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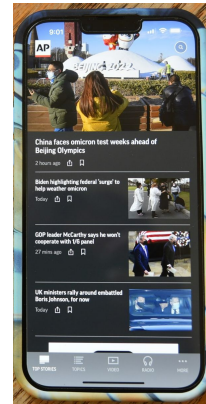
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Connecting

March 7, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this March 7, 2023,

Does the AP serve customers, or members, or both?

Our colleague **Paul Albright** noted the use of “AP customers” several times in an announcement by a senior AP executive and posed this question in last Friday’s Connecting – “Stuck in my mind was that we were instructed to refer to ‘AP members’ and never as ‘customers.’ We were reminded that the AP was an ‘association’ of media members rather than a business-customer relationship. Probably, that instruction has changed over the years just as the media landscape has evolved along with AP’s business model. Does the AP now have ‘customers’ rather than ‘members,’ and, if so, when did that transformation take place?”

Colleague **Alan Flippen** wrote in response that “in my day, ‘members’ were the newspapers that held equity and were eligible for board seats, while ‘customers’ were other forms of media who were not eligible for that.”

This, from the AP corporate site: For 170 years, we have been breaking news and covering the world's biggest stories, always committed to the highest standards of objective, accurate journalism. We were founded as an independent news cooperative, whose **members** are U.S. newspapers and broadcasters, steadfast in our mission to inform the world. From delivering the news via pony express in 1846 to working in virtual reality today, we are always innovating."

Asked to comment on their posts, **Lauren Easton**, vice president for AP Corporate Communications and a Connecting colleague, said, "'Customers' is an inclusive term encompassing both our members and commercial customers. It's in no way intended to minimize members."

In the latter part of my career, sales to commercial customers became more and more an important part of the AP's revenue push, especially as revenue from newspapers declined (at last report, it accounted for less about 20 percent of AP's total revenue). Seeking commercial revenue opportunities has only intensified since I left the AP 14 years ago. And it should. It's needed to fund the journalism AP does - often great journalism that I like to highlight when I can in each Connecting issue.

Still, and my age may be showing here, I wince when I see members and commercial accounts lumped together as "customers." But..."Change is the only constant in life," according to **Heraclitus**, a Greek philosopher (who is not on our mailing list).

Your thoughts are welcomed.

We lead today's issue with memories shared by colleagues of **Clarice Maue**, receptionist for the AP's Washington bureau for 13 years, who died in February (see lead story in Monday's Connecting).

Here's to a great day ahead – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Clarice Maue remembered



Margaret Callahan - March 26, 2022, was a day filled with talk, tea and tasty treats plus a time to relax, celebrate and remember. From left: Jane Wallwork Connor, Margaret Callahan, Daphne Bredeck and Clarice Maue gathered together at Butterflies and Wishes Tea Shop in Chesapeake Beach, Md., discussing a wide variety of topics, celebrating Daphne's birthday, and remembering friend Mary Pennybacker who over a number of years brought us all together and was with us in spirit. The table was elegantly set, and proprietor Sandy delivered pots of hot tea, warm freshly baked treats, joined us for a cup of tea as she and Mary were friends too, and took this photo of us. Tea time will not be the same without you, Clarice.

-0-

Donna Abu-Nasr - Very sad to hear that Clarice has passed away. She was warm and witty and, especially during my first few months in DC when I was totally disoriented, a huge help. Rest in peace, dear Clarice.

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David Briscoe - The two grande dames of the AP Washington bureau were Mary Pennybacker and Clarice Maue. None have compared. Some of the best times for the wire service's biggest and most important (not just most self-important) bureau were when the two great British ladies served together, which was the case when I moved on from the bureau in 2001.

Clarice, with her cheery demeanor and common sense, carried on a tradition set by Mary's 43 years of supporting, comforting and sometimes consoling some of Washington's most consequential editors, reporters and photographers. Mary passed away in June 2021.

From 1994 to 2007, Clarice was a significant factor in making the high-pressure bureau a tolerable environment for a staff of more than 100. For many, her very presence at the front desk made both arriving at work and leaving after a hard day a better experience.

After her retirement, she kept in touch with many of those who had worked with her.

Going through her final Facebook posts and those posted by friends after her death illustrates the kind of joy she spread, with delightful memes and comments, always uplifting. It's as if her mission in life was to bring joy to others.

A meme from the day she passed away: "May your day begin with a smile on your face, love in your heart and peace in your soul." That was the message Clarice always exuded.

Bless her soul and condolences to all those who knew her.

-0-

Ron Kampeas - I was so sad to hear about Clarice's passing. She was the first person you would see entering the old AP DC bureau at 2021 K Street and was always ready with a smile. If you "got" British humor, you got her friendship. She was pleased to hear my familiarity with some of her favorite shows ("The Two Ronnies") and was unfailingly kind to all comers.

Part of press pool during OJ trial



Judge Lance Ito stands amid prosecution and defense attorneys as they wait for jurors to finish their visit to the crime scene at Nicole Brown Simpson's condominium on Bundy Drive in Brentwood. (2/12/95) (Los Angeles Daily News file photo)

Brian Bland - Most of my stints as an AP Radio Network pool reporter were brief and uneventful, though occasionally being in a presidential "tight pool" was exciting. At times, though, a blend of protest and diplomacy (ha!) was needed when forest firefighters or police would form pools in rapidly developing situations, forgetting – initially – to include a radio representative.

My most memorable pool duty was on February 12, 1995 – a Sunday – when the OJ Simpson murder trial jury visited both Simpson’s home and Nicole Brown Simpson’s condo, where she and Ron Goldman had been butchered. I believe five of us were in the pool: a print reporter, a TV reporter, a TV camera operator, a still photographer, and me.

At 8:30 that Sunday morning, we gathered in the Criminal Courts Building in downtown L.A. to review the restrictive rules. We knew we wouldn't be allowed to go on Simpson’s property but were blindsided by Nicole’s family barring us from her condo, despite it being bare of all of her belongings, including furniture. The Los Angeles Times called its lawyer, but judge Ito refused to intervene.

The 14-vehicle convoy left downtown at 9:30 a.m., zipping westward on the Santa Monica freeway to the Brentwood area. It reminded me of riding in the motorcade that had whisked president-elect Ronald Reagan to his home along the same freeway nearly 15 years earlier.

The jurors rode in a jail bus, the press in a van, OJ in an unmarked car, and the various lawyers in other vehicles, with an escort of about 20 motorcycle officers. The convoy paused in front of Ron Goldman’s apartment and at Mezzaluna restaurant where Nicole had her last meal (Goldman had been a waiter there).

The jury spent two hours at OJ Simpson’s home and more than two hours at Nicole Simpson’s condo. Jurors were barred from talking among themselves, but made many notes while reading signs posted by the court at significant spots. From a distance, Simpson appeared animated while in his front yard and by his kids’ play area, but at Nicole’s condo he remained in his official car.

Press pool members were kept well away from the jurors. The distance did allow me to file on-scene narratives via cell phone without disturbing the jury. As pool audio, these “sceners” were widely used, even on TV as narrative over pool and aerial videotape.

The next day, Monday, I was up at 2:30 a.m. for a limousine ride to ABC to be on Good Morning America to recap the jurors' trip. Ahead, eight more months of covering Simpson’s criminal trial and, later, his civil trial.

Brent Kallestad was best boss I had the pleasure to work with

[Edward L. Birk](#) - It was great to hear from Brent Kallestad recently in response to my post about Florida’s expanding efforts to punish free speech. Brent was not only our Tallahassee correspondent but he remains the best boss I ever had the pleasure of working with. Lots of memories.

When Miami COB Gary Clark brought Brent to Tallahassee, we met for dinner at a local Chinese restaurant. Brent’s introduction to Tallahassee included confrontation at dinner with a surprisingly hot red pepper in his meal. He probably wondered what in the world he was getting into. Brent shepherded us through many firsts for the

Tallahassee bureau, including construction of our new offices when the Capital Press Center moved from its location next to the Florida Supreme Court across the hill to College Street. In recognition of The AP's brand and reputation, he added wire service artwork to the new bureau including The AP logo and a quote from Mark Twain about The AP's premature or exaggerated report of Twain's death. Among the many memorable events, we attended, in formal attire, a gubernatorial inauguration party, which was a first in the memory of everyone in the bureau. Brent also worked to provide all of us with opportunities. For instance, I enjoyed covering Florida State University football and basketball with him. It became quite clear quite quickly, however, that covering sports without his guidance was not my strong suit. Spot news was. A highlight of each year was the legislative session when Pensacola Correspondence Bill Kaczor would join us for the two-month session. Bill was an amazing generator of weekend feature stories, many of which related to the heavy military presence in the Florida Panhandle. Diana Smith and Jackie Halifax were part of the team, along with photographer Mark Foley and technician Eldon Cort, who was a second-generation AP'er. Tallahassee also had a rich history of AP alumni sprinkled throughout business and government—Ken Klein and Jere Moore, aids to Governor Bob Graham, and David Powell, distinguished attorney, to name a few.

Thinking of Brent and Gary Clark and all of the good people I worked with during my AP years, a common thread emerges—Everyone was willing to teach principles of good journalism with a heavy reliance on fairness and getting the facts right. One example, Miami day filer Larry Hobbs had many lessons for us on those points, including to never include a phone number in a news report without first calling the number to confirm its accuracy. Larry always had deep knowledge on Florida history for us newcomers.

These are the great memories from my time as a newsman, which was always under the protection of New York Times v. Sullivan and related First Amendment law. Today, however, Florida continues its frontal assault on our nation's free, independent, and strong news media. Many people have fought and died over the centuries to earn and preserve the rights of free speech we enjoy today. Any retreat of those rights would disgrace the memory of everyone who has challenged the forces—foreign and domestic—that sought to punish free speech. I urge all of you to get informed with the Florida Legislature's initiatives to punish dissent and squelch the voices of news media. Florida is only the first of what many believe will be a long list of states that follow along.

[Saturday's lead editorial](#) in The New York Times is a good place to start reading about Florida's misguided legislation, which many commentators believe is driven more by presidential electoral motivations than by good public policy.

Additions to AP's Ukraine team

By Nicole Meir

In a memo to staff on Monday, News Director for Europe and Africa James Jordan and Deputy Director for International Photography Tony Hicks made two announcements: Hanna Arhirova is AP's new Ukraine correspondent, and field producer Vasilisa

Stepanenko and photographer Evgeniy Maloletka, previously AP freelancers, have joined the staff:

Vasilisa began working with the AP just before the February 2022 Russian invasion and formed part of the three-person team with Evgeniy Maloletka and Mstyslav Chernov that documented the cruel Russian attacks on Mariupol – their work becoming some of the defining images of the war. Since then, she has established herself a talented and accomplished video operator and reporter. She's worked on a number of stories with the investigations teams, including the deep-dive into the bombing of the Mariupol theatre. Vasilisa has been working as a journalist since 2017, first with the Kharkiv Post weekly newspaper and then as a producer and presenter for a local TV channel in her native Kharkiv. Last week, she won the Young Talent of Year award at the prestigious Royal Television Society awards in London and we are delighted she will join us as a staff member in Ukraine.



Evgeniy is an award-winning photographer who has performed to the highest level since the start of the Ukraine war in February. His work in Mariupol needs no introduction. But there is more to him than that. He has produced top quality imagery when covering the fighting between Russia and Ukraine in the Donbas and south of the country in 2014, the aftermath of the crash of MH17, the protests in Belarus

and most notably when covering the COVID-19 pandemic in the east of the country. Zhenya graduated in 2009 with a degree in electronics and around the same time started working for local Ukrainian news agencies UNIAN and PHL. As well as his work with the AP he has undertaken many commercial assignments for the OSCE, the UN and other international NGOs.

Hanna started working for AP as a freelance fixer and reporter in Lviv shortly after the outbreak of the war – later moving to Kyiv to help the AP team there. She quickly demonstrated that she was a very capable reporter and she has already produced an impressive body of work in the short time she's been working for AP, including an in-person, first-hand account from workers at the Zaporizhzhia NPP after the site was taken over by Russia. She's also very versatile and a quick learner – she's already editing video and speaks six languages, four fluently. Before AP, Hanna graduated from Ukraine's Catholic



University in 2019 and worked for Ukraine's public broadcaster as a TV correspondent covering the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please take a moment to congratulate them all.

Celebrating her 8-year lung-a-versary



[Claudia DiMartino](#) - Celebrating my 8-year lung-a-versary with my ace caregiver Hal (Buell). Maninno's in Commack, Long Island, has wonderful food. After eating at our assisted living facility, what a pleasure!

A wise pair, indeed



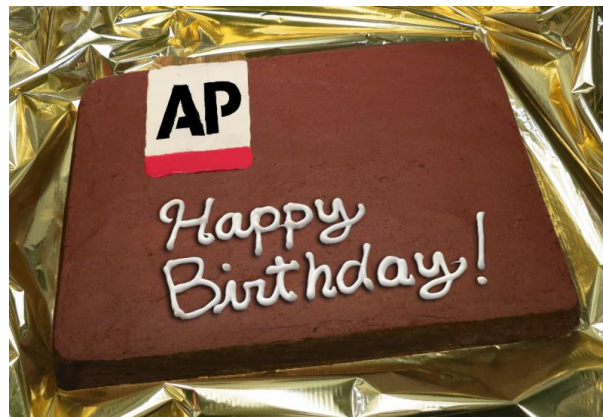
[Dan Haney](#) - A pair of young great horned owls, sitting in a nest built atop a dead palm tree at Ft. DeSoto Park in St. Pete.

Connecting sky shot - New Jersey



Guy Palmiotto - Photographed during my morning walk. The sunrise reflecting off the morning clouds and White Meadow Lake, Rockaway, N.J.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Myron Belkind](#)

[Michael Giarrusso](#)

[Debbie Rusolo](#)

Stories of interest

After Afghan TV fame, a new life in Ohio (BBC)

It has been a year since 76,000 Afghan nationals were resettled in communities across the US, but their stories - especially those of the female journalists who fled home - are still untold, reports Stephen Starr for the BBC.

For five years, broadcast journalist Basira Joya spent her days researching guests and preparing interview questions for the television news show she anchored in Kabul.

But when the Taliban swept through the Afghan capital in August 2021, everything changed.

"After I wrote an article and posted it on my Facebook page, I started getting calls from the Taliban, so I went into hiding," she told the BBC. For weeks she was forced to move from house to house with her brother to avoid being found.

Seventeen months on, Ms Joya, 24, finds herself in a very different place. Gone is the life of interviewing politicians and keeping up with the latest breaking news in Kabul. Today, home is 7,000 miles away in Dayton, Ohio.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady.

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'Dean of Montana political journalists' Chuck Johnson dies (Montana Free Press)

Charles S. "Chuck" Johnson, one of the state's longest-serving statehouse journalists and widely known as the "dean of Montana political reporters," died unexpectedly at his home in Helena on Saturday.

Johnson reported on Montana politics and government for Montana's largest newspapers and wire services for 45 years before his retirement in 2017. During the course of his career, Johnson covered 22 legislative sessions, eight governors, nine U.S. senators, and 12 U.S. representatives, earning a reputation as a factual and fair journalist whose reporting was infused with a sense of history and institutional knowledge that gave readers a broad perspective on the most significant issues of the day.

Johnson's wife, Pat Hunt, said her husband was beloved throughout Montana and his loss will be felt across the state.

"So many people sincerely loved Chuck, and I so appreciate all of them and how much they loved him," Hunt said Monday. "He was so humbled by it and it meant so much to him. He cared so much for everybody, and for the state of Montana. It's just such a loss."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Jim Clarke, who said, "I loved this guy. I'm really sad."

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Thousands of pro-Trump bots are attacking DeSantis, Haley (AP)

By DAVID KLEPPER

WASHINGTON (AP) — Over the past 11 months, someone created thousands of fake, automated Twitter accounts — perhaps hundreds of thousands of them — to offer a stream of praise for Donald Trump.

Besides posting adoring words about the former president, the fake accounts ridiculed Trump's critics from both parties and attacked Nikki Haley, the former South Carolina governor and U.N. ambassador who is challenging her onetime boss for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination.

When it came to Ron DeSantis, the bots aggressively suggested that the Florida governor couldn't beat Trump, but would be a great running mate.

As Republican voters size up their candidates for 2024, whoever created the bot network is seeking to put a thumb on the scale, using online manipulation techniques pioneered by the Kremlin to sway the digital platform conversation about candidates while exploiting Twitter's algorithms to maximize their reach.

Read more [here](#).

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Cartoonists criticize 'Dilbert' creator over racist remarks (AP)

By MARK KENNEDY

NEW YORK (AP) — Cartoonists are pushing back against racist remarks made by "Dilbert" creator Scott Adams, with one artist even using his own strip this week to lampoon the disgraced cartoon now dropped by newspapers nationwide.

Darrin Bell is transforming his strip "Candorville" — which usually features young Black and Latino characters — into a way to address Adams' racism by mimicking the look and style of "Dilbert," complete with wayward necktie.

"The only reason anyone knows who Scott Adams is because of the comics page. So I thought somebody on the comics page should respond to him on the comics page," Bell, the 2019 winner of the Pulitzer Prize for illustrated reporting and commentary, told The Associated Press.

In the strips running Monday to Saturday, Bell paired Dilbert with one of his own characters, Lemont Brown. In one, Dilbert hopes Lemont will side with him in his quest to get a laundry room installed at work.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - March 7, 2023



Today is Tuesday, March 7, the 66th day of 2023. There are 299 days left in the year.

Today's highlight in history:

On March 7, 1965, a march by civil rights demonstrators was violently broken up at the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, by state troopers and a sheriff's posse in what came to be known as "Bloody Sunday."

On this date:

In 1876, Alexander Graham Bell received a U.S. patent for his telephone.

In 1911, President William Howard Taft ordered 20,000 troops to patrol the U.S.-Mexico border in response to the Mexican Revolution.

In 1916, Bavarian Motor Works (BMW) had its beginnings in Munich, Germany, as an airplane engine manufacturer.

In 1926, the first successful trans-Atlantic radio-telephone conversations took place between New York and London.

In 1936, Adolf Hitler ordered his troops to march into the Rhineland, thereby breaking the Treaty of Versailles and the Locarno Pact.

In 1945, during World War II, U.S. forces crossed the Rhine at Remagen, Germany, using the damaged but still usable Ludendorff Bridge.

In 1975, the U.S. Senate revised its filibuster rule, allowing 60 senators to limit debate in most cases, instead of the previously required two-thirds of senators present.

In 1994, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled that a parody that pokes fun at an original work can be considered "fair use." (The ruling concerned a parody of the Roy Orbison song "Oh, Pretty Woman" by the rap group 2 Live Crew.)

In 1999, movie director Stanley Kubrick, whose films included "Dr. Strangelove," "A Clockwork Orange" and "2001: A Space Odyssey," died in Hertfordshire, England, at age 70, having just finished editing "Eyes Wide Shut."

In 2005, President George W. Bush nominated John Bolton to be U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, an appointment that ran into Democratic opposition, prompting Bush to make a recess appointment.

In 2016, Peyton Manning announced his retirement after 18 seasons in the National Football League.

In 2020, health officials in Florida said two people who had tested positive for the new coronavirus had died; the deaths were the first on the East Coast attributed to the outbreak.

Ten years ago: The U.N. Security Council voted unanimously for tough new sanctions to punish North Korea for its latest nuclear test; a furious Pyongyang threatened a nuclear strike against the United States. The Senate confirmed John Brennan to be CIA director, 63-34, after the Obama administration bowed to demands from Republicans blocking the nomination and stated explicitly there were limits to the president's power to use drones against U.S. terror suspects on American soil. Sybil Christopher, 83, the wife Richard Burton left in 1963 to marry Elizabeth Taylor, and who became a theater producer and nightclub founder, died in New York.

Five years ago: The White House said Mexico, Canada and other countries could be spared from President Donald Trump's planned steel and aluminum tariffs under national security "carve-outs." For the second time in less than a week, a storm rolled into the Northeast with as much as two feet of wet, heavy snow that grounded flights, closed schools and knocked out power.

One year ago: The humanitarian crisis in Ukraine deepened as Russian forces intensified their shelling and food, water, heat and medicine grew increasingly scarce in what the country condemned as a medieval-style siege by Moscow to batter it into submission. The Supreme Court says it would not take up the sexual assault case against comedian Bill Cosby, leaving in place a decision by Pennsylvania's highest court to throw out his conviction and set him free from prison.

Today's birthdays: International Motorsports Hall of Famer Janet Guthrie is 85. Actor Daniel J. Travanti is 83. Entertainment executive Michael Eisner is 81. Rock musician Chris White (The Zombies) is 80. Rock singer Peter Wolf is 77. Rock musician Matthew Fisher (Procol Harum) is 77. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Lynn Swann is 71. R&B singer-musician Ernie Isley (The Isley Brothers) is 71. Rock musician Kenny Aronoff (BoDeans, John Mellencamp) is 70. Actor Bryan Cranston is 67. Actor Donna Murphy is 64. Actor Nick Searcy is 64. Golfer Tom Lehman is 64. International Tennis

Hall of Famer Ivan Lendl is 63. Actor Mary Beth Evans is 62. Singer-actor Taylor Dayne is 61. Actor Bill Brochtrup is 60. Author E.L. James is 60. Author Bret Easton Ellis is 59. Opera singer Denyce Graves is 59. Comedian Wanda Sykes is 59. Actor Jonathan Del Arco is 57. Rock musician Randy Guss (Toad the Wet Sprocket) is 56. Actor Rachel Weisz is 53. Actor Peter Sarsgaard is 52. Actor Jay Duplass is 50. Classical singer Sebastien Izambard (Il Divo) is 50. Rock singer Hugo Ferreira (Tantric) is 49. Actor Jenna Fischer is 49. Actor Tobias Menzies is 49. Actor Sarayu Blue is 48. Actor Audrey Marie Anderson is 48. Actor TJ Thyne is 48. Bluegrass singer-musician Frank Solivan is 46. Actor Laura Prepon is 43. Actor Bel Powley is 31. Poet and activist Amanda Gorman is 25. Actor Giselle Eisenberg (TV: "Life in Pieces") is 16.

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.

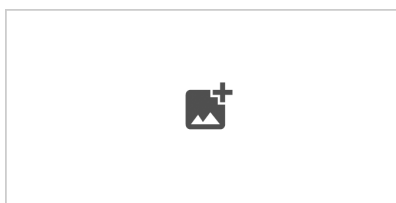
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

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

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