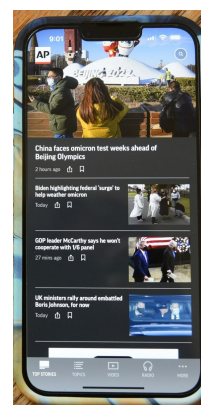


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Connecting

June 13, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this June 13, 2022,

Sue Cross was the AP's Toledo correspondent, 25 years old and newly married.

Ruth Gersh was the Virginia statehouse reporter, based in Richmond and seven years into her AP career.

The year was 1985 – and the two were among a group of 34 women from AP bureaus around the country who gathered in Kansas City in a pair of two-day seminars designed to encourage women to pursue administrative opportunities in the AP. The seminars were an outgrowth of the AP's affirmative action plan, established in 1983 as part of an agreement settling a 10-year-old dispute charging the AP with race and sex discrimination.

Seven women journalists (including Connecting colleagues [Virginia Sherlock](#), [Peggy Simpson](#) and [Shirley Christian](#)), with the help of what is now the News Media Guild/NewsGuild-CWA Local 31222, filed a lawsuit against the Associated Press,

winning a \$2 million settlement that provided for back pay, training, promotion goals, and bonuses for AP's female and black journalists. Our colleague **Martha Waggoner** wrote about it in [this 2019 Poynter story](#).

I came across a photo of one of the groups when going through files and thought it would be interesting – as a Connecting flashback – to tell you about the seminars that were hosted in Kansas City – a central location with affordable hotels and meeting facilities. I was in my second year as Kansas City chief of bureau at the time.

Our colleague **Kelly Smith Tunney**, the first woman to become an AP vice president, recalled she was the oldest in this group "and my experience growing up in AP had been different. This group had come of age when women were more conscious of the new feminism and had begun to expect more. As I recall, the women involved were most appreciative for the chance to meet other women and talk with them during the lunches and dinners. As with many meetings, the most meaningful conversations were not necessarily on the program."



Tunney worked in more than a dozen news bureaus around the world during her 40-year AP career, covering state legislatures, the White House and Congress, the civil rights unrest of the 1960s, the Cuban Missile Crisis and conflict and war abroad. In 1967, Tunney was a war correspondent in Vietnam, the first woman AP sent into a war zone since World War II. She was appointed director of Media Relations in New York in 1981 and later that year was named assistant personnel manager. In 1983, she founded the company's department of Corporate Communications and became its director, and in 1984 she became an assistant general manager of AP, the only woman to hold that title.

In 1988, she returned to Asia and was chief of bureau in Seoul, South Korea, directing staff coverage of political and economic unrest and nuclear threats in North Asia. She returned to New York in 1995 as Assistant to the President, overseeing the departments of Administrative Services, Corporate Communications and Wide World Photos. She retired in 2005.

The AP at the time of the seminars was far different than the AP of today – one of the major differences being the prominence of women in leadership positions, limited back then. Today, five of the seven on the AP Management Committee are women - President/CEO **Daisy Veerasingham**, Executive Editor **Julie Pace**, Chief Revenue Officer **Kristin Heitmann**, Human Resources/Corporate Communications Director **Jessica Bruce** and General Counsel **Karen Kaiser**. And **Anna Johnson** is Washington chief of bureau.

Those women's management seminars weren't totally responsible for the change, but they played a key role. And I thought it a subject worth exploring.

Got a thought to share? I look forward to hearing from you.

And if you have a photo of the second seminar, please share...

Here's to a great week ahead!

Paul

Seminar Explores Women's Career Opportunities



From left: Margy McCay, Julie Dunlap, Wick Temple, Debbye Hale, Ruth Gersh, Mary Anne Rhyne, Peg McEntee, Mary MacVean, Carolyn Lumsden, Kristin Gazlay, Laura Wilkinson (Baenen), Deb Reichmann, Diana Jensen (Heidgerd), Elaine Hooker, Sue Cross, Fran Richardson (Mears), Margaret Haberman, Dorothy Gast (Abernathy), Marjorie Anders, Joyce Venezia, Audrey Lee, Martha Waggoner, Kelly Smith Tunney, Paul Stevens.

From AP Log, Oct. 7, 1985

Thirty-four women from around the country gathered in Kansas City recently to talk about topics ranging from the AP's administrative structure to supervising veteran staffers to maternity leave.

A pair of two-day meetings was designed to encourage women to pursue administrative opportunities in the AP.

"We were very pleased with the spontaneity, the willingness to ask questions and the eagerness to learn about managing the AP," said Wick Temple, director of Human

Resources, which sponsored the session.

The seminar was an outgrowth of the AP's affirmative action plan, which was established in 1983 as part of an agreement settling a 10-year-old dispute charging the AP with race and sex discrimination. Included in the settlement was a \$50,000 training fund for women, which defrayed the cost of the Kansas City seminar.

The women were nominated by their bureau chiefs or department heads on the basis of their interest or potential for administrative careers. About half were news editors, correspondents or assistant bureau chiefs.

The program featured panels on a variety of topics, including the AP's administrative structure, being a bureau chief and blending personal and professional goals.

Panelists included Temple; Margy McCay, assistant personnel manager; Kelly Smith Tunney, director of Corporate Communications; Jim Lagier, deputy director of Newspaper Membership; Julie Dunlap, enterprise/special assignments editor; Elaine Hooker, Hartford bureau chief, and Paul Stevens, Kansas City bureau chief.

"Most valuable was the opportunity to meet AP women on a comparable level and find they have the same problems and concerns," said Portland news editor Sally Carpenter Hale.

Other participants echoed her interest.

Temple said he hoped the Kansas City seminar would serve as a springboard for future meetings to train men and women for management positions.

"Management training in the AP is not just a women's issue," Temple said. "It needs to be addressed for both men and women who are undertaking administrative careers. That's an important goal for us over the next few years."

Memories of two of the participants...

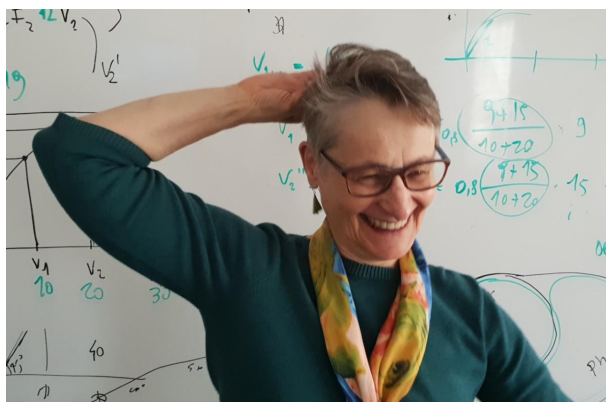
Ruth Gersh – who moved on to become news editor in Louisville, bureau chief in Iowa, assistant to the president (then Lou Boccardi), editor of AP's online/internet division (where, she noted, "we devised The Wire, great-great-great-great grandparent of AP News) and then various New York business- and product-related roles until the most recent, global director of product operations and infrastructure. She just passed the 44-year mark in AP service and is the only person in the group photo who is still working for AP.

She recalled:

It was a very different organization when we started. I still have the evaluation where next to "Appearance" (the fact that was part of evaluations says something all on

its own) my COB wrote, “Wears pants a lot.”

Professionally I think the conference forced AP folks in authority to start thinking deliberately about what the workforce looked like and what that meant for the company and its mission. And not just let things happen. Start, I said.



Personally, I’d say that conference put context around my AP experience. It forced me to think too, about where I fit into it. My AP generation of women were generally not the “firsts.” We were, however, often the second. People like Kelly Tunney or Edie Lederer or Nancy Shipley -- or the women who brought the lawsuit that led to that consent decree – broke the doors down. My generation just had to keep them open.

Do AP women of today appreciate gains made in those early days? “I think it works both ways – the women in top positions appreciating the previous generations and the earlier generations appreciating the work still being carried on. Especially since I think we’re in the midst of a real generational change at the AP. Batons are being passed.”

-0-

Sue Cross – who went on to be Juneau correspondent, Dallas news editor, Chicago news editor and then Chicago ACOB, Phoenix bureau chief, LA bureau chief, Western Regional VP, VP/Online in US Newspaper Markets, and then SVP for Americas revenue. She left AP in 2014 and became executive director and CEO of the Institute for Nonprofit News in 2015. INN is a network of more than 400 nonprofit nonpartisan news organizations, dedicated to public service reporting.

She recalled:

I remember that gathering very well. Looking back, it influenced my journalism career a lot. The friends and mentors I met there became such a rich part of my life for decades. I don't think I would have stayed at the AP without those relationships. The truth was that it was a company compelled to promote women and while many execs were supportive, it also was a pretty hostile place in a lot of ways for a long time and that network of women really mattered.

Also, it was such a big deal just to be invited! Meeting people like Elaine (Hooker) and Margy (McCay) and Kelly (Smith Tunney) who had had amazing careers was a huge thrill.



A funny story about what I remember most: the hearts of palm.

I was nervous about how to navigate the social parts of the meeting. Colleges didn't teach any "soft skills" then and I'd never been to a business dinner or meeting in my life. You all took us to what seemed like a really swank dinner -- maybe in the Country Club Plaza or somewhere similar. There were more forks than I knew what to do with and I was at a loss by the salad course, because right in the middle of the plate was this pale green-white ... log. I had no idea what to do with it. I'd already decided my best chance at social survival was to surreptitiously watch everything Kelly Tunney did and mimic it, without being obvious (I hoped), because she had this amazing, easy-going sophistication. She proceeded to say something like "Oh good, hearts of palm," slice it up and eat it. I did the same, with great relief!

The memory of that still makes me smile, and so did this photo.

A familiar question: Is the media fair in its Ukraine coverage?



Dan Perry - As the Ukraine war drags on journalists are looking for new angles, and so we have reached the point of introspection. In this way the world's latest major flare-up has made up ground on the veteran Israeli-Palestinian conflict, with its endless kerfuffle over media bias. Ours is a turbo-charged era indeed.

Appearing on the Tel Aviv-based international channel I24, I was asked whether journalists have an obligation to be more impartial than they have been, by and large, in covering Vladimir Putin's invasion. It is something I'd often pondered at AP during coverage of conflicts, where I often found myself pushing for more analysis and dot-

connecting. It was never more so than with the Israeli context, with its competing narratives, fuming partisans, and genuine moral complexity.

On the show I argued that there is a difference between fairness and impartiality – as, for example, impartiality toward mass murder would be inhuman. Proponents of the Anglo-American school often deride European reporters for excessive personal perspective, but perhaps the opposite extreme is also not quite right (and what's worse, often both feigned and unbecomingly self-righteous).

Read more [here](#).

Click [here](#) for video.

Dan Perry began his AP career as Romania correspondent in the early 1990s, served as bureau chief in the Caribbean and in Jerusalem, and was (before the “news director” era) AP’s Europe-Africa Editor based in London (2004-2010) and Middle East Editor based in Cairo (2012-2018). He was also the chairman of the Foreign Press Association for Israel-Palestine from 2001-2004.

On media coverage of first Jan. 6 hearing

[David Briscoe](#) - An interesting "analysis" by AP's Ted Anthony (in Friday's Connecting) of the media aspect of the first public hearing on the Jan. 6 attempt by Donald Trump and his supporters to stop Congress from performing its democratic duty of certifying the clear winner of the 2020 presidential election. Ted is probably right about the professional media savvy involved in the hearing and their ultimate lack of impact on a sharply divided nation.

But he misses several points, including:

1. It could be viewed as effectively a crafted prelude and guide for prosecution -- maybe more a message for the American judiciary than to the American public.
2. It might also be viewed as possibly diluting or further tainting any support for another election run by the former president or encouraging Republicans to pursue other alternatives (unlikely as that may seem at this point.)
3. The extent to which the opening hearing revealed the depth of the committee's work and its direct focus on the actions and inactions of the former president during the attack on the Capitol.
4. The clarity of the critical role Liz Cheney is playing in exposing the ills in her own party coupled with the lack of any rising leadership among the Democrats, certainly not including the low-key committee chairman Whatshisname who was the only Democrat allowed to "ask" questions.
5. The context of the hearings in a time of horrible violence, economic uncertainty and weakening support for President Biden and all of government. Republicans are trying to portray the hearings as an unnecessary distraction from more serious

problems, while it may very well be getting at the roots of the problem -- our diminished democracy and the rise of blatant lawlessness.

6. How the hearings themselves already are leading to yet more lies and distortions from defenders of a failed president, the ultimate result of which has yet to be seen.

There is certainly more to be said than that the hearings are "sound and fury, signifying nothing." They are much more than that.

Effectively dismissing the work of the committee as showmanship and viewing the hearings simply as a repackaging of an event about which Americans have already formed unbending opinions seems to me to have limited value. Ted Anthony, as smart and objective as he has always been, might just be playing to the biggest audience of all: the growing majority that has lost faith in the ability of media to play a constructive role in saving our ailing society. The fact that the other "estates" of the American system are failing as well, including democracy itself, offers no solace.

The caveat:

I have to note, however, Ted's piece was a thought-provoking part of much broader AP coverage, including an [excellent pre-hearing piece](#) off the keyboard of Calvin Woodward, which addresses more of the questions still hanging after the hearings opened:

Our bloopers: What's in a name?

[Charlie Hanley](#) - In 1977, early in the premiership of Israel's Menahem Begin (as we then Romanized the Hebrew spelling), his office advised AP that actually it preferred the spelling "Menachem," the "ch" better approximating the Hebrew.

That next Sunday, the weekly Cabinet meeting story landed at the 50 Rock Foreign Desk from Jerusalem, still with the old spelling. As I passed off the copy to one of my desk partners for a rewrite, I told him of the new policy. Out went the story, and up rose a great guffaw from over at the General Desk. The lead read:

"JERUSALEM (AP) – Israeli Prime Minister Menahem C. Begin on Sunday. ..."

That's right. I'd told my deskmate, "Begin's got a 'c' in the middle of his name now."

Some of you other Nate Polowetzky minions can imagine the dread with which I faced the boss's fury on Monday morning.

Best of the Week

Intimate AP package explores the burdens borne by young children providing

essential care for parents



AP Photo/LM Otero

Indianapolis-based health writer Tom Murphy was doing routine source work, talking with an advocacy group for patients with Lou Gehrig's disease about obstacles in caregiving, when he heard something arresting: Often, it's children who provide the care.

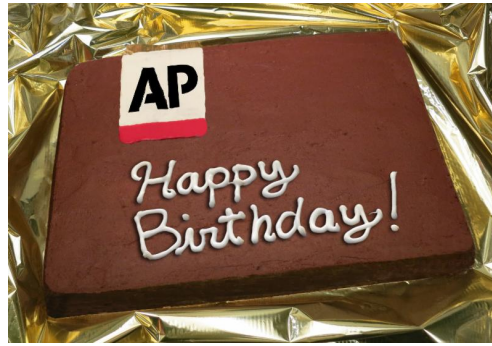
With that spark, Murphy dug into the research and found that millions of school-aged children across the country are doing heavy-duty caregiving tasks. And he knew that to make a story as compelling as it deserved, he'd need to find a family willing to let journalists see everything they're going through.

Murphy's reporting connected him with an academic who was planning a training session in Dallas for kids in exactly such a situation, and he leaned on that source to help find a receptive family. Murphy and New York-based video journalist Shelby Lum worked for weeks to ensure they could fully show what a family goes through every day.

In the end they discovered a family that was not only cooperative but compelling: The Kotiya/Pandya family allowed Murphy, Lum and Dallas photographer Mat Otero to spend parts of four days in their Plano, Texas, home, shadowing their young caregivers, Ronan, 11, and Keaton, 9, and even let the journalists witness a therapy session the boys attended.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Jim Limbach](#)

[Matt Sedensky](#)

[Jamie Stengle](#)

[Dan Wakin](#)

[Jim Williams](#)

Stories of interest

Belongings of missing men found tied underwater in Amazon (AP)

By FABIANO MAISONNAVE

ATALAIA DO NORTE, Brazil (AP) — Brazil's search for an Indigenous expert and a journalist who disappeared in a restive area of the Amazon a week ago advanced with the discovery of a backpack, laptop and other personal belongings of the men submerged in a river.

The items were found Sunday afternoon, and were carried by Federal Police officers by boat to Atalaia do Norte, the closest city to the search. In a statement Sunday night, police said they had identified the items as the belongings of both missing men, including a health card and clothes of Bruno Pereira, the Brazilian Indigenous expert.

The backpack, which was identified as belonging to freelance journalist Dom Phillips of Britain, was found tied to a tree that was half-submerged, a firefighter told

reporters in Atalaia do Norte. It is the end of the rainy season in the region and part of the forest is flooded.

The development came a day after police reported finding traces of blood in the boat of a fisherman who is under arrest as the only suspect in the disappearance. Officers also found organic matter of apparent human origin in the river. The materials are being analyzed.

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

-0-

A woke meltdown at the Washington Post (Spiked)

By JENNY HOLLAND

Has there ever been a more cosseted, sheltered and pampered group of women in the history of humanity than today's young(ish) female journalists? Not since Marie Antoinette decreed that the plebs should eat cake has a group of women been more out of touch with the concerns of ordinary people.

Take the story of now ex-Washington Post journalist Felicia Sonmez.

If you are of a certain vintage, you might remember the Post as the paper with a legendary female owner – one who, in 1971, defied the American government and published the Pentagon Papers, which exposed the inside story of the US's involvement in Vietnam. Whereas the current generation of Washington Post women are bravely standing up to... crap jokes.

Just over a week ago, Post reporter Sonmez took umbrage when a colleague, David Weigel, retweeted the following joke: 'Every girl is bi. You just have to figure out if it's polar or sexual.'

Read more [here](#). Shared by Karen Ball.

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How media should cover gun violence (NPR)

NPR's Sacha Pfeiffer talks with Dr. Dannagal Young, professor of communications and political science at the University of Delaware, about how media coverage of gun violence affects news consumers.

SACHA PFEIFFER, HOST:

Here in this newsroom, we've been having a lot of conversations about our role and responsibility as journalists when covering horrific tragedies like the shootings in Uvalde and Buffalo and Tulsa. We report the facts. But how we tell these stories and what details we choose to focus on - that's something we wanted to spend some time talking about today. So we've called Dannagal Young. She's a professor of

communications and political science at the University of Delaware, and she studies the impact that news stories have on the public. Dannagal, welcome to ALL THINGS CONSIDERED.

DANNAGAL YOUNG: Thanks, Sacha.

PFEIFFER: Your research looks in part at what you call the media's bias in favor of covering specific events and individual people instead of looking more broadly at what leads to tragedies like mass shootings. You call it episodically framed stories versus thematically framed stories. Explain the difference between those two.

Read more [here](#).

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Journalists finally advised to stop referring to all veterans as former snipers, Special Forces (Task and Purpose)

BY MAX HAUPTMAN

Better late than never.

A new update to the Associated Press style guide wants journalists to be more specific when writing about service members and veterans.

“Don’t use the term military training broadly,” the official account for the AP Style Book tweeted on Tuesday. “Be specific: She pointed to her six months as a Marine captain in Iraq, not she pointed to her military training.”

You’ve probably seen it before – military terminology being misinterpreted to make someone seem like the ultimate badass trained warrior.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dick Lipsey.

-0-

7 Iconic Photos From the Vietnam War Era (History.com)

The first sergeant of A Company, 101st Airborne Division, guides a medevac helicopter through the jungle foliage to pick up casualties suffered during a five-day patrol near Hue. AP Photo/Art Greenspon

DAVE ROOS

Many of the reporters and photographers who covered the conflict in Vietnam came from a new generation of journalists. Coverage of earlier wars was heavily influenced by the government, says Susan Moeller, a journalism professor and author of *Shooting*

War: Photography and the American Experience of Combat, but in Vietnam, the journalistic mission was different.

“There was no longer that expectation that they should speak the government’s line,” says Moeller. “In Vietnam, journalists saw their remit as calling into question some of the statements and assertions of the White House and Pentagon.”

Stark photographs of dying soldiers and wounded civilians provided a striking counter-narrative to official reports that America was winning the war in Vietnam. As the conflict dragged on and the death toll of American soldiers mounted, these iconic images added fuel to the growing anti-war movement and shook the halls of power.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Paul Albright.

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Fifty Years Later, Kim Phuc Phan Thi Is More Than ‘Napalm Girl’ (Smithsonian Magazine)

Jane Recker
Daily Correspondent

On June 8, 1972, Nick Ut, a Vietnamese photographer for the Associated Press, snapped one of the most iconic images of the Vietnam War. Officially titled The Terror of War, the photo is known colloquially as “Napalm Girl” for its main subject: Kim Phuc Phan Thi, who is shown as a terrified, naked 9-year-old fleeing a deadly napalm attack.

This month, the famous photo turns 50. To mark the occasion, Phan Thi, now 59 and living in Ontario, Canada, wrote an essay in the New York Times reflecting on how the image has changed her life—and why it has resonated so strongly for so many years.

In the essay, Phan Thi writes that she has “only flashes of memories” of that terrible day. Before the attack, she remembers sheltering with her family and South Vietnamese soldiers in a Buddhist temple, per CNN’s Oscar Holland. When the soldiers heard their own army’s planes overhead, they told everyone to evacuate.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Claude Erbsen.

Today in History - June 13, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, June 13, the 164th day of 2022. There are 201 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 13, 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson nominated Solicitor-General Thurgood Marshall to become the first Black justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

On this date:

In 1865, Nobel Prize-winning poet-playwright William Butler Yeats was born in Dublin, Ireland.

In 1942, a four-man Nazi sabotage team arrived on Long Island, New York, three days before a second four-man team landed in Florida. (All eight men were arrested after two members of the first group defected.) President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Office of Strategic Services and the Office of War Information.

In 1966, the Supreme Court ruled in *Miranda v. Arizona* that criminal suspects had to be informed of their constitutional right to consult with an attorney and to remain silent.

In 1971, The New York Times began publishing excerpts of the Pentagon Papers, a secret study of America's involvement in Vietnam from 1945 to 1967 that had been leaked to the paper by military analyst Daniel Ellsberg.

In 1977, James Earl Ray, the convicted assassin of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., was recaptured following his escape three days earlier from a Tennessee prison.

In 1981, a scare occurred during a parade in London when a teenager fired six blank shots at Queen Elizabeth II.

In 1983, the U.S. space probe Pioneer 10, launched in 1972, became the first spacecraft to leave the solar system as it crossed the orbit of Neptune.

In 1996, the 81-day-old Freemen standoff ended as 16 remaining members of the anti-government group surrendered to the FBI and left their Montana ranch.

In 1997, a jury voted unanimously to give Timothy McVeigh the death penalty for his role in the Oklahoma City bombing. The Chicago Bulls captured their fifth NBA championship in seven years with a 90-86 victory over the Utah Jazz in game six.

In 2005, a jury in Santa Maria, California, acquitted Michael Jackson of molesting a 13-year-old cancer survivor at his Neverland ranch.

In 2016, a day after the Orlando, Florida, nightclub shooting rampage that claimed 49 victims, Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton offered drastically different proposals for stemming the threat of terrorism and gun violence; Trump focused heavily on the nation's immigration system (even though the shooter was U.S. born) and redoubled his call for temporarily banning Muslims from the United States, while Clinton said that as president she would prioritize stopping "lone wolf" attackers and reiterated her call for banning assault weapons.

In 2020, Atlanta's police chief resigned, hours after the fatal police shooting of Rayshard Brooks; protests over the shooting grew turbulent, and the Wendy's restaurant at the scene of the shooting was gutted by flames.

Ten years ago: Federal prosecutors dropped all charges against former Democratic vice-presidential candidate John Edwards after his corruption trial ended the previous month in a deadlocked jury. Matt Cain pitched the 22nd perfect game in major league history and the first for the San Francisco Giants, beating the Houston Astros 10-0.

Five years ago: A comatose Otto Warmbier (WARM'-beer), released by North Korea after more than 17 months in captivity, arrived in Cincinnati aboard a medevac flight; the 22-year-old college student, who had suffered severe brain damage, died six days later. Rolling Stone magazine agreed to pay \$1.65 million to settle a defamation lawsuit filed by a University of Virginia fraternity over a debunked story about a rape on campus.

One year ago: Israel's parliament narrowly approved a new coalition government, ending the historic 12-year rule of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and sending the polarizing leader into the opposition; Naftali Bennett, a former ally of Netanyahu, became prime minister after the 60-59 vote. Character actor Ned Beatty, whose films included "Deliverance," "Network" and "Superman," died at his Los Angeles home at 83. Novak Djokovic came all the way back after dropping the first two sets to beat Stefanos Tsitsipas in the French Open final for his 19th Grand Slam title. A Pekingese named Wasabi won best in show at the Westminster Kennel Club, notching a fifth-ever win for the toy breed. (Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the event was held outdoors in a New York suburb in June instead of at Madison Square Garden in February, and it was closed to the public.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor Bob McGrath is 90. Actor Malcolm McDowell is 79. Former U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is 78. Singer Dennis Locorriere is 73. Actor Richard Thomas is 71. Actor Jonathan Hogan is 71. Actor Stellan Skarsgard is 71. Comedian Tim Allen is 69. North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper is 65. Actor Ally Sheedy is 60. TV anchor Hannah Storm is 60. Rock musician Paul De Lisle (deh-LYL') (Smash

Mouth) is 59. Actor Lisa Vidal is 57. Singer David Gray is 54. R&B singer Deniece Pearson (Five Star) is 54. Rock musician Soren Rasted (Aqua) is 53. Actor Jamie Walters is 53. Singer-musician Rivers Cuomo (Weezer) is 52. Country singer Susan Haynes is 50. Actor Steve-O is 48. Country singer Jason Michael Carroll is 44. Actor Ethan Embry is 44. Actor Chris Evans is 41. Actor Sarah Schaub is 39. Singer Raz B is 37. Actor Kat Dennings is 36. Actor Ashley Olsen is 36. Actor Mary-Kate Olsen is 36. DJ/producer Gesaffelstein is 35. Actor Aaron Johnson is 32.

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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