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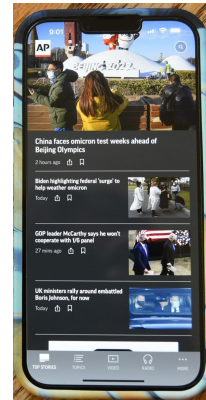
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Connecting

Oct. 19, 2022

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One of John Gaps III's most iconic AP photos: A man hammers away at the Berlin Wall on Nov. 12, 1989, as the border barrier between East and West Germany was torn down after 28 years, symbolically ending the Cold War.

Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this Oct. 19, 2022,

By the longevity standards of many of his Connecting colleagues, the Associated Press career of **John Gaps III** was relatively short: 15 years.

But oh, what he packed into those years in covering major events around the world through the lens of his camera – a camera loaded with film to start but then moving into a digital photo world that John helped open up for the AP.

We're sorry to bring you news of his death at the age of 63. Today's issue brings you the fine wire story assembled by our colleague Omaha AP newswoman **Margery Beck** and the reaction to his death from many of his AP colleagues. His family provided Connecting with its thoughts on his loss.

"John was a huge figure in the photo department. To say he was a big personality who could make a big picture is an understatement," AP director of photography **J. David Ake** said in Beck's story. "He had a big heart to go with those big pictures he made while traveling the globe for the AP."

John was into music but a fan of Katy Perry, I'm not sure. But she certainly could have been singing just about him in her hit song "Firework" and these lyrics:

*'Cause baby, you're a firework
Come on, show 'em what you're worth
Make 'em go, "Oh, oh, oh"
As you shoot across the sky
Baby, you're a firework
Come on, let your colors burst
Make 'em go, "Oh, oh, oh"
You're gonna leave 'em all in awe, awe, awe*

Leave 'em in awe, he did. RIP, John.

If you would like to share a story of working with John, please send it along.

Have a good day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Globe-trotting AP photographer John Gaps III dies, age 63



By MARGERY A. BECK
The Associated Press

Award-winning former Associated Press photographer John Gaps III, who documented everything from war zones to the NCAA College World Series during his career, was found dead at his home in Des Moines, Iowa, his family confirmed Tuesday. He was 63.

Gaps was found by police in his home Monday when his son, Ethan Gaps, requested a welfare check after not hearing from his father for several days. Ethan Gaps said it was not immediately clear how his father died.

John Gaps had said it was the risks he took getting a unique shot — more so than his photography skills — that make his photos stand out.

“It’s interesting, because then you become aware of the fact that the work you did is going to outlive you. And that’s something,” he said.

Gaps’ career began while he was still attending Iowa State University, where he was a photographer for the Iowa State Daily. He was hired by the Omaha World-Herald in

the early 1980s before joining the AP in 1985. While Gaps was based in Iowa, the AP sent him to cover conflicts and events around the world, including the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the funeral of Princess Diana in 1997.



FILE - Associated Press photographer John Gaps III grimaces in pain as he is helped by

Palestinian men moments after he was shot in the knee with a plastic bullet while photographing clashes between Palestinian and Israeli soldiers in the occupied Gaza Strip on March 7, 1994. (AP Photo/Adel Hana, File)

In 1994, he was shot in the leg by an Israeli officer while covering street demonstrations in the Gaza Strip.

"I was photographing the scene when I noticed a soldier near the gate to the army base about 100 yards away from me. He was down on one knee, in a shooting position. He had a scope on his rifle and he was tracking me," Gaps said at the time.

The soldier fired a .22-caliber plastic sniper round that lodged in Gaps' thigh. It was removed by doctors at Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City before he was flown back to the U.S. The Israeli Army later determined the soldier violated orders when he shot Gaps.

"John was a huge figure in the photo department. To say he was a big personality who could make a big picture is an understatement," AP director of photography J. David Ake said. "He had a big heart to go with those big pictures he made while traveling the globe for the AP."

Gaps, in an interview with Des Moines television station WHO-13, later recalled one instance where he pushed himself to get a shot, finding a high spot away from other photographers to cover Princess Diana's funeral procession.

Seeing his work in print was still a thrill, even in the last weeks of his life, his son Ethan said.

"I was at a gas station on Sept. 15 when I spotted a USA Today article featuring 40 years of iconic moments in history, and a couple of his photos were there," he said. "So I got a copy and showed it to him. He thought that was really cool."

Dave Tomlin, a former AP Des Moines bureau chief who hired Gaps, recalled the time Gaps was sent to Germany to cover the collapse of the Berlin Wall. Tomlin by then was working at AP's headquarters in New York when he received what appeared to be a box of rocks from Gaps. In a note, Gaps explained the rocks were fragments of the wall and gave instructions for Tomlin to keep one for himself and "take one down the hall to the president's office."

"I just had to marvel at the brilliant politics of that maneuver," Tomlin said. "I never would have thought to do that if I'd been in his shoes. So I did exactly as he asked."

Gaps left the AP in 2000 to become senior photographer at the Des Moines Register, where he worked until 2011.

Cliff Schiappa, AP's former Midwest regional photo editor, said he first met Gaps back in 1982 and recalls Gaps as a talented and aggressive sports and news photographer who knew how to get a good picture.

"He was fast on his feet. He was smart. He could read a situation as it was unfolding and know where to be with his camera," Schiappa said. "Those are good qualities whether you're shooting a war or a football game."

Gaps also had empathy for the people whose images he captured, which helped him connect with his subjects, Schiappa said.

“I think he got professional fulfillment from going to war,” he said.

AP photographer Scott Applewhite, who describes his friendship with Gaps as that of “army buddies,” said they would often share their experiences in places like Somalia, the Balkans and Haiti.

“We covered the Persian Gulf War and met up in Kuwait City on liberation day,” Applewhite said Tuesday. “We spoke to each other about such things, I suppose, because nobody else would understand.”

The executive editor of the Des Moines Register, Carol Hunter, said Gaps loved what he did.

“The truth is that he relished seeking out and telling stories, period, whether big or small, whether with his camera or through text or later video,” Hunter said.

Retirement was hard for Gaps, Applewhite said.

“I was one of the few comrades who truly knew his bravery, his bravado, his tears,” he said. “I recently told John that he was an exclamation point in a world full of commas. He liked that.”

Gaps was also known for his writing. He produced columns for newspapers throughout his career, and he published a book in 1997 of his own poetry and photos titled “God Left Us Alone Here: A Book of War,” that takes a poignant look at his encounters with war and conflict from around the world.

He is survived by his four children, John Henry Gaps, Sarah Bonsall, and Ethan Gaps, all of Des Moines, and Emilia Gaps, of Ankeny, as well as six grandchildren.

Associated Press reporter Josh Funk contributed to this report from Omaha, Nebraska.

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

Click [here](#) for link to Des Moines Register story. Shared by David Speer.

A statement from John Gaps' family: **‘John always had a finger on cool’**

[Sarah Gaps Bonsall](#) - Here is a statement my sister Emilia put together:

We are saddened to share the untimely passing of our father, John Gaps III. While his legacy in photojournalism is rich—covering news events around the globe, ranging from the Gulf War to the Super Bowl—he is remembered best for his warmth, charm, and deep understanding of the human experience.

At his core John was an artist and a writer, photographing nature and still lifes in his free time, writing a weekly column for the Des Moines Register community sections later in his career, and sharing poetry with friends and family. The walls of his home were graced with photos of David Bowie, Iggy Pop, and Neil Young. A beloved and often shared memory of his was bringing home bootleg Joy Division records to his young children in the late 80s. John always had a finger on cool.



John's time as a war correspondent brought images of war-torn refugees and insurrection to the world. Tormented in his final years by the atrocities he witnessed, we hope that his story sheds light on PTSD and the price paid by those who bear witness to war.

John is survived by his four children John Henry, Ethan, Sarah, and Emilia, seven grandchildren, and sisters Julie and Jeri.

Colleagues remember John Gaps III

David Ake – *AP director of photography in note to staff:* We learned today that photographer John Gaps III has passed away. Anyone who has been with AP for more than a decade or two will remember John as a huge figure in the photo department. To say he was a big personality who could make a big picture is an understatement.

I worked against or with him on several jobs, like the oil spill from the Exxon Valdez, the Branch Davidian standoff in Waco, the Sioux City plane crash, and way too many Iowa Caucuses to count. It was much better to work with him, than against him. Trust me on that.

He loved photography and loved talking about pictures, especially if they were his, which was part of his charm. He had a big heart to go with those big pictures he made while traveling the globe for the AP.

He was also a pioneer in the conversion from film to digital photography. He figured out how to make those early NC2000 news cameras actually make a frame. Those of us who had the "pleasure" of carrying one of those beasts know exactly what I'm talking about. But he stuck with it, and look where we are now.

I will miss sitting with John in the 801 Chophouse in Des Moines while he prattled on about everything I was doing wrong and how he could help me fix it. As I said above, it was part of his charm. I loved every minute of it and wish I could do it one more time.

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FILE - Prince William, second from left, watches the hearse pull away from

Westminster Abbey carrying the body of his mother Princess Diana as his father Charles, the Prince of Wales, looks on after a funeral service on Sept. 6, 1997, in London. Next to the Prince of Wales is brother Prince Harry and uncle Viscount Charles Spencer, Diana's brother. (AP Photo/John Gaps III, Pool)

Hal Buell - *former AP director of photos* - John Gaps III was not your everyday photographer and his desire no matter the risk to make telling photos made him a natural for AP. I sent him on his first foreign assignment – and one of the last international assignments I made – to cover the dramatic fall of the Berlin Wall.

He sought advice before his departure and I told him just make good pictures.

John covered a batch of wars and conflicts from Somalia to Haiti, Gulf War, Croatia, a string of Olympics and Super Bowls. He took a hit covering troubles in Israel but sought still more. He published a book, GOD LEFT US ALONE HERE A Book of War.

His signature picture came from the burial of Princess Diana. Taking an odd position, and working with a long lens, he photographed the grieving family awaiting the arrival of Diana's funeral assembly. The photo was printed on the cover of PEOPLE and a stack of front pages internationally.

He left AP to take an assignment at the Des Moines Register where he continued to contribute photos to the AP picture report.

In his later life he offered interpretations of the Bible presented nearly daily on his Facebook page.

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Randy Evans – *former editorial page editor, Des Moines Register* - Newspaper friends today are sharing stories about John from happier days — assignments they worked on with him, his ability to get subjects to open up, and the war stories, real war stories, John told.

I remember AP's Des Moines bureau chief Kristi Chew/Umbreit sharing with me years ago the explanations and paperwork that grew out of John chartering a plane, a Boeing 737, while covering fighting in Panama. John's explanation: I was told to charter a plane if necessary, and a 737 was all that was available.

But fans of exceptional journalism remember John's photos — from the funeral of Princess Diana, from NFL quarterback Kurt Warner's outstretched arm at the goal line in the Super Bowl, from war zones around the globe, and the bread-and-butter assignments that were a staple of his years with the AP and the Register.

And we also remember John being wounded as he tried to take his audience up close to the action he documented.

His death is a big loss — for his family and friends, and for journalism.

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Brian Horton - John Gaps was a larger-than-life figure who could, with equal skill, make the photograph of the day and then, puffing on a cigar, spin a great story back in the workroom that was equally interesting.

For many years, he was the go-to photographer for assignments around the world, from the first Gulf War in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to countless Olympics and Super Bowls.

Perhaps one of his accomplishments that still echoes today is that he and a few others, like David Longstreath, were the pioneers in making the NC2000 digital camera work in the field. That changed the world for a whole lot of people.

The afternoon of the Oklahoma City bombing, suspect Timothy McVeigh was apprehended in a county away from the scene. Longstreath and Gaps raced to the town and made a picture of him being led out of the Sheriff's office. Journalists representing outlets from around the world were in that crowded street that day. David and John were the only ones there with digital cameras and their photos were in newsrooms around the world before the other journalists could even get back to Oklahoma City. The digital dawn had broken.

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Ruth Gersh - *former AP Des Moines bureau chief* - John was based in Des Moines when I was bureau chief there and so ostensibly worked for me. But he was gone far more than he was in Iowa. Because John was known first of all for being called on for and getting to the biggest stories, including the fall of the Berlin Wall, Princess Diana's funeral, the Gulf War, major sporting events without end. Name a headline story of his era, and he was likely there, shooting. (And not in Des Moines. But who's counting.)

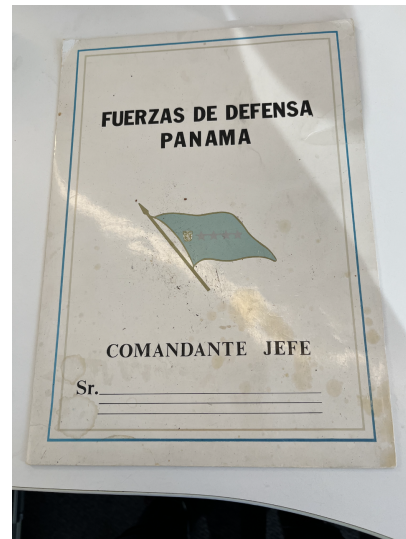
John was also known for some iconic expense accounts, even among photographers, which is saying something. He once had to – er – grease the wheels to get some equipment into a country I won't libel. On the expense account I was expected to sign, it was listed as "Bribery." I suggested he revise it to "Custom Duties" before approving. There was an entry in another one for a \$20 "riot fee." What's a riot fee, I asked? "When someone puts a gun in your face and demands twenty bucks." I signed that one too.

There was also the time he managed to fall into the Taj Mahal's reflecting pool, but I never did learn what actually happened there. Too many competing versions.

John's AP story, of course, can best be told through his photos. But also, that he always brought back something from his travels and his big stories to entertain his long-suffering bureau chief. I have a piece of the Berlin Wall, and I believed him when he said it was real. Also, from the capture of Manuel Noriega by U.S. troops in Panama, a folder from the general's desk. He called me Jefe from then on.

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Amy Sancetta – I'm saddened today after learning that former AP staff photographer John Gaps III has passed away. He was only 63. John was a powerful force within AP photos, in his news and sports coverage, and after work when our crews would come down from the day's efforts. I worked assignments with John all over the world, and you could be sure he'd come out of things with really really good pictures in his camera. And he was just as good a writer. I hope you find your peace in the next world, John. And the that your family and loved ones here on earth will find their way to theirs.



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Cliff Schiappa - It's very sad news about John J. Gaps III passing away. I knew John when he joined us on the photo staff of The Kansas City Times in the early '80s. He was enthusiastic, aggressive, and passionate about photojournalism. He had the smarts to size up a situation and know where he and his camera should be to make the best photo, especially in news and sporting events.

When he joined the AP in Des Moines, he was often called upon for national and international events, including all the major American sporting events as well as wars in eastern Europe and the Middle East. John seemed to get professional fulfillment from covering military conflicts, a very tough assignment in which he thrived, but also paid the price when he was shot in the leg.

After AP, I had a chance to visit him in the small town of Winterset, Iowa, where he had a storefront photo and framing shop where he also taught photography. He seemed very at ease with the slower pace, finding some personal peace near the bridges of Madison County.

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Dave Tomlin – *former AP Des Moines bureau chief* - Yes, I hired John. I remember it was a high-risk/high-gain decision. He was more aggressive and determined than anyone I ever met and did create a mess now and then for me to clean up. It was always more than worth the trouble. Yet he could also be very deft and sensitive, and I think he had good judgment in picking the best approach for gaining the access, the position and the picture he was after. He was perfect for the job of one-person photo staff in an AP bureau. He seemed to know everyone in the state who could help him in any situation, and when a story broke, he never waited to be told what to do. A very special and memorable guy.

Disagrees with how best to save local news

[Doug Pizac](#) - In yesterday's Connecting was a piece from the Washington Post on how America should spend billions to revive local news. While I totally agree that local news needs saving, I am in disagreement over Mr. Bacon's how-to-do-it suggestions.

For example, he says create news outlets with 150-200 staffers (or maybe 75) with an average salary of \$80,000 in each of the nation's 435 congressional districts for about \$7 billion, plus operating costs taking it to over \$10 billion a year which is \$30 per American. And all this would be offered for free to the readership even though he doesn't know how to fund this endeavor or the precise structure of these outlets.

FYI, AP's last guild contract calls for 6th-year top newsroom salaries to be \$1,391.63 per week -- just over \$72,000/year. For small local papers, their salaries usually run about half that if not less, according to postings on the journalismjobs.com website. Mr. Bacon's average \$80k salary is above even AP's top scale.

I've always utilized a simple three-question process for making decisions -- whether it is for a purchase or a project or a job -- that has served me very well. First, is it a good idea meaning who does it benefit and who does it not; in other words, fairness. Second, what are the logistics involved meaning how is the goal to be accomplished; in other words, the plan. And third, who is going to pay for it; in other words, how much out of which pocket and is it sustainable. These three hurdles work for everything from buying a new piece of photo equipment, figuring out if you can afford the car of your dreams or get something more practical, finding a job that pays enough to live on to also put your kids through college and fund your retirement, submitting a bid for work someone wants done that actually earns you money versus at a loss, etc. A winning final decision demands solid positive answers to all three.

While Mr. Bacon's idea is noble, it fails miserably on questions 2 and 3. Plus there are two other factors he does not address. If the nation is to create 435 new news outlets, what is going to happen to the local papers in those areas that already exist? And if his answer is to give the money to them, then how is that money going to be monitored to make sure it is being used as intended?

Let's not forget that many/most of newspapers today (large and small) are owned by a few "for-profit" corporations (Alden Global Capital, Gannett, Lee, McClatchy, Gatehouse, Advance, etc.). And we've all been reading stories over the past many years about how these companies buy smaller papers, gut the staff, sell off the paper's property for one-time quick profits, etc. to increase the revenue streams for themselves and stock holders.

So if these billions of dollars are going to go to all these local papers who happen to be owned by a chain, what safeguards will there be to make sure that these monies won't be skimmed off the top as corporate profit windfalls instead of being invested in increased staffing and long-term growth?

Yes, local reporting absolutely needs to be bolstered for the benefit of the masses from the news deserts to populous locales. But it is going to take a lot more than just

wishful thinking and throwing ideas out there for consideration without considering today's realities of our beloved industry.

May 2023: Another Connecting Reunion in Texas!

Diana Heidgerd - More than 50 people responded to our recent informal survey on possibly holding another Connecting Reunion in Texas, after about 75 people attended a similar Dallas-Fort Worth area event in September 2021 amid pandemic concerns & precautions.

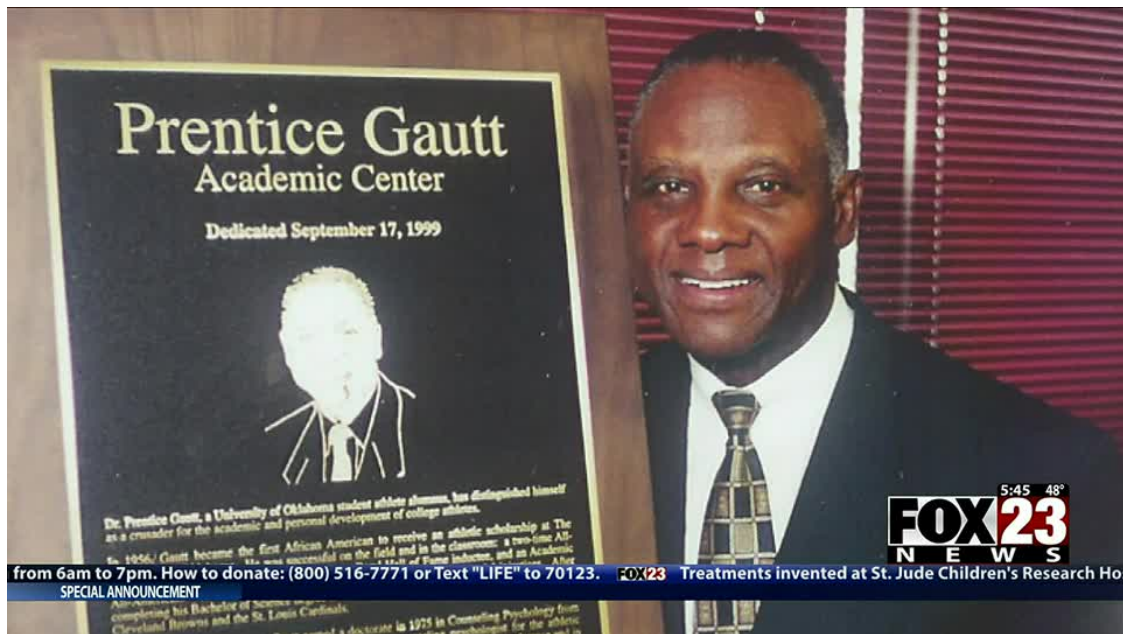
About three dozen respondents endorsed another DFW gathering, now that COVID has eased -- so please save **May 19-21, 2023**, as tentative dates for the next Connecting Reunion.

Five people had no preference for a date (2023 or 2024), and/or suggested Kansas City or Denver for a reunion. The rest suggested delaying or said they weren't interested in attending.

I'd like to thank the other reunion organizers -- Brent Kallestad of Tallahassee, Mike Holmes of Omaha and Joei Bohr of the Atlanta area. Based on the survey results, we've decided to proceed with another Connecting Reunion, but won't announce more specifics until early 2023. Next year's reunion will likely be similar to the 2021 Texas event, with a designated hotel, informal happy hours, group dinners and possibly a Texas Rangers game (vs. Colorado Rockies).

Thank you for responding & we hope you'll join us in the DFW area the weekend of **May 19-21, 2023**, for the next Connecting Reunion.

Honoring the extraordinary life of Prentice Gautt



[Doug Tucker](#) - This Oklahoma grad never felt prouder of his school or his state than last Saturday when my alma mater honored an extraordinary man named Prentice Gault.

We all must exit this earth one day. Prentice left much too soon, in 2005 at the age of 67. But no matter how many days we are allotted, only a tiny few will crush more stereotypes, create more opportunities or show even half the class and bravery as this humble, soft-spoken scholar-athlete.



A great running back at Oklahoma City's Douglass High School, Prentice became Oklahoma's first scholarship black football player in 1956, courageously breaking the color barrier and becoming the flash point of a sometimes-ugly statewide furor.

He stood his ground. He absorbed the humiliation and shrugged off the abuse. He even faced down death threats.

Because he did, thousands of young African-American men and women, athletes and non-athletes alike, walked in his footsteps and enhanced their lives. And Oklahoma is a more cultured and vibrant state.

He couldn't have done it without the courageous support of coach Bud Wilkinson, who ignored tremendous pressure to keep his defending national champions all white.

"Bud Wilkinson was a blessing in my life," he once told me.

As a native Oklahoman and OU grad myself - and a personal friend of Prentice - I knew all about his sacrifice, of course. But what thrilled me to the core was seeing that this current generation of Oklahoma athletes knows it, too.

Prentice is not forgotten.

This became wonderfully clear at last week's game against Kansas when the team wore special "unity" uniforms in honor of the man who brought down the color barrier. His son, Roger, and widow Sandra were on hand for a moving on-field tribute.

As a bonus for this uplifting moment, the uniforms were not designed by professional clothiers. Several former Oklahoma athletes, including Caleb Kelly, created them with Prentice in mind.

"We wanted to honor Prentice for being the first African-American scholarship football player here," said Kelly. "He was one of the founding fathers who made Oklahoma football what it is and gave all the African-American players who have come through OU that opportunity."

I was only 10 when Prentice began reshaping the culture and attitude of our state, growing up in a gritty working-class neighborhood on the other side of OKC. But I remember it well.

The Civil Rights struggle was just getting traction in America. Despite the heroics of Jackie Robinson, Major League Baseball had still not fully integrated. Prentice stared down ignorant bigots only a few months after Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a white person on a city bus in Montgomery, Ala.

Oklahoma had never even enrolled an African-American student until eight years earlier.

But by the time he played his last game for the Sooners, Prentice was a two-time All-Big Eight selection, an academic All-American and MVP of the 1960 Orange Bowl. And welcome winds of change were whispering softly through the state.

But this enormously gifted young man was only getting started.

He backed up the great Jim Brown for a year in Cleveland and for the next several seasons starred for the St. Louis Football Cardinals. After retiring from the NFL, he joined the University of Missouri coaching staff and eventually became Dr. Prentice Gautt with a Ph.D in counseling psychology.

In athletic administration, Prentice became a national leader and kept right on touching lives in positive ways.

"Prentice became the leading voice in championing student-athlete welfare across the country with his magnificent leadership," said Oklahoma athletic director Joe Castigleone.

When he became assistant commissioner of the Big Eight in 1979 - and it gives me great pride to say this - we became personal friends. Prentice often came with me when I covered Kansas City Chiefs games in Arrowhead Stadium.

Listening to his thoughts and observations was like monitoring an upper division course on the fundamentals and finer nuances of the sport of football.

We would always grab a couple of hours together at conventions of the NCAA, where he also served a term as secretary-treasurer.

Prentice never became a darling of the national media. He was a quiet man with a humble spirit and absolutely no interest in self-promotion.

He was not a flamboyant figure who told spell-binding stories like Negro Leagues legend Buck O'Neil. He will never achieve the historical stature of Robinson, although their achievements as courageous trailblazing black athletes ran on similar tracks.

"I look at my life as a grand adventure," he once told me. "I've been so incredibly lucky. I believe you should try to learn from everyone you meet."

I wasn't at the game in 1999 when Prentice stood at the 50-yard line and Oklahoma announced the opening of the state-of-the-art Prentice Gautt Academic Center. It's just a short walk from the steps of the library where a couple of idiots humiliated him in front of a big crowd in 1956 for talking to a white girl.

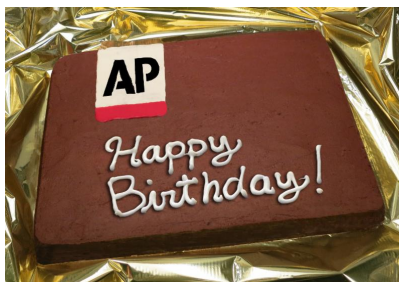
People said the center's announcement triggered the loudest and longest ovation that ever thundered through that historic old stadium.

I wish I had been there. But more than that, I wish the students who insulted and threatened him had been there, surrounded by their grandchildren. Every last one would probably have enthusiastically joined the deafening applause.

I just betcha they would have.

Because it's like one of his legion of friends and admirers said: "Just being with Prentice made you want to be a better person."

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Steve Herman](#)

[Pat Kreger](#)

Stories of interest

Semafor news site makes debut, intent on reinventing news (AP)

Sign up Events About Careers

7:23 AM TUESDAY OCTOBER 18, 2022

D.C. BXL LAGOS DUBAI BEIJING SG

SEMAFOR

Reed Albergotti

An accident at SpaceX

The technicians in the private space industry, responsible for building and repairing rockets, receive little recognition — even when they sacrifice their lives for the mission.

RESULTANT FORCE
DRAG

Semafor / Al. Lucora

Liz Hoffman

An activist investor has a garbage plan for Coca-Cola

Engine No. 1 stunned corporate America last year when it scored a major win over Big Oil, riding a climate-change campaign

Shelby Talcott

Donald Trump's plan to kill mail ballots in Pennsylvania

Former President Donald Trump is increasingly focused on changing voting rules in Pennsylvania, joining efforts to

THE WORLD TODAY, FROM FLAGSHIP— Xi Jinping is looking to remake the Chinese Communist Party in his image, the worsening U.S. economy is a worry for Democrats, Russia's onslaught on Ukraine steps up, Nigeria's floods are worsening, a scoop from inside SpaceX, huge strides in treating cancer and fighting pandemics, an Iranian athlete goes missing, and Japan's sushi industry faces a crisis.

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MEDIA
Ben Smith

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — The media organization Semafor launched on Tuesday with no less an ambition than reinventing the news story.

Semafor is the brainchild of Ben Smith — former media reporter for The New York Times and, before that, former editor-in-chief of BuzzFeed — and Justin Smith, ex-CEO of Bloomberg Media. Since both men — who are not related — quit their previous jobs in January, Semafor has raised \$25 million and hired more than 50 staff members.

Semafor's website, with a distinctive yellow-tinged backdrop that looks like a newspaper left out in the sun, went live shortly after 6 a.m. Eastern time on Tuesday, with eight newsletters in place as well as an events business.

"We see, and are very excited about, a big opportunity to create a new and high-quality, independent global news brand that is obsessed with solving a number of big consumer frustrations that we see in the news business, primarily polarization," said Justin Smith, the new company's CEO.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Lindel Hutson, Terry Anderson.

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A Veteran Press Critic Wants Her Profession to Defend Democracy (New York Times)

By Steve Coll

NEWSROOM CONFIDENTIAL: Lessons (and Worries) From an Ink-Stained Life, by Margaret Sullivan

It takes nerve to be a press critic. In 2012, in the dying twilight of the newspaper era, it took added cheek to become the public editor of The New York Times, a role (since discontinued) that involved writing columns scrutinizing work by newsroom colleagues, some of them thin-skinned and unburdened by self-doubt. Margaret Sullivan "really wanted the job," she recalls in her new memoir, "Newsroom Confidential." "I knew I was smart, had good judgment and would not be afraid of evaluating the journalism at a big national paper."

She was right about these things, many journalism peers and readers came to think during her nearly four years in the role, and she went on to become an influential media columnist at The Washington Post, a position she held until September. She has not lost her impertinence, since it also takes nerve to write a journalist's memoir, a disposable genre notable for its high proportion of fatuous self-regard.

Sullivan has avoided the traps for the most part, combining highlights and lowlights of her glass-ceiling-defying career with an opinionated but fair and accessible tour of the big debates roiling the "reality-based press," as she calls mainstream newsrooms.

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

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Americans' Trust In Media Remains Near Record Low (Gallup)

BY MEGAN BRENAN

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- At 34%, Americans' trust in the mass media to report the news "fully, accurately and fairly" is essentially unchanged from last year and just two points higher than the lowest that Gallup has recorded, in 2016 during the presidential campaign.

Just 7% of Americans have "a great deal" of trust and confidence in the media, and 27% have "a fair amount." Meanwhile, 28% of U.S. adults say they do not have very much confidence and 38% have none at all in newspapers, TV and radio. Notably, this is the first time that the percentage of Americans with no trust at all in the media is higher than the percentage with a great deal or a fair amount combined.

These data are from a Sept. 1-16 Gallup poll, which, in addition to the low rating for the fourth estate, also found weak confidence ratings for the three branches of government.

The percentage of Americans with a great deal or fair amount of trust in the media has not been at the majority level since 2003, although before that -- in three readings in the 1970s and seven readings between 1997 and 2003 -- it was the norm. The public's confidence rating for the media has averaged 42% since 2004.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Bill Sikes.

Today in History – Oct. 19, 2022



Today is Wednesday, Oct. 19, the 292nd day of 2022. There are 73 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 19, 2001, U.S. special forces began operations on the ground in Afghanistan, opening a significant new phase of the assault against the Taliban and al-Qaida.

On this date:

In 1781, British troops under Gen. Lord Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown, Virginia, as the American Revolution neared its end.

In 1814, the first documented public performance of "The Star-Spangled Banner" took place at the Holliday Street Theater in Baltimore.

In 1944, the U.S. Navy began accepting Black women into WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service).

In 1950, during the Korean Conflict, United Nations forces entered the North Korean capital of Pyongyang.

In 1953, the Ray Bradbury novel "Fahrenheit 451," set in a dystopian future where books are banned and burned by the government, was first published by Ballantine Books.

In 1960, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was arrested during a sit-down protest at a lunch counter in Atlanta. (Sent to prison for a parole violation over a traffic offense, King was released after three days following an appeal by Robert F. Kennedy.)

In 1987, the stock market crashed as the Dow Jones Industrial Average plunged 508 points, or 22.6 percent in value (its biggest daily percentage loss), to close at 1,738.74 in what came to be known as "Black Monday."

In 1990, Kevin Costner's Western epic "Dances with Wolves" had its world premiere in Washington, D.C.

In 2003, Pope John Paul II beatified Mother Teresa during a ceremony in St. Peter's Square.

In 2010, the Pentagon directed the military to accept openly gay recruits for the first time in the nation's history.

In 2016, in the third and final 2016 presidential debate, Republican Donald Trump stunned the forum in Las Vegas by refusing to say he would accept the results of the election if he were to lose; Democrat Hillary Clinton declared Trump's resistance "horrifying."

Ten years ago: The Dow Jones industrial average had its worst day in four months, sinking 205.43 points, or 1.5 percent, to close at 13,343.51.

Five years ago: Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rossello, meeting with President Donald Trump at the White House about a month after Hurricane Maria, described the situation in the island territory as "catastrophic"; Trump rated the White House response to the disaster as a "10." Counter-demonstrators greatly outnumbered supporters of white nationalist Richard Spencer, drowning him out as he spoke at the University of Florida. The Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Chicago Cubs 11-1 to reach the World Series for the first time in almost three decades.

One year ago: A House committee investigating the Jan. 6 Capitol insurrection voted unanimously to hold former White House aide Steve Bannon in contempt of Congress after the longtime ally of former President Donald Trump defied a subpoena for documents and testimony. A federal grand jury indicted U.S. Rep. Jeff Fortenberry of Nebraska, accusing him of lying to the FBI and concealing information from federal agents who were investigating campaign contributions funneled to him from a Nigerian billionaire. (Fortenberry was convicted in March 2022; he resigned two days later.) The U.S. Supreme Court declined to block a vaccine requirement imposed on Maine health care workers, the latest defeat for opponents of vaccine mandates.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Tony Lo Bianco is 86. Artist Peter Max is 85. Author and critic Renata Adler is 85. Actor Michael Gambon is 82. Actor John Lithgow (LIHTH'-goh) is 77. Feminist activist Patricia Ireland is 77. Singer Jeannie C. Riley is 77. Rock singer-musician Patrick Simmons (The Doobie Brothers) is 74. Actor Annie Golden is 71. Talk

show host Charlie Chase is 70. Rock singer-musician Karl Wallinger (World Party) is 65. Former Republican National Committee Chairman Michael Steele is 64. Singer Jennifer Holliday is 62. Retired boxer Evander Holyfield is 60. Host Ty Pennington (TV: "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition") is 58. Rock singer-musician Todd Park Mohr (Big Head Todd and the Monsters) is 57. Actor Jon Favreau is 56. Amy Carter is 55. "South Park" co-creator Trey Parker is 53. Comedian Chris Kattan is 52. Rock singer Pras Michel (The Fugees) is 50. Actor Omar Gooding is 46. Country singer Cyndi Thomson is 46. Writer-director Jason Reitman is 45. Actor Benjamin Salisbury is 42. Actor Gillian Jacobs is 40. Actor Rebecca Ferguson is 39. Rock singer Zac Barnett (American Authors) is 36. Singer-actor Ciara Renee (TV: "Legends of Tomorrow") is 32. Actor Hunter King is 29.

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.

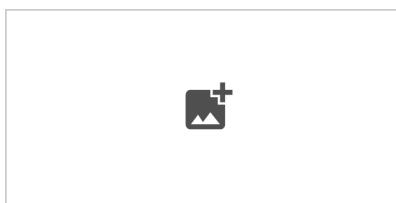
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

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