)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — MSNBC's Rachel Maddow returned to the air Monday with some bad news for her fans: Starting next month, she will be doing her prime-time show only once a week.

After working her customary five nights a week for the rest of April, Maddow said, she will work on Monday nights only starting in May. The network said it will rotate guest hosts the other four weeknights on a show called "MSNBC Prime."

"For big news events, for things like the leadup to the election, I will of course be here more than that, but that is the general plan," Maddow said on her show Monday.

The cable news network's most popular personality had been on hiatus for the past two months, working on a new podcast and a movie adaptation of her book "Bag Man." She said the weekly schedule will give her "more time to work on some of this other stuff I've got cooking for MSNBC and NBC."

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - April 12, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, April 12, the 102nd day of 2022. There are 263 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 12, 1861, the Civil War began as Confederate forces opened fire on Fort Sumter in South Carolina.

On this date:

In 1945, President Franklin D. Roosevelt died of a cerebral hemorrhage in Warm Springs, Georgia, at age 63; he was succeeded by Vice President Harry S. Truman.

In 1955, the Salk vaccine against polio was declared safe and effective.

In 1961, Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first man to fly in space, orbiting the earth once before making a safe landing.

In 1963, civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. was arrested and jailed in Birmingham, Alabama, charged with contempt of court and parading without a permit. (During his time behind bars, King wrote his "Letter from Birmingham Jail.")

In 1981, former world heavyweight boxing champion Joe Louis, 66, died in Las Vegas, Nevada.

In 1985, Sen. Jake Garn, R-Utah, became the first sitting member of Congress to fly in space as the shuttle Discovery lifted off.

In 1988, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office issued a patent to Harvard University for a genetically engineered mouse, the first time a patent was granted for an animal life form.

In 1990, in its first meeting, East Germany's first democratically elected parliament acknowledged responsibility for the Nazi Holocaust, and asked the forgiveness of Jews and others who had suffered.

In 1992, after five years in the making, Euro Disneyland (now called Disneyland Paris) opened in Marne-La-Vallee, France, amid controversy as French intellectuals bemoaned the invasion of American pop culture.

In 2015, Hillary Rodham Clinton jumped back into presidential politics, announcing in a video her much-awaited second campaign for the White House.

In 2018, police in Philadelphia arrested two black men at a Starbucks; the men had been asked to leave after one of them was denied access to the restroom. (Starbucks apologized and, weeks later, closed thousands of stores for part of the day to conduct anti-bias training.)

In 2020, Christians around the world celebrated Easter Sunday isolated in their homes by the coronavirus. St. Peter's Square was barricaded to keep out crowds. Pope Francis celebrated Easter Mass inside the largely vacant basilica, calling for global solidarity in the face of the pandemic and urging political leaders to give hope and opportunity to people who had lost jobs.

Ten years ago: Jury selection began in Greensboro, North Carolina, for the corruption trial of former Democratic presidential candidate John Edwards, charged with six counts of campaign finance fraud. (The jury ended up acquitting Edwards of accepting illegal campaign contributions while deadlocking on the other five counts; federal prosecutors later dropped the remaining charges.)

Five years ago: The United States and China struck what appeared to be an unusual bargain as President Donald Trump said he wouldn't label China a currency manipulator and voiced confidence Chinese President Xi Jinping (shee jihn-peeng) would help him deal with North Korea's mounting threat.

One year ago: Police clashed with protesters for a second night in the Minneapolis suburb where an officer had fatally shot a Black man, 20-year-old Daunte Wright, during a traffic stop. Iran blamed Israel for sabotage at its underground Natanz nuclear facility that damaged its centrifuges. After months of lockdown from the coronavirus, shops, gyms, hairdressers and other "non-essential" businesses across Britain reopened. President Joe Biden said he would nominate Christine Wormuth, a former senior Pentagon official, to be the first woman to lead the Army. (Wormuth would be confirmed the following month.) India reported another record daily surge in coronavirus infections to overtake Brazil as the second-worst-hit country, behind the United States.

Today's Birthdays: Playwright Alan Ayckbourn (AYK'-bohrn) is 83. Jazz musician Herbie Hancock is 82. Rock singer John Kay (Steppenwolf) is 78. Actor Ed O'Neill is 76. Actor Dan Lauria is 75. Talk show host David Letterman is 75. Author Scott Turow is 73. Actor-playwright Tom Noonan is 71. R&B singer JD Nicholas (The Commodores) is 70. Singer Pat Travers is 68. Actor Andy Garcia is 66. Movie director Walter Salles (SAL'-ihs) is 66. Country singer Vince Gill is 65. Model/TV personality J Alexander is 64. Rock musician Will Sergeant (Echo & the Bunnymen) is 64. Rock singer Art Alexakis (al-ex-

AH'-kihs) (Everclear) is 60. Country singer Deryl Dodd is 58. Folk-pop singer Amy Ray (Indigo Girls) is 58. Actor Alicia Coppola is 54. Rock singer Nicholas Hexum (311) is 52. Actor Retta is 52. Actor Nicholas Brendon is 51. Actor Shannen Doherty is 51. Actor Marley Shelton is 48. Actor Sarah Jane Morris is 45. Actor Jordana Spiro is 45. Rock musician Guy Berryman (Coldplay) is 44. Actor Riley Smith is 44. Actor Claire Danes is 43. Actor Jennifer Morrison is 43. Actor Matt McGorry is 36. Actor Brooklyn Decker is 35. Contemporary Christian musician Joe Rickard (Red) is 35. Rock singer-musician Brendon Urie (Panic! at the Disco) is 35. Actor Saoirse (SUR'-shuh) Ronan is 28.

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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