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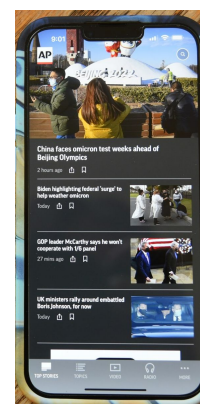
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# Connecting

Feb. 28, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this Feb. 28, 2023,

Today's Connecting brings you more of your colleagues' thoughts on editing of reader comments.

It's been a topic of high interest for the past few issues. Weigh in with your own thoughts.

**SONYA'S NEW BOOK** – From [Jim Carlson](#) - Congratulations to **Sonya Zalubowski** on the new book. We've been friends since the days when we had to work amid the clacking drone of newswire printers in a cramped Milwaukee AP office. It's wonderful that you were able to gather together all the material you needed to do this first-person account on a world-changing event. Great.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

## More on ethics of editing reader comments

[Kazuo Abiko](#) - Re our discussions about quotes, I would like to add that in Japanese journalism they often edit quotes. It is not just cleanup, such as correcting grammatical errors, but they often put in quotation marks what they think sources meant to say. I do not agree with it, and I mention our standards to them in my writing or speech whenever I have a chance, but it seems to remain rather common practice here.

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[Dennis Conrad](#) - The interesting discussion about the ethical question raised about editing letters to the editor made me search for my first contribution to journalism: a letter published in the Orlando Sentinel on July 13, 1967.

Don't laugh too hard.

It clearly wasn't edited.

Or, if it had been, not well enough.

I was 14 and I had just read my first book of investigative journalism, "Washington Expose," written by columnist Drew Pearson's sidekick, Jack Anderson, who I would get to meet in person at a University of Florida appearance a decade later. Anderson had made a target of the oil depletion allowance and I got carried away.

I would write numerous letters to the Sentinel. My favorite was one published BEFORE President Nixon's October 1973 "Saturday Night Massacre" in which I had urged his impeachment for a variety of crimes — some unearthed by Anderson's reporting. Though a pro-Nixon editorial page, the Sentinel was most kind in the space it granted me. Edited or not.

A decade later, while a reporter at the New York Times co-owned Gainesville (Fl.) Sun, I moved over to editing the paper's editorial pages so I could help my wife more in caring for our baby daughter. The job was as easy as it was nerve wracking as the editorials were written by my former teacher, mentor and friend, H.G. "Buddy" Davis Jr., a 1971 Pulitzer Prize winner and living legend. Thankfully, my hardest job was picking the daily cartoon.

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[Joe Galu](#) - The question about quotes is complicated. Without tone of voice, quotes can appear very different from what the speaker intended.

Some quotes, without lots of context, are unintelligible or meaningless, but good clear quotes, even if the wording is awkward, can be very informative.

I don't think we can ever come up with one rule that fits every situation. An editor has to decide each situation.

What we want the most is to inform. We should not let a rigid rule deter us from informing.

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**Dave Tomlin** - Here's some guidance on modifying quotes that you've gotta love, even if you'd never follow it yourself. I heard it from George Zucker, who attributed it to Lee Linder.

Linder was said to have had many terrific confidential sources among mobster types and tapped one of them for reaction to developments in the trial of a mafia kingpin. One of his quotes was challenged; I don't recall by whom or on what grounds. But I've never forgotten Linder's defense:

"If he didn't say it that way, he should have. And he would have if I'd asked him to."

*HISTORY NOTES FROM THE CORPORATE ARCHIVES*

## **How Kathryn Johnson Covered the POW Families and the Release of the POWs in 1973**



**By AP Corporate Archives**

In February 1973, with the Paris Peace Talks underway and the end of American involvement in the Vietnam War in sight, Hanoi began to release United States prisoners of war. Between February and March of that year, 509 American POWs returned to the United States and the story of their release quickly became a top story. Associated Press Writer Kathryn Johnson was uniquely prepared to cover it, as she had already spent years interviewing the prisoners' wives.

Johnson's first meeting with the League of Wives of American POWs took place at the Virginia Beach home of Jane Denton, whose husband, Navy Capt. Jeremiah Denton,



had been taken prisoner by the North Vietnamese on July 18, 1965.

In a 2007 interview with Corporate Archives Director Valerie Komor, Johnson described getting to know these women “who did not know if they were wives or widows, whether their husbands were dead, and they were living lives of not knowing about their husbands, raising children alone, and it was a really horrifying sort of story.”

Johnson continued:

And these women, talking to them, one at a time, all day long, at her house — and by the way, her home was near where the base is, air base, and you could hear the planes flying over, Air Force planes, all the time. And it was almost the touch of the Vietnam War still around feeling. And we were in her living room; they came in one at a time, and it was such a stream of consciousness of anguish that at the end of that day, Charlie [Kelly, AP Photographer who covered this story with Johnson] and I both found out, we were both just shaking. And we were both tough cookies.

Johnson continued to follow the women, their families, and their ongoing struggle to secure the release of the POWs. By Johnson’s own account, she wrote hundreds of stories, with accompanying photos by Kelly. She and Kelly would then search newspapers, clip the stories and mail copies to the families, to stay in touch. “What we did was, after a while we got to know the wives well, and what the children were, and who they were, and that gave us great access.” (Johnson, 2007 Interview, AP Corporate Archives). Those relationships blossomed into actual reporting, as Johnson and Kelly were the only journalists able to accompany the women as they awaited the return of their husbands at Virginia Beach, Va., in February of 1973.

**Capt. Jeremiah Denton tells his story of resistance under brutal torture**

**EDITOR'S NOTE** — Jeremiah Denton was the first American prisoner of war off the first plane to land at Clark Field last month from Hanoi. He stepped to the microphones and, in a moment the nation will remember, he said "God bless America." Here is the first installment of his thoughts and recollections of the seven and a half years of imprisonment which led up to that moment.

**By CAPTAIN JEREMIAH A. DENTON, Jr., USN**

**As Told to Kathryn Johnson Associated Press Writer**

After Robby Risner left The Zoo in October 1965, I became the senior officer at that camp during the phase of captivity in North Vietnam in which the enemy's aims were most ambitious. It was also the time when their torture was most widespread.

I think this phase was one of the most critical of what I call our "Battle of Hanoi."

It was 1966. I had been a prisoner since July 18, 1965, when I was shot down in an A-1H Intruder jet at Thanh Hoa, 70 miles south of Hanoi. But 1966 was the year we prisoners initially organized our resistance against their torture and their demands.

In February 1966, when they wanted me to give them a biography, I was tortured seven days and six nights in a pitch black room. They beat me very regularly and brutally while I was in large traveling irons with my hands tightly cuffed behind me. It was very cold and I had no blanket, no bedding, no socks, only sandals and pajamas.

When I moved it hurt more. I was like an animal. Not even a healthy animal, like a crippled roach. I was pretty much of a vegetable.

After four days, I stopped eating because it required about 45 minutes for me to find my bucket and get into position to use it. I had to search for it by snaking around the floor and feeling with my head.

They can do some interesting things with those cuffs. But what blackness and disorientation—mentally, I was at about five per cent at the end of the torture.

One time they found my swollen, black hands in worse shape than they wanted for that phase of torture. They decided to loosen the cuffs to let some blood circulate. But the cuffs were on so tight that they had trouble getting them off.

The only way they could do it was to take them apart. And that took three hours.

They kept me there three more weeks so I could recover enough to write my biography. The biography I wrote was harmless and in some parts obviously ludicrous.

For example, I told them truthfully that one hotel in my city where I had lived burned down but then I added that three others had burned down. That part wasn't true.

When they released me from that torture room, a place we called the Auditorium at the Zoo, I was moved to a cell from which I could secretly communicate with the other prisoners. And I took over the camp after I made sure that I was the senior officer there.

We called it the Zoo because the prisoners had little peepholes through which people could look at us and we felt like animals.

We had various methods of communication, including tapping on the walls in Morse code, and I put out a message saying, "Robby Risner has left camp so I'm now in charge."

When I learned that some men were writing biographies and military information (unclassified) due to mere intimidation from threats, I put the policy out that they were not to succumb to threats, but must stand up and say no.

I tried to put out involved orders saying that you should die before giving the enemy classified information, but could write something like a request for toilet paper.

## They share common fate, wait

# 27 wives wonder if husbands alive

By KATHRYN JOHNSON  
Associated Press Writer

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (AP) — Silent anguish is the common bond shared by 27 women here. Their men are either prisoners of war, missing in action — or dead. Many don't know which.

They have stayed on in this Navy town, where the Atlantic Ocean laps the shore and training jets zoom overhead, comforting and sustaining each other. They say their husbands are "the forgotten men" of the Vietnam war.

The 27 wives are only a fraction of the nearly 1,400 women in this country with a similar fate. Up until recently they have not spoken up, they've been afraid to.

Afraid of what enemy forces in Vietnam would do to their husbands—if they are alive.

Why are they speaking out now?

"Time is running out," said attractive blonde, gray-eyed Mrs. James Mulligan, the mother of six sons.

"My husband (a Navy commander of Lawrence, Mass.) has been a prisoner four and a half years now . . . all those years of imprisonment. What harm can be done now?" she asked.

"We've been very quiet up until now," said Mrs. Jeremiah A. Denton, a Southerner of cameo - like beauty. "We've gone through diplomatic channels. We've written letters. North Vietnam has refused to abide by the rules for prisoners set up by the Geneva convention. We hope now, by speaking out, when North Vietnam sees public opinion against them . . ." her voice trailed off.

Because this is the Christmas season, a time of reckoning when one feels more poignantly the loss of loved ones—and the hope of miracles—some hope against hope their husbands will be home by Christmas.

Only five of the 27 have ever received letters. Yet each writes her monthly letter—all that is allowed by the North Vietnamese. Even those without hope. Not knowing if there is a husband there to receive the letter. Or, if he is there, whether he will be given it.

Each faithfully gleams what she can of the essence of her life with her children, trying

to condense it into six lines — all that can be sent under Hanoi's rules.

Navy Capt. Denton, of Mobile, Ala., a tall, handsome pilot, was shot down over North Vietnam July 18, 1965.

Five days later, his wife found out he was a prisoner of war. Four and a half years he has been imprisoned. Yet, Jane Denton says, "I'm one of the lucky ones."

Mrs. Denton devotes her life to their seven children, ranging in age from 7 to 22.

The woodland scene outside and the secure, tastefully furnished home, filled with antiques and oil portraits of children, contrasted sharply with the picture of her husband— from whom she has received seven letters—which she saw on a television reel about American prisoners.

"He looked pale, haggard and drained," she said. That was in 1966. Three years have passed since.

June Nelson was a bride of only two days when her husband, Navy Lt. Richard Nelson left for Vietnam. He was shot down several months later and has been missing for almost 22 months.

No one saw parachutes and June believes her tall, curly-haired pilot-husband, 28, is dead.

"I can't believe they'd do this," she said, with an impatient shake of her head. "Why won't they tell us if he is alive or not? I'm 25 now, and I won't be 25 much longer. When am I going to have children?"

The wives worry about what solitary confinement will do to their men. Many of them believe their captive husbands have been kept in solitary confinement because some released prisoners have said they suffered that experience.)

"I want to scream out, how strong can a man be after four years of bad diet, isolation and torture? This is his fifth Christmas over there," says Janie Tschudy, whose 34-year-old husband, Navy Lt. William Michael Tschudy of Highland Park, Ill., was shot down with Capt. Denton.

Jane Marik, a 26-year-old brunette, declared: "I'd rather have my husband dead than a prisoner."

Mrs. Marik believes her husband, Navy Lt. Charles Marik, who has been missing 3½ years, is dead.



They wait

Mrs. Janie Tschudy, left, wife of Navy Lt. William M. Tschudy, and Mrs. Jeremiah A. Denton, wife of Navy Capt. Jeremiah A. Denton, wait at home in Virginia Beach, Va., for word of condition of their war prisoner husbands. The two men were the crew of a plane shot down over North Vietnam four years ago, the sixth and seventh U.S. fliers to be acknowledged as prisoners. —AP Wirephoto.

"He was such an active man. So gregarious. To sit alone in a room all those years, I'd rather have him dead than go through all that torture. I know what it could do to him."

Louise Brady, her straight dark hair cropped short, sat on the edge of her chair and answered in a steadfast manner, when asked how long she had been married.

"Today's our 16th wedding anniversary." That last anniversary they shared together

was their 14th. Cmdr. A.C. Brady, whose father is a retired admiral, was shot down in January, 1967.

He was listed as missing in action until 1968, when a friend in a foreign country said he saw a picture of the commander among a group of prisoners. The picture was taken by a Japanese photographer.

This picture is Mrs. Brady's hope for believing her husband is alive. She's never heard from him, nor has Hanoi released his name on any prisoner list.

Mrs. Brady is aware of profound personal changes.

"I'm not as selfish as I was," she says. "Everything was going so well for us. Each job he asked for, he got. He wanted to be squadron commander—he got it. We had an awful lot. We lived in the mainstream of life. One has to stop and think what is important about life. I respect it a great deal more now than ever before."

Jean Ellison, whose husband, Navy Cmdr. John Ellison, Layton, Utah, was shot down three years ago, has this to live on for hope: her husband's name was once brought back by a released prisoner.

Does she write? Every month. She's never had a reply.

They were married 14 years when he was shot down—17 now. They have four children. When Cmdr. W.E. Wilber, of Millerton, Pa., was shot down over North Vietnam 18 months ago, someone on the ground from the downed plane made contact with a wing man from their carrier.

"That's my hope. That's what I've gone on," says Jeanne Wilber.

"I was home for my Dad's death, when I heard that he was missing in action. And that night, I was just looking out at the darkness and I just knew Gene (her husband) was alive. I really felt it. I'd know if he were dead."

"I knew Gene's mind and strength before he left. This surely will sustain him. We know he has a Comforter . . . or we wouldn't have this peace over our house, the way we do. When the Lord made us, He made us truly one."

Mrs. Wilber fills her time caring for her four youngsters and serves as choir director for the Founder Methodist church.

As Capt. Denton had emerged as a leader among the returning POWs, getting an interview with him was paramount. Johnson approached Mrs. Denton, who quickly agreed, although she was fielding requests from numerous media outlets, telling Johnson, "We remember what you reported."

Denton's story was not easy to hear. Johnson listened to his descriptions of the tortures he had endured, first recording them, but later, at Denton's request, putting away the tape recorder and relying on notes:

*I knew I had to get the story out. And Jerry took two hours to draw me a little frame here showing — this is the first year, all these years. And he had complete knowledge of every torture and what it was for, and he put it down in little — above the year and the month. And some of them went way high, and I asked why the torture was so bad and so intense; he was showing the intensity of the torture. And then he explained everything; he would get on the floor and show how they did his legs and so forth. And that took two and a half hours; yeah, I was trying to get a story. And I was trying to tape it, but after a while, he said he didn't want it taped, so I just had to rely totally on notes from then on.*

*I had to deal with the terrible way he had suffered, and that —eight years' imprisonment, and he hadn't been out a week, two weeks, I think. And that's what I — and New York had no idea of this. . . . I barely got it in in time for the paper, and I dictated, I think, to New York... 2,000 words.*

(Johnson, 2007 Interview, AP Corporate Archives)

## Being a pool reporter changed my life



**Linda Deutsch** - One of the great privileges afforded to AP reporters covering big stories is that they are likely to have the experience of being a pool reporter— the chosen representative who will stand in for their colleagues when there is limited space for all of the press at a major event. The extraordinary pool report on President Biden’s trip to Ukraine was a history making example of this process.

I learned the art of pooling early in my AP career when I was allowed by my AP colleagues to take the pool spot in events at Nixon’s Western White House. They were helping me learn the ropes. In subsequent years I was chosen to do the pool report at trials when crowded courtrooms had few press seats available. I knew how to type up a pool report on what transpired or to give an oral briefing to the press corps. Because I was with the AP, other news outlets considered me an unbiased figure to report just the facts.

Judges also respected my position and in 1995 when a pool reporter was needed for jury selection in the OJ Simpson trial, Judge Lance Ito and his press aide Jerrienne Hayslett called me into his chambers and asked if I would be willing to do the job. Of course, I agreed. Little did I know that this turn of events would make me world famous.

There was some grumbling about why I alone was admitted to the courtroom. And for a time, the pool expanded by one or two. But news outlets preferred to use me for a few reasons. I did not represent a competing network or newspaper meaning no other logos showing on screen and I was an expert at doing these reports because of my previous experience. They trusted me. Also, I was able to do it because the AP had a large enough staff to provide a second reporter who would join the press scrum and

take notes on my pool report, phoning in the story in order to keep us from falling behind. Mike Fleeman, who was covering the trial with me, was my backup.

In simpler times, pooling was a matter of taking notes, coming back to the press room and filling in the rest of the press corps. But this was the OJ trial, then a worldwide sensation. Everything except jury selection was being televised live. I was the eyes and ears of the news media and the public in that important closed-door phase. And, surprise! I soon learned I would not be telling this story just to my colleagues. I would be addressing some four million people in the TV viewing audience.

Here's how it worked. A TV engineer would be waiting at the door to the courtroom at each break in proceedings, ready to wire me for sound and escort me to the courthouse lobby where multiple cameras were set up and reporters, including Mike, were gathered to hear what I had to say. It was being beamed live on network TV, CNN, Court TV and other broadcast outlets. I would read from my notes, relating the words of attorneys and jury prospects, provide some color, answer a few questions and then race back to the courtroom for the next session. This would happen up to four times a day. At lunch hour and after court I would get to write my own story.

Sometimes lawyers would follow me downstairs to hear my reports and once Simpson lawyer Robert Shapiro grabbed the microphone to declare that "This reporter is being too objective."

I thought this might be a short assignment. But jury selection lasted 11 weeks and by the end I was a TV star. Larry King had me on his show several times, introducing me as "The OJ trial lady," and network shows such as "Today" had me come on and describe the scene since I was the only one seeing Simpson in court at that point.

Those who remember AP's antipathy to reporters going on TV in those days may be surprised that I was allowed to do this. The decision went up to AP General Manager Lou Boccardi who watched my early reports and decided I was able to handle the appearances while remaining unbiased.

Until then my name had been well known in print around the world as an AP byline on the biggest trials in America. But few people knew what I looked or sounded like. Now they knew me as a person and that led to some funny encounters. People approached me in public places asking for an update on the trial. A friend said he was on a cross-country flight when a report on the trial came on and there I was on the screen. "I couldn't escape you anywhere," he said.

One weekend during trial I was invited with two other reporters to fly to Hawaii and appear at a journalism conference. We were waiting for a cab outside our hotel, when a driver zoomed up in front of me, jumped out of his cab and excitedly stammered, "You...you...you're from the OJ trial. You have to get in my cab." I did and found out this trial fan had changed his work schedule in order to watch the trial on TV every day. He knew everything that had happened and could quote testimony from memory. When the very long ride ended, he turned to me and said: "You've got to make this trial end. It's ruining my life."

As the trial dragged on for a year, I had other pool assignments such as during the jury visit to Simpson's home. In the second October of the trial, an actress friend called to



invite me to her annual Halloween party. I said I was working late and had no time to get a costume. She said to come anyway whenever I got out of work. I arrived at her home wearing my usual work suit and court credentials as my costume. She answered the door with a friend who looked at me and quipped, "Isn't that clever? Someone came as Linda Deutsch."

I would do pooling on other trials in the future, but nothing would ever rock my world like the Simpson trial.

## Pooling can be interesting, but also distracting from other work

[Henry Bradsher](#) - Getting back to the subject of being a pool reporter, it can be interesting, getting to see things that media as a whole miss. But it can sometimes also be questionable if not causing problems, distracting from other work.

In my own pool reporting, however, nothing as exciting or demanding as writing up President Biden's trip to Kyiv, which was done so well by Sabrina Siddiqui.

Sometimes, no pool, although other Connecting people have reported pooling executions. When I twice covered just past midnight executions in Alabama's electric chair in 1956 and '57, only AP was there as both an official witness and reporter, but not as a pooler. UPI apparently depended upon an official announcement later – long after I had used a prison phone to dictate reports to the Atlanta desk. (Until then, Rex Thomas, the excellent Montgomery bureau chief, had covered all Alabama's executions. I later wondered if Lew Hawkins, the Atlanta bureau chief responsible for the region and a WWII war correspondent who had hired me partly because I wanted to become an AP foreign correspondent, had suggested to Rex that I be tested on something as challenging as an execution.)

One of my interesting pool experiences, already described in Connecting in July 2018, was on Air Force One flying from a 1975 conference in Helsinki. Henry Kissinger fell asleep as we poolers debriefed President Ford on his talks there.

Another was in Beijing during President Nixon's February 1972 China visit. Having boarded Air Force One on Guam to fly into China and seeing Nixon only on landings first in Shanghai and then Beijing, I joined the poolers from Washington in filing a cursory report. And then I pooled Nixon's tour of the Forbidden City of former Chinese emperors, escorted by Prime Minister Zhou Enlai.

It was snowing lightly. As we stood in one of the Forbidden City's ceremonial entrance gates, a senior official made a striking comment about such weather that I jotted down, thinking he was quite quotable. Later I learned that he was repeating a classic Chinese epigram.

The tour included one part of the old imperial residence that was not then, and maybe never later, open to the tourists who flock through the Forbidden City. These were the rooms where the last imperial ruler, the dowager empress Cixi, lived until her death in 1908. Small, even cramped, without windows for outside light and air,

the stuffy rooms were particularly notable for what I considered to be very uncomfortable furniture. Not very attractive living quarters.

But are such pool assignments desirable? Perhaps not always.

On my first time in mainland China after several years reporting from Hong Kong, I was eager to see as much as possible. So I had volunteered to pool the Forbidden City. Others in the visiting press mob covering Nixon did not volunteer.

I realized later that others had used the time while I was tied up pooling to seek private interviews, work on their reports, or catch up on sleep during that historic but hectic occasion.

## Jimmy and Joe

By [MORT ROSENBLUM](#)

TUCSON – Alarm whistles on our pressure-cooked planet are ever-louder echoes from 1980, when America dumped Jimmy Carter after a single term. Smoldering embers Ronald Reagan left behind now fan into flame, and combustion threatens to blow Pandora’s box all to hell.

Carter, at 98, prepares to slip away while his worst nightmares from the past take real shape. This is no time to replace yet another effective president committed to finishing his job.

Carter’s much-remembered “Crisis of Confidence” speech in July 1979 (link below) foreshadowed the self-interested, money-fueled dysfunction that now divides America. He dissected a glum national funk and, point by point, mapped the way out of it.

But Kai Bird’s biography, “The Outlier,” captures the reaction: “He insisted on telling us what was wrong and what it would take to make things better. And for most Americans, it was easier to label the messenger a ‘failure’ than to grapple with the hard problems.”

As a reporter based in Argentina, then Europe, I watched the rise and fall of perhaps the most underappreciated U.S. president in history. The brutality he tried to stop soon spread into Central America, then to the Middle East and beyond.

Read more [here](#).

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[Adolphe Bernotas](#) - My first impression of Jimmy Carter was similar to that of my friend and Connecting colleague Nancy Shulins.

It is de rigueur in New Hampshire presidential primary politics for potential presidents to drop in casually into public places, often the state legislature.

I was covering the New Hampshire State Senate during the 1976 primary campaign when a somewhat slight man was welcomed as a guest and introduced as Governor Carter.

In a soft southern accent, Carter addressed the 24 senators: "Hello, my name is Jimmy Carter and I'm a born-again Christian," a surprise of a self-introduction indeed! He spoke for a few minutes about his background and extolled the importance of the New Hampshire primary.

Reporters covering politics develop a sense of evaluating newcomers, occasionally accurately, at first impression from their words, body language, countenance, such as: "I think this guy might be governor in a few years."

In Carter there was an honesty, directness, simplicity and humility in that "born-again" hello, that I thought "this guy's for real. He just might win the Democratic primary."

Of course, Carter had the good fortune of having a brilliant campaign manager and politician in Jeanne Shaheen, who went on to become the first woman governor of New Hampshire, serving three terms, and as a U.S. Senator since 2009.

## AP WAS THERE: The occupation at Wounded Knee



**FILE - A man holds up a rifle in Wounded Knee, S.D., in February 1973. On Feb. 27, 1973, members of the American Indian Movement took over the town, starting a 71-day occupation on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. (AP Photo/Jim Mone, File)**

By **TERRY DEVINE**

EDITOR'S NOTE — On Feb. 27, 1973, members of the American Indian Movement took over the town of Wounded Knee, South Dakota, starting a 71-day occupation on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

The standoff with the federal government grew out of turmoil within the Oglala Sioux Tribe as well as a protest of the federal government's treatment of Native Americans. It became violent at times, and two Native American men were killed.

The siege left a lasting impact on members of the Oglala Sioux Tribe and the future of Native American activism.

On the 50th anniversary of the start of the occupation, The Associated Press is republishing this 1973 story by reporter Terry Devine, written in the language and style used by journalists of the era.

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WOUNDED KNEE, S.D. (Feb. 28, 1973) — Militant Indians who took over this small town continued to hold 11 hostages Wednesday after one exchange of gunfire and unsuccessful attempts at negotiations, authorities said.

Gunshots were exchanged between the Indians and federal marshals earlier in the day, according to a Bureau of Indian Affairs official, but there were no reports of injuries.

An FBI spokesman said there were 11 hostages, ranging in age from 12 to 82.

John McCarty, an FBI agent at the scene, said attempts had been made to reach agreement on release of the hostages. However, he said, "At this time, there have been no meaningful negotiations."

The Indians, who were demanding to see two U.S. senators concerning a list of demands, repeated earlier assurances that the hostages would not be harmed.

Spokesmen for the Indians also said a cease-fire had been arranged with the FBI.

Read more [here](#).

## Fighting for free speech in Florida--House Bill 991

[Edward L. Birk](#) - *General Counsel, Florida First Amendment Foundation* - When I left the AP's Tallahassee bureau and earned a law degree in 1995, it was a dream to imagine representing news media and others with First Amendment missions. For all these years, it has been inspiring to do so. Since 2016 or so, that inspiration has been paired with grave concern for the public debate that so easily discounts the essential function that a strong and free news media and the First Amendment serve as engines



of our nation's experiment in democracy and self-government. Many of us believe Florida is only the first state of many to propose legislation such as House Bill 991 that will gut nearly 60 years of well-settled defamation law based on *New York Times v. Sullivan*. As Justice Brennan said in the court's unanimous 1964 opinion, "we consider this case against the background of a profound national commitment to the principle that debate on public issues should be uninhibited, robust, and wide-open, and that it may well include vehement, caustic, and sometimes unpleasantly sharp attacks on government and public officials." The court determined that actual malice provides "breathing room" for news media and others for inevitable mistakes that will be made while serving the higher purpose of informing the public about the functioning of government.

"Cases which impose liability for erroneous reports of the political conduct of officials reflect the obsolete doctrine that the governed must not criticize their governors ... Whatever is added to the field of libel is taken from the field of free debate."

First Amendment advocates in Florida have already started building broad based coalitions of news media and other free-speech organizations across the country to educate our legislators and fight to protect existing law of defamation/libel. We hope readers of Connecting will keep talking and blogging about the role of news media and free speech so that legislatures will "heed your rising voices."

Our executive director, Bobby Block, issued this op-ed:

## ***HB991: Bad for Florida, bad for America***

Imagine a world in which newspapers have been bankrupted and shuttered.

Imagine that Reddit, the Drudge Report and Red Pill are no more and that social media platforms forbid political discussion of any stripe.

Imagine that while some television and radio news show still exist, they only feature endless stories about cats and dogs, and fawning coverage of those in power.

Imagine a world in which robust political discussion has been cowed into silence, and all government business takes place behind closed doors, and nobody can talk about what might have transpired in this darkness unless they want to end up broke, unemployed and homeless.

This is not the backdrop of some new Netflix drama about a dystopian future in a galaxy, far, far away. No. This is a possible reality right here in Florida if lawmakers succeed in passing a bill that would lower the threshold for the rich and powerful to sue and recover legal damages from anybody who says something they don't like.

Read more [here](#)

## **Stories of interest**

## ***Rapid demise of ‘Dilbert’ is no surprise to those watching*** (AP)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — The comic strip “Dilbert” disappeared with lightning speed following racist remarks by creator Scott Adams, but it shouldn’t come as a shock to anyone who has followed them both.

Adams, who is white, was an outspoken presence on social media long before describing Black people as a “hate group” on YouTube and, to some, “Dilbert” had strayed from its roots as a chronicler of office culture.

The editor of the San Francisco Chronicle, which dumped “Dilbert” last year, said the comic strip “went from being hilarious to being hurtful and mean.” The Los Angeles Times, which joined dozens of other newspapers in dropping the comic following last week’s remarks, had quietly replaced four of Adams’ strips last year.

“He kind of ran out of office jokes and started integrating all this other stuff so after a while, it became hard to distinguish between Scott Adams and ‘Dilbert,’” said Mike Peterson, columnist for the industry blog The Daily Cartoonist.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2023/02/26/elon-musk-scott-adams-dilbert-racist/>

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

Washington Post: [Musk defends ‘Dilbert’ creator, says media is ‘racist against whites’](#)  
Shared by Linda Deutsch.

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## ***Murdoch says some Fox hosts ‘endorsed’ false election claims*** (AP)

By RANDALL CHASE

DOVER, Del. (AP) — Fox Corp. chairman Rupert Murdoch acknowledged that some Fox News commentators endorsed the false allegations by former President Donald Trump and his allies that the 2020 presidential election was stolen and that he didn’t step in to stop them from promoting the claims, according to excerpts of a deposition unsealed Monday.

The claims and the company’s handling of them are at the heart of a defamation lawsuit against the cable news giant by Dominion Voting Systems.

The recently unsealed documents include excerpts from a deposition in which Murdoch was asked about whether he was aware that some of the network’s

commentators — Lou Dobbs, Maria Bartiromo, Jeanine Pirro and Sean Hannity — at times endorsed the false election claims. Murdoch replied, “Yes. They endorsed.”

The Murdoch deposition is the latest filing in the defamation case to reveal concerns at the top-rated network over how it was handling Trump’s claims as its ratings plummeted after the network called Arizona for Joe Biden, angering Trump and his supporters.

Read more [here](#).

And...

## ***Murdoch Acknowledges Fox News Hosts Endorsed Election Fraud Falsehoods*** (New York Times)

By Jeremy W. Peters and Katie Robertson

Rupert Murdoch, chairman of the conservative media empire that owns Fox News, acknowledged in a deposition that several hosts for his networks promoted the false narrative that the 2020 election was stolen from former President Donald J. Trump, and that he could have stopped them but didn’t, court documents released on Monday showed.

“They endorsed,” Mr. Murdoch said under oath in response to direct questions about the Fox hosts Sean Hannity, Jeanine Pirro, Lou Dobbs and Maria Bartiromo, according to a legal filing by Dominion Voting Systems. “I would have liked us to be stronger in denouncing it in hindsight,” he added, while also disclosing that he was always dubious of Mr. Trump’s claims of widespread voter fraud.

Asked whether he doubted Mr. Trump, Mr. Murdoch responded: “Yes. I mean, we thought everything was on the up-and-up.” At the same time, he rejected the accusation that Fox News as a whole had endorsed the stolen election narrative. “Not Fox,” he said. “No. Not Fox.”

Mr. Murdoch’s remarks, which he made last month as part of Dominion’s \$1.6 billion defamation lawsuit against Fox, added to the evidence that Dominion has accumulated as it tries to prove its central allegation: The people running the country’s most popular news network knew Mr. Trump’s claims of voter fraud in the 2020 election were false but broadcast them anyway in a reckless pursuit of ratings and profit.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad, Adolphe Bernotas, Sibby Christensen.

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## ***The Winsted Citizen: Ralph Nader’s gift to his hometown*** (Editor and Publisher)

**Bob Sillick | for Editor & Publisher**

Todd Arcelaschi, the mayor, was there, and so was Joshua Steele Kelly, the town manager. A seven-piece R&B jazz band kept the atmosphere lively. More than 100 guests had gathered in the American Museum of Tort Law in Winsted, Connecticut, to celebrate the launch of the Winsted Citizen for a community hungry for news. Winsted is also where Ralph Nader was born and delivered the local newspaper as a boy, and the Citizen is his gift to his hometown, which had become a news desert.

“The Winsted Journal folded in 2017, so we were without a newspaper. You can’t have a community without a newspaper. Studies show voting and social life decline, and fewer people attend town meetings. No one is holding the government accountable and supporting the business community with coverage of important events,” Nader said.

“I came to the conclusion there's no community in the country that can't support a weekly newspaper. It's just a lack of imagination and organization. It only takes a handful of people to make it happen.”

Read more [here](#).

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***Fox's Kurtz says he's disallowed from covering  
Dominion case*** (AP)

NEW YORK (AP) — Fox News media reporter Howard Kurtz says he's been barred by his company from covering Dominion Voting System's \$1.6 billion defamation lawsuit against Fox and he “strongly disagrees” with the decision.

Kurtz made the announcement on his Sunday “Media Buzz” program, saying he was responding to people who wondered why he wasn't covering the case.

Read more [here](#).

***See pages from final editions of Birmingham News,  
Huntsville Times and Mobile Press-Register***





55 SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2023

# The Birmingham News

## Thank you, Birmingham

*Today is the end of an era — the last printed edition of The Birmingham News. But the move to all-digital delivery won't change our commitment to reporting news that changes lives, laws and minds in our community and Alabama, just as we have for many decades.*

**Tom Bates** *President, Alabama Media Group*

**Kelcy Ann Scott** *Editor-in-chief and vice president of content, Alabama Media Group*

**T**his is our last printed edition of the newspaper as we move to all-digital delivery of the news. But it's not an ending — it's part of an evolution. In today's edition, you'll find the biographies of all the Alabama-based journalists who will continue to serve you going forward. Read about them, get to know them — their dedication to covering Alabama transcends this edition. They live in the communities we serve and care deeply about the places we all love.

They'll continue asking the tough questions on your behalf, holding the powerful to account and reporting on the issues that help democracy thrive locally. They are dedicated to work that changes lives, laws and minds in Alabama. And they'll continue to bring us together to celebrate the people, places and moments that make Alabama so special to all of us.

Their work has evolved with your reading habits. As you have moved online, so has their reporting. You'll find it across our brands such as AL.com, the Lede, The Alabama Education Lab, Reckon and more. Or by following or subscribing to This is Alabama, People of Alabama and It's A Southern Thing.

Inside this edition, you'll also find a collection of key historic moments we covered as they happened. The space race, Mardi Gras, civil rights, tornadoes and hurricanes, national championships — we've been documenting and delivering the news in Alabama in these pages for decades. The images and stories we've gathered capture moments in time from which the craft of journalism has evolved. Photographs became videos; once-a-day stories became real-time news coverage online.

So today, we say thank you — for your support of our journalism over the decades and for letting us evolve with you now. Your trust has helped us become the state's largest digital news source. We don't take that lightly.

Today's edition completes a chapter in our shared story, but it's not an ending. We'll see you online.

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**INSIDE**  
**Who we are**  
**By Staff reports**

Meet the 102 journalists throughout Alabama who will continue to deliver the important stories to our readers. **Pages A2-7**

**Moments remembered**

Newspapers have been called the first draft of history. We take a look at some of the history we shared. **Pages B2-8**

**Today's news**

Find our daily coverage of local and national news, opinion, business, features and sports starting on **Page C1**.



The final editions of the three largest newspapers in Alabama have one unifying theme: Alabama Media Group journalists will continue to evolve with readers and keep delivering high-quality, digital journalism.

The newspapers, which will publish their last editions Sunday, each have the same 1A cover with a note from Editor-In-Chief Kelly Ann Scott and President Tom Bates. The note thanks the communities for their support of their newspapers and the readers who have joined them online as the company shifts to all-digital news delivery.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Peggy Walsh, Ed Williams.

## Today in History - Feb. 28, 2023



Today is Tuesday, Feb. 28, the 59th day of 2023. There are 306 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:**

On Feb. 28, 1993, a gun battle erupted at a religious compound near Waco, Texas, when Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents tried to arrest Branch Davidian leader David Koresh on weapons charges; four agents and six Davidians were killed as a 51-day standoff began.

**On this date:**

In 1844, a 12-inch gun aboard the USS Princeton exploded as the ship was sailing on the Potomac River, killing Secretary of State Abel P. Upshur, Navy Secretary Thomas W. Gilmer and several others.

In 1849, the California gold rush began in earnest as regular steamship service started bringing gold-seekers to San Francisco.

In 1911, President William Howard Taft nominated William H. Lewis to be the first Black Assistant Attorney General of the United States.

In 1953, scientists James D. Watson and Francis H.C. Crick announced they had discovered the double-helix structure of DNA.

In 1972, President Richard M. Nixon and Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai issued the Shanghai Communique, which called for normalizing relations between their countries, at the conclusion of Nixon's historic visit to China.

In 1975, 42 people were killed in London's Underground when a train smashed into the end of a tunnel.

In 1996, Britain's Princess Diana agreed to divorce Prince Charles. (Their 15-year marriage officially ended in August 1996; Diana died in a car crash in Paris a year after that.)

In 2009, Paul Harvey, the news commentator and talk-radio pioneer whose staccato style made him one of the nation's most familiar voices, died in Phoenix at age 90.

In 2014, delivering a blunt warning to Moscow, President Barack Obama expressed deep concern over reported military activity inside Ukraine by Russia and warned "there will be costs" for any intervention.

In 2018, Walmart announced that it would no longer sell firearms and ammunition to people younger than 21 and would remove items resembling assault-style rifles from its website. Dick's Sporting Goods said it would stop selling assault-style rifles and ban the sale of all guns to anyone under 21.

In 2020, the number of countries touched by the coronavirus climbed to nearly 60. The Dow Jones Industrial Average finished the week 12.4% lower in the market's worst weekly performance since the 2008 financial crisis.

Ten years ago: In 2013, Benedict XVI became the first pope in 600 years to resign, ending an eight-year pontificate. (Benedict was succeeded the following month by Pope Francis.) Chelsea Manning, the Army private arrested in the biggest leak of classified information in U.S. history, pleaded guilty at Fort Meade, Maryland, to 10 charges involving illegal possession or distribution of classified material. (Manning was sentenced to up to 35 years in prison after being convicted of additional charges in a court-martial, but had her sentence commuted in 2017 by President Barack Obama.)

Five years ago: Students and teachers returned under police guard to Florida's Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School as classes resumed for the first time since a shooting that killed 17 people. President Donald Trump called for substantial changes to the nation's gun laws, criticizing lawmakers for being fearful of the National Rifle Association. Political leaders paid tribute to the Rev. Billy Graham as his casket rested in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda.

One year ago: Russian forces shelled Ukraine's second-largest city, rocking a residential neighborhood, and closed in on the capital, Kyiv, in a 17-mile convoy of hundreds of tanks and other vehicles. Talks aimed at stopping the fighting yielded only



an agreement to keep talking. A Texas man charged with storming the U.S. Capitol with a holstered handgun on his waist became the first Jan. 6 defendant to go on trial.

Today's birthdays: Architect Frank Gehry is 94. Singer Sam the Sham is 86. Actor-director-dancer Tommy Tune is 84. Hall of Fame auto racer Mario Andretti is 83. Actor Kelly Bishop is 79. Actor Stephanie Beacham is 76. Writer-director Mike Figgis is 75. Actor Mercedes Ruehl is 75. Actor Bernadette Peters is 75. Former Energy Secretary Steven Chu is 75. Actor Ilene Graff is 74. Nobel Prize-winning economist Paul Krugman is 70. Basketball Hall of Famer Adrian Dantley is 68. Actor John Turturro is 66. Rock singer Cindy Wilson is 66. Actor Rae Dawn Chong is 62. Actor Maxine Bahns is 54. Actor Robert Sean Leonard is 54. Rock singer Pat Monahan is 54. Author Daniel Handler (aka "Lemony Snicket") is 53. Actor Tasha Smith is 52. Actor Rory Cochrane is 51. Actor Ali Larter is 47. Country singer Jason Aldean is 46. Actor Geoffrey Arend is 45. Actor Melanie Chandra (TV: "Code Black") is 39. Actor Michelle Horn is 36. MLB relief pitcher Aroldis Chapman is 35. Actor True O'Brien is 29. Actor Madisen Beaty is 28. Actor Quinn Shephard is 28. Actor Bobb'e J. Thompson is 27.

## 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.



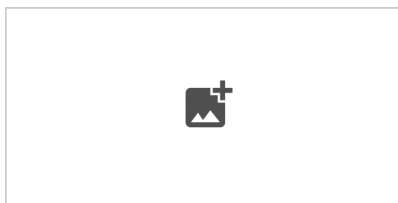
Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

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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