

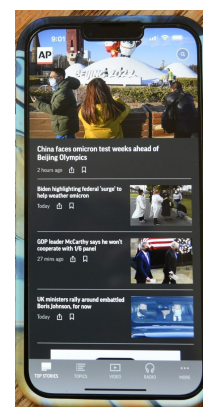
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Connecting

April 19, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this April 19, 2023,

Today's Connecting brings you a profile of one of AP's newest retirees, Washington newsman **Doug Daniel**, whose final day at work was Sunday.

In a staff announcement, Washington COB **Anna Johnson** said Daniel "has been a critical part of the Washington bureau and text editing operation over the past two decades ... he moved to Washington in 2003 as an editor on the political desk, a role he reprised during the 2008 and 2012 campaigns ... In recent years, Doug has been a stalwart of the night desk. But he still managed to get his byline on the wire from time to time. He wrote a feature on the last living World War I veterans, for instance, and a piece about taking better vacation photos. His byline has appeared on obituaries and dozens of book reviews, mainly those about the movies."

I had the pleasure of working with Doug when he joined the AP's Kansas City bureau. (Anna was his last bureau chief, I was his second, after Fred Moen hired him.)

Doug was a key member of our staff, well liked and respected. His editing skills served him well throughout his career. His deep interest in movies often made him a resource to New York and other bureaus when someone in the entertainment industry was in the news – and he later wrote books that included one on Harry Reasoner and another on the Lou Grant television series.

Got a favorite story of working with Doug? Please send it along.

DEATH OF WOODY BAIRD: Connecting has sadly learned that longtime AP Memphis Correspondent Woody Baird died on April 11 at the age of 77. An obituary is being written and we will bring it to you in Thursday's edition.

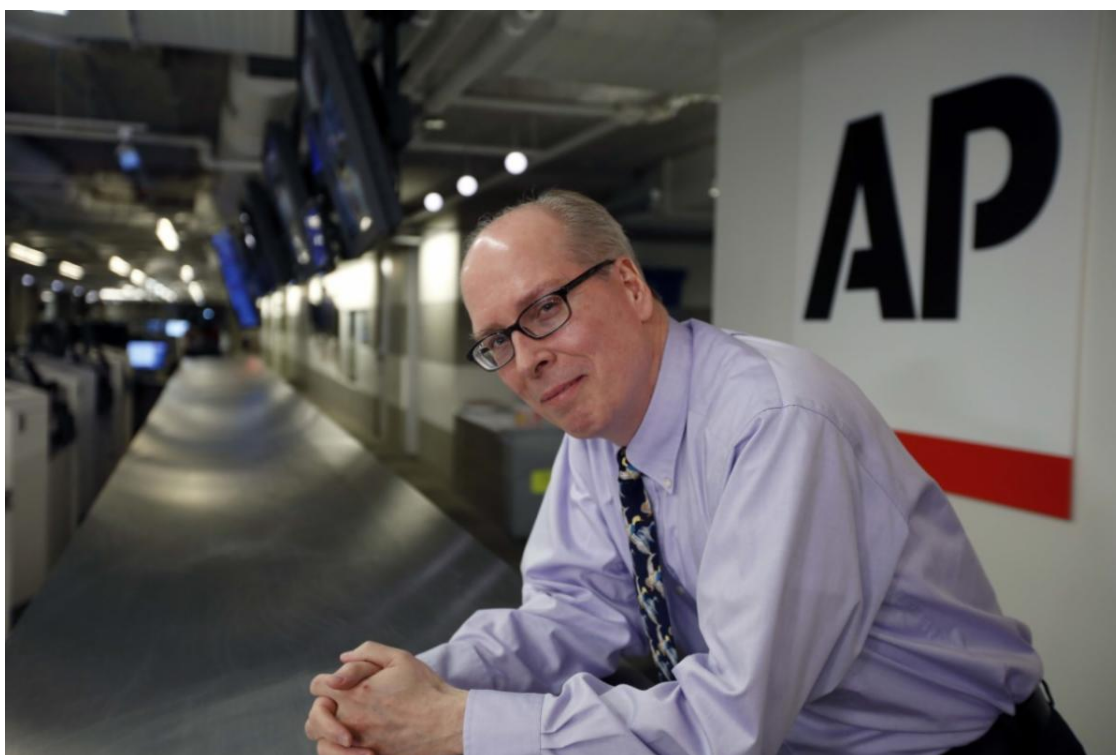
We bring you more stories relating to controversial photos and how they were handled.

Have a good day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Connecting retirement profile

Doug Daniel



How did you get your first job with the AP?

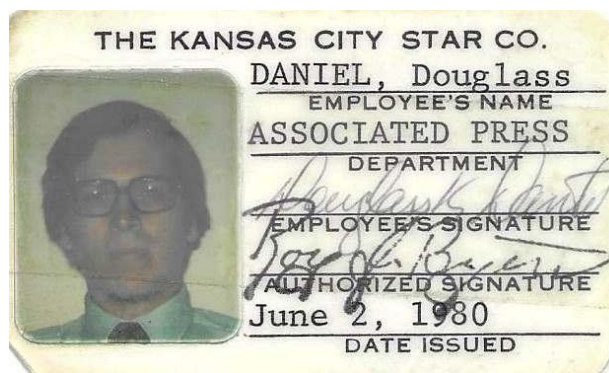
The AP has hired me four different times. It's an endorsement that goes both ways.

The first time was in 1980 just two weeks after I graduated from Kansas State. The Kansas City bureau chief, Fred Moen, relied on a system of “scouts” at journalism schools who could recommend promising (and starting scale) newcomers. The director of student publications at K-State, Bill Brown, suggested that I apply for a summer relief job, so I took the AP writing test. I was hired to start on June 2, my mother’s birthday. By summer’s end I was offered a full-time position to begin in January 1981.

Years later, I came across my test in my personnel file. At the top, in the handwriting of ACOB Mercer Bailey, was this note: “Nothing special here. MGB.” I still laugh at the thought, especially since Mercer taught me so much about the AP way of things.

What was your job in Kansas City?

Back then the bureau covered Kansas and Missouri. The day-to-day focus was rewriting member stories, reporting by phone, and on-scene reporting in the region. The bureau’s broadcast operation wrote regular news summaries and news minutes. And there was a lot of sports, my major weakness. Staffers had to be able to do all those tasks plus file stories to the region and the general desk in New York. It was intimidating at first, sink or swim, but a great environment to gain experience.



I gravitated toward desk work more than on-the street reporting even though I enjoyed getting a byline now and then. I liked the challenge of keeping several balls in the air, which included dealing with member problems and requests and learning the ins and outs of filing. In time I became one of the night supervisors. At night and on weekends the bureau was being run by people like me in their 20s. Mercer called us “the young turks.”

What was your next AP job?

I left the AP in 1988 to pursue a career in academia. I was a visiting assistant professor at Miami University in Ohio, then earned master’s and doctoral degrees at Ohio University. The summer before I started my first full-time teaching job, at K-State in 1995, I worked a few months in the Richmond bureau under COB Dorothy Abernathy. My mother had moved from Kansas to Richmond by then and I lived with her.

That summer actor Christopher Reeve broke his neck while riding in Charlottesville; I wrote a feature about what his recovery might entail. Also that summer, Richmonders debated whether to place a statue of tennis champ Arthur Ashe, a city native, on Monument Avenue, which was dedicated to Confederate heroes. (For a story I interviewed historian Shelby Foote.) The Ashe statue is on Monument Avenue today; the Confederates have been removed.

Small world: I was subbing that summer for RIC staffer Bill Baskerville, who was on medical leave. I had occasion to ask Bill if these numbers meant anything to him:

11731. He said that had been his address at one time. That confirmed a story from my mother's neighbor: Someone named Baskerville who worked in news had lived in that condo at least one owner before my mother bought the place.

How did you end up in Washington?

In 2003 my Kansas City colleague Deb Riechmann, by then a Washington staffer, asked if I would be interested in joining the bureau as a desk editor. She told me hardly anyone went to DC to be an editor; it was a reporter's bureau. I was on the faculty at Ohio University by then but tired of living in small towns and decided to check it out. Bureau chief Sandy Johnson gave me a chance and I was hired to start in December 2003.

I came in as the No. 2 person on the political desk for the 2004 election, which meant I was focused on helping edit our political team's national coverage. It was so different from my Kansas City experience 15 years earlier – all original reporting, a huge staff, and nonstop news. (But no sports!) It was sink-or-swim all over again. I repeated that role in 2008 and handled night coverage for the 2012 election.

One Saturday late into the 2008 campaign, bureau chief Ron Fournier asked why I thought GOP running mate Sarah Palin would claim that Democrat Barack Obama was "palling around with terrorists." I did, and he suggested I write my first and only analysis, which Ron edited. My contention that Palin's remarks carried "a racially tinged subtext" got some attention for a day or two. A friend told me that when his wife said, "Doug Daniel's name is on the crawl on Fox News!" he asked: "Really? Who did he kill?"

What was the biggest story you covered or handled?

The only time I brushed shoulders with reporters from all over the world was in 1984 when I covered the opening night of Michael Jackson's Victory Tour at Kansas City's Arrowhead Stadium. I even interviewed Jackson – uh, Randy, his brother.

In the 19 years I worked in Washington, the biggest stories were the yearlong runup to a presidential election. There is nothing like election night in WDC during a presidential campaign. In the early evening of Election Day in 2016 I called up a friend who had female family members planning to attend Hillary Clinton's historic inauguration and I told him, "I hope their plane tickets are refundable."

Who played the most significant role in your career and how?

At the AP you learn by watching and by doing. I have been lucky to have been in the orbit of many fine AP journalists who maintained high standards and were fun to work with.

In Kansas City, to name a few, news editor Kent Zimmerman set a great example of quiet efficiency and dry humor. Broadcast editor Jim Bagby taught me the ropes of writing broadcast style. Sports writer Doug Tucker was not only insightful about the AP (and droll about everything else) but incredibly patient with a K-State grad who wasn't sure what teams were in the Big 8. The longtime overnight editor, the late Wes Cook, showed me how important it was to have a life outside of the bureau.

In Washington, I watched how political editor Donna Cassata guided national political coverage and firmly but professionally coaxed the best out of a team of political writers and editors. Veteran Washington correspondents like Terry Hunt and Tom Raum answered my novice's questions about politics and journalism. Desk supervisors Robert Glass and Jay Arnold shared their wisdom on how to decide what to keep off the wire as well as what to put on it. AP veteran Merrill Hartson was a fount of information and opinion about navigating Washington and the AP. In fact, there are too many to name – reporters, editors, photographers, broadcasters, people in communications, office managers – who have been wonderful colleagues and made my 19 years in Washington so worthwhile.

What would you change?

Looking back, sometimes I think I should have been more aggressive in setting a course for my AP career. I erred in assuming that I would be encouraged or asked to move up the ladder based on performance alone. But, upon reflection, I did what I wanted to do. I never felt driven to be a correspondent, a news editor or a bureau chief. I think I liked the desk in part because it allowed me the freedom to do lots of things, in and out of the bureau.

What's your favorite hobby or activity?

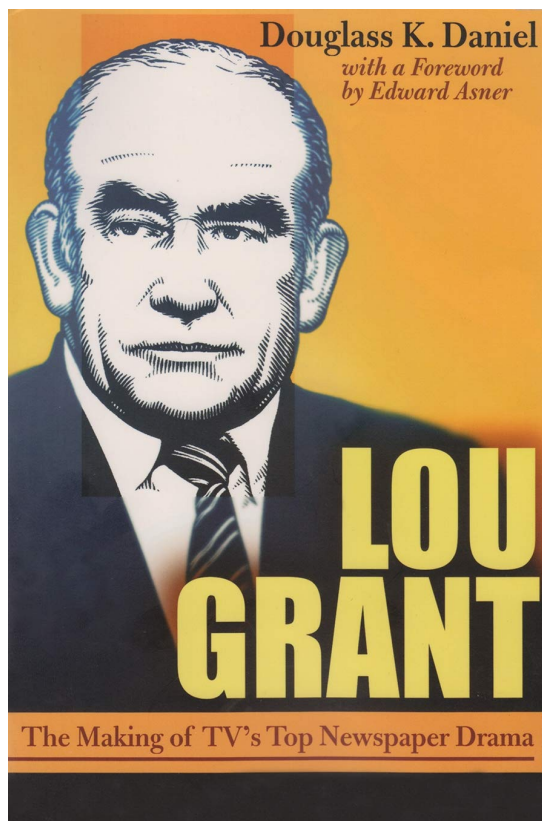


Anyone who knows me knows that I would rather be in a movie theater than a stadium. Early in my AP career I wanted to be the next Bob Thomas, the AP's venerable Hollywood correspondent. I wrote a letter to Bob and asked what he would advise if I wanted to write about the movies. In a short but on-target reply, he said that would be hard to do in KX but that I might find ways.

Fortunately, I realized there would never be another one like Bob – and, more important, that I didn't want to live in Los Angeles. (Besides, the best way to ruin a pleasure is to turn it into a job.) I did follow Bob's advice about combining my skills and interests. I have reviewed film-related books for the AP over the years and have written two such books myself.

What books have you written and why did those topics appeal to you?

For my dissertation I explored the creation and impact of a ground-breaking TV series about journalism, then got it published as "Lou Grant: The Making of TV's Top Newspaper Drama" (1996). To look at a real journalist, I wrote about the broadcaster for whom "60 Minutes" was created, "Harry Reasoner: A Life in the News" (2007). As an avid reader of film-related books, I wanted to try writing one myself. "Tough As Nails: The Life and Films of Richard Brooks" (2011), gave me a reason to revisit the director's movies, including "Elmer Gantry" and "In Cold Blood." I wanted to try writing a bio of an actor or actress, but the significant ones seemed to have been covered already. I was surprised to discover that no biography had been written about Mel Brooks' wife, so I got busy on what became "Anne Bancroft: A Life" (2017).



The connecting theme or subject of these books is journalism and, on a bigger scale, mass media. I have enjoyed the challenge of researching these topics – I have spent many hours at archives around the country to do so. And having a reason to talk with interesting people, if mostly on the phone, points back to why I took to reporting in the first place.

What's next?

I'm staying in Frederick, Maryland. I moved here seven years ago and live in a condo in the same development where my brother has lived for more than 30 years. Our mother, soon to be 94, moved up from Richmond almost two years ago. Now, when my sister visits from California, she has only one place to go to see all of us.

I hope to keep writing. I am working on a book about U.S. Marine Corps combat correspondents, based on research I've done at the National Archives. I contributed a chapter on that subject to a new book from Fordham University Press, "Reporting World War II." And I still come up with ideas for feature stories that interest me enough to want to find out more.

I'll close with one of bureau chief Fred Moen's favorite sayings: "It takes a special breed of cat to work for the AP." In that sense I turned out to be special enough. I have been happy and proud to be a part of the breed all these years.

Doug Daniel's email - douglasskdaniel@yahoo.com

On the handling of graphic photos



[Lindel Hutson](#) – Today is the 28th anniversary of the OKC bombing and an iconic photo that won a Pulitzer Prize.

There was no hesitancy on my part in using the photo of fireman Chris Fields holding the lifeless body of tiny Baylee Almon that April 19, 28 years ago.

My big concern was competition. Who else had this?

The photo was taken by Charles Porter, an amateur photo enthusiast who worked for a local bank and grabbed his camera when he heard the explosion, thinking it was a controlled construction blast.

He brought the pictures to AP and I offered to buy the photos (there were two or three), although there was some hesitancy on my part to pay very much. I had no idea what else might be coming through the door. Porter would not sell me the negatives. AP New York later renegotiated with Porter.

The photo remains the iconic image of that day. Its news value is inescapable although for many people it remains difficult to look at.

Months and years after the bombing I did programs at various civic clubs and journalism groups discussing our coverage. When that photo came up, there were always tears from some in the audience.

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Carl P. Leubsdorf Sr. - The discussion of when pictures are too graphic for family newspapers or AP wires reminds me of a controversy that erupted during my early AP days in New Orleans. The public schools had been desegregated by a federal judge, and demonstrations erupted around the two formerly all-white schools where black students were being enrolled. I was dispatched to the scene to report what was going on, and in due course that included a couple of ugly epithets, one using the "N" word and another denouncing the young man who had been involved in earlier lunch counter sit-ins as a "Jew bastard." (PS: he was not Jewish but a Protestant divinity student.)

The issue was whether to put the exact language on the wire or characterize it. Chief of Bureau Ken Davis made the correct call to include the exact words, but to put a header saying, as we sometimes did in those days, that the story includes language that some may find objectionable. Needless to say, some members complained anyway, but the issue was no different from some of those regarding the graphic pictures: the AP's job was to provide the news, leaving it to individual members to determine what they would run in their papers or on their stations.

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[AP Wirephoto]

Horror of Death

Mrs. Anna White screams after her husband, Allen, 43, and son, Carl, 13, were killed at gas station in Ellettsville, Ind., Saturday when tractor tire they had repaired exploded as they inflated it.

Ellettsville, Ind., July 13 (AP)— A tractor tire that a man and his son were inflating exploded and killed them Saturday at a service station.

Allen White, 43, who operated a nearby farm, was struck in the left eye by a metal object and died instantly, according to a preliminary report by Dr. Anthony Pizzo, the Monroe

County coroner. White's son, Carl, 13, one of six children, was thrown several feet by the explosion. The coroner said the boy's neck and ribs were broken and his lungs ruptured.

The explosion was so powerful, it blew most of the clothes off the bodies.

The report said the tire's inner tube apparently exploded

because the tire was not properly sealed to the wheel rim.

Mrs. White, returning from an errand in this town of 400, was the first to discover the bodies.

White had repaired the tire — five feet in diameter and weighing several hundred pounds — and hauled it to the station in a truck to inflate it.

Image courtesy of AP Corporate Archives

Bruce Lowitt - In 1969, before I realized covering politics would not be my forte (I switched to sports that September), I was assigned to the Sacramento buro for the political session. One quiet afternoon - I was the only one in the office at the moment - I took a call from a very angry reader complaining about a photograph in the

Sacramento Union. He said he had first called the paper and was told it was an AP photo and that he should complain to us.

I looked at the picture. It was, indeed, graphic - a photo (I seem to recall it was taken somewhere in Indiana) showing the aftermath of a tractor tire that had exploded. A man and his son who had been working on the tire were killed. A woman could be seen in the foreground, shock registered on her face.

The caller was furious. I told him the photo had probably been transmitted with a warning that it might be objectionable to some readers but that even if a warning hadn't been included it was up to the newspaper to decide whether to use it. He was still angry, so I engaged him in a conversation about censorship and about taste in general, how it was not The AP's job to decide what photographs or stories people should see. We talked about riots and protests (the People's Park demonstration in Berkeley, Calif., had taken place a few months earlier), about war photos and so on.

We probably spoke for about 10 minutes and I think I convinced him that freedom of the press was a good thing, even if he found a picture or story bothered him, because he wouldn't want someone else to be able to stop the publication of something he might want to see or read. When I hung up, I noticed a father and young son standing at the entrance to the buro. The man said they'd been wandering around the capitol, had seen AP on the door and had peeked in and been listening to me for a couple of minutes. When I asked him if he needed something he said, "No, but you should go into PR," smiled and left.

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Mark Mittelstadt - Hal Buell's "Eye of the Beholder" folder may include an AP image that was the subject of a member complaint in the late 1980s.

The photo showed a major league infielder stretching with his foot on the bag to catch the ball and make a play. The photo showed the outstretched player's crotch where a bulge was apparent through tight baseball pants.

The picture troubled the Hobbs, N.M., News-Sun publisher, who accused AP of moving a photo of a baseball player in a state of arousal. "Tell me AP didn't send this to see if your members were paying attention," he said, sternly. I told him I was pretty sure what he saw was a hard athletic cup that almost all professional baseball players wear. He disagreed and continued about the inappropriateness of the photo for family consumption.

I was prepared to chalk it up to a publisher attempting to prank a new AP bureau chief. But his editor and others in the newsroom told me privately later he was deeply religious and very conservative, coming from a conservative publishing company in Lake Charles, La. He likely was dead serious, they said. Shortly after arriving at the paper, he had gone through the press room and an adjacent bathroom and ripped down all taped-up LaserPhoto prints of cheesecake images AP used to transmit of bikini-clad women.

I sent my member visit report to Membership and Photos, where I was told later it got a good laugh.

Nick's presidential meeting



Nick Ut – I am with Costa Rica President Rodrigo Chaves at Presidential Palace in San Jose, Costa Rica, on Tuesday. The president invited me and his told me he had visited Vietnam four times.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



John Dorfman

Stories of interest

Fox, Dominion reach \$787M settlement over election claims (AP)



Reporters surround attorneys for Dominion Voting Systems during a news conference outside the New Castle County Courthouse in Wilmington, Del., after the defamation lawsuit by Dominion Voting Systems against Fox News was settled on Tuesday. (AP Photo/Julio Cortez)

By DAVID BAUDER, RANDALL CHASE and GEOFF MULVIHILL

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) — Fox News agreed Tuesday to pay Dominion Voting Systems nearly \$800 million to avert a trial in the voting machine company's lawsuit that would have exposed how the network promoted lies about the 2020 presidential election.

The stunning settlement emerged just as opening statements were supposed to begin, abruptly ending a case that had embarrassed Fox News over several months and raised the possibility that network founder Rupert Murdoch and stars such as Tucker Carlson and Sean Hannity would have to testify publicly.

"The truth matters. Lies have consequences," Dominion lawyer Justin Nelson told reporters outside a Delaware courthouse after Superior Court Judge Eric Davis announced the deal.

Outside of the \$787.5 million promised to Colorado-based Dominion, it was unclear what other consequences Fox would face. Fox acknowledged in a statement "the court's rulings finding certain claims about Dominion to be false," but no apology was offered.

"We are hopeful that our decision to resolve this dispute with Dominion amicably, instead of the acrimony of a divisive trial, allows the country to move forward from these issues," Fox said. Its lawyers and representatives offered no other comment or details about the settlement.

Asked by a reporter whether there was "anything to this other than money," Dominion CEO John Poulos did not answer.

The deal is a significant amount of money even for a company the size of Fox. It represents about one-quarter of the \$2.96 billion the company reported earning last year before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization — a figure often used to approximate a company's cash flow.

Read more [here](#).

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How election lies, libel law were key to Fox defamation suit (AP)

By JENNIFER PELTZ and NICHOLAS RICCARDI

Fox News settled a major defamation lawsuit for \$787.5 million on Tuesday, according to the voting machine company that sued the top cable news network.

The settlement avoids a trial that could have shed additional light on former President Donald Trump's election lies, revealed more about how the right-leaning network operates and even redefined libel law in the U.S. Here are some things to know about the case.

THE CASE

Dominion Voting Systems sued Fox for \$1.6 billion, claiming the news outlet repeatedly aired allegations that the company's voting machines were rigged against Trump in 2020 while knowing the accusations were untrue. Fox contended that it was reporting newsworthy charges made by supporters of the Republican president. The network said it was supported legally by libel standards.

The judge in the case announced that the two parties had resolved the matter Tuesday, just as opening arguments were scheduled to begin. Fox did not reveal settlement terms, but Dominion said the deal was for \$787.5 million.

Read more [here](#).

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Oklahoma sheriff says recording of killing talk was illegal (AP)

By KEN MILLER and SEAN MURPHY

An Oklahoma sheriff's office says a newspaper's audio recording in which the sheriff and other county officials are reportedly heard discussing killing two journalists and hanging Black people was illegal and predicted felony charges will be filed.

A post on the sheriff's office Facebook page — the agency's first public comment since the comments by Sheriff Kevin Clardy and others were reported by the McCurtain Gazette-News — does not address the recorded discussion, but calls the situation "complex" and one "we regret having to address."

The threatening comments by the officials that were recorded have sparked outrage and protests. Oklahoma's GOP Gov. Kevin Stitt and state Rep. Eddy Dempsey, a Republican who represents the area, have called for Clardy and others to resign. NAACP leaders in Oklahoma also called for the FBI and the Department of Justice to investigate.

The sheriff's statement calls the past 72 hours "amongst the most difficult and disruptive in recent memory" and says the recording was altered and involves many victims.

Read more [here](#).

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US reporter held by Russia on spying charges denied release (AP)

By The Associated Press

A Russian judge ruled Tuesday that American journalist Evan Gershkovich must remain behind bars on espionage charges in a case that is part of a crackdown the Kremlin has intensified on dissent and press freedom since invading Ukraine.

Appearing in public for the first time in weeks, the 31-year-old Wall Street Journal reporter stood in a defendant's glass cage in Moscow City Court, wearing blue jeans and a navy blue gingham checked shirt. He paced at times with his arms folded, talking through an opening with his lawyers and occasionally smiling as he acknowledged the other journalists crammed into the courtroom for photos before the hearing was closed because Russian authorities have declared the case secret.

Gershkovich is the first U.S. correspondent since the Cold War to be detained in Russia on spying charges, and his arrest rattled journalists in the country and drew outrage in the West. Gershkovich, his employer and the U.S. government deny he was involved in spying and have demanded his release.

Read more [here](#).

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Despite the dumbing down, books will survive

By DAN PERRY

Here's a picture worth 1,000 words: the bookstore at Ben Gurion Airport bravely marches on, with its week-old copies of the Economist and disorderly piles of bestsellers; to the right, the former music shop offers cables, headsets and electronic paraphernalia amid a nearly extinct selection of CDs. There seems to be a story there.

Yup — CDs are toast. That appears to condemn the music experience to a streaming hell of bits and bytes (unless you belong to the retro youth squad unaccountably attracted to vinyl LPs) — whereas I'm here to declare that books will certainly survive.

Indeed book sales are at record highs: according to recent reports almost 789 million specimens were sold in the United States last year, the second-highest figure this century (after pandemic-addled 2021) and a full third higher than a decade earlier.

Why is this, when books are just as digitizable as music? When Big Tech would like nothing more than to kill them off as well, in a mad rush to a metaverse-based future where fiction is produced by Bard and consumed by ChatGPT?

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word



Shared by Steve Dapper

Today in History - April 19, 2023



Today is Wednesday, April 19, the 109th day of 2023. There are 256 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 19, 1775, the American Revolutionary War began with the battles of Lexington and Concord.

On this date:

In 1865, a funeral was held at the White House for President Abraham Lincoln, assassinated five days earlier; his coffin was then taken to the U.S. Capitol for a private memorial service in the Rotunda.

In 1897, the first Boston Marathon was held; winner John J. McDermott ran the course in two hours, 55 minutes and 10 seconds.

In 1912, a special subcommittee of the Senate Commerce Committee opened hearings in New York into the Titanic disaster.

In 1943, during World War II, tens of thousands of Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto began a valiant but ultimately futile battle against Nazi forces.

In 1977, the Supreme Court, in *Ingraham v. Wright*, ruled 5-4 that even severe spanking of schoolchildren by faculty members did not violate the Eighth Amendment ban against cruel and unusual punishment.

In 1989, 47 sailors were killed when a gun turret exploded aboard the USS Iowa in the Caribbean. (The Navy initially suspected that a dead crew member had deliberately sparked the blast, but later said there was no proof of that.)

In 1993, the 51-day siege at the Branch Davidian compound near Waco, Texas, ended as fire destroyed the structure after federal agents began smashing their way in; about 80 people, including two dozen children and sect leader David Koresh, were killed.

In 1995, a truck bomb destroyed the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, killing 168 people. (Bomber Timothy McVeigh, who prosecutors said had planned

the attack as revenge for the Waco siege of two years earlier, was convicted of federal murder charges and executed in 2001.)

In 2005, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger of Germany was elected pope in the first conclave of the new millennium; he took the name Benedict XVI.

In 2013, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev (joh-HAHR' tsahr-NEYE'-ehv), a 19-year-old college student wanted in the Boston Marathon bombings, was taken into custody after a manhunt that had left the city virtually paralyzed; his older brother and alleged accomplice, 26-year-old Tamerlan (TAM'-ehr-luhn), was killed earlier in a furious attempt to escape police.

In 2015, Freddie Gray, a 25-year-old Black man, died a week after suffering a spinal cord injury in the back of a Baltimore police van while he was handcuffed and shackled. (Six police officers were charged; three were acquitted and the city's top prosecutor eventually dropped the three remaining cases.)

Newspaper publisher Al Neuharth, 89, died in Coco Beach, Florida. Children's author E.L. Konigsburg, 83, died in Falls Church, Virginia.

Five years ago: Raul Castro turned over Cuba's presidency to Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez, the first non-Castro to hold Cuba's top government office since the 1959 revolution led by Fidel Castro and his younger brother Raul. Democratic Sen. Tammy Duckworth of Illinois brought her 10-day-old daughter to the Senate floor one day after senators approved a new rule permitting it; Duckworth was the first senator to have given birth while serving in the Senate. Walter Leroy Moody, age 83, was executed by lethal injection in Alabama for the mail-bomb slaying of a federal judge in 1989; Moody became the oldest prisoner put to death in the U.S. in modern times. Authorities in Minnesota ended their investigation into the death of music superstar Prince from an accidental overdose without charging anyone in the case.

One year ago: Russia assaulted cities and towns along a boomerang-shaped front hundreds of miles long and poured more troops into Ukraine in a pivotal battle for control of the country's eastern industrial heartland of coal mines and factories. A New Jersey diocese agreed to pay \$87.5 million to settle claims involving clergy sex abuse with some 300 alleged victims in one of the largest cash settlements involving the Catholic church in the United States. The influential sitcom "black-ish" aired its last episode on ABC after eight seasons.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Elinor Donahue is 86. Rock musician Alan Price (The Animals) is 81. Actor Tim Curry is 77. Pop singer Mark "Flo" Volman (The Turtles; Flo and Eddie) is 76. Actor Tony Plana is 71. Former tennis player Sue Barker is 67. Motorsports Hall of Famer Al Unser Jr. is 61. Actor Tom Wood is 60. Former recording executive Suge Knight is 58. Singer-songwriter Dar Williams is 56. Actor Kim Hawthorne (TV: "Greenleaf") is 55. Actor Ashley Judd is 55. Singer Bekka Bramlett is 55. Latin pop singer Luis Miguel is 53. Actor Jennifer Esposito is 51. Actor Jennifer Taylor is 51. Jazz singer Madeleine Peyroux (PAY'-roo) is 49. Actor James Franco is 45. Actor Kate Hudson is 44. Actor Hayden Christensen is 42. Actor Catalina Sandino Moreno is 42. Actor-comedian Ali Wong is 41. Actor Victoria Yeates is 40. Actor Kelen Coleman is 39. Actor Zack Conroy is 38. Roots rock musician Steve Johnson (Alabama Shakes) is 38.

Actor Courtland Mead is 36. Retired tennis player Maria Sharapova is 36. NHL forward Patrik Laine is 25.

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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