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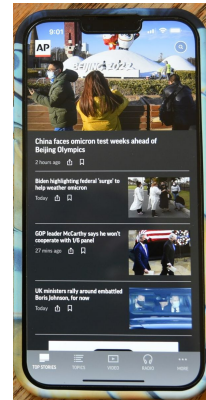
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Connecting

April 18, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this April 18, 2022,

Denis Paquin's 46-year career in news photography for six major organizations will draw to an end late next month when one of the AP's most-respected photojournalists begins retirement.

That news was shared Friday with AP staff by **J. David Ake**, AP's director of photography, with the lead: "Denis Paquin has announced his retirement. I'm going to pause for a moment to let that sink in..."

We bring you the story in our lead of today's Connecting. Denis serves as AP's Deputy Director of Photography/Global Sports and Operations, and if you'd like to share a memory of working with him, please send it along. His email – dpaquin@ap.org

Today's issue brings you a profile of our colleague **Melissa Jordan**, who relates how she applied for AP when she graduated from the University of Georgia at age 19, was

told to get more experience and eventually came back to land a position in Sioux Falls, and from there to Minneapolis and San Francisco.

Biggest story she covered? The 1989 crash of an airliner at the Sioux City, Iowa, airport, part of an AP team effort that included the **Des Moines bureau, J.L. Schmidt** of Lincoln, **Joe Ruff** of Omaha, **Sharon Cohen** and **Jim Litke** of Chicago, **James Finley** of St. Louis, and **Dave Briscoe** of Washington.

On Sunday, for the first time since 1991, Ramadan, Passover and Easter were observed at the same time. Judaism's Passover, Christianity's Easter and Islam's holy month of Ramadan converged on the same day. Passover continues until Saturday evening. We wish our Jewish colleagues a Happy Passover.

Here's to a great week ahead – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Denis Paquin to retire in late May after 46 years in news photography

A 46-year career in news photography – 25 of them with The Associated Press – will conclude in late May with the retirement of **Denis Paquin**, AP's deputy director of Photography/Global Sports and Operations.

“Denis has been at the helm of the sports report for well over a decade,” said **J. David Ake**, director of AP photography, in a note to staff Friday. “He’s led successful coverage of more Super Bowls, World Series, World Cups, Olympics, golf tournaments, tennis matches, NBA games, and cricket matches than I can count.”

“Most of you know him in his leadership role. A few of you remember him as a photographer in London and Washington. But I remember him when I was a young photographer at UPI. To say he was a machine with a camera in his hand would be an understatement. No one, I mean no one, could follow focus, compose and expose a picture better. Some people might have been luckier, but no one was consistently better. To stand next to him at an event meant you were going to lose.”



“His accomplishments with his camera include Gulf War One, five Reagan-Gorbachev summits, strife in N. Ireland, Somalia, Ethiopia famine, Mother Teresa’s funeral, Ayatollah Khomeini’s too, and way too many trips in the back of Air Force One.”

In his AP leadership role, Ake said, Paquin “shepherded the change to Sony cameras. The development of Expedite was Denis too. Plus, Redit, ePix II, robot cameras, etc. Because of Denis, AP delivers faster with increased quality.”

Paquin has worked for Canadian Press (Ottawa), United Press Canada (an expansion of UPI) (Halifax, Nova Scotia and Montreal), UPI (New York), Reuters (London & Hong Kong), and the National Post (Toronto, as Director of Photography). He joined Reuters for the inception of its international photo service in 1985.

Paquin began work for AP as a photographer in London from 1991-1994, in Washington from 1994-1997 and in Tokyo from 1997-1998 as the Senior Photo Editor for Asia. He left AP to become one of the founding directors at the National Post in Canada in 1998, then returned to AP as photo editor for Illinois in Chicago from 2004-2007. He moved to New York in 2007 to become National Sports Photo Editor, was named Deputy Director of Photography in 2010, and in 2018 began his current position.



At 2016 Olympic Summer Games in Rio de Janeiro. (AP Photo/Peter Morgan)

Among his assignments recounted by Paquin for Connecting: “I have 20 Winter and Summer Olympics under my belt since Lake Placid 1980. At least a dozen Super Bowls. Six World Cups. Countless World Series, Stanley Cups and NBA playoffs. At least 10

Masters and a litany of PGA and golf tournament. Half a dozen Wimbledon's and a multitude of Formula 1 races. And that's just sports.

"The news list goes on forever: Many as David mentioned, G7 summits. Refugees from Iraq to Turkey. Various disasters, uprisings in Indonesia, several coups in the Philippines. I traveled to various countries in the world to cover Pope John Paul II. The inauguration of Pope Francis. I've traveled with Margaret Thatcher and made my first of many visits to China with Ronald Reagan. Was in Washington for the Clinton administration.

"I nearly forgot a few other well-known personality funerals – since that seemed to be one of my many beats around the world: First one was the funeral train from Ottawa to Saskatoon for former Canadian Prime Minister John Diefenbaker. Then there was Rajiv Gandhi's funeral in New Delhi in 1991. Yitzhak Rabin in 1995. Ronald Reagan. And, of course, the Ayatollah's and Mother Teresa's in Calcutta and lastly Nelson Mandela's. All incredible events in their own right."

Paquin's last day with the AP will be May 27.

Connecting profile: Melissa Jordan



Melissa Jordan - The AP played a formative role in my development, and I am forever indebted to those who helped mold me.

I always knew I wanted to be a journalist. I was accepted for early admission to the University of Georgia's Henry W. Grady College of Journalism (Conrad Fink was a professor) in my home state and graduated at the tender age of 19.

I applied to AP immediately but was told to get some experience (still have that gentle and encouraging rejection letter) and got some at a weekly and then a small daily newspaper. Went back to get a master's from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, where Lou Boccardi was the speaker at my incoming class convocation.

Professor Mel Mencher gave me the wise advice to write Lou a letter thanking him for the speech and promising to apply again to AP. I did. He wrote back with more kind words and encouragement to try again in a year.

In 1988 I was hired on as a newswoman in Sioux Falls, S.D., and had an amazing mentor and role model in Tena Haraldson. It was while there that I covered my biggest story for AP: the crash of United Airlines Flight 232 at the Sioux City, Iowa, airport in 1989 in which 111 of the 285 on board were killed. I drew the assignment by virtue of being the person able to get there the fastest.



It was tragic to help cover - but I have two lighter memories.

First: Whoever was handling logistics could only find one hotel room to start so our male and female staff shared it, which slightly scandalized my parents. We were too busy for any shenanigans.

Second: At one point while dictating to the General Desk over a pay phone, I thought I was supplying some great color, but the editor barked at me, "Why is it relevant that the coroner is four feet tall?" It was, of course, the corn in the fields by the site of the crash, that was four feet high."

I moved to Minneapolis where I eventually became news editor (great training from Charles Hill, Paula Froke, Dave Pyle, John Dowling and others) then to San Francisco where I was ACOB (great training from Dan Day, Andy Lippman and others).

AP HOLDS FIRST NATIONAL Seminar For Staff On Computer-Assisted Reporting



The first national training seminar on computer-assisted reporting for AP staffers focused on the use of computers for both deadline and enterprise reporting.

Seventy-five members of the news staff, from bureau chief to editorial assistant, learned the tools of database research and analysis March 9-12 on the campus of Vanderbilt University in Nashville.

"The Nashville seminar was an overwhelming success," said William E. Ahearn, vice president and executive editor. "Staffers displayed great enthusiasm for learning the techniques of computer-assisted reporting and great eagerness to apply them.

"The seminar, along with similar training efforts on a regional and single-state basis, eventually will create the largest staff of reporters trained in computer-assisted reporting techniques. That will allow AP to do hard-edge stories for members and their readers in one state, regionally or in all 50 states."

Arlene Levinson, a New York General Desk

"In March of 1995 AP held the first national seminar on what was then called 'computer-assisted-reporting.' That's me in the front row rapt listening to Bill Dedman."

Couldn't resist the draw of covering Silicon Valley in the dot-com boom so I jumped to the San Jose Mercury News for eight years. Then the boom went bust and I wanted to choose my destiny amid endless cycles of layoffs as the industry contracted. I changed careers to do strategic communications for San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit. When I had enough years to retire from there with my pension, I did and thought retirement would suit me. Cashed out the equity in the California house and moved back to Georgia to retire, live in the country, plant a little garden, eat a lot of peaches, etc.

Twist ending! I missed working and since January have been a writer for the Georgia Department of Transportation. It's fun and interesting. We use AP style, which is still imprinted in my brain. I also work with clients as a consultant at Melissa Jordan Media Inc. My latest byline for GDOT was posted [here](#).

My family includes husband Jon, an editor for Marketplace Public Radio; daughter Nora, a developer for language app Duolingo in Pittsburgh; and daughter Zoey, a producer for Showtime in Los Angeles.

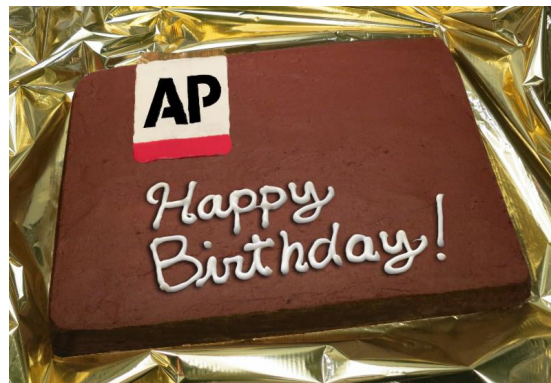
AP basically taught me everything I know about writing and I'll be forever grateful. You can reach me at - melissajordan@gmail.com

It's all klepto



Neal Ulevich - Kleptoparasitism. Wonderful word. When one species attempts to take food gathered by another. In this case a Cormorant on a pond near Denver has surfaced with a fish big enough to challenge its gullet...as well as attract the adjacent hungry Pelican. Photo by Neal Ulevich.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Marc Wilson

Stories of interest

Photographing Hell (New York Times)

By David Hume Kennerly

Mr. Kennerly won a Pulitzer Prize for his images of the Vietnam War and was the chief White House photographer for President Gerald Ford.

A couple of weeks ago I came across the graphic images of bodies littering the landscape in Bucha, Ukraine, a suburb a few miles west of Kyiv. Bucha was the latest example of Russia's barbarity in this war, but one of the first things I thought of was Jonestown.

In November 1978, Time magazine sent me to that remote settlement in Guyana to check reports that Representative Leo Ryan, a California Democrat, had been killed there while investigating allegations that a group, a cult really, called the People's Temple was holding people against their will.

I was one of the first photographers on the scene. Mr. Ryan had indeed been killed, as had three of my colleagues: Greg Robinson, a photographer for The San Francisco Examiner; Bob Brown, an NBC cameraman; and Don Harris, an NBC correspondent. But that was only the beginning. The bodies of more than 900 other people were strewn around a compound of one-story buildings in a jungle clearing, victims and perpetrators of a mass murder-suicide under the instruction of their maniacal leader, Jim Jones. Children and babies had been murdered by their parents. I photographed a nightmare.

Photos of Jonestown show the depths of the violence that people can visit on themselves and one another: When susceptible minds fall under the sway of a powerful leader, disaster is sure to follow.

Which brings me back to Bucha.

As the advance on Kyiv stalled, Russian forces began to torture, rape and kill civilians in Bucha, survivors and investigators say. More than 300 civilians have reportedly been killed; some were left in mass graves, others in the street or in their yards. Many had their hands tied behind them. They were executed.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Sibby Christensen, Richard Chady, Harry Dunphy.

-0-

Richard Roth undergoes successful kidney transplant surgery, thanks, in part, to CNN donor (CNN)

By Brian Stelter

Richard Roth, CNN's senior UN correspondent, the last remaining original employee of CNN, is recovering after a successful kidney transplant earlier this week.

In a note to colleagues on Friday, Roth asks: "How do you thank someone who gets you off dialysis and saves your life?"

Perhaps this is how: Roth is publicly thanking his donor, Samira Jafari, whom he calls his "heroine." Jafari is deputy managing editor of CNN's investigations unit. This story,

he says, "should be about her, and how urgent the need is for live donors to ease the suffering of the over 100,000 desperately seeking an organ to survive."

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

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I'm a radio journalist who is passionate about sound. Now I'm losing my hearing (CBC)

This First Person article is from Jennifer Chrumka, a radio journalist based in Kamloops, B.C. For more information about CBC's First Person stories, please see the FAQ.

It was a cool morning early last spring and I was interviewing a rancher about her concerns surrounding the upcoming wildfire season in the B.C. Interior. We walked through patches of snow and across a pasture of bunchgrass when we noticed a meadowlark sitting on a fence post. She commented on its beautiful song and we stood in silence as I held out my microphone to capture its voice. But as I turned up the volume on my recording device, I heard nothing.

The moment solidified something I'd long suspected: I am losing my hearing. And it marked the moment I started fearing the looming end of my vital link to the world I love — that of radio journalism.

For as long as I can remember, I've had a deep relationship with sound because I know how precious it is. Since childhood, I've been deaf in my left ear, a rare side effect from a commonplace infection. I miss a lot in casual conversation, and have learned to lip-read and manoeuvre my way through social settings as friends and family take part in choreographed dances to get on my "right" side.

In part, that's what drew me to a career in radio. I spend my workdays with headphones on and when I'm out in the field, I gather sound with a shotgun microphone and control the volume closely. I can lose hours in the studio mixing and layering the audio, creating documentaries that bring stories to life for listeners.

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

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WOMEN AND JOURNALISTS ARE TARGETS OF VIOLENCE IN TALIBAN-RULED AFGHANISTAN, REPORT SAYS (The Intercept)

Alice Speri

EIGHT MONTHS AFTER a U.S.-supported government in Afghanistan was defeated by the Taliban, violence against civilians and politically motivated violence persist in the

country even as incidents have become harder to report and verify amid an intensifying information blackout, a report published today reveals.

Journalists and women, particularly those participating in or covering demonstrations in opposition to Taliban rule, have been increasingly targeted, as have members of the former government and security forces. But Taliban infighting, clashes between the Taliban and the Islamic State, and incidents involving half a dozen anti-Taliban armed groups that have emerged or regrouped in recent months are also increasing, raising the prospect of escalating political violence in the months ahead. The data was compiled by the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project, or ACLED, in partnership with Afghan Peace Watch, an Afghan-run violence monitoring group.

The analysis underscores the growing challenge of monitoring reports of political violence at a time when more than 300 Afghan news outlets have shut down, and while many of those that continue to operate have been forced to adapt to Taliban censorship or face significant threats to their staff's safety.

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

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How Cassettes Changed the World (On the Media)

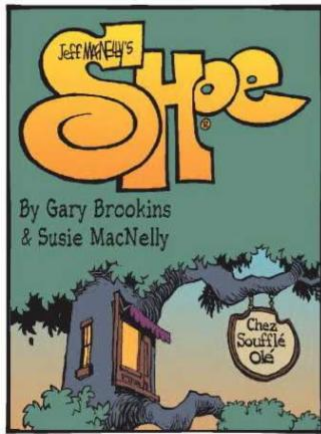
News Commentary

Cassette tapes mostly gather dust these days. But back in their heyday, they fundamentally changed how we communicate, in ways we're still making sense of today. On this week's On the Media, hear how the cassette tape fueled the Iranian revolution, helped pierce the Iron Curtain, and put human connection in the palm of our hands.

1. Simon Goodwin on his innovation to broadcast computer software over the radio back in 1983. Listen.
2. Computer programmer Fuxoft explains his role in 'Sneakernet,' which saw pirated material of all types smuggled into 1980s Czechoslovakia via cassette tape. Listen.
3. The role of cassette tapes in the Iranian Revolution. Listen.

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

The Final Word



Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

Today in History - April 18, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, April 18, the 108th day of 2022. There are 257 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 18, 1775, Paul Revere began his famous ride from Charlestown to Lexington, Massachusetts, warning colonists that British Regular troops were approaching.

On this date:

In 1865, Confederate Gen. Joseph E. Johnston surrendered to Union Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman near Durham Station in North Carolina.

In 1906, a devastating earthquake struck San Francisco, followed by raging fires; estimates of the final death toll range between 3,000 and 6,000.

In 1923, the first game was played at the original Yankee Stadium in New York; the Yankees defeated the Boston Red Sox 4-1.

In 1954, Gamal Abdel Nasser seized power as he became prime minister of Egypt.

In 1955, physicist Albert Einstein died in Princeton, New Jersey, at age 76.

In 1966, Bill Russell was named player-coach of the Boston Celtics, becoming the NBA's first Black coach.

In 1978, the Senate approved the Panama Canal Treaty, providing for the complete turnover of control of the waterway to Panama on the last day of 1999.

In 1983, 63 people, including 17 Americans, were killed at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon, by a suicide bomber.

In 2002, police arrested actor Robert Blake in the shooting death of his wife, Bonny Lee Bakley, nearly a year earlier (Blake was acquitted at his criminal trial but found liable in a civil trial).

In 2015, a ship believed to be carrying more than 800 migrants from Africa sank in the Mediterranean off Libya; only about 30 people were rescued.

In 2016, "Hamilton," Lin-Manuel Miranda's hip-hop stage biography of America's first treasury secretary, won the Pulitzer Prize for drama.

In 2019, the final report from special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation was made public; it outlined Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election but did not establish that members of the Trump campaign conspired or coordinated with the Russian government. (Mueller offered no conclusion on the question of whether the president obstructed justice.)

Ten years ago: Defense Secretary Leon Panetta apologized for gruesome photographs published in the Los Angeles Times that purported to show U.S. soldiers posing with the bloodied remains of dead insurgents in Afghanistan two years earlier. Dick Clark, the ever-youthful television host and producer who helped bring rock 'n' roll into the mainstream on "American Bandstand" and rang in the New Year for the masses at Times Square, died in Santa Monica, California, at age 82.

Five years ago: Turning back to the economic populism that helped drive his election campaign, President Donald Trump signed an order affecting government contracts and U.S. trade agreements, one that he said should help American workers whose jobs were threatened by skilled immigrants; the signing took place at the headquarters of tool manufacturer Snap-on Inc., in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

One year ago: The government announced that half of all adults in the U.S., or almost 130 million people 18 or older, had received at least one COVID-19 shot. Maren Morris won three awards and Luke Bryan was named entertainer of the year at the Academy of Country Music Awards.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Clive Revill is 92. Actor Robert Hooks is 85. Actor Hayley Mills is 76. Actor James Woods is 75. Actor-director Dorothy Lyman is 75. Actor Cindy Pickett is 75. Actor Rick Moranis is 69. Actor Melody Thomas Scott is 66. Actor Eric

Roberts is 66. Actor John James is 66. Rock musician Les Pattinson (Echo and the Bunnymen) is 64. Author-journalist Susan Faludi is 63. Actor Jane Leeves is 61. Ventriloquist-comedian Jeff Dunham is 60. Talk show host Conan O'Brien is 59. Actor Eric McCormack is 59. Actor Maria Bello is 55. Actor Mary Birdsong is 54. Actor David Hewlett is 54. Rock musician Greg Eklund (The Oolahs) is 52. Actor Lisa Locicero is 52. Actor Tamara Braun is 51. TV chef Ludovic Lefebvre is 51. Actor Fredro Starr is 51. Actor David Tennant is 51. Rock musician Mark Tremonti is 48. R&B singer Trina (Trina and Tamara) is 48. Actor Melissa Joan Hart is 46. Actor Sean Maguire is 46. Actor Kevin Rankin is 46. Actor Bryce Johnson is 45. Reality TV star Kourtney Kardashian (kar-DASH'-ee-uhn) is 43. Detroit Tigers first baseman and DH Miguel Cabrera is 39. Actor America Ferrera is 38. Actor Tom Hughes is 37. Actor Ellen Woglom (TV: "Marvel's Inhumans") is 35. Actor Vanessa Kirby is 34. Actor Alia Shawkat is 33. Actor Britt Robertson is 32. Actor Chloe Bennet is 30. Rock singer Nathan Sykes (The Wanted) is 29. Actor Moises Arias 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.

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