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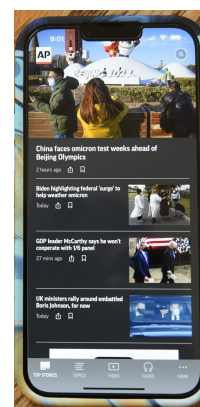
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Connecting

Oct. 27, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this Oct. 27, 2023,

Hey Journalists, Nobody Is Coming to Save Us: In an era of mass layoffs and buyouts, it's up to each and every one of us to be ready for the churn

That's the headline for [an interesting story](#) by Katherine Reynolds Lewis in Nieman Reports, including this:

Forget the billionaires, philanthropists, technologists, coders, and CEOs. Nobody is coming to save us. We must save ourselves.

By that I mean, individual journalists must actively manage their careers, build robust professional networks, invest in continual education, and pay attention to business and media news, in order to ride the waves of this turbulent profession — and be ready to leap when the time comes. Call it the A-B-C-Ds of surviving and thriving as a journalist.

Got an opinion on what she has to say – whether you're actively practicing journalism or you've moved on to retirement or another field? Share it with your colleagues.

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

Paul

Weary of put-downs of presenting both sides

[Lyle Price](#) - As a retired career journalist (including 12 years at AP in California during a contentious era that included coverage of Vietnam War protests and the actions and attitudes of native Californians Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan) I weary of put-downs from many corners of what to my mind is an honorable journalistic practice followed by The AP and other impartial news outlets in presenting both major sides and at times even more if such happen to exist.

Yes, I realize that one major side may be and quite likely is horrific in the eyes of what I would regard as reasonable people. As, for instance, the Nazis in WW II and what I believe are now six major attacks on Israel by Islamic forces since the time that the Jews gained a homeland in 1948. And, BTW, according to my reading of a Google map, the Arabs and the Jews wound up with the same approximate amount of land in an area that had last been in the possession of the then-British Empire. That strikes me as having been fair.

But I would ask how in the world can the public know of what each side says it is up to and believes to be its just position if the media fails to report it? Of course, the media and its reporters should also use their own eyes and consult other sources in order to present when needed a third and hopefully impartial version and/or evaluation of what is going on.

Recalling a Jon Wolman story

[Dave Tomlin](#) - The lethal mutual outrage and grievance in the Middle East reminds me of a story Jon Wolman told me decades ago. He'd recently had a call from a Palestinian official, who was protesting AP's use of the word "disputed" to describe West Bank territories long inhabited by Palestinians where Israelis were then building new homes and settlements. "Do you have a house?" the caller asked Jon. Jon said he did. "No, you don't," the caller said. "That house is mine. There. It's 'disputed.'"

More memories of Claudia DiMartino

[Francesca Pitaro](#) - Even though Claudia and I just missed each other at the AP – she left in 2008, the year that I started in the Corporate Archives, I was aware of her work

at the AP through photos and publications in the archives. She had left her mark -- her work on the photo desk, and her travels to bureaus and members to train them on the then cutting edge AP photo equipment are well documented. I knew about her before I met her. It was in the archives too that I learned about Hal.

When Hal's book research brought him to the archives, we became friends. And soon I met Claudie. We bonded almost immediately over our love of books, our families, our shared Italian background, our admiration for Jaques Pepin, and the wonders of home-grown garden tomatoes, which my husband Ansell and I supplied whenever we had them, and whenever Claudia's doctors would allow her to eat them.

Over the past few years, I came to know Claudia as a spirited and loving friend, and a perfect partner for Hal. She was funny and feisty and had a great sense of humor. We always had a lot to talk about.

The last time I saw Claudia, we met for lunch with Hal and Ansell. She wasn't feeling well, but she made the long drive with Hal, and came in looking beautiful and elegant. I know it couldn't have been easy, but I think that Claudia put her best effort into everything she did. Together she and Hal kept up each other's spirits with amazing grace and good humor in the face of some very hard times.

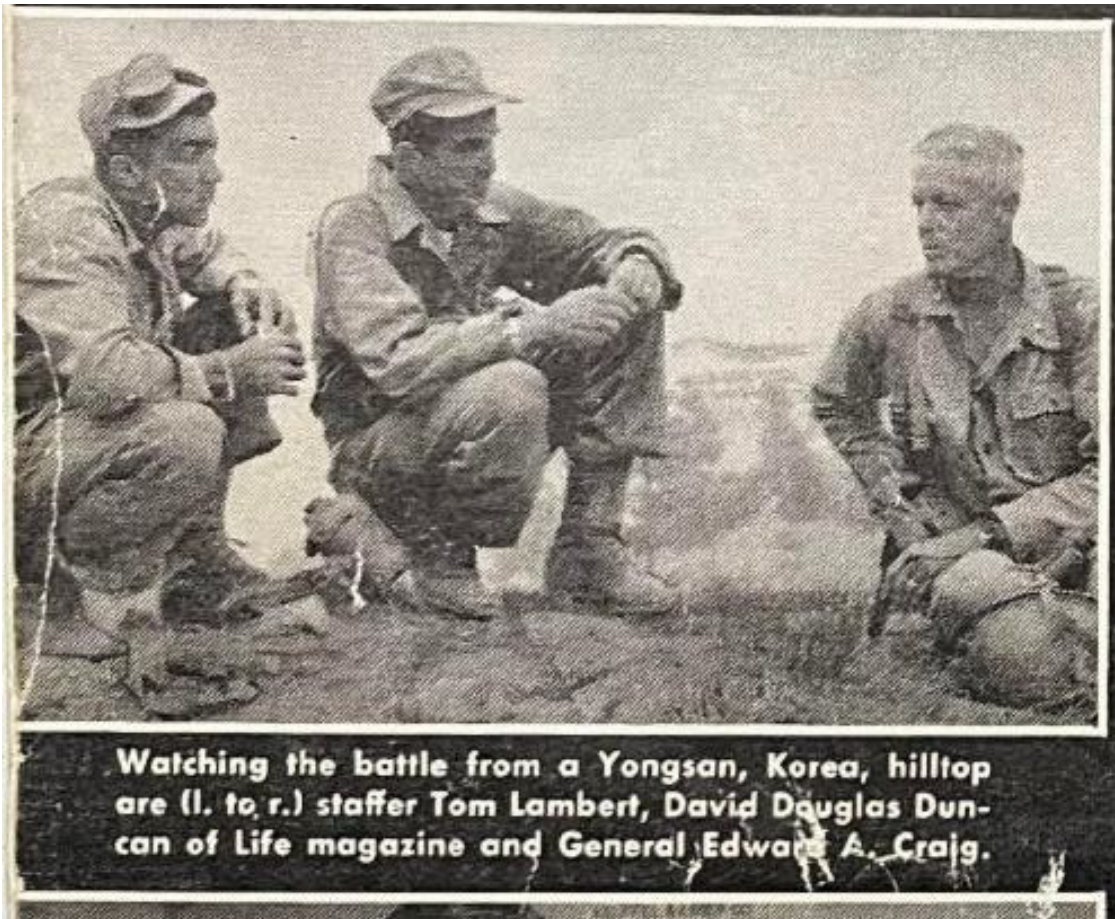
Claudia left us too soon, but I'm so grateful to have known her. She will be missed.

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Elaine Hooker - Claudia personified grit and grace - always upbeat despite personal or professional challenges. Nor did I ever hear her complain. The closest she got to a complaint in all the years I knew her was in mid-August, when she texted, "Dialysis takes its toll on me." Her last text to me, on Sept. 7, was, "All will be well." Classic Claudia. She will be missed by many.

This week, the winners of the Gramling Awards were recognized by colleagues at a staff celebration at New York headquarters and via Zoom. They also joined a special Q&AP conversation about their exceptional work and commitment to AP's mission. From AP Connections.

Warmed by photo of two special men



Cecilia White - What a pleasure it was to see in yesterday's Connecting the old 1950 "AP World" magazine. The feature, "War and Peace in AP's World," shared by John Barbour's daughter, Jennifer, was fascinating to study – and warmed my heart when I saw the photo of two very special men whom it was my privilege to know: photographer David Douglas Duncan (a friend of 43 years) and, thanks to Dave, General Eddie Craig. Two remarkable men.

As for old "AP World" magazines, I still have many from 1982-1989. Anyone else saving theirs?

Named team leader for National Geographic photo camp

Saba Rehman - I'm Saba Rehman, the only female photojournalist in my region (Pakhtunkhwa Province & Tribal districts of Pakistan).

I have been selected as a Team Leader for the National Geographic Photo Camp Alumni Class to be held Nov. 5-11 in Washington, D.C. There are a total of four team leaders from around the world. I am the only one from "South Asia".

Earlier I was working for National Geographic as a Team Leader in its Photo Camp "Ocean Connections" in 2021. I'm honoured to be the only one from Pakistan who has been featured on "Women History Month" [by National Geographic 2022](#).

Frequently I contribute as a photojournalist for BBC, Associated Press, DW News, Arab News, TRT World, The Telegraph, Independent Urdu, Aljazeera English. I covered IFC (World Bank Group) Photography project in Pakistan (Sindh & Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province)

My latest work Links for your consideration – [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#).

For more of my work, click [here](#) for my website.

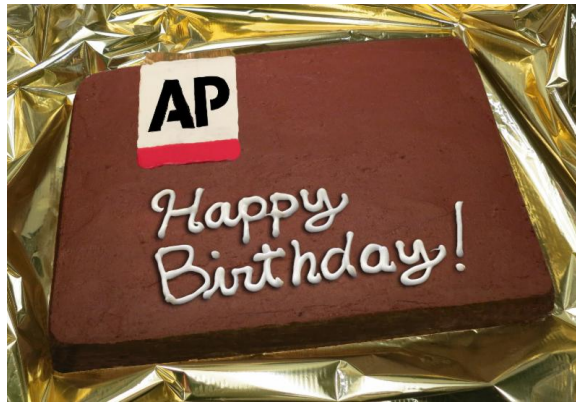


Nick Ut honored in Beijing



Nick Ut - I received Collection of Awards Works for the First Silk Road Global News Awards People and Nature In Beijing, China, this week.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Terry Anderson](#)

On Saturday to...

[Ken Klein](#)

On Sunday to...

[Warren Lerude](#)

Stories of interest

***Mysterious bylines appeared on a USA Today site.
Did these writers exist?*** (Washington Post)

By Will Sommer

Staffers at Reviewed, a USA Today-owned website devoted to shopping recommendations, were about to end their workday Friday when one of them noticed something strange:

Articles were publishing on the site by writers none of them had ever heard of — and using suspiciously similar language.

Jaime Carrillo, a senior staff writer, couldn't figure out where the reviews — for products like insulated drink tumblers and scuba gear — were coming from. "I stayed at my desk for the next hour, just kind of panicking over this new website that none of us had a hand in," he said.

The reviews were so vague about the products they were purportedly reviewing that Carrillo and his colleagues started to suspect they had been produced by artificial intelligence.

Worse, some of the authors didn't appear to exist.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Tracee Herbaugh, Peggy Walsh, Mark Mittelstadt, Michael Rubin, Richard Chady.

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A Record of Pure, Predatory Sadism (Atlantic)

By Graeme Wood

This afternoon, at a military base north of Tel Aviv, the Israel Defense Forces held a grisly matinee screening of 43 minutes of raw footage from Hamas's October 7 attack. Members of the press were invited, but cameras were not allowed. Hamas had the opposite policy on cameras during the attack, which it documented gleefully with its fighters' body cams and mobile phones. Some of the clips had been circulating already on social media in truncated or expurgated form, with the footage decorously stopped just before beheadings and moments of death. After having seen them both in raw and trimmed forms, I can endorse the decision to trim those clips. I certainly hope I never see any of the extra footage again.

It was, as IDF Major General Mickey Edelstein told the press afterward, "a very sad movie." Men, women, and children are shot, blown up, hunted, tortured, burned, and generally murdered in any horrible manner you could predict, and some that you might not. The terrorists surround a Thai man they have shot in the gut, then bicker about what to do next. (About 30,000 Thais live in Israel, many of them farmworkers.) "Give me a knife!" one Hamas terrorist shouts. Instead he finds a garden hoe, and he swings at the man's throat, taking thwack after thwack.

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

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Grandpa Google? Tech giant begins antitrust defense by poking fun at its status among youth (AP)

BY MATTHEW BARAKAT

WASHINGTON (AP) — A top Google executive testified Thursday that the company's success is precarious and said its leadership fears their product could slide into irrelevance with younger internet users.

Prabhakar Raghavan, Google's senior vice president for knowledge and information products, testified for the tech giant as it defends itself in the biggest antitrust trial in the last 25 years. The government has accused the company of illegally thwarting competitors from making inroads against its ubiquitous search engine.

Raghavan downplayed Google's dominance and described it as a company beset by competitors on all sides. He said the company has been tagged with the disparaging

moniker “Grandpa Google” among younger demographics who don’t see it as an interesting product.

“Grandpa Google knows the answers and will help you with homework,” Raghavan said. “But when it comes to doing interesting things, they like to start elsewhere.”

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word

MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM By Mike Peters



Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

Today in History - Oct. 27, 2023



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Oct. 27, the 300th day of 2023. There are 65 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On Oct. 27, 2018, a gunman shot and killed 11 congregants and wounded six others at Pittsburgh’s Tree of Life synagogue in the deadliest attack on Jews in U.S. history; authorities said the suspect, Robert Bowers, raged against Jews during and after the rampage. (Bowers was convicted and sentenced to death in 2023.)

On this date:

In 1787, the first of the Federalist Papers, a series of essays calling for ratification of the United States Constitution, was published.

In 1904, the first rapid transit subway, the IRT, was inaugurated in New York City.

In 1914, author-poet Dylan Thomas was born in Swansea, Wales.

In 1941, the Chicago Daily Tribune dismissed the possibility of war with Japan, editorializing, "She cannot attack us. That is a military impossibility. Even our base at Hawaii is beyond the effective striking power of her fleet."

In 1954, U.S. Air Force Col. Benjamin O. Davis Jr. was promoted to brigadier general, the first Black officer to achieve that rank in the USAF.

In 1962, during the Cuban Missile Crisis, a U-2 reconnaissance aircraft was shot down while flying over Cuba, killing the pilot, U.S. Air Force Maj. Rudolf Anderson Jr.

In 1971, the Democratic Republic of the Congo was renamed the Republic of Zaire (but it went back to its previous name in 1997).

In 1978, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin (men-AH'-kem BAY'-gihn) were named winners of the Nobel Peace Prize for their progress toward achieving a Middle East accord.

In 1995, a sniper killed one soldier and wounded 18 others at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. (Paratrooper William J. Kreuzer was convicted in the shootings, and condemned to death; the sentence was later commuted to life in prison.)

In 1998, Hurricane Mitch cut through the western Caribbean, pummeling coastal Honduras and Belize; the storm caused several thousand deaths in Central America in the days that followed.

In 2004, the Boston Red Sox won their first World Series since 1918, sweeping the St. Louis Cardinals in four games.

In 2017, golfer Tiger Woods pleaded guilty to reckless driving, resolving charges from an arrest in which he was found passed out in his car with prescription drugs and marijuana in his system.

In 2013, Lou Reed, who radically challenged rock's founding promise of good times and public celebration as leader of the Velvet Underground and a solo artist, died at age 71.

In 2020, Amy Coney Barrett was formally sworn as the Supreme Court's ninth justice, her oath administered in private by Chief Justice John Roberts.

In 2021, investigators in New Mexico said there was "some complacency" in how weapons were handled on a movie set where Alec Baldwin accidentally shot and killed a cinematographer and wounded another person.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-comedian John Cleese is 84. Author Maxine Hong Kingston is 83. Country singer Lee Greenwood is 81. Rock musician Garry Tallent (Bruce Springsteen & the E Street Band) is 74. Author Fran Lebowitz is 73. Rock musician K.K. Downing is 72. TV personality Jayne Kennedy is 72. Actor-director Roberto Benigni is 71. Actor Peter Firth is 70. Actor Robert Picardo is 70. World Golf Hall of Famer Patty Sheehan is 67. "Duran Duran" singer Simon Le Bon is 65. Country musician Jerry Dale McFadden (The Mavericks) is 59. Internet news editor Matt Drudge is 57. Rock musician Jason Finn (Presidents of the United States of America) is 56. Actor Sean Holland is 55. Actor Channon Roe is 54. Author Anthony Doerr is 50. Actor Sheeri Rappaport is 46. Actor David Walton is 45. Violinist Vanessa-Mae is 45. Actor-singer Kelly Osbourne is 39. Actor Christine Evangelista is 37. Actor Bryan Craig is 32. Actor Troy Gentile is 30.

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.

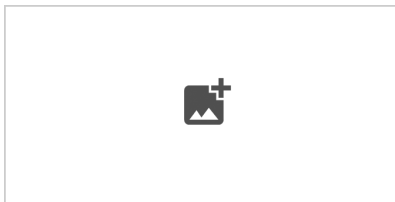
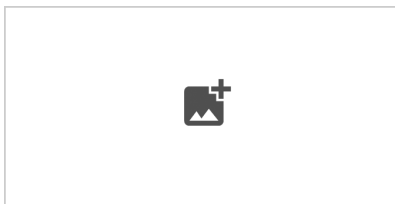
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

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

Paul Stevens

Editor, Connecting newsletter

paulstevens46@gmail.com



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