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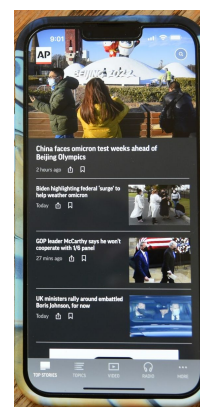
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Connecting

Oct. 13, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this Oct. 13, 2023,

Heading into the weekend, Connecting invites you to provide an answer to this question:

Name a sound or noise you heard growing up that you don't hear anymore.

I look forward to your response - and any detail you care to share with what you say.

As headlines brought the latest news of horrific violence in the Israel-Hamas War, the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press (RCFP) gathered to celebrate its 53rd anniversary Wednesday night with its annual awards dinner at the Ziegfield Ballroom in New York City.

Our colleague [Valerie Komor](#) reports that in attendance were journalists and lawyers and media and foundation professionals from across the country and around the world.

She shared:

We gathered as news continued to spread of horrific violence in Israel, reminding everyone of the risk journalists take every day to witness and convey the truth. For without truth, there is no democracy.



Dodi Fromson (right) with friends Alejandra Xanix von Bertrab (left) and John Vollmer (center). AP Photo/Valerie Komor.

The Committee to Protect Journalists said Thursday that in the first six days of fighting, at least 10 journalists were killed, two were missing and two injured.

Murray Fromson (1929-2018), a former AP foreign correspondent and former director of the USC Annenberg School of Journalism, organized the RCFP on March 8, 1970. Its purpose was to counter government threats to freedom of the press by providing free legal advice and support to working journalists. Its immediate impetus was the federal conspiracy trial of the Chicago 7, which Fromson covered, in which the defendants were charged with conspiring to incite rioting at the 1968 Democratic Convention in Chicago. Fromson would describe that trial as “one of the most notorious judicial proceedings in contemporary American history. The decision by Federal Judge Julius Hoffman to have one of the defendants, Bobby Seale, bound and gagged shocked those of us in the courtroom and, for that matter, the nation as well.”



Corporate Archives Director Valerie Komor with Deputy Director of Photography Aaron Jackson attend the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press Awards Dinner, Oct. 11, 2023, in New York City.

The program, hosted by Senior Correspondent and former Anchor and Managing Editor of the PBS Newshour, Judy Woodruff, honored 300th Anniversary University Professor Harvard University Martha Minow and ABC News Chief Justice Correspondent Pierre G. Thomas (Career Achievement); Las Vegas Review Journal Photographer Rachel Aston, Las Vegas Review Journal Executive Editor Glenn Cook, and The Washington Post Local Enterprise Reporter Lizzie Johnson (Catalyst Award); Executive Director Indigenous Journalists Association Rebecca Landsberry-Baker (Local Champion Award); and Prism Editor-in-Chief Ashton R. Lattimore (Rising Star Award).

Dodi Fromson, Murray Fromson's widow, had invited several guests, including Chinese textile specialist and curator John E. Vollmer, 2023 Maria Moors Cabot Prize recipient and Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative journalist Alejandra Xanic von Bertrab, Washington Post columnist and author Max Boot, AP United Nations Correspondent Edith Lederer, AP Corporate Archives Director, Valerie Komor, and retired journalist and writer Edie Smith (sometimes known as "the other Edie"). AP's legal team was represented by General Counsel Karen Kaiser and Associate General Counsel Brian Barrett and Louis Sarok. They were joined by Deputy Director of Photography Aaron Jackson, VP for Technology Solutions Ankur Ahluwalia, News Editor Barbara Whitaker, Newspersons Bobby Calvan and Larry Fenn, and News Editor Mallika Sen.

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

Paul

Stories behind your byline

Kelly Kissel - I wrote a prep sports column for a new Baton Rouge weekly during my senior year of high school under the byline "Kelly Kissel." The fixture was called Kissel's Korner and was to have routinely been placed in a corner of the page, but it floated from week to week and looked really ridiculous in the middle of the page.

When I'd go in on Sundays to write, I found out that readers (both of them!) had called and left messages for "Miss Kissel" and the editor suggested I add my middle initial "P." with the chance that it might suggest that I was male. In hindsight, it shouldn't have mattered, but the world was different then.

While I used "Kelly Kissel" on radio, I kept the "P." for print and remain forever grateful my parents didn't give me a middle name that started with a K.

From the Small World Department, my time at the Baton Rouge Enterprise ran concurrently to that of Tim Talley, who covered Baton Rouge City Hall. AP hired Talley into OKC after the 1995 bombing and he and I worked together there from 2009-2017. He can share his own byline story but I always saw it as "Tim Talley."

-0-

Bruce Lowitt - This isn't about my AP byline but about a second one I used during 1970-86, my years with AP Sports in New York.

The late Ben Olan, and editor and writer with AP Sports for more than 50 years, had a sideline writing and editing sports magazines and often hired me and a bunch of colleagues to write stories.

Occasionally I got assignments to write similar stories on the same subject for two magazines and I decided it wouldn't be proper to use my name on both of them. So after some cogitating and browsing a dictionary I came up with a name that sounded to me like a sports writer:

Chuck Deckle

It's cheap meat. As Casey Stengel (and James Thurber before him) used to say, "You could look it up."

-0-

Lee Mitgang - This isn't exactly the assignment you gave us to discuss the evolution of our bylines, but...

On some story or other, I got a tearsheet that had my name misspelled "Lee Mitgano." The typo endeared me to my Italian wife Gina and permanently stuck as my nickname with AP BFFs Dolores Barclay, Tim Harper, Bob Barr et al.

-0-

Jim Reindl - On bylines, I always believed they should be simple and straight forward. Mine was always my birth certificate name: James Reindl (minus my middle name or initial). Working for AP, it was a thrill enough to even get a byline in a member newspaper so I figured keeping it simple might increase my odds, though I knew better.

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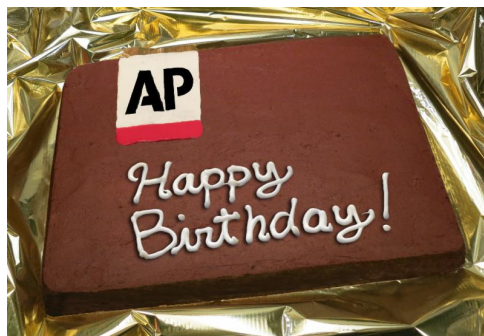
Lee J. Siegel - Time has made my memory a bit fuzzy, but I believe I was Lee Siegel during most if not all of my AP years (1982-1993). I'm not sure if I started using my middle initial in my byline before or after my 1993 move to the Salt Lake Tribune, but there were two precipitating factors.

First, a gentleman with apparent mental health problems started showing up at scientific meetings posing as me, sometimes trying to get press credentials as "L.E. Siegel, Associates Press." (I believe his real name was Edward Siegel.) This was no problem for press officers who knew me, but caused trouble at times. Once, when I worked for the Tribune and went on vacation, my editors called me greatly concerned because a San Diego research institution called then claiming I had tried to gain admission and caused some sort of a confrontation. They were relieved to discover it wasn't me, just my wannabe doppelganger.

Second, and this was the bigger factor, there was some confusion over three Lee Siegels who were writers: myself, the much better known New York cultural/literary critic, and a University of Hawaii professor who wrote a book about eunuchs. I don't recall the year, but the New York Lee Siegel wrote a New Republic column titled "I Fornication" that started off discussing gang members giving each other the evil eye and went from there to the confusion between the three "I"s named Lee Siegel. If I recall correctly, New York Lee called me "the good Lee Siegel" because I told him I was going to start using my middle initial, while the Hawaii Lee was the bad Lee Siegel because he apparently didn't care to avoid the confusion.

The other two Lee Siegel writers both show up on Wikipedia's disarticulation page. I do not. Sigh.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Steve Gutkin](#)

[Jay Jordan](#)

[Nedra Pickler](#)

[Sonya Zalubowski](#)

[Richard Vogel](#)

On Saturday to...

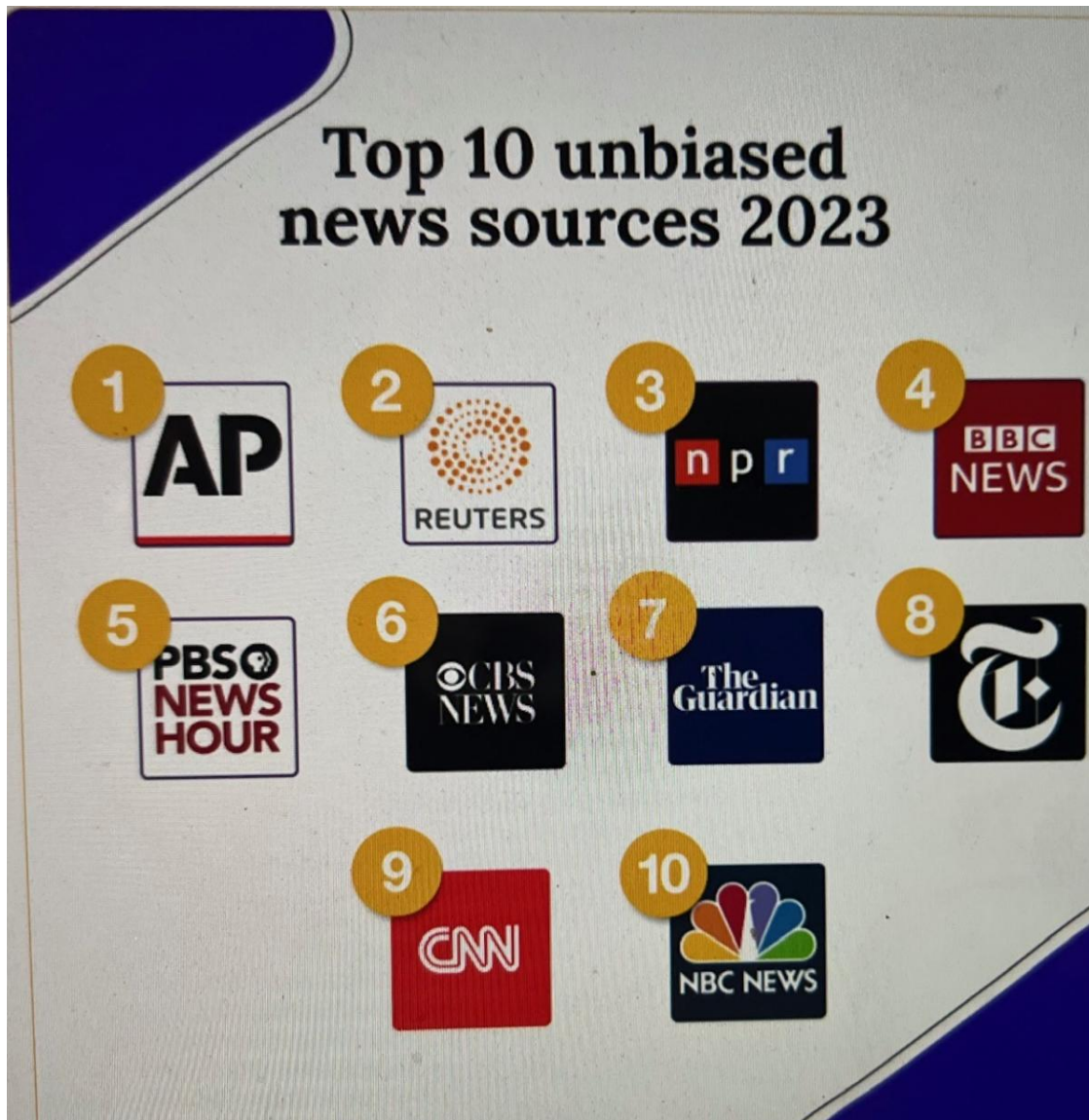
[Kim Johnson](#)

On Sunday to...

[Matt Bokor](#)

Stories of interest

10 Most Unbiased News Sources in 2023 (Pure VPN)



By PURE VPN

Many people rely on news websites to keep them informed about the latest happenings, both locally and globally. But with most news sources being biased in one way or another, it's difficult to come across any that are without influence and report the facts accurately. Trust in the media is at an all-time low, and for good reason.

So, are there any unbiased news sources available on the internet? The truth is, there's no such thing. It's nearly impossible for human beings to be completely unbiased. Therefore, it's the audience's responsibility to use multiple news outlets and read their viewpoints before taking a judgment call. Well, now what?

Most Unbiased News Sources in 2023

If any of the below-mentioned news sources are not available in your region, use the PureVPN browser extension to access them with just a click.

10 Most Unbiased News Sources

Though unbiased reporting is challenging even for the most seasoned of journalists, there are some online news sources that have proven to be relatively reliable and informative. We have listed them below in no particular order:

1 – Associated Press

Associated Press - unbiased news source

Monthly Unique Visitors: 41.90 Million

AllSides Media Bias Rating: Center

You'll find the Associated Press in almost every list of unbiased news outlets, and this is no different. The news stories, including the political ones, are covered using neutral and unprovocative language. Their journalists report facts citing authoritative sources, confirming or refuting the claims made by them with evidence.

If you want to get the latest news from across the world, the Top Stories section has got you covered. You can watch news segments in the Video section, whereas the Listen section features broadcasts of AP Radio.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad.

-0-

While the news industry struggles, college students are supplying some memorable journalism (AP)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — Within the past year, young journalists have produced investigations that led to the resignation of Stanford University's president, the firing of Northwestern University's football coach, and a school shooting graphic so striking that it led a veteran newsman to say, "I've never seen a better front page."

All while making sure to get their homework in on time.

A news industry that has been shedding jobs as long as they've been alive, and the risk of harassment when their work strikes nerves hasn't dimmed the enthusiasm of many college students — often unpaid — who are keeping the flame alive with noteworthy journalism.

"At the end of the day, journalism is a public good, and it attracts people who want to do service for others," said Theo Baker, a Stanford University sophomore whose stories about faulty scientific research prompted a university investigation and eventual resignation of Stanford's president, Marc Tessier-Lavigne.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

'A.I. Obama' and Fake Newscasters: How A.I. Audio Is Swarming TikTok (New York Times)

By Stuart A. Thompson and Sapna Maheshwari

In a slickly produced TikTok video, former President Barack Obama — or a voice eerily like his — can be heard defending himself against an explosive new conspiracy theory about the sudden death of his former chef.

"While I cannot comprehend the basis of the allegations made against me," the voice says, "I urge everyone to remember the importance of unity, understanding and not rushing to judgments."

In fact, the voice did not belong to the former president. It was a convincing fake, generated by artificial intelligence using sophisticated new tools that can clone real voices to create A.I. puppets with a few clicks of a mouse.

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

-0-

Alvin Benn, longtime Montgomery Advertiser reporter and columnist, dies at 83 (Montgomery Advertiser)

By Brian Lyman, Shannon Heupel

Alvin Benn, who traveled all over the South in a 54-year career in journalism and witnessed several historic events in Alabama history, died on Wednesday, Oct. 11, at age 83.

"It is with great sadness that I have to report the passing of my father, Alvin Benn," wrote Benn's son, Eric, in an online message to family and friends. "He was a man of great loves. He loved his family and friends, his religion, the United States Marine Corp, and most of all his job. He dedicated his entire adult life to reporting the news, good and bad. From covering the civil rights in the 60's, to being nominated for a Pulitzer Prize, to interviewing presidents, to covering the day to day life in the south, to writing a book, etc., he loved nothing more than the State of Alabama and especially his hometown, Selma."

From his start at United Press International on August 4, 1964, to his final byline in the Montgomery Advertiser on July 8, 2018, Benn had a wide-ranging career. On what was supposed to be his orientation day with UPI, editors sent Benn to assist the wire service's coverage of the discoveries of the bodies of Andrew Goodman, James Chaney and Michael Schwerner, three civil rights activists murdered in Mississippi the prior month. Later, Benn covered three major civil rights trials in the course of a single year, and secured a small footnote in the history of The Beatles.

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

Today in History - Oct. 13, 2023



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Oct. 13, the 286th day of 2023. There are 79 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 13, 2010, rescuers in Chile using a missile-like escape capsule pulled 33 men one by one to fresh air and freedom 69 days after they were trapped in a collapsed mine a half-mile underground.

On this date:

In 1775, the United States Navy had its origins as the Continental Congress ordered the construction of a fleet.

In 1792, the cornerstone of the executive mansion, later known as the White House, was laid by President George Washington during a ceremony in the District of Columbia.

In 1932, President Herbert Hoover and Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes laid the cornerstone for the U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington.

In 1943, Italy declared war on Germany, its one-time Axis partner.

In 1960, the Pittsburgh Pirates won the World Series, defeating the New York Yankees in Game 7, 10-9, with a home run hit by Bill Mazeroski.

In 1972, a Uruguayan chartered flight carrying 45 people crashed in the Andes; survivors resorted to feeding off the remains of some of the dead in order to stay alive until they were rescued more than two months later.

In 1974, longtime television host Ed Sullivan died in New York City at age 73.

In 1999, in Boulder, Colorado, the JonBenet Ramsey grand jury was dismissed after 13 months of work with prosecutors saying there wasn't enough evidence to charge anyone in the 6-year-old beauty queen's slaying.

In 2003, the U.N. Security Council approved a resolution expanding the NATO-led peacekeeping force in Afghanistan.

In 2007, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, after meeting with human-rights activists in Moscow, told reporters the Russian government under Vladimir Putin had amassed so much central authority that the power-grab could undermine its commitment to democracy.

In 2011, Raj Rajaratnam (rahj rah-juh-RUHT'-nuhm), the hedge fund billionaire at the center of one of the biggest insider-trading cases in U.S. history, was sentenced by a federal judge in New York to 11 years behind bars.

In 2016, Bob Dylan was named winner of the Nobel prize in literature.

In 2017, President Donald Trump accused Iran of violating the 2015 nuclear accord, but did not yet pull the U.S. out of the deal or re-impose nuclear sanctions. (Trump would pull the U.S. out of the deal the following May and restore harsh sanctions.)

In 2021, U.S. officials said they would reopen land borders to nonessential travel starting in November, ending a 19-month freeze because of the coronavirus pandemic.

In 2022, the House Jan. 6 committee voted unanimously to subpoena Donald Trump, demanding the former president's personal testimony as it unveiled startling new video from his closest aides describing his multi-part plan to overturn his 2020 election loss.

Today's Birthdays: Gospel singer Shirley Caesar is 86. Singer-musician Paul Simon is 82. Musician Robert Lamm (Chicago) is 79. Country singer Lacy J. Dalton is 77. Actor Demond Wilson is 77. Singer-musician Sammy Hagar is 76. Pop singer John Ford Coley is 75. Actor John Lone is 71. Model Beverly Johnson is 71. Producer-writer Chris Carter is 67. Actor and former NBA star Reggie Theus (THEE'-us) is 66. Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., is 65. R&B singer Cherrelle is 64. Singer/TV personality Marie Osmond is 64. Rock singer Joey Belladonna is 63. NBA coach Doc Rivers is 62. Actor T'Keyah Crystal Keymah (tuh-KEE'-ah KRYS'-tal kee-MAH') is 61. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Jerry Rice is 61. Actor Christopher Judge is 59. Actor Matt Walsh is 59. Actor Reginald Ballard is 58. Actor Kate Walsh is 56. R&B musician Jeff Allen (Mint Condition) is 55. Actor Tisha Campbell is 55. Olympic silver medal figure skater Nancy Kerrigan is 54. Country singer Rhett Akins is 54. Classical crossover singer Paul Potts is 53. TV personality Billy Bush is 52. Actor Sacha Baron Cohen is 52. R&B singers Brandon and Brian Casey (Jagged Edge) are 48. Actor Kiele Sanchez is 47. Former NBA All-Star Paul Pierce is 46. DJ Vice is 45. Singer Ashanti (ah-SHAHN'-tee) is 43. R&B singer Lumidee is 43. Christian rock singer Jon Micah Sumrall (Kutless) is 43. Olympic gold medal swimmer Ian Thorpe is 41. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., is 34. Actor Caleb McLaughlin (TV: "Stranger Things") is 22.

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.



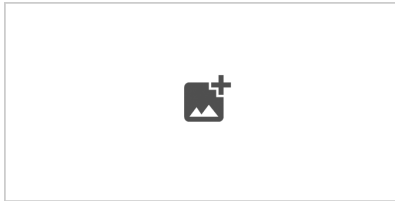
Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

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

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