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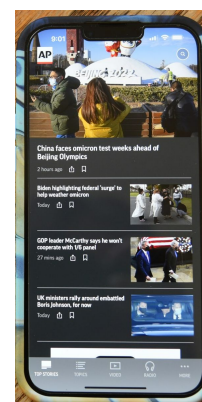
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Connecting

June 15, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this June 15, 2022,

If you had to do it over again, would you pursue a career in the news business?

That’s a question posed to nearly 12,000 journalists by the Pew Research Center, and in [findings released Tuesday](#), Pew found that 77 percent said YES.

Our colleague [David Bauder](#), AP’s media writer, wrote about the findings in a wire story that is our lead item for today’s Connecting and Ye Olde Connecting Editor asked Dave what his reply would be:

“Oh boy. I’d definitely do it over again. It is meaningful work, challenging and when has it not been fun to come into work in a newsroom? The vast majority of people I’ve met at AP are dedicated to the mission and have been an honor to work alongside. For someone curious about the world, the opportunity to cover important stories and meet people — some of them heroes — has been priceless.”

So how about you? Send along your thoughts on the question and any others posed in the survey (outlined in Bauder's story) – and tell us why you feel that way.

Would you do it all over? Why? What do you think about the future of the industry? What should change, what should remain the same?

Today's issue includes announcement of a scholarship formed by retired Minneapolis AP newsman **Jeff Baenen** – and sparks my thought that we ought to list all the scholarships that are directly tied to Connecting colleagues like Jeff. So, if you have created one or know of one, drop me a note. We will put them together in a future issue.

Our colleague **Peter Arnett** shares a travelogue – an account of a family vacation to the French Riviera – the first family trip overseas in three years as Covid put the brakes on travel.

Last and certainly not least, this note: your Connecting editor and his wife **Linda** today celebrate 54 years of marriage. Back then, we were a couple of 21-year-olds with the world as our oyster - with not a clue on what life would bring. We count our many blessings. We're making it work.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Worries aside, poll finds most journalists would do it again



Washington County Sheriff Doug Mullendore prepares to speak at a news conference Thursday, June 9, 2022 in Smithsburg, Md. Authorities say an employee opened fire at a manufacturing business in western Maryland, leaving three coworkers dead and one other critically injured before the suspect and a state trooper were wounded in a shootout. (Colleen McGrath/The Herald-Mail via AP)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — Journalists face harassment, fight against misinformation and are keenly aware of the industry’s financial troubles and the dim view many Americans have of them.

Despite all that, most love their jobs and wouldn’t trade it for something else.

Those were among the findings in a survey of nearly 12,000 journalists conducted by the Pew Research Center and released on Tuesday.

“To me, that’s a fascinating juxtaposition,” said Amy Mitchell, director of journalism research at Pew. “They get it. They feel the struggle. They understand the public’s feelings toward them. But they love it. They’re proud of their work.”

More than three-quarters of the journalists (77%) said that if they had the chance to do it all again, they would pursue a career in the news business. Three-quarters of journalists over age 65 say the job has a positive impact on their emotional well-being, although these numbers get smaller for those who are younger.

When asked to describe their industry in a single word, 72% of journalists surveyed pick something negative — words like “struggling,” “chaos,” “partisan,” “difficult” and

“stressful,” Pew said.

And when asked for one word that journalists think the general public would use to describe the news industry, only 3% could be characterized as positive. Words like “inaccurate,” “untrustworthy,” “biased” and “partisan” were used most often.

Years of attacks from former President Donald Trump and his allies have taken a toll. Coupled with a companion poll of American adults in general, journalists have a more positive view of the job they do than people they are reporting for. For instance, 67% of journalists believe they’re doing a very or somewhat good job of covering the most important stories, compared to 41% of the public. Most journalists (65%) said news organizations do a good job of reporting accurately, while only 35% of the public feels this way.

Pew found that 42% of the journalists said they had been harassed or threatened over the past year, mostly online. Sixteen percent of women said they’d been sexually harassed by someone outside their organization.

More than 9 in 10 journalists said they considered made up or false information to be a significant problem for society. A third of respondents said they come across falsehoods on a regular basis, Pew said.

For all the negativity, 70% of journalists pronounce themselves very or somewhat satisfied with their jobs, Pew said. Roughly the same number of people say they’re excited about their work.

By overwhelming numbers, Pew found journalists using social media like Twitter and Facebook to promote their work and to hunt down possible sources. However, two-thirds of journalists said social media has had a very or somewhat negative impact on the profession.

“People overall don’t trust (social media) a lot,” Mitchell said, “but the vast majority are using it.”

The number of people who face harassment or come across unreliable information online may explain the apparent contradiction, she said.

Fully three-quarters of the journalists feel it’s a major problem when people with the same opinions get their news from the same organizations, while 39% of the public sees it that way, Pew said.

Pew’s findings are based on a national, online survey of 11,889 journalists conducted between Feb. 16 and March 17, with a margin of error of plus or minus 1%.

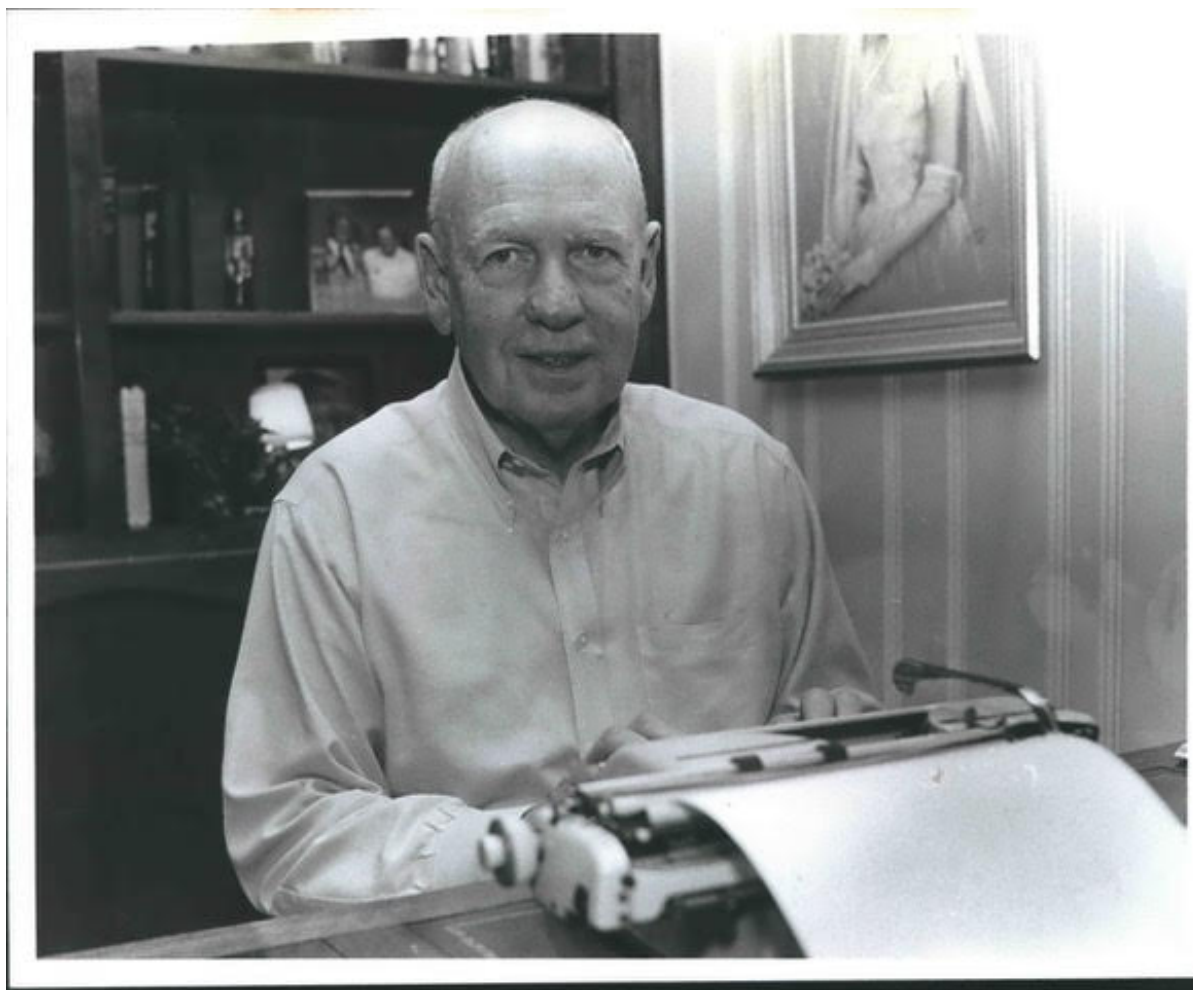
Click [here](#) for a link to this story.

AP Sports Writing Legends in Alabama

[Kendal Weaver](#) - The Alabama Sports Writers Association, celebrating its 50th anniversary, has honored 50 Legends of Alabama sports writing, including two from

The Associated Press — **Hoyt Harwell**, retired Birmingham AP correspondent, and **John Zenor**, the current Montgomery-based AP sports writer. Below are photos and brief ASWA bios of each. All 50 were honored at the association's June 12 awards convention.

Sending notice of these honors to the Connecting membership is my pleasure — Harwell helped me find my way as a young AP reporter in Montgomery in 1971 and, towards the end of my career, Zenor made my role as state editor a joy with his terrific reporting and writing in a sports-crazy state.



[Hoyt Harwell](#)

Harwell grew up just outside of Mobile and as a junior at Samford got his foot in the door with the Associated Press as a teletype operator. After graduating he started writing for the news service in Mobile, worked a bit in Atlanta, was named AP's Birmingham Chief in 1966 and headed that office until retiring in 1992.

Harwell covered major sports in the state for 26 years, but his reach went way beyond the playing fields. He did numerous stories on the Civil Rights Movement including the Freedom Riders, the 16th Street Baptist Church Bombing, and the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago.



[John Zenor](#)

John Zenor has been the Associated Press sports writer for the state of Alabama for 20 years. He has covered 10 national championship games in college football thanks to the success of the state's programs.

Zenor started his career covering Auburn sports for the Opelika-Auburn News six months before graduating from college. He covered minor league baseball and local sports for The Albany (Ga.) Herald before returning to his home state. Zenor covered Alabama football for the Montgomery Advertiser for two years before joining AP.

He served as ASWA president 2017-18.

Click [here](#) for a full list of winners.

Jeff Baenen creates broadcast scholarship at his alma mater

Former Minnesota AP newsman [Jeff Baenen](#) has created the Jeffrey Baenen Broadcast Scholarship at his alma mater, Minnesota State University Moorhead (Class of 1976).

The scholarships will go to fulltime students at MSUM majoring in Broadcast Journalism, with preference for incoming freshman or transfer students with a 3.0 GPA or higher. Applications will open in spring 2023, with the first scholarships awarded in fall 2023.



Jeff says he wanted to encourage students to pursue a career in broadcast journalism and to learn the skills to prepare them for this rapidly evolving field. He also wanted to give back to MSUM for giving him tools, training and experience for a 42-year career with The Associated Press, including 24 years as Minnesota broadcast editor in Minneapolis. He retired from AP in September 2020 and can be reached at jefflaurabaenen@comcast.net

MSUM Broadcast Journalism:

<https://www.mnstate.edu/academics/majors/broadcast-journalism/>

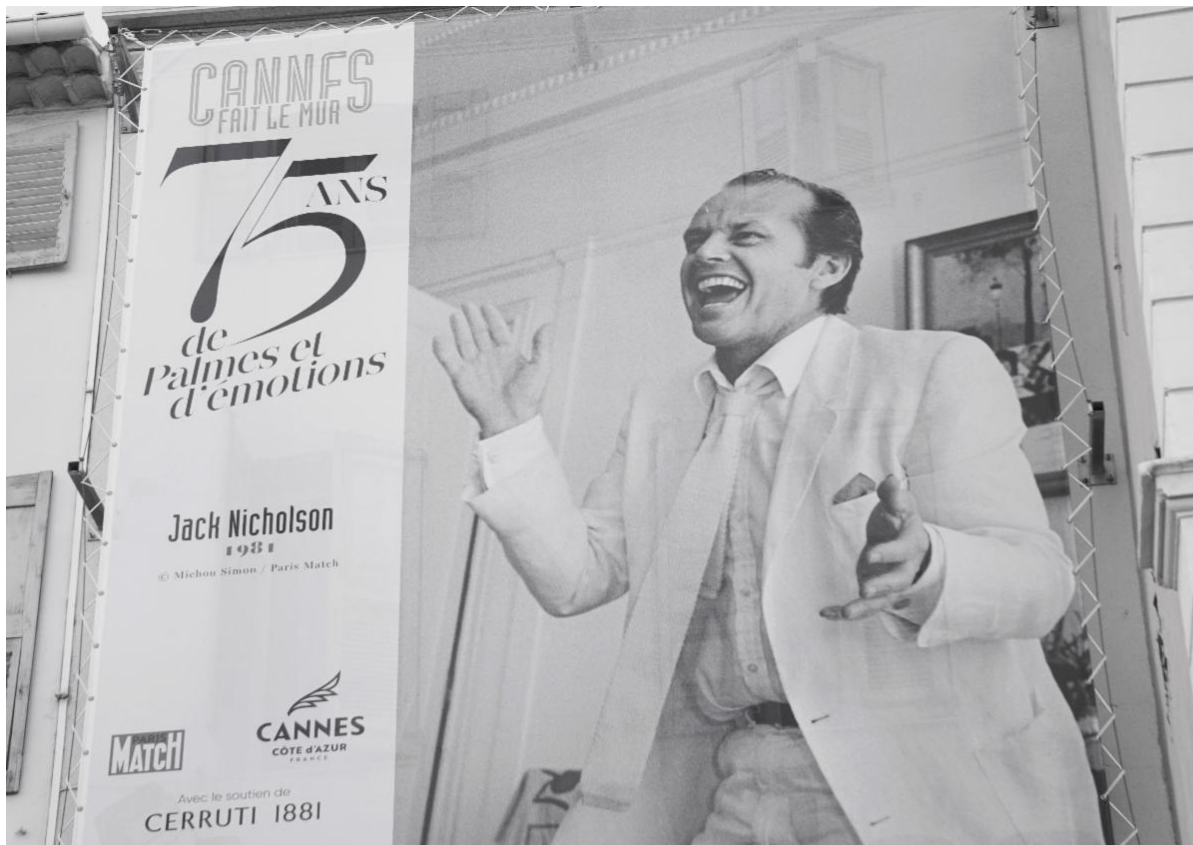
American movie icons on France's cote d'azur



Peter and Nina Arnett at Place Massena, Nice, in late May, that features myriad fountains in a lush park. Photo by their daughter Elsa Arnett.

Peter Arnett - With COVID seemingly in retreat, my family and I risked taking our first overseas vacation in three years, to the French Riviera, returning this past weekend. I'd made a few quick trips there over the years, but this was a deep dive, three weeks traveling from St Jean Cap Ferat to Saint-Tropez, via Villefranche -sur-Mer, Nice, Cap

L'Antibes, Juan le Pins, and Cannes. That's a lot of towns, but most are packed quite closely together and easily visited. What struck me was the cultural and social impact America has had on the region, notable in Nice with its Quai des Etats Unis (wharf of the United States), so named in 1917 honoring the U.S. decision to join the Triple Entente. It shares the long waterfront pathway with the Promenade des Anglaise that divides the harbor front from the myriad hotels, cafes and markets in the old and new city. I noticed on Wikipedia that Thomas Jefferson visited Nice in 1787 and stayed in the old city, and that since then numerous rich Americans have built hotels and mansions there, and authors such as F. Scott Fitzgerald, who set his *TENDER IS THE NIGHT* in a hotel on the French Riviera. What you don't need Wikipedia for, though, is to see the enormous cultural impact of the American movie industry on the region. Below are a few observations I made, and photographed, during our visit.



Photos by Peter Arnett

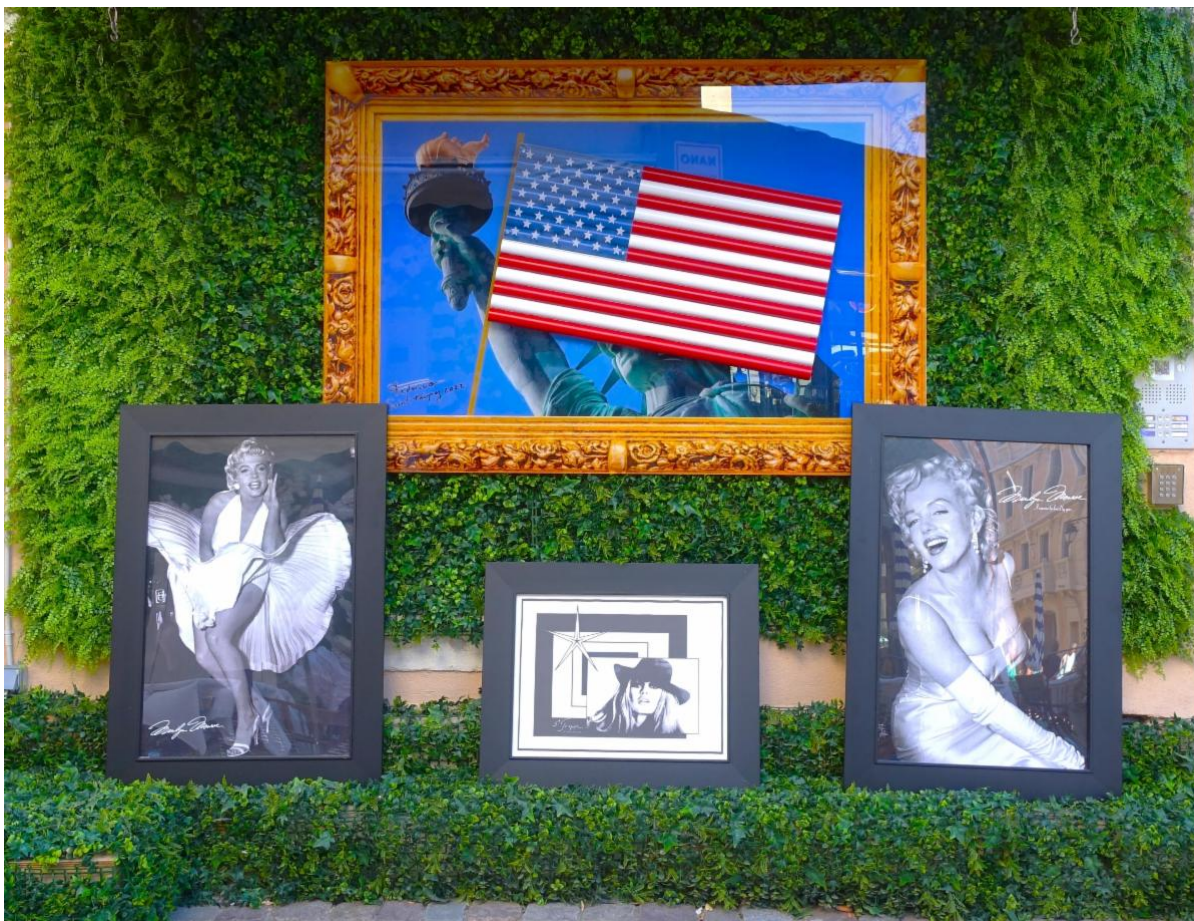
We arrived in CANNES a week after the 75th anniversary of the film festival, and the city was still decorated with large posters of Hollywood movie stars, including this one of Jack Nicholson, circa 1981, tacked high up the wall of an apartment building on the Rue L'Antibes, popular for its people-watching and sidewalk cafes. Next to a nearby sidewalk was a poster of the then young team that won the Palme d'Or for the 1976 movie *TAXI DRIVER*: Director Martin Scorsese, Jodie Foster, Robert de Niro and Harvey Keitel.



MARRIAGE VIP
 Errol Fynn and Patrice Wymore, his third wife, are seen here in a black and white photograph. The couple is surrounded by a crowd of people, including several men in military uniforms. The bride is in the center, wearing a white dress and holding a bouquet. The groom is to her right, in a dark suit. Several men in military uniforms, some wearing berets, are surrounding them. One man in the foreground is playing a drum. The background shows a crowd of people and a building with yellow walls and green shutters.

A VIP WEDDING
 The wedding of Errol Fynn and Patrice Wymore was a grand affair. The ceremony took place in a grand church, and the bride and groom were surrounded by a large crowd of guests. The wedding was a major event in the city, and it was widely covered by the press. The couple's wedding was a true Hollywood event, and it was a day to remember for everyone who was there.

GARIBALDI SQUARE in NICE featured a score of French and Hollywood movie personalities in an outdoor exhibition, including his one of Errol Fynn and his third wife Patrice Wymore exiting the city's Lutheran Church on 23 October 1950 after their marriage. Other poster-sized pictures featured other Hollywood visitors to the city, including director Alfred Hitchcock with Prince Grace of Monaco who as an actress had starred in three successful Hitchcock movies, and David Niven with the former movie star.



We visited SAINT-TROPEZ, formerly a remote French fishing village that has become synonymous with Cote d'Azur glamor since Brigitte Bardot sensationally starred in AND GOD CREATED WOMEN, the movie made here in 1956. The biggest yachts we'd seen on the coast were moored here along Quai Sufrin, where sidewalk cafes were crowded with visitors and outdoor artists painted the scenes. Brigitte Bardot remains a popular cultural icon here and I saw many photographs and painted likenesses of her, but here too the Hollywood mystique exists as in other French Riviera communities. Note the above art store window, offering signed photographs of America's own Marilyn Monroe, with a smaller one of Brigitte Bardot --- pairing the most glamorous movie stars of the 20th century.

Connecting mailbox

'Menahem C. Begin'

[Jerry Cipriano](#) - Thank you to Charlie Hanley for solving a decades-old mystery -- how the legendary Begin story began. It is one of my favorite AP stories, one I have recounted many times over the years. I was working on the National Broadcast Desk in New York in 1977. I remember it as a series of stories, writethrus and corrections. The first story referred to the Israeli prime minister as Menahem Begin. Next came a writethru to "correct" the prime minister's name to "Menahem C. Begin." That was followed by another writethru, correcting the name again, this time to Menachem Begin. My broadcast coworker Ira Dreyfuss and I got quite a chuckle out of this as we imagined how it might have happened. We figured someone on the Foreign Desk had

noticed the misspelling and cried out, "Hey, you left the C out of Begin's name," which resulted in the Menahem C. Begin "correction." We figured that same person cried out again, "No, the C is not Begin's middle initial. It goes in his first name -- M-e-n-a-C-h-e-m!" Then came the final, correct story, referring to the prime minister as Menachem Begin. From that day on, Ira and I always referred to Begin -- offline, of course -- as Menachem C. Begin.

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Buzz words

Ed Breen - Too many buzz words sneaking in.

"Democracy news editor" and "local news success."

My favorite: we hired a new receptionist and titled her "director of first impressions."

Lord Almighty!

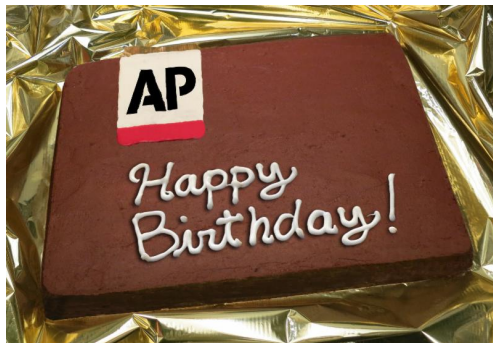
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Strawberry Super Full Moon



Nick Ut - I send you this picture of Super Strawberry Full Moon Monday night in Whittier California, June 13,2022.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Mike Harris](#)

[Tom Larimer](#)

Welcome to Connecting



[Dorothea Degen](#)

Stories of interest

“WE HAVE TO BE READY”: STEADY AND CALM JOE KAHN TAKES CHARGE OF THE TURBULENT TIMES

(Vanity Fair)

By JOE POMPEO

Today, June 14, 2022, is the day that gossipy media types have been breathlessly gabbing about and speculating over for the better part of the past few years: Joe Kahn’s first day as executive editor of The New York Times. In an April announcement that surprised absolutely no one, publisher A.G. Sulzberger confirmed what Times

Kremlinologists had long expected—that Kahn, a mild, Harvard-educated, Pulitzer Prize-winning newsman who rose up from the foreign reporting corps to the paper of record's top management ranks, would succeed Dean Baquet to become the institution's next newsroom leader. I caught up with Kahn in a video call on Monday afternoon and got his thoughts on steering the paper's ongoing digital transformation, building a diverse workplace, and handling journalists' social media use—as a Twitter-fueled controversy recently consumed a rival. We discussed everything from a certain photo shoot to the role of independent outlets, like the Times, in an increasingly polarized society. Our conversation is condensed and edited below.

Vanity Fair: I was looking back at the first time I interviewed you, and it was 10 years ago, when you were international editor and the Times was launching a Mandarin language site in China.

Joe Kahn: Yeah, that path to growth is not yet open [laughs]. [Chinese censors ended up blocking the Times' website in October 2012.] But some things are continuous with what we might have talked about back then, in terms of, that was sort of the early days of our real push to become more of a true international news organization. We were building up much more sort of full-stack operations overseas, that could deliver the many things The New York Times needs in order to have a full report about the world, as well as to create its own continuous 24-7 news operations. So after that time was really the full realization of like, you know, creating this big hub in London, and now also in Seoul, with a variety of different coverage areas, different desks, having some of their editing staff and reporting staff abroad, having elements of our live team and breaking-news teams, but also putting in really smart editors who can direct and assign and help shape coverage in their own time zones. And also having the flexibility to be able to jump in on a huge American story that requires top editors to drive during the late-night and the early morning, to keep our report really urgent and fresh. So in that sense, some of the things we were working on back then have become more of a reality for us.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Larry Blasko.

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How police treatment of journalists at protests has shifted from cohabitation to animosity (Poynter)

By: Erin McGroarty

In September 2020, former President Donald Trump referred to an MSNBC reporter suffering a knee injury from a police projectile as a “beautiful sight.” The reporter had been injured by police while covering a Black Lives Matter protest earlier that year.

That statement, and the near-constant attacks on the press during his administration, played a key role in a dark, new chapter for press freedom in the United States.

“(That) administration serves as a horrible, yet impactful, example of the ways that pitting the population against the press and blaming reporters for unfavorable

coverage can be a potent political tactic,” said Katherine Jacobsen, United States and Canada regional program director for the Committee to Protect Journalists.

Following the murder of George Floyd and the killing of Breonna Taylor at the hands of police, millions took to the streets across America and the world in the spring of 2020 to protest police brutality and a system of law enforcement that has historically and disproportionately targeted Black and brown people.

Read more [here](#).

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Zimbabwe Court Convicts Reporter for The New York Times (New York Times)

By Declan Walsh

NAIROBI, Kenya — A court in Zimbabwe on Tuesday convicted a freelance reporter for The New York Times on charges of breaching the country’s immigration laws, in another blow for the free press in the increasingly authoritarian country in southern Africa.

The journalist, Jeffrey Moyo, has been accused of obtaining fake press credentials for two Times journalists who entered Zimbabwe last year on a reporting trip. Mr. Moyo’s lawyers said the charges were baseless, and even one lawyer for the government had acknowledged the case was dubious.

The court fined Mr. Moyo 200,000 Zimbabwean dollars, about \$615, and imposed a two-year suspended sentence that could be enforced if he is convicted of a similar offense in the next five years. His lawyers said they would appeal the verdict.

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

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Rough Draft review: Katy Tur’s fascinating – and flawed – story of news and family (Guardian)

By CHARLES KAISER

Katy Tur spent 500 days covering Donald Trump’s 2016 campaign, wrote a bestselling book called Unbelievable, and now hosts a show on MSNBC. She was planning to pitch a memoir about the 2020 election but changed her mind during the Covid pandemic, after a heavy package arrived from her mother.

The package contained a hard drive, which contained every minute of tape her parents, Bob Tur and Marika Gerrard, had taken as sole proprietors of the Los Angeles News Service. The drive contained all the footage shot from helicopters piloted by her

father, Bob: from Madonna giving her parents the finger on the day she married Sean Penn to the famous chase of OJ Simpson as he sped through the streets of LA in a white Ford Bronco.

As a child, Katy was often a passenger as her mother leaned far out of the cockpit to catch the best possible shot. Her daredevil father once got so close to a forest fire, he was cited for fanning its flames. Sometimes Katy felt the heat on her shins from a blaze barely 500ft below.

That hard drive convinced Tur to switch subject. Her second book therefore tells a story she had spent her adult life avoiding: the story of her childhood. The switch was the right choice because even a particularly hard-fought campaign could not compete with the drama of her upbringing.

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

Today in History - June 15, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, June 15, the 166th day of 2022. There are 199 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 15, 1775, the Second Continental Congress voted unanimously to appoint George Washington head of the Continental Army.

On this date:

In 1215, England's King John put his seal to Magna Carta ("the Great Charter") at Runnymede.

In 1864, Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton signed an order establishing a military burial ground which became Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

In 1904, more than 1,000 people died when fire erupted aboard the steamboat General Slocum in New York's East River.

In 1934, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an act making the National Guard part of the U.S. Army in the event of war or national emergency.

In 1938, Johnny Vander Meer pitched his second consecutive no-hitter, leading the Cincinnati Reds to a 6-0 victory over the Brooklyn Dodgers in the first night game at Ebbets Field, four days after leaving the Boston Bees hitless by a score of 3-0.

In 1944, American forces began their successful invasion of Saipan (sy-PAN') during World War II. B-29 Superfortresses carried out their first raids on Japan.

In 1960, the Billy Wilder movie "The Apartment," starring Jack Lemmon and Shirley MaLaine, premiered in New York.

In 1985, the Shiite Muslim hijackers of a TWA Boeing 727 beat and shot one of their hostages, U.S. Navy diver Robert Stethem (STEE'-them), 23, throwing him out of the plane to die on the tarmac at Beirut airport.

In 1991, Mount Pinatubo in the northern Philippines exploded in one of the biggest volcanic eruptions of the 20th century, killing about 800 people.

In 1996, Ella Fitzgerald, the "first lady of song," died in Beverly Hills, California, at age 79.

In 2002, an asteroid with a diameter of between 50 and 120 yards narrowly missed the Earth by 75,000 miles — less than a third of the distance to the moon.

In 2020, the Supreme Court, in a 6-3 decision, ruled that a landmark civil rights law protects gay, lesbian and transgender people from discrimination in employment. U.S. regulators revoked emergency authorization for malaria drugs promoted by President Donald Trump for treating COVID-19 amid evidence that they didn't work and could cause serious side effects. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said death rates for coronavirus patients with chronic illnesses were 12 times higher than for others who became infected.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama eased enforcement of immigration laws as he announced a new policy, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA. An armored car heist at the University of Alberta in Canada left three armed guards dead; fellow guard Travis Baumgartner later pleaded guilty to murder charges and was sentenced to life in prison with no chance of parole for 40 years.

Five years ago: Two escaped inmates sought in the killings of two guards on a Georgia prison bus were captured after being held at gunpoint by a rural Tennessee homeowner whose vehicle they were trying to steal.

One year ago: Fresh off a trio of European summits, President Joe Biden arrived in Geneva for a highly anticipated faceoff with Russia's Vladimir Putin. California, which had been the first state in the country to order a coronavirus lockdown in March 2020, became one of the last to fully reopen; the state lifted most of its pandemic

restrictions. A New York judge approved the extradition of former movie mogul Harvey Weinstein to California, where Weinstein – already serving a 23-year sentence for a rape conviction – faced additional sexual assault charges. Major League Baseball said pitchers would be ejected and suspended for 10 games for using illegal foreign substances to doctor baseballs; umpires would begin regular checks of all pitchers.

Today's Birthdays: R&B singer Ruby Nash Garnett (Ruby and the Romantics) is 88. Funk musician Leo Nocentelli (The Meters) is 76. Actor Simon Callow is 73. Singer Russell Hitchcock (Air Supply) is 73. Rock singer Steve Walsh is 71. Chinese President Xi Jinping (shee jihn-peeng) is 69. Actor-comedian Jim Belushi is 68. Country singer Terri Gibbs is 68. Actor Julie Hagerty is 67. Actor Polly Draper is 67. Rock musician Brad Gillis (Night Ranger) is 65. Baseball Hall of Famer Wade Boggs is 64. Actor Eileen Davidson is 63. Actor Helen Hunt is 59. Rock musician Scott Rockenfield (Queensryche) is 59. Actor Courteney Cox is 58. Country musician Tony Ardoin is 58. Country musician Michael Britt (Lonestar) is 56. Actor-rapper Ice Cube is 53. Actor Leah Remini is 52. Actor Jake Busey is 51. Actor Neil Patrick Harris is 49. Actor Greg Vaughan is 49. Actor Elizabeth Reaser is 47. Rock singer Dryden Mitchell (Alien Ant Farm) is 46. Former child actor Christopher Castile is 42. Rock musician Billy Martin (Good Charlotte) is 41. Actor Jordi Vilasuso is 41. Rock musician Wayne Sermon (Imagine Dragons) is 38. Actor Denzel Whitaker is 32. Olympic gold medal gymnast Madison Kocian is 25. Actor Sterling Jerins 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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