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Celebrating 79 years of
Press Photography in Southern California
**Press Photographers Association
of Greater Los Angeles**

June 2015, Volume 79, Number 2

DOWNLOADABLE EDITION

Check our web site at www.ppagla.org for complete
monthly contest results and judges comments



Thomas R. Cordova, Daily Breeze/Press-Telegram

FEBRUARY, SPOT NEWS, THIRD PLACE: Long Beach Fire Department PIO Jake Heflin checks in with the man who lived in the apartment that caught fire after firefighters battle the two-alarm blaze at the apartment complex near the northern edge of Long Beach East Village neighborhood.

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Photos: Paul Buck

Firefighters Safety Seminar

PPAGLA members attended a Los Angeles City Fire-led fire safety class in late May. This was refresher for established photographers and videographers and new information for others. The director of public affairs, Peter Sanders, was on hand as they discussed fire and weather conditions plus past history of fires that the fire department learned from and how to approach large wild fires. They also touched on possible El Nino conditions that may be coming this winter.



LAYOFFS AT LOS ANGELES DAILY NEWS

By John McCoy
Chairman Emeritus

It was not that long ago that photographers had an irreplaceable position in the newsroom. We knew how to anticipate the decisive moments, and then capture the light and shadows in a magical box holding emulsified grains of silver. We were the keepers of the magic. The tradesmen and women, who knew how to anticipate the action, read and understand people, and position our cameras to compose images that communicated more than words.

When I first went to work at the Los Angeles Daily News more than 25 years ago, I was one of a staff of 27 photographers and the Daily News photo department was state of the art. At any given moment, a dozen or more photographers would be working in the lab.

Those days are gone. Digital has replaced the camaraderie of the darkroom.

The journalists we used to compete with are

now co-workers at sister newspapers and many jobs have been consolidated into what is now known as the Los Angeles Newspaper Group.

In the year 2000, nearly 300 people worked in the editorial department at the Daily News. In 2015, fewer than 40 people remain.

A couple of weeks ago, Daily News staff photographers Michael Owen Baker and Andy Holzman were unceremoniously relieved of their careers. Combined, they had more than 35 years of experience at the paper. The once robust Daily News now has three staff photographers.

Being a journalist is an idealistic profession, so important, that free speech is protected by the Constitution. But the lofty ideals that once drove journalism have been replaced by profit margins.

Holzman is spending his summer coaching his young sons in baseball, while Baker is casting around, trying to build a freelance career. I will miss them.

VIDEO CONTEST RULES TO CHANGE

By Paul Buck
PPAGLA President

Recently I ran across a box of negatives from assignments I shot in the 80s and 90s. Looking at those stacks of caption envelopes each one scribbled front to back with my meticulous notes, my hand cramped from trying to hold a loupe and a strip of said negatives pointed to the window, I reminisced



about my transition from film photography to digital photography way back then.

Unsure at first, I knew that this transition was crucial to my success as a photojournalist. Once I got going, I found it easier to work digitally. I worked faster and more efficiently. I became computer literate.

In today's market we must all be multi-taskers but on a much broader level. We must know how to shoot, edit photos and light a portrait. We are being asked to shoot video. Record sound and even do interviews. Our employers are using our imagery in a variety of ways. It is transition that is the basis for this message.

Your PPAGLA board members are revisiting some of our video contest rules. Taking into consideration the web and multimedia projects, we will be making some changes. Nothing too drastic. Nothing too sweeping.

Stay tuned for the news. Also in this JOM Jr. please take a few minutes to check out pics from the firefighter safety seminar and the BBQ out in Redlands. Spread the word about your organization and recruit a new member or two if you have a chance.

2015 CONTEST POINTS

THROUGH MARCH 2015

Terry Pierson	The Press Enterprise	315
Ringo Chiu	Los Angeles Business Journal (freelance)	210
Stan Lim	The Press Enterprise	120
Hans Gutknecht	Los Angeles Daily News	75
Thomas R Cordova	Daily Breeze/Press-Telegram	70
Keith Birmingham	Pasadena Star-News	70
Karen Quincy Loberg	Ventura County Star	60
Will Lester	Inland Valley Daily Bulletin	60
Crystal Chatham	The Desert Sun	50
Jeff Gritchen	Orange County Register	50
John McCoy	Los Angeles Daily News	50
Ed Crisostomo	Orange County Register	50
Robert Hanashiro	USA TODAY	50
Sarah Alvarado	The San Bernardino Sun	40
Bill Alkofer	Orange County Register	35
Jennifer Cappuccio Maher	Inland Valley Daily Bulletin	30
Allen Schaben	Los Angeles Times	20
Jayne Kamin-Oncea	USA TODAY Sports	10

Redlands BBQ

PPAGLA hosted a bbq in Redlands for members, families and friends on May 30. Photographers as far as Palm Springs had a chance to connect with fellow members from other regions.



Chairman of the Board David Fernandez works the grill as Terry Pierson and Lou Gabrielle catch up with fellow photojournalists.



It was a beautiful day in Redlands to catch up with fellow SoCal photojournalists and their families.

Photos by Ringo Chiu/PHOTOFORMULA.COM

STAYING SAFE IN THE FIELD

Reprinted from the Summer 2015 issue of the NABET News

Day-to-day news coverage can have its hazards — water main breaks, toxic spills, fires, inclement weather, or hauling heavy equipment. It takes on new meaning when an assignment calls for covering a protest, riots, or a war.

“There is such a wide range of issues that affect our safety, from a slippery side walk to someone dying in a hazardous war environment,” said Mike Noseworthy, a NBC production sound mixer, who has worked in war zones.

He says the average network cameraman pushes upwards of 300 pounds of equipment on a cart. In addition, news crews must do their jobs very quickly and often on their own. Today, one person is usually doing the amount of work that three people would have done 25 years ago. When someone is constantly multi-tasking, they can become highly distracted and may cut corners.

“Unfortunately, the people in corporate America who are making these decisions on contracts and deployments have no idea what the dangers are,” said Noseworthy. Financial constraints have meant that the days of two-man crews that enabled crews to take the time necessary to follow safety protocols, such as securing cables, is more challenging.

Journalists Under Attack?

In highly hazardous situations, such as the recent riots in Missouri, New York and Baltimore, or in Middle East war zones, news crews put themselves at risk of physical attack. In a crowded situation, where there are a lot of people moving around, having a two-man crew — another photographer or sound person — who can look out for possible dangers is invaluable.

WNBC photographer/editor Tom Cooke says crews should never be alone in these situa-

tions: “We need to have someone besides a reporter in sync with us and watching our backs.” In some cases, armed guards have accompanied crews, but only when talent is involved in the story.

“When we ask for additional personnel, it’s for safety reasons and not just that we want more people on the job,” said Local 11 President Lou Marinaro. It is difficult for just one person to do a live shot and also break down the mast and remove cables, especially if you have to get out of a situation quickly.

Some journalists covering the Baltimore riots in April were attacked and robbed by angry locals and pepper-sprayed and detained by police. In the protests against a police killing in Ferguson, MO, 15 journalists were arrested. Some were told by police that their safety couldn’t be guaranteed.

In an April 28 U.S. News and World Report story, the National Press Photographers Association (NPPA) said most of these attacks were likely due to protesters not wanting to be photographed committing crimes. If the police use that footage to apprehend suspects, journalists could be in even more danger.

In its annual World Press Freedom Index, Reporters without Borders (RWB) found a global decline in press freedom partly because of attacks on reporters covering protests. The group is very concerned about a trend toward journalists becoming targets.

Both organizations believe that “equipping press with protective gear is one of the only guaranteed ways to protect against violence.” NPPA added, “Working in groups is a good idea.”

These extremely hazardous overseas assignments are voluntary. News crews are paid a flat rate for 12 hours a day. At times, they sleep in tents and are embedded with combat troops.

“When people are watching TV and see a reporter in a tense situation, viewers tend to forget that there are people behind the scenes: camera techs, audio

engineers and others who are helping to get the story out,” says Marinaro. “If they didn’t have the guts to take these assignments, people wouldn’t be seeing these stories.”

There are provisions regarding safety in the NBC contract, including the right to turn down an assignment if a member feels they are in imminent danger. “Safety is priority number one,” says Marinaro. “The Union is 100% behind our members.”

Noseworthy and Cooke serve on Local 11’s three-person safety committee, along with Bill Clark (Chair), which monitors the safety aspects of work in the field and in the workplace. The committee keeps in direct contact with members about their needs and relays the information to the company.

All of the ENG trucks are equipped with safety gear that meets OSHA standards. In cases where the truck operators need equipment that is not required by OSHA, like respiratory gear, the Union meets with the company to try and make sure crews have what they need.

Giving Crews the Tools They Need

Cooke, who has worked for WNBC since the 1970s, says the Union currently is in discussions with the company over its safety policies, which are not applied uniformly between the network and local crews in terms of training and equipment.

After 9/11 and news crews developed persistent coughs, the company handed out extra equipment — gas masks, iodine, duct tape, etc. — to keep crews safe while they extricate themselves from a volatile situation. These days, however, the company is more ambiguous, leaving it up to the crews to determine when to leave a story.

“We are told to ‘be safe,’ but the tools we’ve been given are minimal,” says Cooke. “We aren’t prepared for any long-term exposure with the equipment we have.”

When WNBC sent crews to Baltimore in April to cover the

unrest there, they were told to retrieve gas masks and get training from the network in Washington before heading to Baltimore. Upon their arrival, however, they were told that the company didn’t have any more masks.

“We are the final arbiters of our safety,” says Cooke. “But there is a disconnect between what we know is our legal right and what managers in the heat of the moment want you to do.”

Common Sense and Good Training

Crews should take a common sense approach. Marinaro suggests calling the assignment desk to find a safer location if you feel that you are not in a good situation. Safety is more important than the story, but you must alert the company about your decision. Live shots shouldn’t be done in the thick of it, especially if you are covering a protest or riot.

In its “Journalist Security Guide,” the Committee to Protect Journalists recommends, “News managers should regard the safety of field journalists as the primary consideration in making an assignment. They should not penalize a journalist for turning down an assignment based on the potential risk. News organizations should recognize their responsibilities to support all field journalists...”

Noseworthy spent several months in Afghanistan after 9/11, embedded with the Northern Alliance as they entered Kabul. He was last there a little over a year ago. Noseworthy said he was prepared for his overseas assignments and called the hazardous environment training he received “excellent.” He was given personal protective gear, including a chemical suit, an epi pen, and a gas mask.

He credits the head of his news division, Stacy Brady, for being very proactive when it comes to safety. He is certified as a remote first responder, which means he knows how to start an IV, sew someone up, and give CPR.



John McCoy/Los Angeles Daily News

FEBRUARY, SPORT FEATURE, FIRST PLACE: James Hahn, center, is doused with beer from family friend Jason Oh and fellow golfer Seung-Yul Noh just before being presented the winners trophy. Hahn won in a three hole playoff at the Northern Trust Open at Riviera Country Club.

FEBRUARY 2015

GENERAL NEWS

- FIRST PLACE**
Ringo Chiu, Los Angeles Business Journal (freelance)
- SECOND PLACE**
Allen Schaben, Los Angeles Times
- THIRD PLACE**
Terry Pierson, The Press Enterprise

SPOT NEWS

- FIRST PLACE**
Jeff Gritchen, Orange County Register
- SECOND PLACE**
Ringo Chiu, Los Angeles Business Journal (freelance)

- THIRD PLACE**
Thomas R Cordova, Daily Breeze/Press-Telegram

ENTERTAINMENT

- FIRST PLACE**
Terry Pierson, The Press Enterprise
- SECOND PLACE**
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- THIRD PLACE**
Thomas R Cordova, Daily Breeze/Press-Telegram

FEATURE

- FIRST PLACE**
Keith Birmingham, Pasadena Star-News
- SECOND PLACE**
Terry Pierson, The Press Enterprise

- THIRD PLACE**
Bill Alkofer, Orange County Register

PORTRAIT

- FIRST PLACE**
Hans Gutknecht, Los Angeles Daily News
- SECOND PLACE**
Jeff Gritchen, Orange County Register
- THIRD PLACE**
Ringo Chiu, Los Angeles Business Journal (freelance)

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Will Lester, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

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Stan Lim, The Press Enterprise
- THIRD PLACE**
Terry Pierson, The Press Enterprise



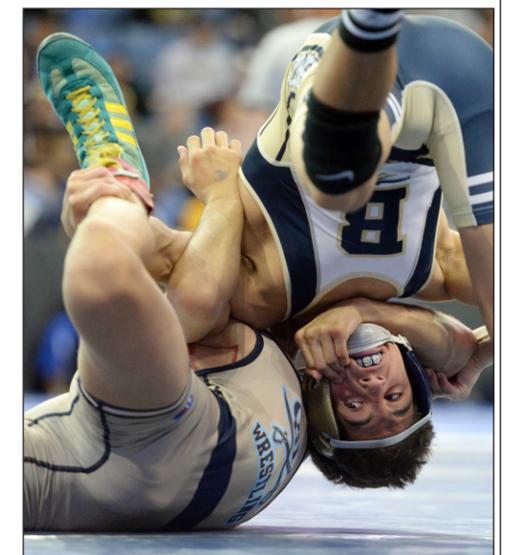
Jeff Gritchen/Orange County Register

FEBRUARY, SPOT NEWS, FIRST PLACE: A Santa Ana police officer restrains a woman who ran past a police barricade in an attempt to get to the scene of a police shooting in Santa Ana. The woman claimed to be the girlfriend of a robbery suspect who police shot and killed.



Allen Schaben/Los Angeles Times

FEBRUARY, GENERAL NEWS, SECOND PLACE



Will Lester/Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

FEBRUARY, SPORT ACTION, THIRD PLACE: Cade Olivas from St. John Bosco gets inverted during his 106 pound match against Quartz Hill's Randon Miranda during the CIF-SS Master Meet.



Terry Pierson/The Press-Enterprise

MARCH, SPORT FEATURE, SECOND PLACE: Andre Berto celebrates as the referee stops the bout in the 6th round as he knocks out Josesito Lopez in their walter weight bout at Citizens Business Bank Arena in Ontario.

MARCH 2015

GENERAL NEWS

- FIRST PLACE**
Ringo Chiu, Los Angeles Business Journal (freelance)
- SECOND PLACE**
Will Lester, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin
- THIRD PLACE**
Karen Quincy Loberg, Ventura County Star

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Terry Pierson, The Press-Enterprise
- THIRD PLACE**
Stan Lim, The Press-Enterprise



Stan Lim/The Press-Enterprise

MARCH, ENTERTAINMENT, FIRST PLACE: King High School's mock trial team members Daphne Qi, left, and Christian McCowan hold hands while waiting to hear who would win the final round in the 32nd Annual Riverside County Mock Trial Competition.



Robert Hanashiro/USA TODAY

MARCH, SPORT ACTION, FIRST PLACE: Wisconsin Badgers forward Frank Kaminsky celebrates getting an offensive foul call against Arizona Wildcats center Kaleb Tarczewski in closing minutes of the finals of the west regional of the 2015 NCAA Tournament at Staples Center.



Bill Alkofer/Orange County Register

MARCH, PORTRAIT, SECOND PLACE: Tammy Smick has turned her son's Alex Smick's bedroom into both a shrine for her son and a nursery for her grandson. The 17-month-old, also named Alex, wears a Green Bay Packer jersey just like his uncle often did. Her son died of an anesthesia overdose in the hospital.



MARCH, GENERAL NEWS, THIRD PLACE: Stan and Margo Ehrlich, of Thousand Oaks, come out to Constitution Park watching the Royal Scots Greys perform the quad drille on Sunday, the second day of the Celtic Faire in Camarillo. 03-15-2015 CAMARILLO, CA
 Karen Quincy Loberg/Ventura County Star

Don't call me a snapper!

By Louis Gabriele
 PPAGLA Board of Director

In the business, the term snapper is sometimes used to describe a photographer. A snap is a derogatory term when used to describe a photo.

When the subject is brought up, some say, "What's your problem? It is just a word. I think it is quite fun."

Here is the problem. The term implies that the sole contribution one makes on a shoot is to own a camera and show up on time. Many colleagues and clients who use the term do have a great respect for, and understanding of, what photographers do.

Has anyone ever said that some of you are photographers, like those who do reporting and high-end visuals — but can you call waiting outside a court house or on a stake out, taking a few snaps "photography"? Yes! A Big YES! Sometimes it is luck! But hav-

ing proper exposure and composition, that is skill.

Univision on top again

In July 2014, Univision announced that the Univision Network ranked as the No. 1 network in prime time for the second consecutive year. According to Randy Falco, president and CEO of Univision Communications Inc., the company plans to continue to deliver world-class, culturally relevant content that the viewers crave.

According to TV by the Numbers, TELEMUNDO stations in Los Angeles and Miami-Fort Lauderdale markets secure top spots in early, late local newscasts. "Noticiero Telemundo 52" in Los Angeles ranked No. 1 at 5 a.m. and 6 a.m., regardless of language.

Telemundo52 (KVEA) is Telemundo's West Coast flagship television station, serving the Spanish-speaking community in the

Los Angeles market and has been delivering local news, information and entertainment to viewers throughout Southern California for nearly 30 years.

Has Technology Changed Your Life?

In the past, you needed to develop and print your film. It took lots of time but now it is instant. It is not just film anymore. Technology has also now changed how we communicate.

Technology "raised the bar" and the economy has increased competition. The internet has changed the way we do business and communicate with each other. Photography has changed and it won't go back to the way it used to be. If you captured an image on film, you had to wait to see the results, knowing the only way you captured a great image is if you pressed the trigger at the right time. Now part of being a great photographer is keep up with new software.



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Mikhail Baryshnikov was photographed at dusk at 1/50 s at f/4.0, ISO 12,800.

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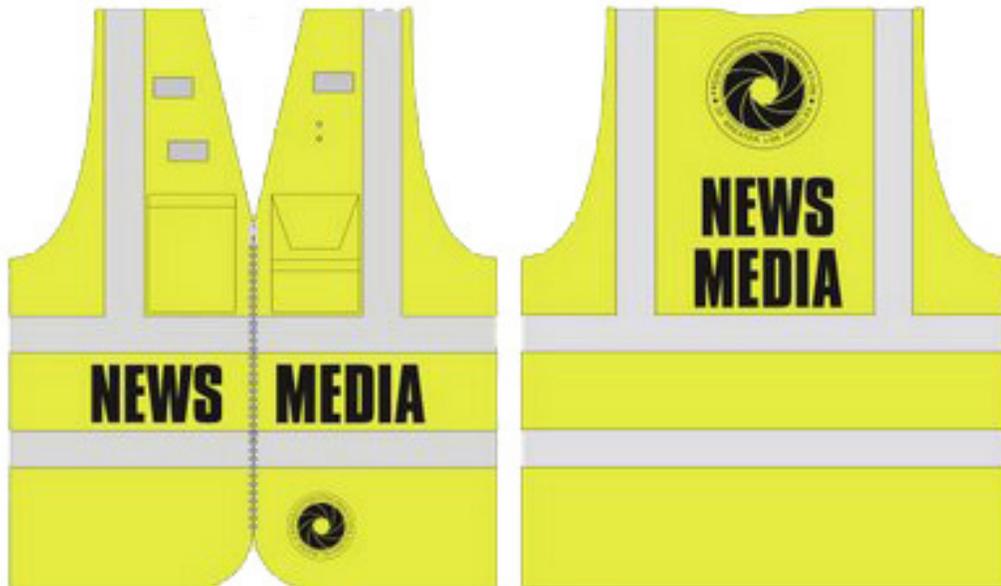
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