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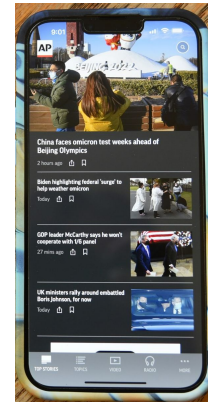
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# Connecting

May 17, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this May 17, 2023,

The AP was honored with two Pulitzer Prizes last week related to its coverage of the war in Ukraine – and Poynter Institute’s **Roy Peter Clark** - vice president and senior scholar of the institute - has bestowed yet another honor for that work:

He wrote:

**The prize for the best Pulitzer lead – on the first Pulitzer story I read this year — goes to the AP for coverage of the war in Ukraine. The Prize is for Public Service. The byline includes Mstyslav Chernov, Evgeniy Maloletka and Lori Hinnant:**

Read more in the first item of today’s Connecting. Credit for the lead, Connecting learned, goes to Mstyslav Chernov, Lori Hinnant and Mary Rajkumar - it was a joint effort.

Our colleague **Chris Sullivan** took note of the wonderful remembrance story in Tuesday's Connecting by **Nancy Shulins** – see his post below – and offers this idea for his colleagues:

*Nancy's reconnection with her news subject decades later through a serendipitous meeting makes me wonder whether others have had such reconnections. Often, we finish the story and move on, maybe wondering, years in the future, how that person we wrote about or photographed fared after the moment of news. Are there other long-delayed sequels out there?*

If you have such a story to tell, please send it along.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy, live your life to your fullest!

Paul

## The Best Pulitzer Lead (or Lede) of 2023 Is

...

### ***Roy Peter Clark continues a tradition of ranking the best leads on Pulitzer-winning stories***

**By: Roy Peter Clark**

For most of a decade now, I have read Pulitzer Prize-winning stories with special attention to the leads – or ledes, if you prefer. Great stories can begin with average leads, of course. And what looks like a great lead can lead us nowhere.

Cheers to this year's Pulitzer winners. I honor you all as champions of truth telling and democracy. Out of all your great work, it is my self-appointed job to select the best lead, and to make a case for it. The prize is bragging rights.

Here are the criteria I have used in previous competitions:

I will, in most cases, only consider the lead of the first story in any entry, unless one jumps up and pokes me in the eye.

Categories compete against each other. Leads are leads.

Long leads are not punished, but shorter ones get extra points.

If I don't get the point of the story in three paragraphs, you are, as we say in Pulitzer judging, "thrown under the table."

Unusual elements get extra points, as long as they don't distract from the focus of the story.

In the case of a tie, the prize goes to the single writer over a team.

What makes a good lead? I like John McPhee's metaphor that a lead is a flashlight that you shine into the well of the story. You don't have to see all the way to the bottom, just far enough to know what you are getting into.

To reveal my taste in leads, I like to use this old news lead, written in 1968 by the late Mark Hawthorne, for The New York Times:

"A 17-year-old boy chased his pet squirrel up a tree in Washington Square Park yesterday afternoon, touching off a series of incidents in which 22 persons were arrested and eight persons, including five policemen, were injured."

If you don't like that one, you might consider moving along to another column.

## Winner

The prize for the best Pulitzer lead – on the first Pulitzer story I read this year — goes to the AP for coverage of the war in Ukraine. The Prize is for Public Service. The byline includes Mstyslav Chernov, Evgeniy Maloletka and Lori Hinnant:

MARIUPOL, Ukraine (AP) — The bodies of the children all lie here, dumped into this narrow trench hastily dug into the frozen earth of Mariupol to the constant drumbeat of shelling.

There's 18-month-old Kirill, whose shrapnel wound to the head proved too much for his little toddler's body. There's 16-year-old Iliya, whose legs were blown up in an explosion during a soccer game at a school field. There's the girl no older than 6 who wore the pajamas with cartoon unicorns, among the first of Mariupol's children to die from a Russian shell.

They are stacked together with dozens of others in this mass grave on the outskirts of the city. A man covered in a bright blue tarp, weighed down by stones at the crumbling curb. A woman wrapped in a red and gold bedsheet, her legs neatly bound at the ankles with a scrap of white fabric. Workers toss the bodies in as fast as they can, because the less time they spend in the open, the better their own chances of survival.

"The only thing (I want) is for this to be finished," raged worker Volodymyr Bykovskiy, pulling crinkling black body bags from a truck. "Damn them all, those people who started this!"

**Analysis:** This is an astonishing lead, filled with vivid reported elements and tied together in a narrative that transports the reader across the globe to feel what it was like to be there in that terrible place. I would argue the first paragraph serves as the official lead, and the following paragraphs support it. It is terrible enough to encounter the phrase "the bodies of the children," but then to have them named in the next paragraph, each bearing the distinctive mark of their killing. The passage ends with the voice of an outraged worker. It remains a staple of good journalistic writing: Get a good quote high in the story. I should not offer this literary analysis

without recognition of the courage it takes war correspondents to report from where the danger is. They become our eyes and ears.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Peggy Walsh, Mike Holmes.

## Nancy Shulins – a magical AP wordsmith

[Chris Sullivan](#) - Of the many AP wordsmiths over the years, none could cast a spell in writing more consistently than Nancy Shulins – and she showed that magic again in Tuesday’s Connecting sequel to her 1987 series about “hemispherectomies,” stories that no one who read them at the time will ever forget. Back then, when she learned about a planned Johns Hopkins hospital reunion of kids who had undergone the removal of half of their brains as a last-ditch – and, astonishingly, successful! – treatment of an exceedingly rare seizure disorder, Nancy says, “For a feature writer, it was Christmas morning.”

Well, recalling other equally startling pieces she did (these were “newsfeatures” at their very best, blending equal or greater parts hard-nosed news reporting with deft, lyrical, humane feature writing), I can say that any time Nancy’s byline appeared at the top of a story it was Christmas morning for readers.

One further thought: Nancy’s reconnection with her news subject decades later through a serendipitous meeting makes me wonder whether others have had such reconstructions. Often, we finish the story and move on, maybe wondering, years in the future, how that person we wrote about or photographed fared after the moment of news. Are there other long-delayed sequels out there?

### *Connecting series:*

## Getting chewed out by a news source

[Bob Daugherty](#) - Hardly a photo op was held without President Lyndon Johnson pausing momentarily in mid-speech and motioning photographers toward his left side. He was absolutely convinced that was his “good side.” I never saw much difference.

I was reminded by Dennis Brack that Johnson chewed on AP photographer Charles Gorry who made the images of the president yanking the ears of his dog Yuki that went viral.

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[Hoyt Harwell](#) - Sort of Chewed Out: The Alabama football team, trailing at the half, rallied impressively after the break to win. In the post-game news conference, I asked coach Bear Bryant what he had said to his players at halftime.

“That’s like asking a man what he says to his wife in the bedroom,” he admonished.

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**Andrew Selsky** - One day in August 2000, as I was covering a visit by President Clinton to Cartagena, Colombia, I received a phone call from a military commander of the FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia), angrily complaining about AP coverage and accusing us of trying to malign the leftist rebel group during Clinton's visit.

A week or so earlier, an AP all-formats team had gone to a coca-producing region of Colombia with a FARC unit. The rebels were heavily involved in cocaine production (along with kidnapping and extortion). I was planning to go on the trip, but it was delayed time and again. Finally, New York said that with Clinton coming, we shouldn't risk me, the bureau chief, being stuck in the wilds of Colombia on the coca story and missing covering the state visit. So a different writer wound up going to the coca fields with photos and TV.

It turned out the trip was completed before Clinton's arrival, and in time for El Espectador, a Bogota daily, to splash AP photographer Ricardo Mazalan's excellent photos -- showing rebels shooting at a U.S. fumigation plane and monkeying around on scales where coca paste would be weighed -- all over its front page. It came out, if I recall correctly, on the day of Clinton's arrival. On the phone, the rebel commander was furious, accusing AP of conspiring with El Espectador to embarrass the rebels and timing the coverage with the U.S. president's visit. I calmly explained that the coverage would have come out much sooner if there hadn't been delays in getting the trip underway and that it was up to AP subscribers to decide when and how to use our stories and images. I said the timing with Clinton's arrival was purely coincidental (which it was).

The commander seemed to accept my explanation, but to be sure the FARC didn't hold any grudges, we sounded them out and waited for at least a few weeks before we sent any of our people back into FARC-controlled territory. The FARC often targeted local journalists but, except for a couple of rare circumstances, left the foreign press alone.

On another day, I also received an angry call from a paramilitary leader named Carlos Castaño, a notorious figure who was responsible for numerous massacres and assassinations. I had been seeking an interview with Castano and he'd promised that I'd be next to interview him. He was making news because his outlawed Self-Defense Forces of Colombia, or AUC, was controlling large sections of Colombia, battling the FARC (often in coordination with the Colombian military) and massacring civilians, sometimes with chainsaws, suspected of being rebel collaborators.

But he wasn't calling to tell me I should come to his lair in northern Colombia for an interview. Instead, he was seething with anger -- his spittle almost flew through my end of the telephone -- as he told me an AP staffer was collaborating with the rebels, and that he wanted to bring that person to northern Colombia to face a "trial" by the AUC. I wondered if Castano was coked up or something. He told me he also was going to put his false and absurd accusation on his website that was read by many journalists, among others, harming the AP's reputation. Endeavoring to speak very calmly, I said there was no way our staffer was a collaborator. I tried to balance my calmness and reasonableness against his anger, and asked him to drop his plans. I vouched for our staffer (who prefers not to be named).

Bringing someone to stand trial would have meant kidnapping the individual and bringing them to the trial site. After the call ended, I immediately contacted the staffer and had them pack a bag. After a while, Castano called me back. He was calmer. He said he had thought about it and decided to not target our staffer and to not even bring the matter up in the AUC website.

Nevertheless, if Castano had rescinded any order to his men to kidnap our staffer, that second order might not have reached them. That afternoon, I drove a car out of the AP bureau's garage, the staffer hiding by lying flat in the back seat, and took them to the airport for a flight out of the country.

Castano wound up being murdered by other paramilitary members in 2004.

## AM Radio

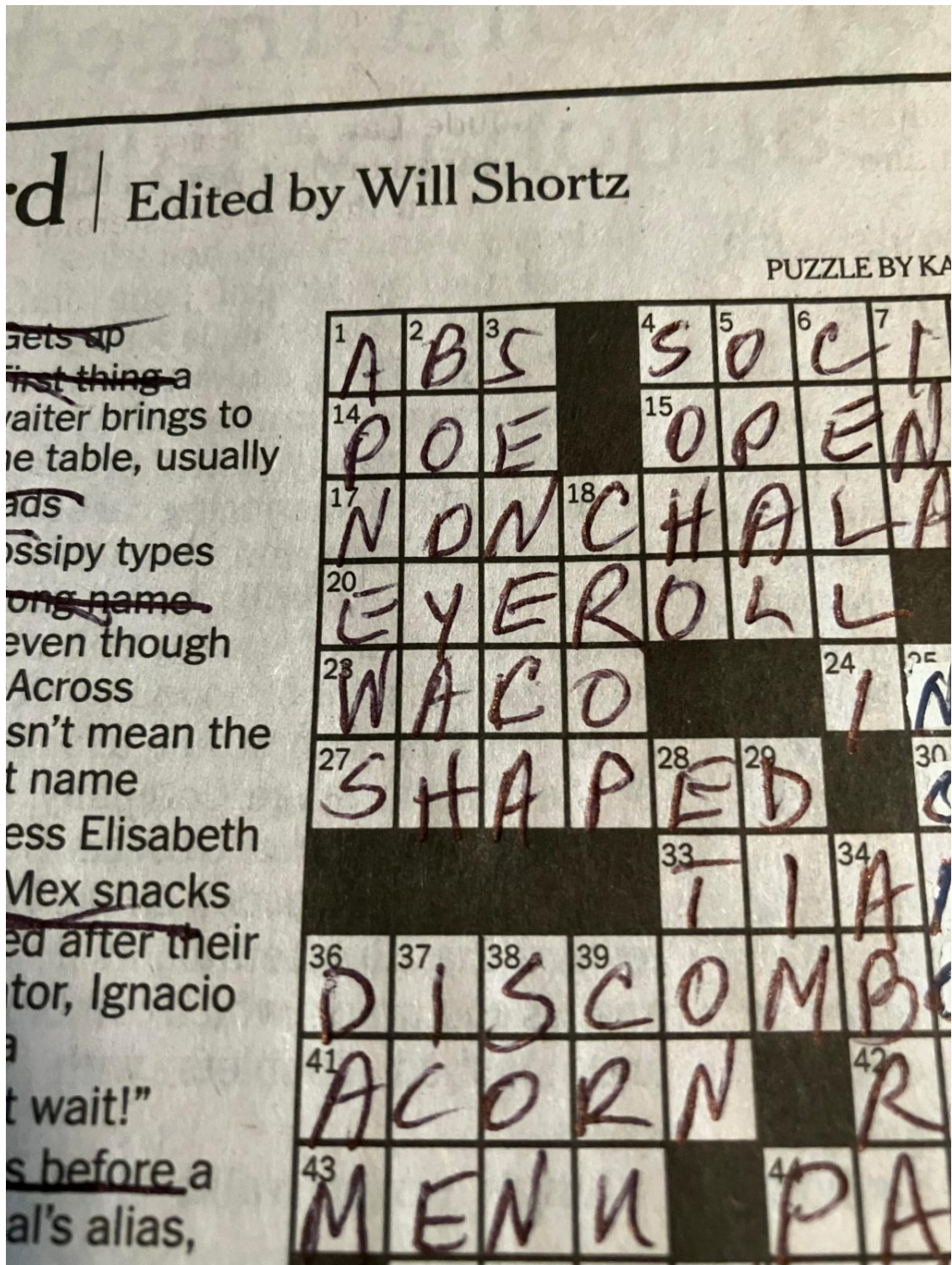
**Bruce Lowitt** - Here in the Tampa Bay area, WDAE (95.3 FM and 620 AM) is the sports-talk station which carries the Rays (baseball) and Lightning (hockey) broadcasts. The FM signal is not the strongest - it sometimes fades a bit or gets mixed in with music from another FM station nearby - at which point I might switch briefly to 620 AM to listen to a bit of the conversation or game. The voices might sound like they're coming through a paper-towel tube or out of a porcelain-walled room, but at least there's no static.

## 'Can't be found all over'

**Keith Robinson** - I chuckled to myself when I read Peggy Walsh's item under the headline "What's Re(a)d, White and Black and Can't Be Found All Over?" in yesterday's "Connecting."

It didn't apply to me one day a couple of weeks ago. I had no difficulty finding one when I looked outside in the morning and saw on my lawn the local daily newspaper in its plastic bag. The paper was so thin and light that the wind blew it from a neighbor's lawn catty-corner to mine.

## AP in print



Eileen Powell - Many probably have sent you Tuesday's NYT crossword puzzle which begins with the clue "Big name in nonprofit journalism." (Also shared by Brad Kalbfeld.)

## Royal drama

Norm Clarke - I was recently hired by a new all-sports website, [the SportingTribune.com](https://www.sportingtribune.com). Founded by former Los Angeles Times sportswriter and ESPN

contributor Arash Markazi, the site is dedicated to covering two of the hottest sports markets in the country, Las Vegas and Los Angeles.

One of my first columns dealt with the two wildest assignments during my dozen years with the Associated Press.

### **By Norm Clarke**

While watching King Charles' coronation, it brought to mind the two most shocking assignments during my 12 years with the Associated Press, which involved England's royal family.

The first one was straight out of a spy novel.

The second was confirmation that Prince Andrew was a royal pain. Jerk would be putting it lightly.

On February 26, 1983, two booming 21-gun salutes announced the arrival of the royal yacht Britannia in raining San Diego harbor.

Queen Elizabeth II was making her first visit to California, accompanied by her husband, Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh and future King Charles III, then 35. It was part of her 10-day tour of the West Coast.

It was a special assignment for me from a personal standpoint. I felt a connection to the royal family because my grandparents had left Great Yarmouth, England in 1882 and settled in Miles City, Montana. My father was born in 1887.

Welcoming the Britannia were about 200 boats of all types lining each side of the 412-foot-long floating palace, outside a 350-yard no-float zone.

Security for the royal visit was in some ways reminiscent of World War II. The San Diego Union-Tribune reported Navy divers were seen searching for mines, one of the many precautions taken.

Months later, the Los Angeles Times reported federal officials had received information from intelligence reports warning of the possibility that certain groups "might attempt to create an embarrassing situation, sabotage or an assassination."

I was standing at the rear of a Coast Guard cutter. A day earlier, the AP informed me I would be on the cutter with other media.

Two boats ahead of us, a yellow 59-year-old wooden hulled yacht took a hard right turn and, ignoring the security perimeter rules, headed straight toward the Britannia.

This at a time of high tension between Britain and Northern Ireland. Three and a half years earlier, 79-year-old Lord Louis Mountbatten, a beloved British royal, was assassinated when a bomb planted on his 29-foot fishing boat exploded, killing seven, including his daughter and her twin sons.



Claiming responsibility was the Provisional Irish Republican Army, which also coordinated a deadly attack on British troops that day. The IRA were in the midst of a 25-year terror campaign to drive the British from Northern Ireland.

A World War II hero, Mountbatten was a second cousin of Queen Elizabeth II and great uncle of future King Charles III.

As the rogue yacht, Arrow II, bolted toward the Britannia, the commanding officer of the Point Judith got on a bullhorn and ordered the small yacht to get back in line in an "or-else" tone.

I had just asked a man in plain clothes what media outlet he represented; he didn't respond. Since we appeared to be the only non-personnel on the cutter, I assumed he was Secret Service. Upon hearing the captain's command, we focused on the breakaway boat. In a holy shit moment, I turned back to the mystery man and was stunned to see him holding a submachine gun.

On high alert, he rushed to the side of the cutter, prepared for the worst-case scenario. I'm still processing where he kept the submachine gun: down a pant leg or inside his jacket?

An aerial photo in the Los Angeles Times showed the cutter yards away from ramming the Arrow II. Both appear to be about 75 yards from the Britannia, way too close for comfort.

As the Britannia was docking near downtown, I left the Point Judith and boarded a media bus to travel to the queen's next stop.

Near the back of the bus, I found a vacant seat and started scribbling what I had just witnessed. I would dictate it at our next stop. The bus driver began to pull away when a couple reporters started hollering to stop the bus. A young woman was seen running alongside the bus, furiously waving.

She climbed on and took the last remaining seat, which was next to me.

Out of breath, she shook her head in consternation and said, angrily, "My father is an idiot!"

Introducing myself as an AP reporter, I responded with, "Rough day, huh?"

Her name was Erin Malone and she had quite a story.

Her father, she said, "nearly got us killed."

Her father, Ed Malone, owner of the Arrow II, was a prominent San Diego-area developer who had unsuccessfully run for city council in 1981.

Two months after the Britannia incident, the Coast Guard sought a fine of \$5,000 against Malone for creating "an incident of international proportion."

According to the Los Angeles Times, Malone was accused of “disregarding repeated Coast Guard orders that (Malone) turn his vessel around” as the queen’s ship entered San Diego Bay.

The Times’ story said an armed Coast Guard cutter – the Point Judith – with a secret service aboard was nearly forced to ram Malone’s boat

“We felt that (Malone’s) actions were alarming; they were flagrant and had the potential for a very dangerous situation.”

“If we would have had to use force out there, it would have been spectacular, to say the least,” said Lt. Commander Christopher T. Desmond, executive officer of the Coast Guard’s Marine Safety office.

He said the Coast Guard vessels “were ready to use force.”

Malone’s explanation: He lost power in one engine and thought the best plan was to turn in a wide arc using only his rudder.

That was “not consistent with Malone’s statement of engine problems,” said Desmond.

Malone could have been fined \$25,000. The final settlement was just under \$5,000.

It was a wild introduction to the royal family and it wouldn’t be my last.

One year later, as the AP’s coordinator of coverage of the Los Angeles Summer Olympics, I was invited to cover Prince Andrew’s speech at a \$1,000-a-plate fundraiser for the British Olympic Association.

Buckingham Palace briefed reporters on protocol: Speak to the prince only if he initiates the conversation, shake hands only if he offers his first and refer to him only as “Your Royal Highness.

But the Buckingham Palace spokeswoman emphasized it was unlikely the 24-year-old bon vivant would attend the champagne reception at the swank Beverly Wilshire hotel.

My main assignment was to cover his address to hundreds of British expatriates and, if possible, follow up on his messy skirmish with the media the day before. Appearing at a low-income housing development, the scandal-prone prince, ever at war with the media, turned a high-powered spray gun on reporters. Suits, dresses and cameras were bombarded with white paint.

With the fundraiser reception winding down, I had few colorful details for my story. I approached two young women in hopes of gathering some quotes about the prince, who had recently been nicknamed “Randy Andy” in a London tabloid newspaper for his recent affair with soft-porn actress Koo Stark.

Barely into my introduction, I saw the womens' eyes light up as someone approached on my left side. I turned to find Prince Andrew offering a handshake.

I gulped, trying to recall the protocol ground rules.

All I got out was my name and "Associated Press."

"Press?" the prince said, biting off the word. "Did you say press?"

"Yes," I said, adding, "Associated Press, Los Angeles bureau." He was unimpressed.

"Out!" he said, thrusting a thumb over his shoulder.

He repeated the order.

I stood my ground, explaining I had press credentials and was told he wasn't attending.

"Out!"

When I didn't budge, I was shocked when he grabbed a lapel on my tuxedo. This was not going to be a good look: the petulant prince dragging a reporter out of the reception. Not the image, I'm sure, the AP wanted to see on front pages around the world.

After a contemptuous stare, he spoke: "Trust I didn't get any (paint) on you yesterday."

"I wasn't there," I replied

"A pity," he said, turning on his heels and walking away.

My biggest regret: I was the only reporter who talked to him, and I didn't even get in a question about the shameful paint-spraying incident. London's scandal-loving headline writers had a field day with it, referring to him as "Vandal Andy," "Hooligan Prince" and, my favorite, "A Royal Squirt."

His worst behavior was yet to come, ending in disgrace nearly four decades later.

## AP sighting - London



Vienna-based video journalist Philipp Jenne covers The Mall in London ahead of the coronation of King Charles III, May 6, 2023. (AP Photo/Alex Turnbull)

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Molly McMillin](#)

## Stories of interest

*Vice is going bankrupt, BuzzFeed News is dead. What does it mean?* (Guardian)

By Margaret Sullivan

In a seminal 2009 essay, *Newspapers and Thinking the Unthinkable*, the brilliant New York University professor Clay Shirky made the point that journalism as we had known it for decades was finished – and for good reason.

The reason, in a mere two words: the internet.

And he certainly proved right. With a few notable exceptions, newspapers – once the core of American journalism – have been dying right and left.

Now, big digital media-news companies, once the great hope of post-print news, seem to be going in the same direction. Down, down, down.

In recent weeks and months, digital newsrooms have taken huge hits. BuzzFeed News suddenly shuttered, leaving scores of extremely talented journalists without employment (and lest you think of BuzzFeed as strictly a place for viral videos about cats, recall that its news division did plenty of prize-winning journalism over the years). Vox Media recently laid off 7% of its staff and raised money based on a valuation about half of what it was worth in 2015.

Then, on Monday, another major blow: Vice was filing for bankruptcy. A New York Times report was unsparing, calling Vice a “decayed digital colossus”, and noting that at one point it was thought to be worth a now-unfathomable \$5.7bn.

It’s just as Shirky predicted it more than a decade ago, as he compared the coming of the internet to the arrival of Gutenberg’s printing press. Communication was utterly upended.

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

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## ***WSJ is eliminating usage of courtesy titles*** (TBN)

Wall Street Journal editor in chief Emma Tucker sent out the following on Tuesday:

The Wall Street Journal is eliminating the routine use of honorifics, or courtesy titles, in its news pages.

The Journal has been one of the few news organizations to continue to use the titles, under our long-held belief that Mr., Ms. and so forth help us maintain a polite tone. However, the trend among almost all newspapers and magazines has been to go without, as editors have concluded that the titles in news articles are becoming a vestige of a more-formal past, and that the flood of Mr., Ms., Mx. or Mrs. in sentences can slow down readers’ enjoyment of our writing.

In addition, dropping courtesy titles is more in line with the way people communicate their identities. It puts everyone on a more-equal footing.

This isn’t totally new ground. We currently don’t use honorifics in WSJ Magazine, in podcasts or videos. Nor do we use them in sports coverage to avoid stilted phrases

such as, "Mr. Curry made seven 3-pointers."

Read more [here](#).

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## ***CNN's CEO stands by Trump town hall but acknowledges production weaknesses, sources say*** (CNBC)

**Alex Sherman**

Nearly a week after CNN's May 10 town hall with Donald Trump, CEO Chris Licht has acknowledged internally there are some things he wished the network had done differently.

Licht continues to stand by the concept of the town hall, telling people both inside and outside CNN that history will look kindly on the network's decision to interview Trump in front of cheering supporters in a live town hall format.

But there are several production elements that he would have liked done in a different way, according to people familiar with his thinking.

Licht said he wished he had introduced the in-person audience to TV watchers so that viewers could better identify who they were, said the people, who asked not to be named because the discussions were private.

The crowd was a main character in the event as many Trump supporters cheered his responses and jeered CNN host Kaitlan Collins when she challenged him. Licht would have liked to openly question the crowd before the town hall began so the TV audience could better understand who they were and why they were supporting Trump, said the people.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Cable News Ratings Friday May 12: CNN Prime Time Viewership Drops Below Newsmax*** (MEDIAite)

**By Mediaite Staff**

CNN prime time dropped on Friday to 335,000 average total viewers from 8 to 11 p.m, coming below right-wing channel Newsmax, which scored 357,000 average prime time viewers.

The ratings-beleaguered network landed in fourth place in prime time, also behind Fox News and MSNBC, which averaged 1.44 million and 1.08 million total average

viewers in prime time — respectively.

In the key 25-54 age demographic, CNN did a bit better with 87,000 average viewers and was up in the demo compared the previous four Fridays. Fox led with 109,000 and MSNBC was in second with 98,000 average demo viewers. Newsmax, meanwhile, averaged 45,000 prime time demo viewers.

After 8 p.m. on Friday night, no CNN show rated above 300,000 viewers and Newsmax beat the network from 8 to p.m. Who's Talking to Chris Wallace at 10 p.m. marked its lowest-rated hour since it launched on the network and dropped 25 percent since its Friday debut.

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

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## ***Opinion | The Messenger, 175 journalists strong, makes its debut with a Trump interview*** (Poynter)

By TOM JONES

The Messenger, a news site that will cover politics, business, entertainment and sports, made its debut on Monday. Its first big story was an interview with former President Donald Trump.

Behind the site is Jimmy Finkelstein, a media investor who formerly owned The Hill and was part owner of The Hollywood Reporter. With the backing of \$50 million in investor money, the site is kicking off with 175 journalists in New York, Washington and Los Angeles. In a year, Finkelstein hopes to have as many as 550 journalists working at the site.

By Monday afternoon, dozens of stories (and plenty of advertising) were already up on the site from all across the spectrum — from the Trump interview to reports at the border to the latest “Vanderpump Rules” scandals. Some of the stories read a little like something you might see from People or TMZ, but others looked like stories you might see on any hardcore news site.

In a note to readers, editor-in-chief Dan Wakeford wrote, “Readers demand impartial and objective news, and The Messenger is on a mission to deliver exactly that. People are exhausted with extreme politics and platforms that inflame the divisions in our country by slanting stories towards an audience’s bias. Our talented journalists are committed to demystifying the onslaught of misinformation and delivering impartial and objective news.”

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Universities and journalists: Partners in seeking truth***

(University World News)

### **Brendan O'Malley**

There is a tendency in discourse about the value of higher education to focus on broad data such as employability outcomes, rather than celebrating the contribution that individual alumni have made to the world.

Durham University teamed up with Reuters to gather together on Wednesday some of the world's bravest and most talented journalists to celebrate the life and work of its alumnus, the late Sir Harold Evans, and discuss the challenges facing investigative journalism around the world.

Sir Harry is revered in the United Kingdom – in 2002 he was voted the greatest editor of all time in the UK – and around the world, for his achievements as editor of The Sunday Times. Its investigations led to compensation for mothers who had taken the morning sickness drug, Thalidomide, with thousands of children being born with deformed limbs; and the exposure of Kim Philby as part of the Cambridge Spy Ring during the Cold War.

Evans was instrumental also in securing a change in the law in the UK to give the press more freedom by allowing reporting of court cases in advance.

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

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## ***Photographer Killed at Motocross Championships by Runaway Bike*** (PetaPixel)

### **JEREMY GRAY**

British photographer Simon Mitchell was killed on Sunday at the British Motocross Championships when a motorbike struck him.

As reported by The BBC, a rider took a jump and lost control of his bike which broke through a hay bale barrier, struck and killed Mitchell, and injured a race marshal.

Mitchell, who was in his 50s, is described as a “passionate” photographer.” Gareth Hockey, the event’s organizer, says that Mitchell was popular around the venue and “had a very strong character.”

Hockey continues that he can’t remember another incident where a non-rider was killed at a motocross event. However, spectator and event staff deaths are not unheard of in motorsports at large.

“He loved taking pictures, he loved the sport, like we all do,” Hockey says of Mitchell.



Mr. Mitchell's family says that he loved taking pictures at the track. His sister, Nikki Dancey, adds that "[Photography] and motocross came before everything else in his life," and Mitchell's family is "devastated."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Pizac.

## The Final Word

*Photographer's decade-long, 600,000-mile journey shows Indigenous life in new book* (NPR)



Matika Wilbur, pictured here in a self portrait, describes her work as a narrative correction.

**By Melissa Block**

Photographer Matika Wilbur was tired of seeing one-dimensional, insipid, degrading depictions of Native Americans in mainstream media and popular culture. So in 2012, Wilbur, who is of Swinomish and Tulalip descent, decided to create her own catalog of images.

She sold everything in her Seattle apartment and, with Kickstarter backing, headed out on the road, cameras in hand. Her goal: To illustrate Native Americans' diversity and complexity by photographing members of all of the then-562 federally-recognized U.S. tribes.

Ten years, 600,000 miles, and several vehicles later, Wilbur has published her work – portraits and interviews – in a stunning new book: *Project 562: Changing the Way We See Native America*. Over hundreds of pages, we meet Native elders, rappers, professors, artists, activists, linguists, dancers, ranchers, comedians, and more.

"In a lot of ways, this work is narrative correction work," Wilbur said. "When I was talking to folks, I was aiming to understand, 'What are some of the true stories about your people that you want people to know?'"

Read more [here](#).

## Today in History – May 17, 2023



Today is Wednesday, May 17, the 137th day of 2023. There are 228 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On May 17, 1954, a unanimous U.S. Supreme Court handed down its *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* decision which held that racially segregated public schools were inherently unequal, and therefore unconstitutional.

### On this date:

In 1536, Archbishop of Canterbury Thomas Cranmer declared the marriage of England's King Henry VIII to Anne Boleyn invalid after she failed to produce a male heir; Boleyn, already condemned for high treason, was executed two days later.

In 1940, the Nazis occupied Brussels, Belgium, during World War II.

In 1946, President Harry S. Truman seized control of the nation's railroads, delaying — but not preventing — a threatened strike by engineers and trainmen.

In 1973, a special committee convened by the U.S. Senate began its televised hearings into the Watergate scandal.

In 1980, rioting that claimed 18 lives erupted in Miami's Liberty City after an all-white jury in Tampa acquitted four former Miami police officers of fatally beating Black insurance executive Arthur McDuffie.

In 1987, 37 American sailors were killed when an Iraqi warplane attacked the U.S. Navy frigate Stark in the Persian Gulf. (Iraq apologized for the attack, calling it a mistake, and paid more than \$27 million in compensation.)

In 1996, President Bill Clinton signed a measure requiring neighborhood notification when sex offenders move in. ("Megan's Law," as it's known, was named for Megan Kanka, a 7-year-old New Jersey girl who was raped and murdered in 1994.)

In 2004, Massachusetts became the first state to allow same-sex marriages.

In 2010, the Supreme Court ruled 5-4 that young people serving life prison terms should have "a meaningful opportunity to obtain release" provided they didn't kill their victims.

In 2015, a shootout erupted between bikers and police outside a restaurant in Waco, Texas, leaving nine of the bikers dead and 20 people injured.

In 2017, the Justice Department appointed former FBI Director Robert Mueller as a special counsel to oversee a federal investigation into potential coordination between Russia and the 2016 Donald Trump campaign.

In 2020, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo was tested for the coronavirus on live TV as he announced that all people in the state who were experiencing flu-like symptoms were eligible for tests.

Ten years ago: The ousted head of the Internal Revenue Service, Steven Miller, faced hours of intense grilling before Congress; both defiant and apologetic, Miller acknowledged agency mistakes in targeting tea party groups for special scrutiny when they applied for tax-exempt status, but insisted that agents broke no laws and that there was no effort to cover up their actions. Jorge Rafael Videla (HOHR'-hay rah-fay-EHL' vih-DEH'-lah), 87, the former dictator who took power in Argentina in a 1976 coup and led a military junta that killed thousands during a "dirty war" against alleged subversives, died in Buenos Aires while serving life in prison for crimes against humanity.

Five years ago: With six Democrats joining Republicans in voting to confirm her, Gina Haspel won Senate confirmation to become director of the CIA. The Miss America Organization announced that it would now have women in its three top leadership positions, after an email scandal in which male officials were caught making vulgar and insulting comments about past winners.

One year ago: President Joe Biden condemned the poison of white supremacy and said the nation must "reject the lie" of the racist "replacement theory" espoused by a shooter who killed 10 Black people in Buffalo, New York. Mariupol appeared on the verge of falling to the Russians as Ukraine moved to abandon the steel plant where hundreds of its fighters held out for months under relentless bombardment in the last bastion of resistance in the devastated city. Baltimore Orioles pitcher Matt Harvey was suspended for 60 games by Major League Baseball for distributing a prohibited drug of abuse.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Peter Gerety is 83. Singer Taj Mahal is 81. Rock musician Bill Bruford is 74. TV personality Kathleen Sullivan is 70. Boxing Hall of Famer Sugar Ray Leonard is 67. Sports announcer Jim Nantz is 64. Producer Simon Fuller (TV: "American Idol") is 63. Singer Enya is 62. Actor-comedian Craig Ferguson is 61. Rock singer-musician Page McConnell is 60. Actor David Eigenberg is 59. Singer-musician Trent Reznor (Nine Inch Nails) is 58. Actor Paige Turco is 58. Actor Hill Harper is 57. TV personality/interior designer Thom Filicia is 54. Singer Jordan Knight is 53. R&B singer Darnell Van Rensalier (Shai) is 53. U.S. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo is 52. Actor Sasha Alexander is 50. Rock singer-musician Josh Homme (HAHM'-ee) is 50. Rock singer Andrea Corr (The Corrs) is 49. Actor Sendhil Ramamurthy (SEN'-dul rah-mah-MURTH'-ee) is 49. Actor Rochelle Aytes is 47. Singer Kandi Burruss is 47. Actor Kat Foster is 45. Actor Ayda Field is 44. Actor Ginger Gonzaga is 40. Folk-rock singer/songwriter Passenger is 39. Dancer-choreographer Derek Hough (huhf) is 38. Actor Tahj Mowry is 37. Actor Nikki Reed is 35. Singer Kree Harrison (TV: "American Idol") is 33. Actor Leven Rambin is 33. Actor Samantha Browne-Walters is 32. Actor Justin Martin is 29.

## Got a story or photos to share?

Connecting is a daily newsletter published Monday through Friday that reaches more than 1,800 retired and former Associated Press employees, present-day employees, and news industry and journalism school colleagues. It began in 2013. 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.

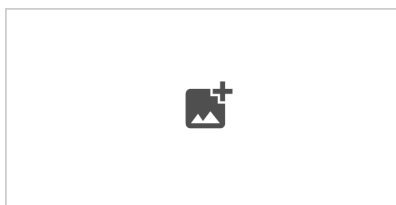
- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.

- **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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