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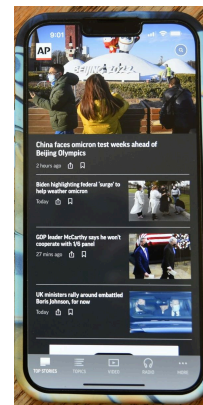
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Connecting

March 12, 2024

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this March 12, 2024,

The news of the AP’s first-ever Academy Award – presented Sunday night for the documentary “20 Days in Mariupol” - brought the following reactions from Connecting colleagues:

Santiago Lyon – *former AP director of photos*: So truly wonderful to see the AP’s (and Frontline’s) high-quality journalism recognized like that on a world stage, drawing attention to the tireless and dangerous work of so many committed journalists around the globe. As someone who went to war with a camera for a decade and still carries both physical and psychological scars, it was incredibly heartening and validating to see the AP crew in the limelight last night. I thought Mstyslav’s acceptance remarks struck just the right tone - courageous, committed, and honest. Onwards!

David Beard - Thanks for Monday's wonderful top on "Mariupol." Also loved the comment from Craig Klugman, who, prior to Fort Wayne, was a tough-as-nails

copyediting instructor at Medill. Take it from this former student -- if he says it, he means it. Lastly, thanks for including the bravery and dedication of the AP's team covering Haiti's disintegration. Far from the spotlight of the Oscars, the AP is covering little Mariupol's everywhere.

Bill Kaczor - Hip-hip Hooray for the AP's Oscar. I am proud but also filled with admiration for those involved in the coverage depicted in the documentary as well as all those other reporters, photographers and videographers who put their lives on the line to cover wars, disasters and other dangerous happenings. Cheers to you all.

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

Paul

Journalism was a major winner at this year's Academy Awards

By TOM JONES
Poynter

“Oppenheimer” was the big winner at Sunday night’s Academy Awards, but it also turned out to be a historic night for one of the world’s most revered news organizations.

The Associated Press, which was around some 83 years before the first Academy Award ceremony in 1929, won its first Oscar on Sunday night.

The AP and PBS’s “Frontline” won an Academy Award for Best Documentary for the film “20 Days in Mariupol.” Mstyslav Chernov, an AP video journalist, gave a first-person account of the early days of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

In his acceptance speech, an emotional Chernov said, “This is the first Oscar in Ukrainian history, and I’m honored. Probably I will be the first director on this stage to say I wish I’d never made this film, I wish to be able to exchange this to Russia never attacking Ukraine.”

The Associated Press’ Lindsey Bahr and Christopher Weber wrote, “Chernov, photographer Evgeniy Maloletka and producer Vasilisa Stepanenko arrived an hour before Russia began bombing the port city. Two weeks later, they were the last journalists working for an international outlet in the city, sending crucial dispatches to



the outside world showing civilian casualties of all ages, the digging of mass graves, the bombing of a maternity hospital and the sheer extent of the devastation.”

In his speech, Chernov then spoke about Russia, saying, “I wish for them to release all the hostages, all the soldiers who are protecting their land, all the civilians who are in their jails.”

Chernov added, “We can make sure that the history record is set straight and the truth will prevail, and that the people of Mariupol, and those who have given their lives, will never be forgotten. Because cinema forms memories and memories form history.”

He ended his speech by saying, “Slava Ukraini,” which means “Glory to Ukraine.”

It was the first Oscar nomination ever for The Associated Press. It was “Frontline’s” third nomination and first win.

AP executive editor Julie Pace tweeted, “Massively proud of the brave and brilliant @AP journalists that brought the story of Mariupol to the world, and our partners at @frontlinepbs.”

Read more [here](#).

Kate, Princess of Wales, apologizes for altering family photo that fueled rumors about her health

BY BRIAN MELLEY AND JILL LAWLESS

LONDON (AP) — Kate, Princess of Wales, apologized Monday for “confusion” caused by her altering of a family photo released by the palace — an image of Kate and her children that was intended to calm concern and speculation about the British royal’s health, but had the opposite effect.

Several news agencies that initially published the photo, including The Associated Press, withdrew the image over concerns about digital manipulation. Issued by the couple’s Kensington Palace office on Sunday to mark Mother’s Day in Britain, it was the first official photo of 42-year-old Kate since she had abdominal surgery nearly two months ago.

The retractions sent the online rumor mill, already rampant with speculation over Kate’s operation and recuperation, into overdrive. The PR disaster is more evidence that the royal family’s long-held mantra — “never complain, never explain” — is impossible in a social media-saturated era.

In a post on social media, Kate said that “like many amateur photographers, I do occasionally experiment with editing.”

“I wanted to express my apologies for any confusion the family photograph we shared yesterday caused,” the post said.

In the past, the palace has issued several of Kate’s family snapshots featuring her and heir to the throne, Prince William, with their children Prince George, 10, Princess Charlotte, 8, and Prince Louis, 5.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Myron Belkind.



And...The world’s wire services call out British palace PR for a royally doctored photo

By JOSHUA BENTON
Nieman Lab

The British royals — they’re just like you and me! They get nervous before a big speech, they occasionally fall for quacks, and they’re not great at Photoshop.

At least that’s the latest in a series of wouldyabelieveit claims that have pushed conspiracy talk squarely into the online mainstream.

Let’s recap — though Ellie Hall’s piece Thursday did a far better job of that than I will. Princess Catherine — a.k.a. Kate Middleton, future Queen of England, symbol of the royal family’s future — was last verifiably seen in public in December. Since then, she has spent time several weeks hospitalized after what a palace statement said was a “planned abdominal surgery.” Her continued absence from the public eye — and a British press normally chock-a-block with daily royals photos — has triggered all manner of theorizing. Is she in a coma? Angry over an affair and checked out of royal life? Using a body double? Is she...dead?

Whatever the case, the palace PR team probably thought they were helping calm the waters Sunday by releasing a new pic of Kate with her three children, all looking happy and well-scrubbed — a snap taken a week ago by Prince William, no less. She wasn’t holding up a copy of today’s Telegraph, but this would have to do as a proof-of-life photo.

Read more [here](#).

Movietone matinee: Archive staffer uncovers video of colleague's mom



Stella Dixon's mom in a striped dress right beside the car follows the parade all the way to aviator Amy Johnson's home. (AP Photo)

AP CONNECTIONS

After a screening of the British Movietone archive in London, Stella Dixon, director of international HR, mentioned her mother had followed a parade welcoming aviator Amy Johnson back to Hull, England, as a child in 1930. And then Jenny Hammerton found the video of it.

When Stella Dixon attended a screening of the British Movietone archive at the Interchange during January's in-office week, she probably didn't expect her colleague Jenny Hammerton, archive account manager, to find video of her mother as a child in the AP video archive. But that's what happened.

Dixon had mentioned that, as a girl, her mother had followed aviator Amy Johnson during a parade welcoming her home to Hull, England, after one of her famous flights.

"I had a rummage around and found a wonderful newsreel item about the whole event and Stella's mum is seen here in a striped dress right beside the car,"

Hammerton wrote to colleagues after the event. “She followed the parade all the way to Amy’s home, getting completely lost in the process.”

Dixon recalled, after watching the archive clip:

It is of course joyous to see her running along, but also highly amusing, as the reason we knew the story was because she was carried away by excitement. Mom ran all the way to Amy Johnson’s house only to realize she had no clue how to get back home. I imagine in those days some kindly ‘Bobby on the beat’ would have made sure she and her friend got back home – to no doubt a stern telling off for getting lost.

Hammerton said: “It’s such a delightful scene to have been captured by the newsreel cameraman, and amongst all those crowds, you cannot help but be charmed by Stella’s mom scampering along in prime position.”

The video archive team in London manages historical video footage – from news clips to lifestyle. This includes the British Movietone collection, owned by AP, which contains newsreels shown in cinemas between 1929 and 1979 and nonfiction films dating back to the late 1890s.

“We knew Interchange colleagues would enjoy a glimpse into this treasure trove of news, current affairs and lifestyle films. For most of this time, cinema newsreels would have been the only way people would have seen the news in a moving image form before television took over that role,” Hammerton said.

If you would like to see the whole film, click [here](#).

All digitized material from the British Movietone collection (around 50,000 items) is viewable on Newsroom and on the British [Movietone YouTube Channel](#).

(Shared by Jack Liu)

Masters of the Air – and my father's story



Kevin LeBoeuf - My wife Kate and I have been watching this series (Masters of the Air, Apple TV) with interest as it probably mirrors some of the horrors my father went through flying in the Royal Canadian Air Force. He was a tail gunner in a Halifax bomber, which was the Canadian's flying fortress like the US's B17.

My dad Raymond Joseph LeBoeuf joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in December 1943, a month shy of his 21st birthday.

He was in the RCAF's #425 Alouette Squadron, based in Tholthorpe, Yorkshire, England. His crew flew 14 successful bombing missions in Germany but on their 15th mission they took accurate heavy flak over Witten, Germany, which set their plane on fire. The crew had to parachute out of the plane.



Dad landed OK, ditched his parachute and started walking west for three nights. His plan was to sleep in the woods during the day and walk during the night. However, on the third morning while sleeping in a ditch, he was awoken to the sight of a rifle pointing at him. The rifle was held by a young German soldier accompanied by two younger boys.

The German soldier questioned Dad three times about where he had come from and each time Dad pointed to the field behind him. After the third time the German said

Dad could not have come that way as it was a minefield. My dad insisted that he did come that way - he had walked in the dark of night through a minefield.

For the next month the Germans walked Dad from one small town to another. They fed him only cabbage soup and a small piece of bread. Dad thought the Germans must have used the same head of cabbage for the soup during his entire captivity. One morning Dad woke up to the sound of American soldiers' voices, not the voices of his German guards. He told his story to the American Allies soldiers, who then took him to their field commander, General George S. Patton and the other generals of the Allied Command. There Dad was debriefed about his experience. After that, Dad was invited to have dinner with all of the generals. While at dinner, General Patton told Dad that the next day Patton's Jeep driver would take him to the local airfield so Dad could get a flight back to England, on to Canada and back home.

The next day as Dad got into the Jeep, Patton's driver said, "You must be a VIP. Dad replied, "No, I'm just a Canadian airman." The driver then said, "I only drive General George S. Patton, so you must be a VIP."

It wasn't just a matter of driving to a local airfield; the airfield was on the other side of a river. As the Allies had advanced toward the Germans, the Germans had blown up the bridges behind them as they retreated. But the Allies had then installed Bailey pontoon bridges across the rivers (as in the movie "A Bridge Too Far").

Eastward traffic on the one-lane bridge was stopped to allow the Jeep to head west to the airfield. Dad got to the airfield and after a time there was a plane flying back to England. He boarded the plane and was the only person on it other than the flight crew. After a short stay in England, he made it back home to Canada.

My dad had only told this story to me, his youngest child, sometime in the early 1980s when I was a young adult. He had not shared it with any of my three older siblings. Dad had just never spoken of his time in the war. I had thought at the time that I was just the last one in the family to hear the story. But Dad had chosen that particular time to tell his story and he had chosen to tell it to me first.

Try typing out Roman alphabet on Cyrillic keyboard

[Henry Bradsher](#) - On the subject of keyboards, how about trying to type our Roman alphabet on a Cyrillic keyboard, having to hunt around in Moscow for each letter?

That was a problem during the January 1966 conference in Tashkent, USSR, to work out a settlement of the stalemated 1965 India-Pakistan war. Indian Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, the successor to Jawaharlal Nehru, and Pakistani President Mohammad Ayub Khan signed a peace accord on January 10.

A press charter plane had brought a gaggle of Indian journalists to Tashkent. Included was a correspondent from AP's small Delhi bureau. Soviet authorities set up a teletype connection for AP from Tashkent through to our London bureau. But, able

only to file from Delhi with typewritten paper handed into an Indian telegraph office, our correspondent had no experience in using the connection in Tashkent. So from Moscow, where I was bureau chief, I sent my Russian teletype operator to Tashkent.

He went with an AP photographer from London, then working in Moscow on a temporary visa in the USSR, who took a traveling darkroom with him rather than depending on whatever local facilities might be available.

The Soviets had installed a regular western keyboard in Tashkent, but my communicating with them required searching around on the Cyrillic keyboard temporarily put in the bureau (on which I pasted Roman letters in strange order).

Some hours after Shastri and Ayub Khan signed the peace accord, Shastri died in the night. Conspiracy theories abounded on the cause of death; his wife thought he had been poisoned.

The AP correspondent there promptly covered the death and reported that India would immediately fly his body to Delhi for burial. Poking at my Cyrillic keyboard, I told our photographer to catch the press charter plane, since we had a thin staff in Delhi without a full-time photographer. But he said he first had to pack up his darkroom. I said catch the plane. He said he needed to pack. So then I pecked out: "This is an order. Catch the plane. Let telegraph operator pack and bring to Moscow."

He caught the plane. London Photos tried to send a team to Delhi, but fog at Heathrow delayed their flight so long that they gave up. Only our photographer via Tashkent got there for good coverage of the funeral, his photos processed at our usually used Simla Studios across the street from the bureau for transmission from the Indian telegraph office.

He stayed on to cover the installation of Indira Gandhi, Nehru's daughter, as prime minister by leaders of their Congress Party -- who quickly learned that she was not a figurehead whom they could control.

Our photographer was then booked to fly back to London from Bombay (now Mumbai). But he narrowly missed connections to that plane. During an intermediate stop in Geneva, it flew into cloud-covered Mount Blanc, killing everyone aboard, including India's top nuclear scientist. The photographer got home to London a day later.

Spotted on Facebook

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Shared by Peggy Walsh.

Scenes from the Hanoi Hilton





Nick Ut - I am in Hanoi and visit Hanoi Hilton with some American Veterans and with Sister Delia Alvarez From San Francisco. This was sister's first visit to the Hanoi Hilton. Her brother, an Air Force pilot, flew a A-4D war plane that was shot down by the Northern army and people at Bay Chay -Quang Ninh on 5th August 1964. Averett Alvarez was the first pilot captured and taken to Hoa Lo Prison (Hanoi Hilton).

And this picture of pilot John McCain being checked by a Vietnamese doctor in Hanoi Hilton.

On the Naples Beach



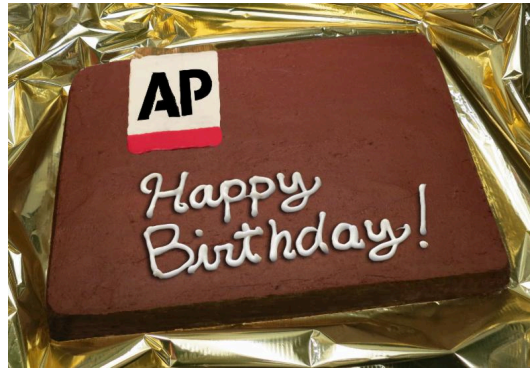
[Hank Ackerman](#) - Terns and Black Skimmers on Naples Florida beach at Clam Pass.

Kimono made of newspapers



[Kevin Walsh](#) - 1920s newspaper kimono on display in the National Museum of Literature. Tainan, Taiwan.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Estes Thompson

Stories of interest

Proliferating 'news' sites spew AI-generated fake stories (AFP)

Bill McCarthy and Anuj Chopra

A sensational story about the Israeli prime minister's "psychiatrist" exploded online, but it was AI-generated, originating on one of hundreds of websites researchers warn are churning out tech-enabled fiction masquerading as news.

Propaganda-spewing websites have typically relied on armies of writers, but generative artificial intelligence tools now offer a significantly cheaper and faster way to fabricate content that is often hard to decipher from authentic information.

Hundreds of AI-powered sites mimicking news outlets have cropped up in recent months, fueling an explosion of false narratives -- about everything from war to politicians -- that researchers say is stoking alarm in a year of high-stake elections around the world.

"Israeli Prime Minister's psychiatrist commits suicide," still tops the list of "popular articles" highlighted on Global Village Space, a Pakistani digital outlet, after it made an online splash in November with baseless claims about a suicide note blaming Netanyahu.

Read more [here](#)

Shared by Bill Sikes.

-0-

Deadspin Sold By G/O Media, Entire Staff Laid Off (MEDIAite)

Ahmad Austin Jr.

Deadspin staff were informed via email the outlet was sold by G/O Media and that its new parent company would not be retaining any of them.

In the email obtained by The Daily Beast and Axios, G/O CEO Jim Spanfeller said his media firm was approached by Lineup Publishing, a newly formed digital media firm based in Europe. Lineup expressed interest in purchasing Deadspin.

“I do want to make it clear that we were not actively shopping Deadspin,” Spanfeller said in the email. “The rationale behind the decision to sell included a variety of important factors that include the buyer’s editorial plans for the brand, tough competition in the sports journalism sector, and a valuation that reflected a sizable premium from our original purchase price for the site.

“Deadspin’s new owners have made the decision not to carry over any of the site’s existing staff and instead build a new team more in line with their editorial vision for the brand. While the new owners plan to be reverential to Deadspin’s unique voice, they plan to take a different content approach regarding the site’s overall sports coverage.”

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

Today in History - March 12, 2024



Today is Tuesday, March 12, the 72nd day of 2024. There are 294 days left in the year.

Today’s highlight in history:

On March 12, 1955, legendary jazz saxophonist Charlie “Bird” Parker died in New York at age 34.

On this date:

In 1864, Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant assumed command as General-in-Chief of the Union armies in the Civil War.

In 1912, the Girl Scouts of the USA had its beginnings as Juliette Gordon Low of Savannah, Georgia, founded the first American troop of the Girl Guides.

In 1925, Chinese revolutionary leader Sun Yat-sen died in Beijing.

In 1947, President Harry S. Truman announced what became known as the “Truman Doctrine” to help Greece and Turkey resist Communism.

In 1971, Hafez Assad was confirmed as president of Syria in a referendum.

In 1980, a Chicago jury found John Wayne Gacy Jr. guilty of the murders of 33 men and boys. (The next day, Gacy was sentenced to death; he was executed in May 1994.)

In 1987, the musical play “Les Miserables” opened on Broadway.

In 1994, the Church of England ordained its first women priests.

In 2003, Elizabeth Smart, the 15-year-old girl who vanished from her bedroom nine months earlier, was found alive in a Salt Lake City suburb with two drifters, Brian David Mitchell and Wanda Barzee. (Mitchell is serving a life sentence; Barzee was released from prison in September 2018.)

In 2009, disgraced financier Bernard Madoff pleaded guilty in New York to pulling off perhaps the biggest swindle in Wall Street history; he would be sentenced to 150 years behind bars. (Madoff died in prison in April 2021.)

In 2011, fifteen passengers were killed when a tour bus returning from a Connecticut casino scraped along a guard rail on the outskirts of New York City, tipped on its side and slammed into a pole that sheared it nearly end to end.

In 2012, Greece implemented the biggest debt write-down in history, swapping the bulk of its privately held bonds with new ones worth less than half their original value.

In 2017, a bus plowed into people taking part in an early morning street festival in Haiti, killing at least 34 of them.

In 2013, black smoke poured from the Sistine Chapel chimney, signaling that cardinals had failed on their first vote of the papal conclave to choose a new leader of the Catholic Church to succeed Benedict XVI.

In 2018, Republicans on the House Intelligence Committee said they’d completed a draft report concluding that there was no collusion or coordination between Donald Trump’s presidential campaign and Russia.

In 2021, the city of Minneapolis agreed to pay \$27 million to settle a civil lawsuit from George Floyd’s family over the Black man’s death in police custody.

In 2020, as the coronavirus crisis deepened in the U.S., the stock market had its biggest drop since the Black Monday crash of 1987, the NCAA canceled its basketball tournaments after earlier planning to play in empty arenas and the NHL joined the NBA in suspending play.

In 2022, Russian forces pounding the Ukrainian port city of Mariupol shelled a mosque that was sheltering more than 80 people, including children.

In 2023, "Everything, Everywhere All at Once" won seven Oscars, including best picture and three of the four acting awards.

Today's Birthdays: Politician, diplomat and civil rights activist Andrew Young is 92. Actor Barbara Feldon is 91. Actor-singer Liza Minnelli is 78. Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah, is 77. Singer-songwriter James Taylor is 76. Former Sen. Kent Conrad, D-N.D., is 76. Rock singer-musician Bill Payne (Little Feat) is 75. Actor Jon Provost (TV: "Lassie") is 74. Author Carl Hiaasen is 71. Rock musician Steve Harris (Iron Maiden) is 68. Actor Lesley Manville is 68. Actor Jerry Levine is 67. Singer Marlon Jackson (The Jackson Five) is 67. Actor Jason Beghe is 64. Actor Courtney B. Vance is 64. Actor Titus Welliver is 62. Former MLB All-Star Darryl Strawberry is 62. Actor Julia Campbell is 61. Actor Jake Weber is 61. Sen. Tammy Duckworth, D-Ill., is 56. Actor Aaron Eckhart is 56. CNN reporter Jake Tapper is 55. Rock musician Graham Coxon is 55. Actor Rhys Coiro is 45. Country singer Holly Williams is 43. Actor Samm (cq) Levine is 41. Actor Jaimie Alexander is 40. Actor Tyler Patrick Jones 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:

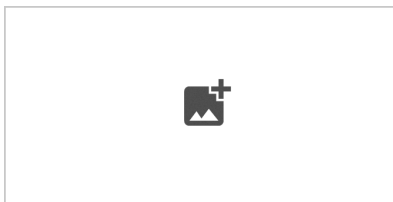
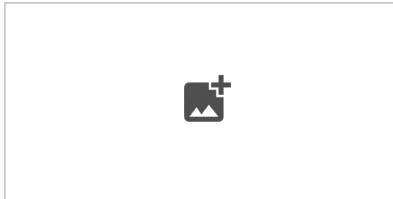
- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.

- **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.

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