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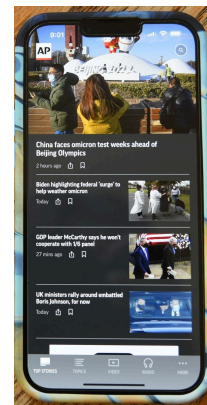
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Connecting

April 1, 2024

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this April 1, 2024,

Hard as you may look to find, there are no April Fool's stories in this issue. Remember the AP cautionary memos to the field sent days before April 1, warning bureaus to be on the alert to avoid being the butt of an April Fool's joke?

We lead today's first issue of April with a story on the AP defending an image of Hamas terrorists parading Nova reveler Shani Louk's body in the back of a truck – a photo that sparked outrage in the wake of an award from the University of Missouri's Picture of the Year contest. The AP has also been sued by the National Jewish Advocacy Center over its coverage.

Connecting would welcome your thoughts on the issue – and anything else on your mind.

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

Paul

Associated Press Defends Image of Murdered Nova Reveler in Hamas Truck After Award



Benjamin Lindsay
TheWrap

The Associated Press defended photographer Ali Mahmud's image of Hamas terrorists parading Nova reveler Shani Louk's body in the back of a truck on Friday, which has sparked outrage in the wake of an award from the University of Missouri.

The AP has also been sued by the National Jewish Advocacy Center over its coverage. The agency referred questions about the photo to its statement responding to the lawsuit:

"Documenting breaking news events around the world – no matter how horrific – is our job. Without AP and other news organizations, the world would not have known what was happening on Oct. 7," VP of corporate communications Lauren Easton said.

The image depicts Hamas terrorists in a pickup truck triumphantly carting away the partially-clothed body of the 22-year-old German-Israeli, who was killed at the post-trance Nova Music Festival on October 7. A video of Hamas terrorists parading her

body in Gaza went viral in the days after the attack, with people in the crowd cheering, some of whom spat on the body.

The documentation of Hamas' Oct. 7 brutality was recognized earlier this month by Pictures of the Year International as one the year's best, prompting swift blowback online and statements from the news agency and journalism school standing by the decision.

Pictures of the Year, a program of the Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute at the Missouri School of Journalism, named the war photograph as part of AP's first-place win in its Team Picture Story of the Year category.

The Reynolds institute defended the award in an email to TheWrap:

"The Reynolds Journalism Institute and Pictures of the Year strongly condemn the Hamas attack on Oct. 7, and we continue to mourn the loss of innocent lives and human suffering that is occurring in the ongoing conflict," POY director Lynden Steele told TheWrap. "Reactions to the Team Picture Story of the Year express the greater emotions related to that conflict."

Steele maintained, however, the merit of the image, arguing it captures "the harsh realities of war."

Read more [here](#).

Journalists gather to discuss coverage of Vietnam War



Kim Phuc and Nick Ut photographed with Peter Arnett at the Vietnam conferenc

Peter Arnett – Former journalists who covered the Vietnam War – including several from The Associated Press - gathered in New York City late last week at the invitation of the Columbia University School of Journalism to participate in a wide-ranging conference on legacies of the war, as the 50th anniversary of the Fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975, approaches.

Noted historian Lien-Hang T. Nguyen, the first director of Vietnamese studies at Columbia and also director and the Weatherhead East Asian Institute, who organized the conference, noted that with the current wars in the Middle East and Europe, the lessons of the Vietnam War continue to carry resonance 50 years on.

Edie Lederer, now in her 82st year and AP's chief correspondent at the United Nations, and Peter Arnett who won a Pulitzer Prize for the AP in Vietnam in 1966, served on the panel titled "War Reporting Past, Present and Future". Lederer was one of the first women to cover the war, assigned to the AP Saigon Bureau in the early 1970s. She recalled seeking out the families of South Vietnamese soldiers killed in the war to better portray the widespread suffering of the population.

Arnett recalled the early years of the war, Saigon 1962 and 1963, where he joined the AP's Malcolm Browne and Horst Faas and worked with David Halberstam of the New York Times, and Neil Sheehan of UPI, to overcome serious obstacles raised by the Saigon Government and the Kennedy administration to telling the truth about America's attempted secret buildup of war materials into South Vietnam.

The keynote speakers were Kim Phuc along with AP photographer Nick Ut who photographed her on June 8, 1972, as she emerged severely injured with her clothes

burned off and running desperately from the fire of a napalm bombing of her village. The photograph is now seen not only as a graphic reminder of the Vietnam War, but a symbolic representation of the suffering of children in the many wars that have followed.



AP Director of Corporate Archives Valerie Komor at a pre-conference lunch in New York, with Nick Ut far right, Andrew Arnett far left, and Peter Arnett.

Other Vietnam-era journalists participating in the conference included Fox Butterfield of the New York Times, and Elizabeth Becker who covered the Cambodian War for the Washinton Post.

April Fool's Year:

One day is not enough for the level of idiocy currently happening in the world

DAN PERRY

People always declare that things have never been so bad, but is that really so? Statistics show that humanity has never seen so much peace and prosperity and health. So whence all the angst? How does nothing seem quite right? Why is that fly buzzing loudly in my ear?

Wait! Could it be true?

Are we getting dumber? For young men especially, is that even possible?

Many feel that yes, it clearly is. That is our “lived experience,” a great new system for conviction without proof. And there’s a reason why we have this feeling: the folly is more striking when contrasted to the other march, of progress. It was one thing for a Dark Ages peasant to poke a beehive with a club. It is another to walk off a cliff while staring at the phone.

Our current level of individual and societal folly, compared to humanity’s concurrent achievements, is such that marking it with a single day might not suffice. April Fool’s Day – tomorrow – is not enough.

Therefore, I am proposing that we declare 2024 to be the first-ever April Fool’s Year. I’m not talking about practical jokes. The purpose would not be to celebrate our idiocy: rather we would study it. Attempt to learn its ways. Perhaps a team of experts, focused only on this issue and holding meetings about it, will be appointed someplace like Vienna.

I did not arrive at this recommendation lightly. In order to ascertain whether our folly of today is greater than what preceded it, I consulted "The March of Folly" by Barbara Tuchman, an American writer who won the Pulitzer Prize twice, and so you know that she had wisdom. I have known several Pulitzer judges, and every one of them could read.

Read more [here](#).

BEST OF THE WEEK — FIRST WINNER
**AP exposes evidence that Burkina Faso
security forces massacred civilians**



West Africa Correspondent Sam Mednick obtained exclusive accounts from massacre survivors in the remote region of Zaongo in Burkina Faso.

Killings of civilians by security forces happen regularly in Burkina Faso yet are hardly reported amid a brutal war with jihadist rebels. Few survivors are brave enough to speak out and most flee, staying silent under a repressive regime. Government investigations are also rare, and no one is held accountable.

Mednick, who is based in Senegal, was looking into reports of one of many such violent incidents that she had seen video evidence of circulating in WhatsApp groups, when a source in Dakar said he had relatives who survived the massacre and could speak to her. Mednick thought he was referring to the massacre in the videos she had seen but it turned out to be a different one — the Zaongo massacre.

Through the trusted contact in Senegal, she was able to talk to a family that lived in the area and connect with survivors. To not expose witnesses to risk, Mednick arranged to get testimonies and supporting visual evidence remotely, arranging safe houses and getting interviews translated from local languages.

AP was the only media able to get the story and photos of this attack, one of several killings under investigation by the U.N. and government. To date, no one has been held accountable.

Washington-based newsperson Michael Biesecker was able to add reporting on Burkina's military links to the U.S. and worked closely with Mednick from the start to develop the reporting.

Read more [here](#).

BEST OF THE WEEK — SECOND WINNER**AP timelapse of newly built spire on Notre Dame Cathedral tops online views**

An exclusive timelapse of the new spire of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris was AP's most viewed online video and drew top views from customers too, scooping all competitors and providing a new model for innovative storytelling.

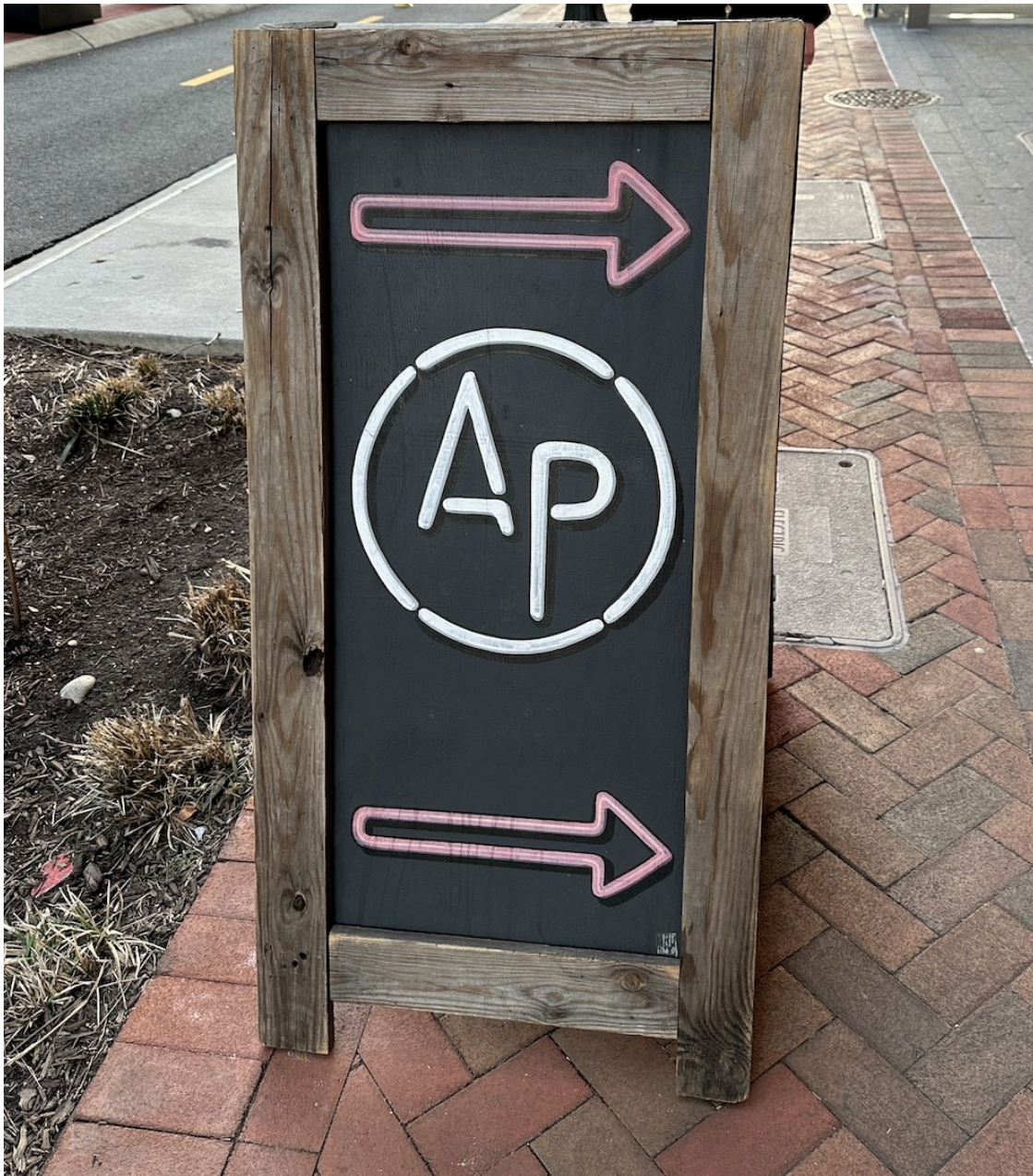
After the 2019 fire that threatened to topple Paris' centuries-old Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris, French President Emmanuel Macron vowed to rebuild it within five years. AP's Paris bureau immediately started brainstorming about how to capture the monumental but protracted project in an innovative way.

A timelapse came to mind — but it took two years just to stabilize the building, and scaffolding has concealed the massive construction work from view since 2019.

Paris video journalist Alex Turnbull and senior producer Jeff Schaeffer didn't give up on the idea. As soon as they learned in late 2023 that the newly built spire was nearing completion, they started plotting a way to capture timelapse images as the scaffolding around it was removed, plank by plank, bar by bar.

Read more [here](#).

AP sighting



Mark Thompson - The new AP Pizza Shop in Bethesda, Maryland. Click [here](#) for some background. And click [here](#) for the menu.

Connecting '80s/'90s/100 Club

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Connecting publishes this list at the beginning of each month. If you are qualified for one of the age groups and would like to be listed, drop me a note. Please let me know of any errors.)

90s:

Norm Abelson
Malcolm Barr

**Henry Bradsher
Joseph Carter
Phil Dopoulos
Hoyt Harwell
Gene Herrick
Joe McGowan
Charlie Monzella
Bob Petsche
Arlon Southall
Lou Uchitelle
Sal Veder
Doris Webster
Joe Young**

80s:

**Hank Ackerman
Paul Albright
Rachel Ambrose
Peter Arnett
Harry Atkins
Frank Aukofer
Jim Bagby
Myron Belkind
Ed Bell
Dan Berger
Adolphe Bernotas
Brian Bland
Lou Boccardi
Hal Bock
William Roy Bolch Jr.
Ed Breen
David Briscoe
Ben Brown
Charles Bruce**

**Ford Burkhart
Harry Cabluck
Sibby Christensen
Shirley Christian
Norm Clarke
Steve Crowley
Don Dashiell
Bob Daugherty
Linda Deutsch
Mike Doan
Bob Dobkin
Bob Dubill
Harry Dunphy
John Eagan
Claude Erbsen
Mike Feinsilber
Dodi Fromson
Joe Galu
Bill Gillen
Steve Graham
Bob Greene
Jerry Harkavy
Paul Harrington
Mike Harris
Chick Harrity
Merrill Hartson
Frank Hawkins
Monte Hayes
Jerry Jackson
Spencer Jones
Doug Kienitz
Dean Lee
Pierce Lehmbeck
Warren Lerude
Edie Lederer
Carl Leubsdorf
Jim Limbach**

Bruce Lowitt
David Liu
Jim Luther
Larry Margasak
John Marlow
Dave Mazzarella
Chuck McFadden
Yvette Mercourt
Reid Miller
Karren Mills
David Minthorn
Peggy Mooney
Bill Morrissey
Harry Moskos
Ron Mulnix
Bruce Nathan
Greg Nokes
Larry Paladino
Jay Perkins
Lyle Price
Charles Richards
Bruce Richardson
Carl Robinson
Mort Rosenblum
Michael Rubin
Frank Russell
Denis Searles
Richard Shafer
Susanne Shaw
Nancy Shipley
Mike Short
Victor Simpson
Rick Spratling
Ed Staats
Karol Stonger
Barry Sweet
Mark Thayer

Marty Thompson
Hilmi Toros
Kernan Turner
Jeffrey Ulbrich
Jack Walker
Mike Waller
Bob Walsh
Dean Wariner
Don Waters
Lew Wheaton
Jeff Williams
William Winter
Byron Yake
Johnny Yost
Kent Zimmerman

Stories of interest

Gmail revolutionized email 20 years ago. People thought it was Google's April Fool's Day joke (AP)

BY MICHAEL LIEDTKE

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Google co-founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin loved pulling pranks, so much so they began rolling outlandish ideas every April Fool's Day not long after starting their company more than a quarter century ago. One year, Google posted a job opening for a Copernicus research center on the moon. Another year, the company said it planned to roll out a "scratch and sniff" feature on its search engine.

The jokes were so consistently over-the-top that people learned to laugh them off as another example of Google mischief. And that's why Page and Brin decided to unveil something no one would believe was possible 20 years ago on April Fool's Day.

It was Gmail, a free service boasting 1 gigabyte of storage per account, an amount that sounds almost pedestrian in an age of one-terabyte iPhones. But it sounded like a preposterous amount of email capacity back then, enough to store about 13,500 emails before running out of space compared to just 30 to 60 emails in the then-leading webmail services run by Yahoo and Microsoft. That translated into 250 to 500 times more email storage space.

Besides the quantum leap in storage, Gmail also came equipped with Google's search technology so users could quickly retrieve a tidbit from an old email, photo or other personal information stored on the service. It also automatically threaded together a string of communications about the same topic so everything flowed together as if it was a single conversation.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Network political contributors have a long history. But are they more trouble than they're worth? (AP)

BY DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — One of the nation's most prominent news outlets has found itself in an embarrassing mess over the hiring — and quick firing — of someone who isn't even a journalist in the first place.

Among other things, NBC News' brief employment of former Republican National Committee chief Ronna McDaniel has illustrated the role of political contributors in television news, and the frustration many executives feel in adequately representing the GOP point of view in the Donald Trump era.

NBC News' leadership felt it had secured a prize in the services of McDaniel to provide an insider's perspective on the Republican campaign. Yet they were taken aback and changed course Tuesday after network personalities like Chuck Todd and Rachel Maddow objected to working with someone who had trafficked in election disinformation.

Those bosses, starting with NBC Universal Chairman Cesar Conde, now face questions about their leadership and anger from Republicans, some of whom their journalists count upon as news sources heading into a presidential election.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Russian journalist who covered Navalny's trial is arrested for extremism (Politico)

BY JONES HAYDEN

Russian journalist Antonina Favorskaya was charged with extremism on Friday and remanded in custody for two months, according to media reports.

A Moscow court formally charged Favorskaya with participating in the activities of late opposition leader Alexei Navalny's Anti-Corruption Foundation, which was labeled as

extremist in 2021, according to the reports. The journalist faces up to six years in prison.

Favorskaya on Feb. 15 recorded the last video of Navalny at a court hearing he was taking part in via video-link from an Arctic prison. The next day, Navalny suddenly died in the prison.

Favorskaya, a correspondent for independent broadcaster Sotavision, was detained for a second time on Wednesday after initially serving a 10-day administrative sentence in the Moscow region on charges of disobeying police orders, Sotavision said in a post on Telegram.

She had also extensively covered Navalny's funeral in Moscow before she was detained at a cafe on an anonymous tip, the Moscow Times reported. Colleagues of Favorskaya were also detained; the charges against those individuals remain unclear, the newspaper said.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

-0-

The real D.C. crime wave (Politico)

By ELI STOKOLS, LAUREN EGAN and BEN JOHANSEN

In a sense, it's a daring crime given that the aircraft and the individual traveling in its executive cabin are among the most heavily secured entities in the world. And yet, it has become shockingly common — a rite of passage where the thieves proudly discuss and display their stolen goods.

Everyone, it appears, is pilfering from Air Force One.

And it's gotten so bad that last month, NBC correspondent KELLY O'DONNELL, the president of the White House Correspondents' Association, included a terse reminder to colleagues that taking items off the plane was not allowed and reflected poorly on the press corps as a whole, several individuals who saw the off-the-record email confirmed.

The rampant thievery makes sense when you remember that Washington is a town populated by a lot of ambitious, status-seeking dorks. Many people who fly with the president on Air Force One really want you to know they've flown on Air Force One.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Ken Herman, Mark Mittelstadt.

Today in History - April 1, 2024



Today is Monday, April 1, the 92nd day of 2024. There are 274 days left in the year. This is April Fool's Day.

Today's Highlights in History:

On April 1, 1972, the first Major League Baseball players' strike began; it lasted 12 days. Twenty years later, on April 1, 1992, the National Hockey League Players' Association went on its first-ever strike, which lasted 10 days.

On this date:

In 1865, during the Civil War, Union forces routed Confederate soldiers in the Battle of Five Forks in Virginia.

In 1891, the Wrigley Co. was founded in Chicago by William Wrigley, Jr.

In 1924, Adolf Hitler was sentenced to five years in prison for his role in the Beer Hall Putsch in Munich. (Hitler was released in December 1924; during his time behind bars, he wrote his autobiographical screed, "Mein Kampf.")

In 1945, American forces launched the amphibious invasion of Okinawa during World War II. (U.S. forces succeeded in capturing the Japanese island on June 22.)

In 1970, President Richard M. Nixon signed a measure banning cigarette advertising on radio and television, to take effect after Jan. 1, 1971.

In 1975, with Khmer Rouge guerrillas closing in, Cambodian President Lon Nol resigned and fled into exile, spending the rest of his life in the United States.

In 1976, Apple Computer was founded by Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak and Ronald Wayne.

In 1977, the U.S. Senate followed the example of the House of Representatives by adopting, 86-9, a stringent code of ethics requiring full financial disclosure and limits on outside income.

In 2003, American troops entered a hospital in Nasiriyah, Iraq, and rescued Army Pfc. Jessica Lynch, who had been held prisoner since her unit was ambushed on March 23.

In 2011, Afghans angry over the burning of a Quran at a small Florida church stormed a U.N. compound in northern Afghanistan, killing seven foreigners, including four Nepalese guards.

In 2013, Taylor Swift was named entertainer of the year for the second year in a row at the Academy of Country Music Awards.

In 2016, world leaders ended a nuclear security summit in Washington by declaring progress in safeguarding nuclear materials sought by terrorists and wayward nations, even as President Barack Obama acknowledged the task was far from finished.

In 2017, Bob Dylan received his Nobel Literature diploma and medal during a small gathering in Stockholm, where he was performing a concert.

In 2018, writer and producer Steven Bochco, known for creating the groundbreaking TV police drama "Hill Street Blues," died after a battle with cancer; he was 74.

In 2020, resisting calls to issue a national stay-at-home order, President Donald Trump said he wanted to give governors "flexibility" to respond to the coronavirus. Under growing pressure, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis joined his counterparts in more than 30 states in issuing a stay-at-home order.

In 2022, talks to stop the fighting in Ukraine resumed, as another attempt to rescue civilians from the shattered and encircled city of Mariupol was thrown into jeopardy and Russia accused the Ukrainians of a cross-border helicopter attack on a fuel depot.

In 2023, storms that dropped dozens of tornadoes killed more than 30 people in small towns and big cities across the South and Midwest.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Don Hastings is 90. Actor Ali MacGraw is 85. R&B singer Rudolph Isley is 85. Reggae singer Jimmy Cliff is 76. Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito is 74. Rock musician Billy Currie (Ultravox) is 74. Actor Annette O'Toole is 72. Movie director Barry Sonnenfeld is 71. Singer Susan Boyle is 63. Actor Jose Zuniga is 62. Country singer Woody Lee is 56. Actor Jessica Collins is 53. Rapper-actor Method Man is 53. Movie directors Albert and Allen Hughes are 52. Political commentator Rachel Maddow is 51. Former tennis player Magdalena Maleeva is 49. Actor David Oyelowo is 48. Actor JJ Feild is 46. Singer Bijou Phillips is 44. Actor Sam Huntington is 42. Comedian-actor Taran Killam is 42. Actor Matt Lanter is 41. Actor Josh Zuckerman is 39. Country singer Hillary Scott (Lady A) is 38. Rock drummer Arejay Hale (Halestorm) is 37. Actor Asa Butterfield is 27. Actor Tyler Wladis is 14.

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.

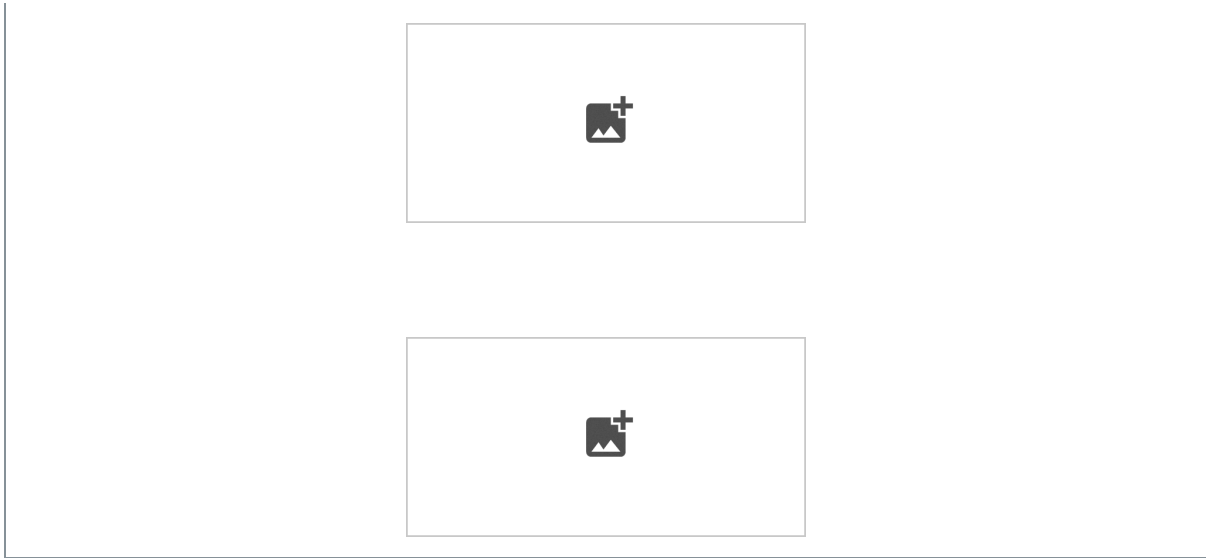
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

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

Paul Stevens

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