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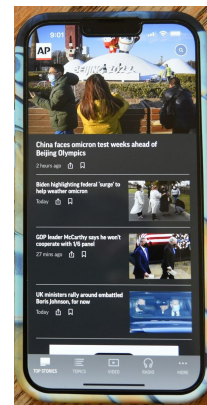
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Connecting

Sept. 19, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this Sept. 19, 2023,

Dennis D’Agostino launched his career in sports on the AP Sports desk in New York and moved on to make his name known and beloved in the world of professional sports, writing several books along the way.

Connecting is sad to report that he died last Saturday at the age of 66 – and we bring you an obituary story by AP colleague **Solange De Santis**, who worked in New York at the same time as Dennis. Dennis' wife Helene Elliott, a sports columnist for the Los Angeles Times, said in a Facebook post that he died of an apparent heart attack.

Longtime New York Mets media relations director **Jay Horwitz** posted on X, formerly known as Twitter: “Heartbroken today. Dennis D’Agostino, my friend of over 40 years and co-worker for 5 with the Mets, died suddenly. We shared the 1986 Championship. Couldn’t have done it without him. He went on to enjoy a great PR career with the Knicks. He was a Met forever. Love you Dennis.”

Congratulations to colleague **Frank Hawkins** on news that his book, *The Zurich Printout*, is now available on Amazon. He tells about the book in a story in today's issue.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy, live it to your fullest.

Paul

Former AP Sports staffer Dennis D'Agostino - known throughout world of professional sports - dies at 66



Photo by Helene Elliott

Solange De Santis - Dennis D'Agostino, formerly of the AP Sports desk, died on Saturday, Sept. 16, at the age of 66. He was known and beloved throughout the world of professional sports, having worked for the New York Mets and New York Knicks in public relations after his time at AP.

D'Agostino graduated from Fordham University in 1978 and worked at the campus radio station, WFUV. He joined the AP shortly thereafter. In the 1980s, he was the

number-two PR man for the Mets, working under the legendary Jay Horwitz and experiencing the team's 1986 World Series win. He subsequently joined the Knicks' PR team and married L.A. Times sportswriter Helene Elliott in 1999. She is now a sports columnist for the Times.

"Ours was a press box romance," Elliott posted on Facebook. "He worked for the Mets and was always smiling, bouncy, and welcoming when I'd cover games for Newsday. Later, when he worked for the Knicks and I covered the Rangers, I'd often see him making copies or schmoozing in the Garden press room. Dennis was a gem, a sweet man with encyclopedic knowledge of basketball, baseball, and so much more. He refused to believe all the nice things people said about him, but they were all true," she posted. In addition, D'Agostino treated her, a female sportswriter in an era when that was rare, with respect, she said in an interview.

In 1999, they moved to Huntington Beach, Calif., where he continued his work for the Knicks. He was an official scorer for Major League Baseball. He was a statistician for national and local NBA team broadcasts on radio and TV, and a statistician for baseball radio and TV broadcasts.

I've known Dennis D'Agostino since the late 1970s when he was doing agate scores in the Associated Press sports department and I was a news writer next door in the broadcast department. He had an unquenchable sense of joy and hope, necessary to be a New York Mets fan, and lo and behold, he segued into the job of the Mets' No. 2 PR guy. I was just at a Mets game last Thursday, sitting under the press box, and mentioned to my friend that Dennis had given me a pass to the press box at the old Shea Stadium. He was just a lovely man and this news makes me so sad.

D'Agostino and Elliott were enthusiastic season pass holders at Disneyland and posed with the Stanley Cup for a Christmas card photo. D'Agostino was the author of "This Date in Mets History," "Garden Glory," "Keepers of the Game," "Through a Blue Lens," and numerous team factbooks and media guides. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his mother, a sister and two nieces. Funeral arrangements are pending.

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In a story in [Sports Illustrated](#):

The New York Knicks franchise is in mourning after the passing of team historian Dennis D'Agostino, a longtime behind-the-scenes staple of New York sports.

D'Agostino, whose age and cause of death were undisclosed by the team, worked in the public relations departments for both the Knicks and New York Mets before moving to Los Angeles. The Knicks released a statement in the wake of D'Agostino's passing.

"Dennis passionately and masterfully chronicled the story of our organization for more than three decades," a statement on the Knicks' social media pages reads. "As a native New Yorker, he offered an artistic reverence to communicating the Knicks legacy to our loyal fanbase like no one else could. Our thoughts are with his loved ones during this difficult time."

The NBA's official communications channel likewise released a statement, referring to D'Agostino as "the quintessential public relations expert and a beloved member of the NBA family."

Numerous figures from both the metropolitan and national NBA media have offered their condolences and respect for D'Agostino, including Kenny Albert, Alan Hahn, and Howie Rose.

Among the New York fanbase, D'Agostino is perhaps best-known for penning "Garden Glory" in 2003 a documentation of the Knicks' first 50-plus season on the Madison Square Garden floor. The non-fiction work features a foreword written by Walt "Clyde" Frazier as well as the participation of numerous Knicks legends. D'Agostino has entertained Empire State baseball fans with historic reads centered upon the Mets and Brooklyn Dodgers.

D'Agostino is survived by his wife Helene.

Antelope Valley Press at Candlelight Vigil for slain Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy



ABOVE: Los Angeles County Sheriff Robert Luna speaks at candlelight vigil for slain Deputy Ryan Clinkunbroomer.

RIGHT: Antelope Valley Press reporter Julie Drake with former chief Editor Dennis Anderson and Copy Chief John Wise at vigil for Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy Ryan Clinkunbroomer.



Dennis Anderson - After my baker's dozen of years at AP's Los Angeles bureau, I was chief editor of the award-winning Antelope Valley Press for another 16 years. This is social media post from our most recent community tragedy and is a tribute to my Valley Press colleagues. I still contribute a weekly column:

We hear this morning that Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department may have in custody a suspect for the miscreant who shot and killed Deputy Ryan Clinkunbroomer. If yes, that is welcome news after learning of his cruel slaying over the weekend.

About 2,000 people attended the candlelight vigil for the deputy whose record was sterling and whose life was bright with promise before being so cruelly taken in what appeared to be a targeted killing.

Among those attending were two of my longest friends and colleagues at Antelope Valley Press. Reporter Julie Drake and Copy Chief John Wise make up about half the newsroom that remains at the venerable century-plus community newspaper.

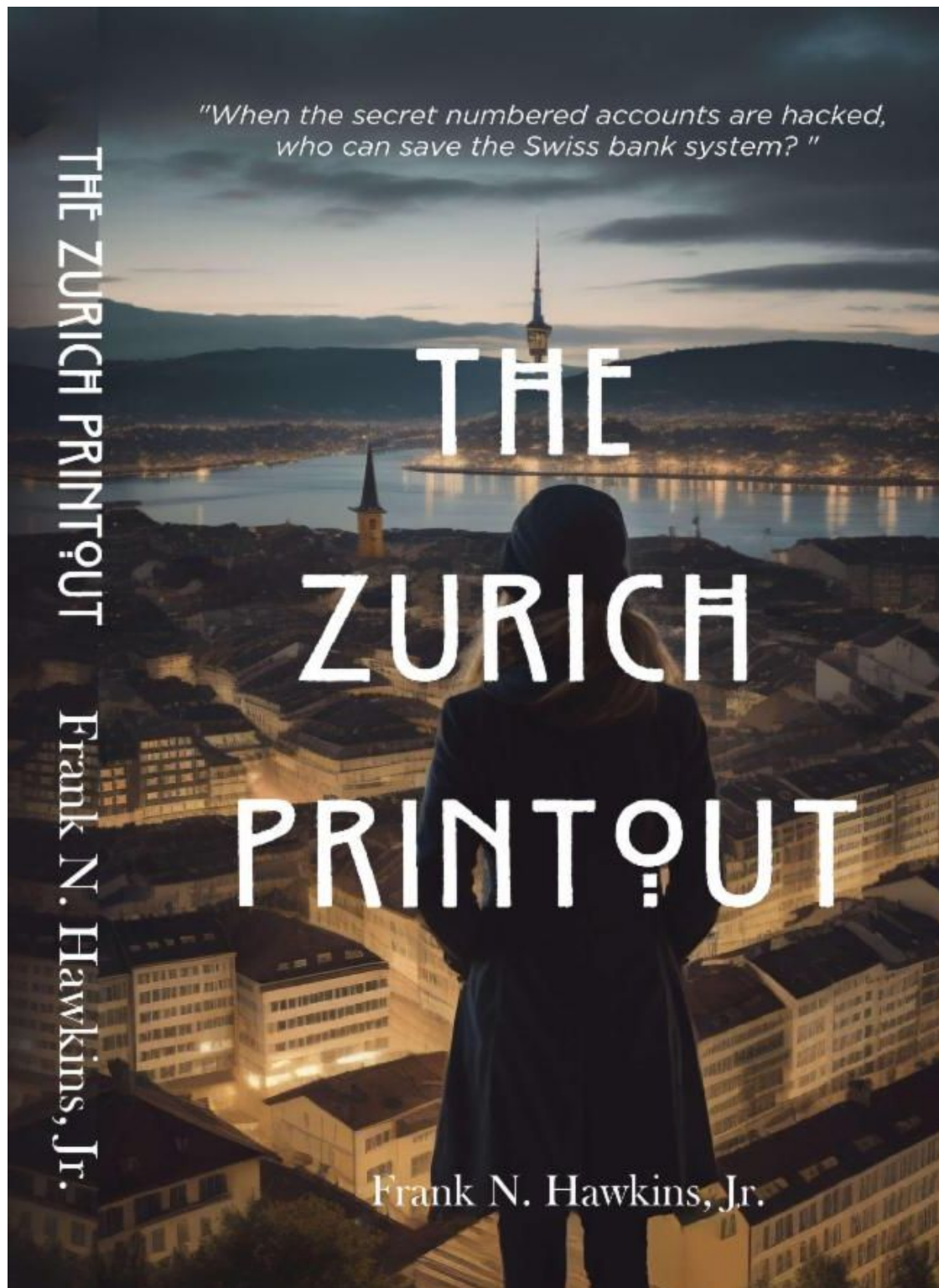
Newspapers, particularly community newspapers, have fallen on the hardest of times since the Great Recession of 2008. The lifeline advertisers never returned in sufficient numbers and dedicated newspaper subscribers kept dying off with too few to replace the educated, community minded readers that are the blood, bone and sinew of civic life.

And for the really big events that bring people together, like the killing of our deputy, nobody had to assign Julie or John. They just showed up, walking a half mile into the Palmdale Sheriff's Station to faithfully record the events of a terrible day that brings everyone together in shared sorrow and grief.

The faint scrap of good news was how many people who never met Ryan turned out to show how much they cared about his death, and his life.

With my friends Julie Drake and John Wise, we were together in sorrow and respect at candlelight. We hope we are not living through community journalism at twilight. The deputy's death, and life, are needed in the published history of the times and places where we all gather.

'The Zurich Printout' – novel by Frank Hawkins – released on Amazon



Frank Hawkins - My novel "The Zurich Printout" is now available on Amazon. The original draft was written while I was the head of AP-Dow Jones in London in the late 1970's. I was spending a lot of time in foreign exchange dealing rooms and became interested in that unique culture that had such a daily impact on the lives of people in Europe.

For instance, the house I bought in London had a Swiss Franc mortgage. That was arranged because mortgage (interest) rates were lower for the Swiss franc than for British pounds. In any case, one thing led to another, and I wrote the book.

A British movie actor named Gareth Hunt bought the movie rights to the book twice but was never able to put a deal together. Immediately after I left AP in 1980 and moved to Miami to join Knight-Ridder, I had an offer to publish the book on both sides of the Atlantic. Sadly, I fumbled the negotiations and nothing came of it. At that point I was deep in my new job and let the project go. Over time, the story fell out of date. Flash forward to 2022. I figured out a way to update the book so it could be put in the historical thriller category. It's out now. I've had my first five-star review on Amazon. And I am pleased with the sales. Still looking for a movie deal.

Here's the Amazon blurb about the book:

In this high-octane espionage thriller, the secretive world of Swiss banking collides with the clandestine operations of international intelligence agencies. When two friends inadvertently crack the code to Zurich's most closely guarded numbered accounts, they uncover a web of intrigue that stretches from the corridors of power in Washington, D.C., to the heart of the Kremlin and the sanctified halls of the Vatican.

As suspicions escalate, the Americans point fingers at the Russians, believing it to be a provocative act of espionage, while the Russians are equally convinced that it's a cunning American intelligence ploy. However, lurking in the shadows is a Vatican cardinal who believes that this audacious breach is the work of the Devil himself.

Amidst this chaos and mounting tension, a captivating and brilliant protagonist emerges, a woman as beautiful and sexy as she is smart. She's tasked with the unenviable mission of saving the Swiss banking system from total collapse while preventing a nuclear war that could plunge the world into chaos.

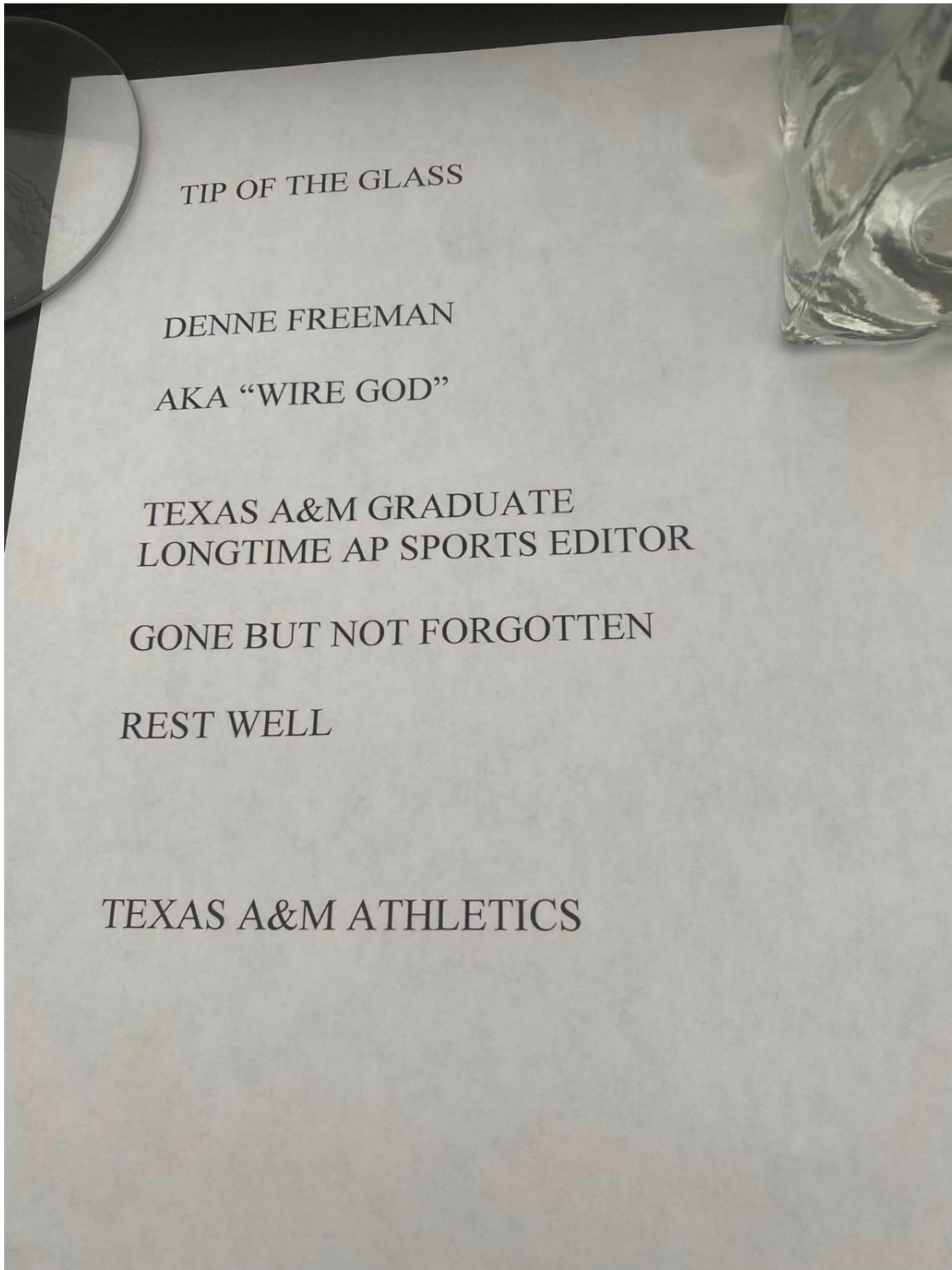
Author Frank Hawkins, a former intelligence agent during the Cold War and a seasoned foreign correspondent, brings his real-world expertise to this gripping tale of international intrigue, political suspense, and financial espionage. With a background steeped in espionage and a career spanning multiple continents, Hawkins weaves a narrative that keeps readers on the edge of their seats.

Prepare to embark on a heart-pounding journey through the world of espionage, where the fate of nations hangs in the balance, and only one person stands between chaos and order—the enigmatic and fearless protagonist of "The Zurich Printout."

A classy gesture honors memory of AP's Denne Freeman







In this Facebook post by Kristie Rieken, Houston AP sports writer: Appreciate this classy gesture by Alan Cannon and the Texas A&M PR staff in the press box at the game against Louisiana-Monroe remembering longtime AP writer Denne Freeman who died in February.

Denne, whose AP career spanned 32 years, died Feb. 3, 2023, at the age of 86.

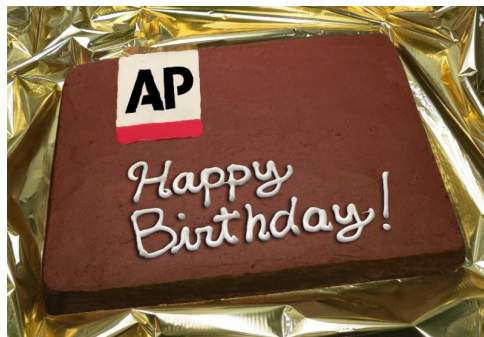
(Shared by Jaime Aron)

Stars and Stripes



Robert Reid – Old-time journalism lives! The daily press run for Stars and Stripes in Tokyo. Papers are distributed in Japan, South Korea and elsewhere in the Pacific. (Picture taken by me on Tuesday, Sept 19)

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Karen Ball

John Hartzell

Stories of interest

New York Times reporters rally as sports desk officially closes (Washington Post)



Sports-30-

Guild

SAY IT AIN'T SO

GEORGE VECSEY
Sports of the Times

Byline or Not, All Were Stars On Our Team

THIS has been a wretched summer for New York teams. The Yankees stink. The Mets' ownership quit on the team and the fans. And The New York Times is shutting down its sports department.

I've lost other precious institutions in my life: the Brooklyn Dodgers and New York Giants, rabid opponents, went west. I take The Times's closing personally because for decades I was a loyal member of the sports department. I can understand the changing conditions that crowded the sports section: this great newspaper covers Ukraine, climate, politics, around the clock. But why garrot the sports section, produced by Times employees, conditioned by Times standards, aimed for literate adults?

I don't know if it showed, but for many decades, The Times's sports section was a team, in the best sense of the word — the girls and boys of summer, in a "clubhouse" where clerks and specialists worked with editors and writers, in some semblance of teamwork.

Byline types popped into the office but more likely filed from distant locales or convoluted craniums of our heads. The actual clubhouse was a genteel place under sports editor James Roach, who hired me in 1968. Under subsequent sports editors Le Anne Schreiber, Joe Vecchione, Neil Amdur, Tom Jolly and Jason Stallman in my final year, the section adjusted to the computerized online world, but it never lost a family feeling.

In my years, the NYT sports clubhouse bustled with specialists like Elena Gustines, who created clever graphics and later acting as a page designer and at the same time suffering with the Mets along with Jay Schreiber, the deputy sports editor. Jay recalls being in the office during a Mets-Yankees game when Elena began cheering "as K-Rod got A-Rod to pop up for the last out — except that Castillo then dropped the ball. And Elena, as always, went on to make a lot of jokes about what happened."

We had office managers/caretakers — like Fern Turkowitz, Gloria Bell and recently Terri Ann Glynn, so valuable and personable that editors sent her to Olympic Games to keep order.

There were too many editors to name, but I must describe how deputy sports editor Bill Brink ("Mister Bill") came up to me, writing on last-second deadline in the office after the New York City Marathon, and asked me about my first paragraph, describing Fred Lebow, the maestro of the marathon from his perch in the open pace car as it sped around the city.

"Um," Mister Bill said softly. "Did you really mean Lebow was like Charlemagne crossing the Alps?" I flushed a deep purple and thanked him profusely and said maybe I meant Hannibal. My faux pas would have earned me a snarky paragraph in The New Yorker. Forever. Mister Bill saved my ass. They all saved our asses, including editors in my time like Ray Corio, Arthur Pincus, Susan Adams and Patty LaDuca (I can't name them all) — plus my first assignment editor, Frank Litsky, known by me as "Four Fifty" because that was his unbending ration of words for my precious Yankee and Met game stories.

And then there was Carl Nelson, late-night negotiator with the sports-savvy bosses at the printing plant in Queens, with trucks ready to roll as soon as Sports closed. With terse Clint Eastwood poise, Carl would tell me I had two more minutes. Maybe three. We were always safe with Carl.

I want to note that three of our best high-up editors eventually left the NYT on their own volition: Kathleen O. McElroy and Lawrie Milfin became stars in forms of education, and Jill Agostino followed a long ambition and became a nurse, just in time for the pandemic. Bless their hearts.

Again, writers get the bylines and the notoriety, but the office had superstars with rare public notice: Jay Schreiber, the editor who understood soccer as well as baseball; Adrienne B. Morris, whose laugh was the soundtrack of deadline; Joe Ward, a lead graphics editor; Bedel Saget, a graphics editor (and curious traveler in his spare time during an Olympics); Wayne Kamidol and Lee Yarosh, page designers; Joe Brescia, an office-fixture clerk with opinions and quips about everything. And Jim Luttrell, who taught a whiny sports columnist how to use links online (turning me into kind of a links freak). They all were stars but, in recent years, space shrank, and games went too long, and deadlines got too early, and priorities changed. And a winning team was dismantled.

What strange, inflationary times we live in. Remember when it cost a fraction of \$550 million to expand sports coverage and create an esteemed national brand in the process?

Such was Neil Amdur's mandate in the spring of 1991 after inheriting The Times's smart, literate reporting staff from Joe Vecchione, his predecessor as sports editor. Then management had the good sense to hand him a freestanding section, seven days a week.

More column space, more local and national coverage, and no more rifling through the metro or business news to locate the Vecsey and Anderson columns. Berkow and Moran features, the latest M.L.B. servings from Chass and Smith.

I suspect Amdur would have loved 400 new hires, but he managed just fine with a couple of muckrakers from The Daily News, the return of Lipsyte and a self-possessed young media business reporter named

Sandomir. The basic infrastructure, so to speak, was already in place.

It's doubtful that anyone envisioned what the internet would mean for planetary exposure, but it turned out there were countless New Yorkers, among others, across America who were hungry for daily insights from the growing Northeast and national editions on the Yankees and Knicks.

Like The Times's sports section, the '90s turned out to be a pretty good decade for them, too. I read a recent comment on The Times's Facebook alumni page, in effect asking: What's the big deal about the company's decision to eliminate its sports section when, let's face it, it generally operated in tabloid-imposed obscurity?

Resisting the temptation to profanely respond, I wrote, in summary: With all due respect, and as an alumnus of The Post and The Daily News, if you think we were "outgunned" by our crossstown and downtown competitors, you weren't paying attention.

Across the '90s and into the new century, I can say (because I was there) that many a competitor's wary eye in the Knicks' locker room was cast upon our Roberts, Wise, Robbins and Beck. And Amdur would not have dared underplay the Yankees' run to four World Series titles in five years when the executive editor at the time had an interlocking NY stitched into his heart.

Most Yankees' playoff nights, and certainly during the 2000 Subway Series, three or four of our five (no misprint) Sports of the Times columnists were in the building. It was awkward, on occasion even divisive, figuring out who wrote what. It was the necessary compromise for being part of a section that knew how to do up a big event.

Nor did it require a frenzied pursuit of digital subscriptions for The Times's sports staff to get the importance of the Olympics. My wife, then an ESPN publicist, recalls greeting a small army of Times staffers fresh off a flight from the 1988

Calgary Winter Games while waiting for me, the sole correspondent for The Daily News.

This was the blueprint for the modern sports section to address a diverse and far-flung readership. Go big on Super Bowls, World Cups, tennis and golf majors, and the ambitious enterprise reporting that made a stamp-filled mess of Longman's passports and earned Branch a Pulitzer Prize.

I could fill the whole page with familiar names that have graced this section, Kornheiser to Kepner, but feel compelled to conclude with an appreciative bow to those who toiled inside, and especially Brink, Schreiber and Nelson for how they coped with the maddening stress of deadline, of game-night deliverance, when that was the essential.

Yes, times, technology and reader habits do change, and the masthead has spoken. But the archives give voice to decades of expertise and excellence. May they never be shuttered like the section, or purged.



DATeline: EVERYWHERE Decade after decade, from one deadline to the next, The Times's sports department went where the story was, whether it was Queens or the Bronx, a mountain range in the Northwest, Atlanta when Hank Aaron made history or the other side of the globe for Olympic Games. We spared no effort and we made it all work. With distinction. Now the end is here, but the words and photographs will live on.

Game Over? Stay Tuned.

By JENNY VRENTAS

During a company-wide meeting in July, days after The New York Times unceremoniously disbanded its prize-winning sports department, workers from across the company began chanting in unison: "Sports jobs are union jobs!" This has become a rallying cry for the 1,500 members of the Times Guild in response to the company's attempt to subcontract illegally to itself and replace unionized sports reporters with what it says are non-union employees at The Athletic.

For decades, The Times's sports department has produced innovative storytelling and groundbreaking journalism that earned four Pulitzer Prizes. The journalists behind this sports coverage are union members, with the same wage standards, job

In leading this fight, the sports desk has drawn on the same camaraderie that has propelled us in our coverage of major international events such as the Olympics and the World Cup, and enabled us to meet the tight deadlines particular to live games that end after midnight. When our reporters' dogged instincts uncovered the company's plans to eliminate the department, we collectively demanded transparency and a seat at the table. After the company disrespected us by announcing its plans to the world via a push alert before we had been informed about our own futures, we offered each other the support and career counseling the company seemed disinclined to provide.

We were backed by our colleagues, past and present: More than 1,000 unionized workers across the compa-

A.G. Sulzberger, CEO Meredith Levin and executive editor Joe Kahn. Many expressed their concern that if the company could shut the sports desk and use non-union copy in its place, they could do the same thing to other departments.

The Guild will continue to pursue every legal avenue available, and last week filed for arbitration after the company denied our grievance, which asserted that The Times had violated our hard-fought labor agreement. But most important is our enduring solidarity, and our will to stop the company's flagrant union-busting and transparent attempts to pit workers against each other.

Today, the day the company chose to shutter the sports desk, nearly 40 Times sports staffers will be moved to other desks in the newsroom.

The Bottom Drawer

The new tenants should look around for any leftover brown liquid therapy. It's handy after deadline.

Total Rip

Can there be more postscripts in the future of Times Sports?

Scan This!

Then Tell The New York Times to Stop Union Busting!



Everything dies, baby, that's a fact
But maybe everything that dies some day
comes back
— Bruce Springsteen, "Atlantic City"

protections and working conditions
as the colleagues with whom their
work appears alongside on a daily
basis. The union is fighting to make
sure that does not change.

ny as well as alumni signed a petition
demanding that the company respect
union work. And last month, nearly
200 Times Guild members wrote
personal emails to the publisher

but together, we and our union col-
leagues will continue to fight for what
is a sacred truth: The work of cover-
ing sports for The New York Times is
union work.



The New York Times Guild put out a ceremonial front page final edition with remembrances from two of the all-time great Times sportswriters — George Vecsey and Harvey Araton — as well as a union update story by Vrentas.

By Ben Strauss

Dozens of New York Times sports staffers and guild members marched through the Times offices Monday afternoon to protest the end of the Times's stand-alone sports desk. They stopped near the main atrium and read the names of some 150 sports staffers past and present, starting with Red Smith, the Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist and sportswriting pioneer at the Times.

Staffers called the march a vigil for a desk that was a staple of the newspaper's report for decades. Starting on Tuesday, the Times will rely on the Athletic for the majority of its sports coverage, both in print and online.

The Times announced in July that it would disband the desk, and it has spent the ensuing weeks relocating around 40 sports staffers to different departments around the newsroom. The move has outraged the NewsGuild, the union that represents the Times newsroom, which has accused Times leadership of union-busting. The guild filed a grievance with the newspaper accusing management of replacing union work with nonunion work and last week formally filed paperwork for the case to be heard by an arbitrator.

Read more [here](#).

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What Kristen Welker should have done with Trump

(Press Watch)

By Dan Froomkin

Pretty much any political journalist would jump at the chance to interview Donald Trump. He's the most controversial and consequential figure in American politics today. You can't possibly ignore him.

But any self-respecting political journalist would do it to confront him with his lies, rather than to let him effortlessly spread yet more of them. (I've been making this point for at least six years, to no avail.)

Kristen Welker did the latter, of course, in her now-infamous interview with Trump on the occasion of her ascension to the "Meet the Press" anchor chair. It has already been widely panned.

But anyone surprised at how obsequious Welker was shouldn't have been. To get an interview with Trump you have to beg for it. It's a reward. And that inevitably comes

with strings attached — implicit and explicit.

Welker probably still considers it a win. She got a ton of attention, probably got a ratings boost, and has a good shot of getting another Trump interview some day — which she wouldn't have if she had actually served as the reality check he so badly needs.

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

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In her 105 years on earth, this trailblazing journalist changed the world for Jews and women (Forward)

By Simi Horwitz

She was the first journalist to enter the Soviet Arctic. She wrote a series for the New York Herald Tribune on how women survived under Fascism; she was tapped by the Roosevelt administration to escort 1,000 Holocaust refugees from Naples to New York in a clandestine 1941 wartime mission. Thanks to her writings and vivid photographs, depicting a ship of post-Holocaust refugees attempting to dock in Palestine, she played a role in the formation of Israel. She covered the Nuremberg trials and authored 19 books; a retrospective of her photography was exhibited at the International Center of Photography in 2011. Yes, feminist, humanitarian and journalist Ruth Gruber, who died in 2016 at the age of 105, was indeed ahead of her time.

Ahead of Time: The Extraordinary Journey of Ruth Gruber, an impressionistic yet oddly comprehensive 75-minute documentary about her trailblazing life, marked cinematographer's Robert Richman's directorial debut in 2010. Now being released digitally for the first time, the film couldn't be more timely in its portrayal of a fiercely independent, brilliant raconteur who at 96 was as elegant as she was feisty; genteel in style, radical in viewpoint.

Perhaps best known as the cinematographer of the Al Gore documentary An Inconvenient Truth, Richman makes palpable Gruber's unique life and the rarefied universe she inhabited through interviews (with her and others), the reading of old letters by and to Gruber, and black-and-white archival footage.

Much of the film is set in her cluttered apartment, where books are piled on shelves, desks, tables, and virtually every other surface. Her home, which could have been designed by a wily set designer, suggests a long and heady life of the mind.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Linda Deutsch.

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As AI enters newsrooms, unions push for worker protections (Poynter)

By: Angela Fu

This summer, images abounded of striking writers and actors wielding picket signs as they marched outside major media corporations. Though their demands are wide-ranging, one issue has dominated headlines — artificial intelligence.

It is a topic that has made its way to the bargaining sessions of labor unions across industries, including journalism. As news executives scramble to cobble together guidelines for their newsrooms and assemble working groups to experiment with AI, their employees are organizing to find ways to protect their jobs from the new technology. They are fighting to ensure that AI won't replace the work they do and that content produced with the help of AI tools meets rigorous journalistic standards.

"This is a really hot topic of conversation in union circles because we realize the power it (AI) has," said Mike Davis, a reporter and the unit chair of the APP-MCJ Guild, which represents journalists at the Gannett-owned Asbury Park Press, Home News Tribune and Courier News in New Jersey. "This stuff's going to get better and better. I would be hard-pressed to find a Gannett bargaining unit that is not thinking about this."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Len Iwanski.

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TIMES INSIDER: Lessons Learned From the Print Hub (New York Times)

By Sarah Bahr

Sarah Bahr is a roving digital editor at The Times who recently wrapped up a three-month stint with the team that produces the print newspaper.

Times Insider explains who we are and what we do and delivers behind-the-scenes insights into how our journalism comes together.

It was my first night working as an editor on the Print Hub, the team of New York Times planners, editors and designers who produce the daily print newspaper, and my first thought was: Is the job really so ... easy?

Reader, I was quickly humbled.

This group of about 70 journalists is responsible for taking articles that have been published online and adapting them to appear in print. Print Hub editors give articles another copy edit (which is especially crucial for breaking news filed late in the day), write captions for photos and cut or rewrite text for the paper. They have to do it all before the unforgiving deadline of 5 p.m., when the first edition of the newspaper gets sent to the printer. (For context: Some articles are not filed until 4:30 p.m.)

One of the trickiest parts of the job is crafting headlines. Online, a headline has looser space restrictions. But a print headline must fit in a defined, tight space; even one extra letter can require a wholesale rewrite. There are some tricks: For example, there are many ways to say “Supreme Court” to fit into spaces of varying lengths (e.g., “justices,” “top court”).

Read more [here](#). Shared by Francesca Pitaro.

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Transforming global news coverage by recruiting, training and employing women journalists worldwide. 1-on-1 with GPI’s Cristi Hegranes on her new book: “Byline.” (Editor and Publisher)

Episode 205 of "E&P Reports" - A Vodcast series hosted by Mike Blinder

Cristi Hegranes is an award-winning journalist and founder of the Global Press Institute (GPI), a nonprofit organization that builds and maintains news bureaus in some of the world’s least-covered locations, like: Cameroon, Haiti, Kashmir, Mongolia, Nepal, Zambia and more.

The organization recruits local women in the areas and then implements a 16-week training-to-employment program in which they learn the principles and practice of investigative journalism. Upon completion, graduates are offered full-time, paid employment as reporters with GPI’s Global Press Journal (GPJ), which aims to “produce ethical, accurate news, to create a more just and informed world, with team members who are guided by four core values: dignity, diversity, transparency and excellence.”

In September 2023, Hegranes released her new book: “BYLINE: How Local Journalists Can Improve the Global News Industry and Change the World,” which features original interviews with some of the biggest names in journalism, including Nicholas Kristof, Carroll Bogert, Bobby Ghosh, Lauren Williams, as well as Global Press reporters across the planet.

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word

Word-diarrhea is epidemic, and I question why I even write anymore (RVTravel)

By Chuck Woodbury

Why do I write? Why have I spent the better part of 50 years putting my words on paper and now on the screens of various electronic devices?

Do I write to fill space? Is that why I write? Is my craft about assembling words in a way that fills space between advertising? Let's be honest, that's what increasingly matters to new opportunistic publishers — slimy, nocturnal, nameless creatures who worship the God of Easy Money.

Is that how I have spent my last five decades — filling space? No. And I never will. I write to inform, educate and sometimes entertain. I'm a compulsive writer. I love to write. I would rather write a million times more than I would like to play Pickleball. "I nearly always write — just as I nearly always breathe," wrote John Steinbeck. Me, too.

Don't call me a content creator or influencer. In the old, pre-Internet world, before content creators became shills for companies by pushing their products for ten cents a word or free products, these people were called hacks. "We don't get no respect" they might say, and they were right.

Read more [here](#). Shared by John Brewer.

Today in History - Sept. 19, 2023



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 19, the 262nd day of 2023. There are 103 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 19, 1995, The New York Times and The Washington Post published the manifesto of Unabomber Ted Kaczynski (kah-ZIHN'-skee), which proved instrumental in identifying and capturing him.

On this date:

In 1796, President George Washington's farewell address was published. In it, America's first chief executive advised, "Observe good faith and justice toward all

nations. Cultivate peace and harmony with all.”

In 1881, the 20th president of the United States, James A. Garfield, died 2 1/2 months after being shot by Charles Guiteau; Chester A. Arthur became president.

In 1955, President Juan Peron of Argentina was ousted after a revolt by the army and navy.

In 1957, the United States conducted its first contained underground nuclear test, code-named “Rainier,” in the Nevada desert.

In 1970, the “Mary Tyler Moore” show debuted on CBS.

In 1985, the Mexico City area was struck by a devastating earthquake that killed at least 9,500 people.

In 1986, federal health officials announced that the experimental drug AZT would be made available to thousands of AIDS patients.

In 1996, IBM announced it would extend health benefits to the partners of its gay employees.

In 2001, the Pentagon ordered dozens of advanced aircraft to the Persian Gulf region as the hour of military retaliation for deadly terrorist attacks on Sept. 11 drew closer.

In 2004, Hu Jintao (hoo jin-tow) became the undisputed leader of China with the departure of former President Jiang Zemin (jahng zuh-MEEN’) from his top military post.

In 2008, struggling to stave off financial catastrophe, the Bush administration laid out a radical bailout plan calling for a takeover of a half-trillion dollars or more in worthless mortgages and other bad debt held by tottering institutions. Relieved investors sent stocks soaring on Wall Street and around the globe.

In 2013, Pope Francis said the Roman Catholic church had become obsessed by “small-minded rules” about how to be faithful and that pastors should instead emphasize compassion over condemnation when discussing divisive social issues such as abortion, gays and contraception.

In 2017, a magnitude-7.1 earthquake struck central Mexico, killing more than 360 people and causing more than three dozen buildings in Mexico City to collapse.

In 2020, President Donald Trump urged the Republican-run Senate to consider “without delay” his upcoming nomination to fill the Supreme Court vacancy created by the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg just six weeks before the election.

In 2022, Great Britain and the world said a final goodbye to Queen Elizabeth II at a state funeral that drew presidents and kings, princes and prime ministers — and crowds who thronged the streets of London.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Rosemary Harris is 96. Actor David McCallum is 90. Singer-songwriter Paul Williams is 83. Singer Bill Medley is 83. Singer Sylvia Tyson (Ian and Sylvia) is 83. R&B singer Freda Payne is 81. Retired professional golfer Jane Blalock is 78. Singer David Bromberg is 78. Actor Randolph Mantooth is 78. Rock singer-musician Lol Creme (10cc) is 76. Former NFL running back Larry Brown is 76. Actor Jeremy Irons is 75. Actor Twiggy Lawson is 74. TV personality Joan Lunden is 73. Singer-producer Daniel Lanois (Ian-WAH') is 72. Actor Scott Colomby is 71. Musician-producer Nile Rodgers is 71. Singer-actor Rex Smith is 68. Rock singer Lita Ford is 65. Actor Kevin Hooks is 65. Actor Carolyn McCormick is 64. Actor-comedian Cheri Oteri is 61. Country singer Jeff Bates is 60. Country singer Trisha Yearwood is 59. News anchor Soledad O'Brien is 57. Celebrity chef Michael Symon is 54. Actor Victor Williams is 53. Actor Sanaa Lathan (suh-NAH' LAY'-thun) is 52. Actor Stephanie J. Block is 51. Rock singer A. Jay Popoff (Lit) is 50. "Tonight Show" host Jimmy Fallon is 49. TV personality Carter Oosterhouse is 47. Actor-TV host Alison Sweeney is 47. Folk-rock singers-musicians Sara and Tegan (TEE'-gan) Quin are 43. Actor Columbus Short is 41. Rapper Eamon is 40. Actor Kevin Zegers is 39. Actor Danielle Panabaker is 36. Actor Katrina Bowden is 35.

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 Central Region 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:

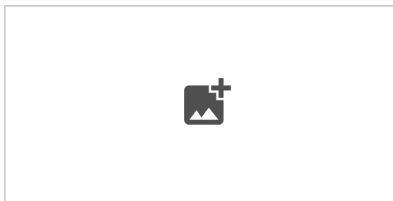
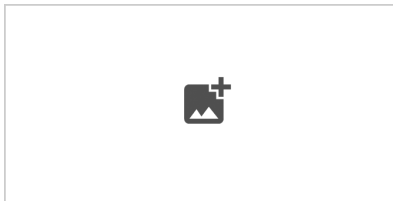
- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.

- **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.

Paul Stevens
Editor, Connecting newsletter
paulstevens46@gmail.com



Connecting newsletter | 14719 W 79th Ter, Lenexa, KS 66215

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