

**From:** stevenspl@live.com on behalf of Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 25, 2014 10:22 AM  
**To:** stevenspl@live.com  
**Subject:** CONNECTING - February 25, 2014

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



# Connecting

February 25, 2014



Colleagues,

AP executive editor **Kathleen Carroll** called on governments around the world to support an independent press, warning Monday that efforts to silence the media through intimidation and violence are "in effect an attack on a nation's people."

Speaking to representatives of state media, independent news organizations and government officials at the Sharjah International Government Communication Forum, she said the media can be a proxy for questions and concerns by citizens and the role of independent journalists is to ask questions on behalf of the people and bear witness. [Here](#) is the AP story.



-0-

**Lamia Radi**, a veteran journalist who has reported on war and transformation for three decades throughout the Middle East, has been appointed as the new chief of AP's Arabic language service. Radi is moving to Cairo from Dubai, where she worked for Sky News Arabia. In the past she reported for Agence France-Presse and the Italian news

agency ANSA, from postings in Cairo, Beirut and Geneva. The appointment was announced Monday by Dan Perry, who heads AP's text coverage of the Middle East, and by Ian Phillips, AP's Middle East news director.

"Radi brings a wealth of experience and understanding of this turbulent region's news and history - and also the changing needs of its print, online and broadcast markets," Phillips said.

Perry added that "as a native and student of the region with broad experience in global media, Radi is ideally suited to lead our efforts to produce an ever deeper Arabic-language report of the highest standard."

Radi was an online reporter with Sky News Arabia and for a time the broadcaster's website. And she has held AFP postings in Cairo and Beirut, where she was deputy bureau chief. Over the years she has covered war zones including Iraq, the Palestinian territories and Eritrea. She began her journalism career in Geneva in 1982 as a United Nations correspondent for the Egyptian weekly Al-Siyassy. More recently she was on the editorial board of the Egyptian newspaper Al-Shorouk. Radi also has done media training courses for the BBC World Service and Thomson Reuters. She holds a bachelor's degree in commerce from Cairo University, and speaks Arabic, English, French, Spanish and Italian.

-0-

**Denne Freeman**, retired AP Dallas sports writer, was inducted into the Texas A&M Former Journalism Students Association Hall of Honor last Saturday. A plaque bearing his name and photograph will be added to the wall in the offices of The Battalion, where Freeman, '59, will join more than 15 other Aggie journalists recognized for their work. "It makes me feel warm inside," Freeman said of his induction, particularly because the people he joins on the wall are friends and colleagues.



Before starting at the Associated Press, Freeman worked for United Press International and was on the job the day John F. Kennedy was assassinated. "Maybe that day drove me to sports," Freeman joked as he shared stories about reporting before cell phones and

computers were available in a story Sunday in The Eagle of Bryan-College Station, Texas.

He now carries a smartphone, texting with his grandchildren and staying up to date on the news, but much of his award-winning work, which includes Headliners and national Associated Press awards, was done on Underwood typewriters or dictated over a payphone.

Dallas sports writer and last year's Hall of Honor inductee, Charean Williams, described Freeman as a mentor and inspiration. "He had my dream job, covering the Cowboys, and he did it magnificently for a long time," Williams wrote in an email. "Reading his work on an almost daily basis made me a better writer. For 31 years, he was one of the leading voices of the Cowboys. Even though he retired in 1999, his work continues to resonate. I hope to cover the Cowboys as well as he did for as long as he did. He is a legend."

Saturday was Freeman's first time back on campus since the Aggies upset Nebraska in 1998. While the university has changed since Freeman was a student, when there were closer to 5,000 students as opposed to the 58,000 enrolled today, one thing remains the same. "The biggest thing on campus was Johnny Football," Freeman said. "That was John David Crow football." Crow, Elvis and bats swarming an architecture building full of students swinging T-squares were among the topics he covered as a reporter for The Battalion. Freeman credited those experiences during his "tour of duty" at A&M for preparing him for a career in journalism.

He looks forward to the return of the journalism program in the fall with hopes that more Aggie journalists can be as successful as those from Missouri and Northwestern.

"There's no reason why we can't be as well-known for journalism as for football, engineering and other academics," he said.

-0-

#### **From the Connecting mailbox:**

**Mike Feinsilber:** In my retirement, I write occasional postings for a blog, About Editing and Writing, [which](#) was started by a friend, [jacklimpert.com](http://jacklimpert.com). It is about what its name suggests it is about - writing and editing, generously defined. Jack started the blog as a way to give journalism newbies some of what he learned in 40 years as editor of the Washingtonian magazine, one of the country's largest city magazines. It seems to me that you might want to link to some of the postings on the blog. It can be found under [www.jacklimpert.com](http://www.jacklimpert.com). Below is a posting I wrote a few days ago, about people who write in the margins of books. **Lynne Olson**, mentioned in the posting, used to work for AP. She's since become a successful author of books. She left AP while I still worked for

UPI. We met on the campaign trail, covering Jimmy Carter. (NOTE: Mike joined AP in 1980 (after 20 years with UP/UPI) and retired in 2000, but immediately returned as the Washington bureau's one-day-a-week writing coach, a post he held for 10 years.)

### **This Is Of Marginal Interest**

By Mike Feinsilber

So there I was happily reading Lynne Olson's fascinating book, "Those Angry Days," about the pre-World War II struggles between the isolationists who wanted to keep America out of the war and the internationalists who couldn't stand America's hands-off policy while Nazi bombers were pounding London night after night.

And there I came across a series of pencilled-in comments in the book's margins by a previous reader of the book, which I'd borrowed from the D.C. Public Library. "Dear Reader" is how I've come to think of Olson's ghostly second guesser. And I've come to think of Dear Reader as elderly and a woman because of her frail, thin and tiny handwriting. Maybe that's sexist. My evidence is thin.

On page 98, Olson mentions a spending spree by well-off Americans in 1940, noting that Tiffany's hot seller was a pin that cost \$900. Dear Reader commented, to put that in context, "a Ford cost \$700-\$800."

On page 224, Olson notes that John F. Kennedy, while at Harvard, sent a check for \$100 to the America First Committee, which was devoted to keeping the United States neutral. That, noted Dear Reader, would be equivalent to "\$1500 today."

Page 347 discusses the Churchill-Roosevelt meeting off the shore of Newfoundland and Dear Reader offers the names of the ships which brought them to their rendezvous.

And when Olson calls Iceland "a former Danish territory," Dear Reader scratches out "former" and notes Iceland was "self-governing (independent 1943)."

Sometimes Dear Reader's comments are interesting but irrelevant. Olson wrote about the *Reuben James*, which was sunk by a Nazi submarine on Oct. 31, 1941 - five weeks before Pearl Harbor - while escorting ships carrying vital supplies to Britain. "The *Reuben James*," pipes in Dear Reader, "was escort (to) the the ship bringing the Unknown to be buried at Arlington in the early 1920s. There is another *Reuben James* in the U.S. Navy today."

What Dear (and quite knowledgeable) Reader engaged in, I've subsequently learned, is known as generating "marginalia," reader's comments scribbled in the margins of books. It's a term which Sam Anderson, the New York Times' critic at large, once called "a self-consciously pompous Latinism intended to mock the triviality of the form."

Some people hate the practice, considering it literary blasphemy. Others love tumbling across the thoughts of an earlier reader. Anderson says the English poet and philosopher Samuel Taylor Coleridge was "the undisputed all-time champion of marginalia," whose friends begged him to mark up their books. Five volumes of his marginalia have been published in books, into whose margins readers might - well, you know.

Some other known writers of marginalia were John Adams, Edgar Allan Poe, Graham Greene, Herman Melville, Sylvia Plath and David Foster Wallace. The *New Yorker* has taken note of marginalia, even though its margins, you might notice, are too narrow to encourage it. Scholar H. J. Jackson has written a book about it, "Marginalia: Readers Writing in Books."

The marginal comments of Mark Twain are esteemed among marginalia connoisseurs. His observations in the margins made one copy of an obscure book so valued that Chicago's Newberry Library keeps it in a climate-controlled vault where security cameras keep an eye on its readers - lest, one presumes, they write in the margins.



## Welcome to Connecting



Dudley, our official Connecting welcome dog, wags his tail with these additions to the Connecting family:

**Lynda Zimmer Straw**, former newswoman with the Champaign News Gazette, Arkansas Democrat and AP Phoenix. Her late husband Robert Zimmer was AP's Champaign correspondent.

**Jennifer Barbour**, founder of Smart Injector LLC, designer and maker of proprietary medical devices and methods for dermal injection and daughter of the late John Barbour. Her father was a 43-year AP veteran who specialized in News Features science and environmental

reporting. John wrote "Footprints on the Moon" which was the first and only comprehensive book encompassing his coverage on the Apollo space program from beginning to end. He died in 2004.



## Connecting wishes a Happy Birthday



to

Julie March

---

### Items of Interest...

Local newspapers and TV stations are building their own private ad exchange with Google

-0-

Why live video won't save the news biz

-0-

If you think you're anonymous online, think again (Bill Beecham)

-0-

Journalists as agents of state surveillance

-0-

**Why journalists drive scientists crazy, in graphs** (Bob Daugherty)

-0-

**Bill Thomas, 89, Dies; Editor Guided Los Angeles Times to 9 Pulitzers**

-0-

**MSNBC Promotes Two to Managing Editor, Hires EP for 'Reid Report'**

-0-

**WVU drops 'journalism' from j-school's name**

-0-

**Winter Olympics were profitable for NBC**

-0-

**NAA: 'Print only' still more than half of newspaper audience even as digital grows**

-0-

**Former (Monterey) Herald editor wanted to give back to MPC** (Bill Beecham)

-0-

**Local doesn't matter much to Gannett, but then neither do newspapers** (Carol Riha)

-0-

AND

**Rhode Island TV reporter is fired after doing an on-air handstand** (Bob Daugherty)



Paul Stevens  
Connecting newsletter  
[stevenspl@live.com](mailto:stevenspl@live.com)

[Forward this email](#)



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to [stevenspl@live.com](mailto:stevenspl@live.com) by [stevenspl@live.com](mailto:stevenspl@live.com) | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).  
Connecting newsletter | 14719 W 79th Ter | Lenexa | KS | 66215