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Connecting

Feb. 15, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this Feb. 15, 2023,

I hope you take time to read the lead story in today’s issue – a Washington Post piece that focuses on a global epidemic of online harassment that has muffled the voices of thousands of women journalists worldwide and, in some cases, stolen those voices entirely as they struggle to conduct interviews, attend public events and keep their jobs in the face of relentless online smear campaigns.

The story notes that a non-scientific survey of 714 women journalists in 215 countries for a 2021 report by the nonprofit, Washington-based International Center for Journalists (ICFJ) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) found that nearly 3 of 4 had suffered online abuse in their work. And nearly 4 of 10 said they became less visible as a result — losing airtime, bylines or professional opportunities.

Connecting would like to hear from colleagues who experienced this during their careers.

My latest Spotlight column in my hometown Fort Dodge (Iowa) Messenger focuses on Frank Larsen, who emerged from the tragedy of the death of his wife of 39 years to start a new journey - on a sailboat, going around the world.



His companion and fellow sailor Laura Crowell joined him on the journey and a couple years ago became his wife. Together, they have sailed 84,000 miles. Click [here](#) to read.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

These women journalists were doing their jobs. That made them targets



Gharidah Farooqi prepares Wednesday in the TV studio of News One in Islamabad, Pakistan, for her live evening show. (Saiyna Bashir for The Washington Post)

By Taylor Lorenz
Washington Post

When Gharidah Farooqi interviews a male politician for television, she does research and plans out her questions, as any journalist would. She is professional, well-dressed and asks pertinent follow-up questions.

But every move she makes, every gesture and expression, is scrutinized by mobs of observers online. Everything — the clothing she wears, the questions she asks while interviewing someone — is fuel for an avalanche of mostly anonymous online abuse that for years has ridiculed her and her work.

“I see my male counterparts — they’re also abused, but not abused for their bodies, their genital parts,” she said. “If they’re attacked, they’re just targeted for their political views. When a woman is attacked, she’s attacked about her body parts.”

The ordeal of Farooqi, who covers politics and national news for News One in Pakistan, exemplifies a global epidemic of online harassment whose costs go well beyond the grief and humiliation suffered by its victims. The voices of thousands of women journalists worldwide have been muffled and, in some cases, stolen entirely as they struggle to conduct interviews, attend public events and keep their jobs in the face of relentless online smear campaigns.

Stories that might have been told — or perspectives that might have been shared — stay untold and unshared. The pattern of abuse is remarkably consistent, no matter the continent or country where the journalists operate.

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

Beneficiaries of AP’s Valentine’s Day Massacre

[Bruce Lowitt](#) - I guess I was one of the beneficiaries of the Valentine's Day Massacre in San Francisco that Lyle Price wrote about in yesterday's Connecting.

I was in my second year at my first newspaper job, working for the now-defunct Port Chester (N.Y.) Daily Item, a 25,000-circulation PMs paper in Westchester County just north of New York City and, as I recall, I had put an ad in Editor & Publisher in March of 1967, looking for a job in California, "coastal city preferred."

I received responses from the Stockton Record, the San Pedro News-Pilot, a couple of other smaller papers whose names I've forgotten and, weirdly, Sarkas Tarzian, an Indiana-based broadcasting company. I could never quite remember that name; I would always (even today) think of it as the Tarzan Circus.

Then a letter from The Los Angeles AP arrived. I guess the number of FX staffers who resigned rather than move to LA created a need for hirings that caused bureau chief Hub Keavy to look at E&P ads and elsewhere.

I called LA at 6:01 p.m., Eastern time, when the long-distance rates dropped, and spoke with Hub, who told me to call personnel director Keith Fuller in New York. I did,

set up an interview, took the test at Rockefeller Center, was hired, drove cross country and started with The AP in June.

When I walked into the LA's AP buro for the first time, introduced myself to news editor Jack Quigg and asked what I could do, he pointed to Don Harrison at a nearby desk and said, "Ask him." So I asked Don and he replied, "I dunno. I just got here myself." He'd started the previous day. We had a good laugh over that, and it began a friendship that lasts to this day. We wound up writing obits. My first one was Jack L. Warner, president of Warner Bros., and I got a kick out of reading it in a few newspapers 11 years later when he died.

I guess the Valentine's Day Massacre in San Francisco was the impetus for the hiring of a bunch of 20-somethings for Los Angeles, including me - I'd just turned 25 - and I think it turned LA into something of a gangbusters buro.

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Chuck McFadden - Lyle Price's wonderful piece on the 1967 upheaval brought back fond memories. I was the local news reporter at radio station KSCO in Santa Cruz, reading the AP broadcast wire every weekday when I heard that LA was to become a "hub bureau" taking over all broadcast writing for much of the west. Having established myself as a good and faithful stringer, I promptly applied for a job in the new LA "hub" bureau and was hired. I remember taking the new-hire test in the dark, noisy and mysterious FX bureau from kindly Paul Lee. The LA bureau was then housed in the old Herald-Examiner building just south of downtown; the main challenge upon arriving for work was finding a decent typewriter. Roy Roberts. Cal Wermer, Jack Stevenson - great and talented people. Thanks, Lyle.

Reporterspeak

Adolphe Bernotas - I don't get why some reporters often discard normal American English for reporterspeak in stories - "blaze" instead of fire, "fled on foot" instead of ran away; "inked a pact" rather than signed a contract; and why are bystanders innocent and baseball pitchers "hurlers?"

As mentor to young reporters, I used the grandmother test. "Would you ask your grandmother, 'Grandma, did you hear about the blaze at Dunkin' Donuts?' Of course not. You would ask about the fire. Human language please."

And what's all this about "reeling" in the news lately? At least I would like writers and copy editors (if any are left) to specify what reels the reelers are reeling (Virginia, Highland, Cajun, Irish, Breton?) after floods, fires, earthquakes, disasters, or give other cliches a chance.

I bet reeling is the last thing disaster victims are thinking about.

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Bill Kaczor - One of the first major stories I helped report for the AP was the Sunshine Skyway Bridge collapse in 1980. To the surprise of myself and other Florida reporters

covering the disaster, someone in New York decided AP needed to include "shark infested waters" to describe the scene. Interestingly, the bridge crossed Tampa Bay, where shark attacks are extremely rare although they have occurred. If you go by the numbers, the bay is more "infested" with other species, such as tarpon, redfish, spotted trout and snook, than sharks. I have, though, yet to see anyone use the term "snook infested waters."

I just did a 1980 archive search of the Tampa Tribune and St. Petersburg Times and neither of these local papers used the term "shark infested waters" in connection with the bridge disaster. Of course, any salt or brackish water is likely to be "infested" with sharks because, duh, that's where they live. Continuing with my search of the newspapers.com archive, I found 76,406 matches for "shark infested waters," which probably is 76,406 too many. I am proud to say none of them had my byline. Of course, my own state, Florida, leads all others with 6,410 matches. That's probably because we have the most sharks.

How many? That leads to another AP anecdote. The Tallahassee bureau once rewrote a news release announcing Florida was encouraging people to eat more shark. A note came down from New York asking how many sharks were in Florida waters? After some thought, and lacking access to a shark census, we replied: "an indeterminate number." We never got that question again.

AP team a finalist in Shadid Award competition

Connecting colleague [Owen Ullmann](#) shares word of these finalists selected for the Shadid Award, from Kathryn J. McGarr, Assistant Professor, School of Journalism & Mass Communication, University of Wisconsin-Madison:

Mstyslav Chernov, Evgeniy Maloletka, Vasilisa Stepanenko and Lori Hinnant, Associated Press. This AP team was the last group of international journalists remaining in the besieged Ukrainian city of Mariupol. According to the nomination, as Russian forces closed in, the team published breaking news while also navigating agonizing questions of how much help to offer and how much to accept.

Tony Plohetski, Austin-American Statesman & KVUE-TV. Investigative reporter Tony Plohetski was the first journalist in the county to obtain video that dramatically changed the public's understanding of how police responded to the school shooting in Uvalde, Texas, in which 19 students and two teachers were killed. According to the nomination, Plohetski and team first had to determine whether they had a public duty to publish the video and then navigate layers of editorial and ethical decisions in shaping its release.

Brett Murphy, ProPublica. Investigative reporter Brett Murphy showed how hundreds of police officers, prosecutors and dispatchers have been taught to divine the guilt or innocence of 911 callers using a junk science focused on analyzing word choice. According to the nomination, Murphy and team had to consider how to fairly portray people convicted of horrible crimes, how to respectfully convey the substance of

jarring and graphic 911 calls, how to portray the founder of the training, as well as questions of who to name and hold accountable.

Lynzy Billing, ProPublica. Freelancer Lynzy Billing traveled to more than 30 sites in Afghanistan to track down and count civilian deaths at the hands of Afghan soldiers funded, trained and directed by the CIA. According to the nomination, virtually every source Billing spoke to did so at personal risk, with Billing speaking not only with survivors, witnesses and local doctors, but also Afghan commandos and American special operation forces soldiers.

Melanie Payne, Adam Walser, Kylie McGivern, Jackie Callaway, Randy Wright, Matt McGlashen, WFTS/ABC Action News. This one-hour special investigated the sharp uptick in hate groups and hate incidents in Florida in an effort to equip their audience with the resources needed to identify, report and combat hate. According to the nomination, their one-hour special sparked community conversation while at the same preventing hate groups from gaining exposure.

Library phone boxes

[Wendy Davis Beard](#) - I remember writing Connecting about repurposed phone boxes some time ago and asking for photos. I've since seen more old red boxes in the country refitted with defibrillators which is fantastic, but then today I read this most negative response to library phone boxes. I get her point, but I still like the idea of getting free books in the hands of as many interested potential readers as possible - better to recycle than end up in land fill! NO? Whilst recently in Australia, I saw many charming homemade book boxes often painted with local birds and many filled with children's books or admittedly low brow lavatory reading, in one instance right outside the public toilets at Pearl beach on the Central Coast an hour outside Sydney. The local library said this was a spontaneous community generated phenomena the pandemic closed libraries inspired.

I hate library phone boxes.



By Katrina Robinson
The Oldie, London

As hundreds of real libraries close down, these tatty old crates enrage librarian Katrina Robinson.

When is a library not a library?

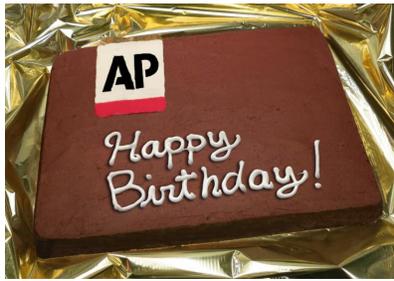
When it's a disused phone box (or other roadside receptacle), with a few Maeve Binchy or Tom Clancy paperbacks thrown on the directory shelf, plus quite possibly Windows 95 For Dummies.

I'm a librarian – so people think I should love it when people put any old books in any old crate and label it 'Library'. They think I'm blaspheming against mighty Thoth, the Egyptian god of reading, when I tell them how I feel.

I feel the way any worth-her-salt GP would feel if she spotted a rusty first-aid box by the side of the road, with 'Hospital' emblazoned all over it – while real hospitals were closing or becoming semi-open 'community hospitals' staffed by unqualified volunteers.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Tim Harmon](#)

[Linda Kramer Jenning](#)

Stories of interest

Indian officials search BBC offices after Modi documentary (AP)

By KRUTIKA PATHI

NEW DELHI (AP) — India's tax officials searched BBC offices in New Delhi and Mumbai on Tuesday, weeks after it aired a documentary critical of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the U.K., the broadcaster said.

Rights groups and opposition politicians denounced the move by India's Income Tax Department as an attempt to intimidate the media.

Britain's publicly funded national broadcaster said it was cooperating fully with authorities and hoped "to have this situation resolved as soon as possible." Late in the evening, the BBC said officials were still at the two offices.

"Many staff have now left the building but some have been asked to remain and are continuing to cooperate with the ongoing inquiries," it said, adding: "Our output and journalism continues as normal."

Indian tax authorities declined to comment.

The tax department was looking at documents related to the BBC's business operations and its Indian arm, the Press Trust of India news agency reported, citing unidentified sources.

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

Click [here](#) for BBC story. Shared by Richard Chady.

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\$185k for a media editor? New York and California journalist salaries charted (Press Gazette)

By Bron Maher

Pay transparency remains unusual in UK media, but in parts of the US, it's a legal requirement.

Since November, employers based in New York City – which includes much of the American media – have been required to disclose minimum and maximum pay in advertisements for jobs in the city. The same rule has applied in Colorado since 2019 and in California since the start of this year.

Prompted by Insider's decision to reveal to UK staff how much it pays for different editorial roles, Press Gazette has captured a snapshot of who in US media is hiring journalists – and how much they're offering to pay them.

The analysis of 12 news organisations' job postings (principally in NYC and California) finds the average advertised pay ranges at some news organisations are four times larger than at others – and that a non-American outlet is one of the best-paying publishers in the country.

Read more [here](#).

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Lee Enterprises forces furloughs in latest cost-cutting move (Axios)

By Kerry Flynn, Sara Fischer

Lee Enterprises is telling some employees that they will need to take a two-week, unpaid furlough or accept a salary reduction, according to an internal memo obtained by Axios.

Why it matters: Since thwarting a hostile takeover from Alden Global Capital last year, Lee's struggles have deepened, prompting some Lee staffers to wonder if hedge fund ownership would have been better.

Catch up quick: Alden Global Capital, a hedge fund known for slashing costs at local papers, dropped its bid for Lee Enterprises last year following a bitter legal battle.

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word



A student leaves flowers at The Rock on the grounds of Michigan State University, in East Lansing, Mich. on Tuesday — a day after a gunman killed several people and wounded others. Police said early Tuesday that the shooter eventually killed himself. (AP Photo/Paul Sancya)

Today in History - Feb. 15, 2023



Today is Wednesday, Feb. 15, the 46th day of 2023. There are 319 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 15, 1879, President Rutherford B. Hayes signed a bill allowing female attorneys to argue cases before the Supreme Court.

On this date:

In 1764, the site of present-day St. Louis was established by Pierre Laclede and Auguste Chouteau.

In 1898, the U.S. battleship Maine mysteriously blew up in Havana Harbor, killing more than 260 crew members and bringing the United States closer to war with Spain.

In 1933, President-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt escaped an assassination attempt in Miami that mortally wounded Chicago Mayor Anton J. Cermak; gunman Giuseppe Zangara was executed more than four weeks later.

In 1944, Allied bombers destroyed the monastery atop Monte Cassino in Italy.

In 1950, Walt Disney's animated film "Cinderella" premieres in Boston.

In 1961, 73 people, including an 18-member U.S. figure skating team en route to the World Championships in Czechoslovakia, were killed in the crash of a Sabena Airlines Boeing 707 in Belgium.

In 1965, singer Nat King Cole, 45, died in Santa Monica, California.

In 1967, the rock band Chicago was founded by Walter Parazaider, Terry Kath, Danny Seraphine, Lee Loughnane, James Pankow and Robert Lamm; the group originally called itself The Big Thing, then Chicago Transit Authority.

In 1989, the Soviet Union announced that the last of its troops had left Afghanistan, after more than nine years of military intervention.

In 1992, a Milwaukee jury found that Jeffrey Dahmer was sane when he killed and mutilated 15 men and boys. (The decision meant that Dahmer, who had already pleaded guilty to the murders, would receive a mandatory life sentence for each count; Dahmer was beaten to death in prison in 1994.)

In 2003, millions of protesters around the world demonstrated against the prospect of a U.S. attack on Iraq.

In 2005, defrocked priest Paul Shanley was sentenced in Boston to 12 to 15 years in prison on child rape charges.

In 2020, the U.S. government said Americans who were on board a cruise ship under quarantine in Japan because of the coronavirus would be flown back home on a chartered flight, but that they would face another two-week quarantine; about 380 Americans were aboard the Diamond Princess.

Ten years ago: With a blinding flash and a booming shock wave, a meteor blazed across Russia's western Siberian sky and exploded, injuring more than 1,000 people as it blasted out windows. Pressing his case in Chicago, the town that launched his political career, President Barack Obama called for the government to take an active, wide-ranging role in ensuring every American had a "ladder of opportunity" into the middle class.

Five years ago: The last of the bodies of the 17 victims of a school shooting in Florida were removed from the building after authorities analyzed the crime scene; 13 wounded survivors were still hospitalized. In response to the shooting, President Donald Trump, in an address to the nation, promised to “tackle the difficult issue of mental health,” but avoided any mention of guns. Nikolas Cruz, the suspect in the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, was ordered held without bond at a brief court hearing. American Mikaela Shiffrin used a hard-charging final run to win the women’s giant slalom at the Winter Olympics in South Korea.

One year ago: Russian President Vladimir Putin said he welcomed a security dialogue with the West as his military reported pulling back some of its troops near Ukraine. U.S. President Joe Biden said the U.S. had “not yet verified” Russia’s claim and that an invasion still remains a distinct possibility. (Russia would invade Ukraine five days later.) The families of nine victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting agreed to a \$73 million settlement of a lawsuit against the maker of the rifle used to kill 20 first graders and six educators in 2012.

Today’s birthdays: Actor Claire Bloom is 92. Author Susan Brownmiller is 88. Songwriter Brian Holland is 82. Rock musician Mick Avory (The Kinks) is 79. Jazz musician Henry Threadgill is 79. Actor-model Marisa Berenson is 76. Actor Jane Seymour is 72. Singer Melissa Manchester is 72. Actor Lynn Whitfield is 70. “Simpsons” creator Matt Groening is 69. Model Janice Dickinson is 68. Actor Christopher McDonald is 68. Reggae singer Ali Campbell is 64. Actor Joseph R. Gannascoli is 64. Musician Mikey Craig (Culture Club) is 63. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Darrell Green is 63. Actor-comedian Steven Michael Quezada is 60. Actor Michael Easton is 56. Latin singer Gloria Trevi is 55. Rock musician Stevie Benton (Drowning Pool) is 52. Actor Alex Borstein is 52. Actor Renee O’Connor is 52. Actor Sarah Wynter is 50. Olympic gold medal swimmer Amy Van Dyken-Rouen is 50. Actor-director Miranda July is 49. Rock singer Brandon Boyd (Incubus) is 47. Rock musician Ronnie Vannucci (The Killers) is 47.

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.

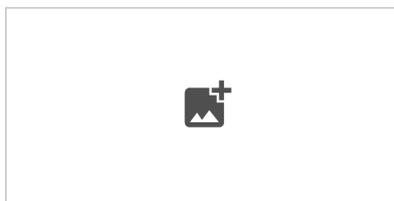


Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

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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