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Connecting

October 23, 2014

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning.

Here are some stories and memories of interest, leading off with an account by Connecting colleague **Doug Tucker** of how covering World Series games has changed

from the Cardinals-Royals Series he covered in 1985 to the present Series match-up between the Royals and San Francisco Giants that the now-retired Doug is helping cover for AP as a stringer.

The photo above by **John Sleezer** of The Kansas City Star shows the Royals' Nori Aoki surrounded by media during Monday's media day in Kansas City. Sleezer also took the photo featured within Doug's story showing Royals' Salvador Perez playfully using a bottle of water as a microphone to ask teammate Lorenzo Cain questions.

And a correction, on the much-commented-on photo in Monday's Connecting of a group of AP women who gathered in Kansas City for management training in 1985, I said that five in the photo still work for the AP today. That number should be six. The sixth is **Martha Waggoner**, the long-time correspondent in Raleigh and also the current president of the News Media Guild.

Paul

Covering the World Series - 1985 and today

By Doug Tucker
Retired AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY - One big difference between covering the World Series of 1985 and 2014 is only an arm's length away, and I do not mean this accursed arthritis creeping slowly into my fingers. On my immediate left in the crowded auxiliary pressbox is Hizuchasy Huguci, a baseball writer based in Tokyo.

On my right covering the Series for a publication in Mexico City is **Gil Suarez**. Friendly and knowledgeable, they are part of a great influx of international writers, reporters and broadcasters who followed the surge of talented Asian and Hispanic players into the major leagues and reshaped the entire demographics of American baseball coverage.

As **Ben Walker** and I recall, almost all the media covering Kansas City's last appearance in the World Series 29 years ago was North American. This year, officials wisely set up Royals' outfielder Nori Aoki in his own interview room.

“He was by far the most popular interview,” Ben said. “There were rings and rings and rings of Asian reporters, many TV cameras, around him. He got much more interest than, say Billy Butler or Alex Gordon.”



“In the Asian markets and the Latin markets, I would say in some places the interest is much more amped-up than it is among the U.S.-based media,” said Ben, who has covered every World Series game for AP since 1983.

Ben and I are the only people covering this World Series for AP who were also on hand in 1985 to chronicle George Brett, Bret Saberhagen (and some say umpire Don Denkinger) overcoming such Cardinal greats as Jack Clark, Ozzie Smith and Joaquin Andujar in seven memorable games.

Needless to say, technology differences between then and now are startling. In that era, AP reporters toted around bulky things called portabubbles that coupled into landline telephones and had us all wondering what in the heck will they think of next.

Tellingly, there were also more of us. AP in 1985 had seven staff writers on the scene - **Ben, Hal Bock, Bruce Lowitt, John Nelson, Larry Siddons**, St. Louis-based **Paul LeBar** and Kansas City-based me.

That number for 2014 has shrunk to three, at least for the games in Kauffman Stadium - **Ron Blum** and Ben from New York Sports and Kansas City-based **Dave Skretta**, plus three stringers. But that's a trend that's industry-wide.

“You don't see nearly as many writers from newspapers,” Ben said. “You see Internet, MLB.com, you see Yahoo, AOL. Back then, the pressbox was filled with Baltimore Sun, Atlanta Constitution, Dallas Morning News. You don't see that much any more.”

While there are fewer representatives of traditional newspapers covering the World Series these days, there are more people. They're sardined into interview rooms and post-game clubhouses, packed tighter than those vanishing bundles of newspapers kids used to toss off trucks. Many, especially the younger writers, bloggers and web site analysts, are speaking a brand new baseball language that would have reminded most 1985 fans and media of those high school trig classes they used baseball to escape from.

They speak of such esoteric concepts as BsR (base runs), BAPIP (batting average on balls in play) and, **Hal Bock's** personal favorite, WAR (wins above replacement).

Do not count Hal, who covered 30 World Series before retiring in 2004 and also wrote for the Major League Players Association, among the fans of sabremetrics.

“I hate that crap,” he said bluntly from his home in the New York area.

“My feeling is you can't reduce baseball to a mathematical formula. It doesn't work that way. What is beautiful and great and appealing about baseball is the unpredictability. You never know what's going to happen. We're playing a game. Let's see who wins and who loses. If you're going to reinvent the wheel, make sure it's

round. Otherwise, you're going to have a hell of a problem. For me, baseball will always be the most compelling game. To monkey with it really offends me."

While there are more media covering the World Series than 29 years ago, many, especially the AP, are under more pressure. Twitter, Internet blogs - everything that makes modern telecommunications so instantaneous - keeps everybody worried, everybody hopping. Somebody tweeted James Shields passed a kidney stone? Hurry, hurry! Check it out.

In 1985, the day of game seven, the AP gang felt so safe and secure they spent a couple of hours playing touch football before heading to the park. With them was an old friend of Ben's, ESPN analyst Tim Kurkjian.

"Nobody with cell phones plugged into email. Nobody worried, 'Oh, my God, what if somebody is saying something?' We weren't checking with the office. We weren't blogging. We weren't tweeting, filling time. None of that. We just went out and played touch football without a care in the world. I saw Tim recently and he said, 'Can you imagine?'

"You can't even break away for a half hour for lunch now when you're at the World Series. You have to be so connected in case something happens. In case this person does this, or somebody tweets Tim Lincecum didn't come out for pregame introductions. You have to be plugged in your whole time. But in 1985, the day of game seven, we went out there and played two hours of touch football."

Perhaps for most writers, the saddest change has come in interpersonal relationships between them and players and managers.

It's almost non-existent. All access is so scripted and shortened these days, it's almost impossible even to have a one-on-one conversation, let alone develop an offbeat story or strike up a friendship.

In 1985 on the field at Busch Stadium in St. Louis, I remember talking with Cards' manager Whitey Herzog, whom I had covered and gotten to know when he managed the Royals. We talked, just the two of us, for about 10 minutes.

But Ben's recollection is even more compelling. Before coming to Kansas City for the Series opener, he had interviewed former Kansas City and Oakland A's owner Charlie Finley, who told a good story about how much he'd hated trading away Dick Howser many years before.

Needing a quote from Howser to fill out his story, Ben spotted the Royals manager on the field.

"I said, 'Dick, I talked to Charlie Finley.' He said, 'Let me tell you a story,' and put his arm around me. I had 20 minutes with Dick Howser, whom I had never met. This is two hours before game one of the World Series. No cameramen were around, no

other writers came up and started horning in.

“You couldn't get that now with the third-string catcher. At the World Series, you would have no chance.

“But back then you could do that.”

Connecting mailbox

Andy Lippman tracked me down

[Linda Deutsch](#) - I just had a note from Andy Lippman reminding me of a wonderful Andy story I'd love to share. Andy was a much beloved bureau chief in LA for good reason. He cared about his people.

In the early 1990s, he knew that I had a strong desire to be named a Special Correspondent because it would put me in the AP history books as one of the few to attain that title. We had been campaigning for this for quite awhile. But when Andy finally got the OK from New York, I was away on vacation in the Greek Islands. He was determined to let me know. He got in touch with the Athens bureau chief who somehow knew where I was staying in Santorini. (I probably gave him my itinerary when I stopped in at the bureau).

Andy got a call through to the villa where I was ensconced and the proprietor came running to get me, very excited about a call from California. It was Andy, giving me the news. I'll never forget that day or Andy.

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Margasak part of Steinway Diary Project



[Larry Margasak](#) - One of my volunteer jobs is writing articles for the Smithsonian American History Museum website. I'm part of the Steinway Diary Project, which researches a treasure trove of history found in the daily diary (written from 1861-96) of William Steinway of piano company fame. Here's one that was posted yesterday to coincide with the start of the World Series. Click [here](#) to view.

I also volunteer as a museum "ambassador" roaming the three exhibit floors to answer any and all questions from visitors. If any AP folks want to visit (Smithsonians are free) I'd be happy to show them around.

(Photo at left is of Steinway, not Larry.)

More comment on Monday Connecting story on women in the AP

[Bob Daugherty](#) - It's great to read all the comments regarding the talented women we worked beside. I recall one assignment that Ann Blackman (the daughter of former AP general news editor Sam Blackman) and I were assigned to see if we could make our way into the CIA building in nearby Langley, Va. I do not recall what the point of the story was. But we drove up to the guard shack and BSed our way past to the parking lot and walked confidently through the front door. We were soon approached and asked how we got in the building.

That's as far as we got. We needed to find a phone (remember, no cells then). We stopped at a gas station and Ann casually asked the attendant if he knew of any CIA types that stopped by. He said he suspected some of his customers were spooks. He then shared that there was a pizza joint nearby that handled a lot of carry outs for CIA employees. We dropped in and got a decent story and photos of a painting of a U2 going down in flames.

The manager said he had a lot of troublesome duplicate orders for "John."

[Henry Bradsher](#) - Amid the many interesting recollections about some of the early women in The AP, Carl Leubsdorf mentions "Fran Lewine, whom AP sent to the White House as did other news organizations at the start of the Kennedy administration, primarily to cover Jackie Kennedy."

I believe Fran was at the White House earlier, at least part-time. When Eisenhower visited Pakistan and India in December 1959, Fran accompanied Marvin Arrowsmith, the chief White House correspondent, along with Lewis Simon from AP's State Department staff. Fran was doing a full range of reporting, not just covering Ike's daughter, Barbara, who came in place of his wife.

Instead of Fran, I was assigned to cover Barbara the morning she visited the Indian Red Cross in New Delhi. While touring their headquarters, Barbara began coughing. They gave her a cup of coffee, which stopped the cough. So I wrote a story that began: "The Indian Red Cross administered first aid to President Eisenhower's daughter, Barbara, today. [graf] It consisted of a cup of coffee."

Wally Sims, the Delhi bureau chief, thought this too sensational and had me rewrite the lead into a dull account of the visit.

Ike made his first South Asia stop in Karachi, the then capital of Pakistan (although things were beginning to move north to where Islamabad was being built). AP had only a stringer for Pakistan in those days when the Delhi bureau was responsible for all of South Asia. Wally sent me down to Karachi to make arrangements for Ike's

visit. I set up an office and darkroom in adjacent rooms of what was then the best hotel in town - which would barely rate two stars, with rooms off open balconies (we lowered cables and photos in a basket down to the courtyard, where the Pakistani telegraph people had set up temporary facilities).

What I particularly remember is Arrowsmith's arrival at the office after we'd briefly covered the fact that Ike had landed. Marv wanted to file a wrap-up story from what he'd learned on the trip (probably flying on Ike's plane, the Columbine, which I don't think was called Air Force One in those days). I pointed him to a typewriter, all ready with a cable form. He sat down. Fumbled a while, muttering. Finally, he got up and asked if he could dictate the story to me. Turned out that he had for so many years been phoning in stories from the White House that his typing skills had atrophied. So from then on during Ike's South Asia visit (he also stopped briefly in Afghanistan), Wally or I or someone took dictation from Marv to type on the forms that we filed at the cable offices.

It was Marv who badgered the chief of Ike's Secret Service detail, James Rowley, into making an estimate of the crowd when Ike and Prime Minister Nehru spoke at an outdoor festival grounds, after Indian officials demurred at estimating. Rowley finally said he'd never seen anything like it, must be more than a million people. That was the figure that Marv and others used, although I was there and suggested to him that it was too high. After Ike left, I checked and found that the festival grounds were 17 acres, computed how many people could fit into that space, added generously for spillover onto nearby streets and rooftops, etc., and could not come up with anything more than 500,000 people - a lot, but probably even then too high a figure. But the published record says more than a million.

Connecting sky shot - Grand Canyon



[Steve Elliott](#) - This shot is from Yuma Point (Google Earth: 36.085410, -112.227326), a neat spot below the rim offering a 270-degree view of the Grand Canyon's

innards and an airy look a couple thousand feet down to the bottom. It's along the Boucher Trail and at the outer end of Hermit Canyon, the one in front of Hermit's Rest at the westernmost end of the South Rim shuttle route. Took a neat day hike there with a buddy last weekend. If anyone's interested, here's the whole set with explanations on Flickr: <https://flic.kr/s/aHsk5weFf4>

The goal for May is a rim to rim crossing the Colorado River on pack rafts. That should be the end of me. (Steve's selfie at the canyon is above.)

Tributes to Ben Bradlee



Goodbye, my friends

Connecting colleague [Bill Snead](#) once worked for The Washington Post as a photojournalist, and he and his wife Dona and their friend Liz Hylton had lunch with Ben Bradlee in July 2013.

Bradlee, legendary editor of the Post, died Tuesday at the age of 93 at his Georgetown home.

Bill shared this poignant photo he took of Bradlee waving goodbye to the Sneads

and Liz from his front door after the four had gotten together for lunch in Washington.

Bill's career includes being a UPI photographer in Vietnam, photo editor at National Geographic, and being named "White House Photographer of the Year" while at The Washington Post. And Ye Olde Connecting Editor is proud to call him a friend after he returned to his native Kansas to work at the Lawrence Journal-World.

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Here are three of the many stories written on Bradlee that Connecting would like to share:

Ben Bradlee's Charmed, Charming Life

David Carr, The New York Times:

Civilians, people who don't think the toppling of a sitting American president with newspaper articles is one of humankind's lasting achievements, will read encomiums to Ben Bradlee like this one and wonder: What's the big deal?

After all, he didn't cover the Watergate story for his Washington Post, he picked the reporters. It's not as if he wrote the articles, he edited them. But journalists are people who will go where they are pointed, and Mr. Bradlee generally pointed to important, consequential subjects. People who worked for him went through walls to bring back those stories, some of which revealed the true course of American history and some of which altered it.

The newspaper business can be a grand endeavor, but most of the people who commit journalism would never be mistaken for larger than life. Journalists are bystanders who chronicle the exploits of people who actually do things.

But Ben Bradlee did things. He went to war, loved early and often, befriended and took on presidents, swore like a sailor, and partied like a movie star. Now that he is gone - he died on Tuesday at the age of 93 at his home in Georgetown - it is tough to imagine a newspaperman ever playing the kind of outsize role that he once did in Washington. Newspapers, and people's regard for them, have shrunk since he ran The Post.

Click [here](#) to read more.

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How Ben Bradlee's Outrageous Use of White Privilege Changed My Life

By Rachel Jones

In early December of 1982, I was a 21-year-old recent college drop-back-in student at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, trying to play catch up after having taken a few years off the college track. For an English 101 class, I had written an argumentative Essay about Black English, stating that while I embraced that slang as a part of my own identity, it was important for black Americans to master Standard English if they wanted to succeed. The class lecturer thought the essay was so good, I should try to get it published somewhere. Her praise got me researching my freelance options immediately.

One possible target was Newsweek magazine, which I'd at least thumbed through regularly since childhood. My mother Eloise was an avid reader, so even though we were poor, there were always newspapers and magazines in the house. I always read the "My Turn" columns first each week, because most had very strong, clearly articulated themes. I liked the way the writers expressed their opinions, especially the humorous ones. I rewrote my classroom essay in a more conversational style, and mailed it to Newsweek on a Friday afternoon. The following Tuesday, someone from Newsweek called and said they wanted to use my essay. A week later, I was being interviewed on radio stations across the country. I also got several dozen letters and phone calls. And there were the summer internship offers, from The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal and the Chicago Tribune. Heck, even the Dean of Yale's Business School wrote to say he thought I had the type of mind they were looking for, and that I should consider applying one day.

Oh, and I forgot to mention....there was a letter from one Benjamin Crowinshield Bradlee, asking me to accept a Washington Post internship during the summer of 1983.

Click [here](#) to read more.

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Rieder: The greatness of Ben Bradlee

Ben Bradlee was a giant.

He was a giant in the days when newspapers were at the top of their game, when a newspaper editor could be a dominant figure.

Bradlee, who died Tuesday at 93 after years of struggling with Alzheimer's disease, played a huge role, in a remarkable and wonderful partnership with Washington Post Publisher Katharine Graham, in taking the paper from nothing special to an elite and important publication.

Click [here](#) to read more.

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Sharing the stage with Ben Bradlee



Connecting colleague [Sandy Johnson](#), former AP Washington chief of bureau, was chairman of the National Press Foundation when she shared the head table with Ben Bradlee, at far right. (In between Sandy and Bradlee is David Remnick of the New Yorker.)

Bradlee was there for the 1984 announcement that the foundation's Editor of the Year Award would be named for him. Sandy commented to her Facebook friends that Bradlee was

her inspiration to become a journalist.

Click [here](#) for the story behind the Benjamin C. Bradlee Editor of the Year Award, written by Bob Meyers.

Stories of interest

[The Breaking News Consumer's Handbook](#)

BREAKING NEWS CONSUMER'S HANDBOOK

1. In the immediate aftermath, news outlets will get it wrong.
2. Don't trust anonymous sources.
3. Don't trust stories that cite another news outlet as the source of the information.
4. There's almost never a second shooter.
5. Pay attention to the language the media uses.
 - *"We are getting reports"...* could mean anything.
 - *"We are seeking confirmation"...* means they don't have it.
 - *"[News outlet] has learned"...* means it has a scoop or is going out on limb.
6. Look for news outlets close to the incident.
7. Compare multiple sources.
8. Big news brings out the fakers. And photoshopers.
9. Beware reflexive retweeting. Some of this is on you.

ON [THE MEDIA]

This week's shooting at the DC Navy Yard was the latest in a long string of breaking news reporting to get many of the essential facts wrong.

In fact, the rampant misreporting that follows shootings like this is so predictable that OTM has unintentionally developed a formula for covering them. We look at how all the bad information came out. We suggest ways that the news media could better report breaking news. This time, we're doing something different.

This is our Breaking News Consumer's Handbook. Rather than counting on news outlets to get it right, we're looking at the other end. Below are some tips for how, in the wake of a big, tragic story, you can sort good information from bad. We've even made a handy, printable PDF that you can tape to your wall the next time you encounter a big news event.

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[How much start-up culture do we need to attract young talent?](#)

The cultural change taking place in news companies is being increasingly fuelled by the need for innovation and well-trained technology experts.

We all need the corresponding specialists from the digital environment in order to manage the digital transformation, and this means programmers, data experts, platform managers, SEO experts, and the like.

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[NYT staffers clamor to exit amid buyout offer](#)

It looks as though there may be a veritable stampede for the exits prompted by the New York Times buyout offer.

Publisher Arthur "Pinch" Sulzberger Jr. was hoping to entice 100 newsroom staffers to accept buyouts - or face the prospect of involuntary layoffs.

So far, more than three times that target number have put in a request to review their potential severance packages. Workers had to submit the request for review by Oct. 17.

"There were over 300 requests," said Grant Glickson, the unit representative of the Newspaper Guild. The Guild members now have until Dec. 1 to make a final decision.

The Final Word

Well, since we start today's newsletter with the World Series, we end it with the Series. The Connecting Editor and his wife Linda brought home their Royals last night, 7-2 over the Giants, to even the Series at a game apiece. It was the first World Series we have seen with the Royals since Game 7 of the 1985 fall classic.

Sorry, Dan Day and Marty Thompson and Jim Lagier and Elaine Hooker and other San Francisco fans on Connecting. We offer equal time now that the Series has moved to the Bay.



Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Oct. 23, the 296th day of 2014. There are 69 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 23, 1944, the World War II Battle of Leyte (LAY'-tee) Gulf began, resulting in a major Allied victory against Japanese forces.

On this date:

In 1707, the first Parliament of Great Britain, created by the Acts of Union between England and Scotland, held its first meeting.

In 1864, forces led by Union Maj. Gen. Samuel R. Curtis repelled Confederate Maj. Gen. Sterling Price's army in the Civil War Battle of Westport in Missouri.

In 1915, tens of thousands of women marched in New York City, demanding the right to vote.

In 1935, mobster Dutch Schultz, 34, was shot and mortally wounded with three other men during a gangland hit at the Palace Chophouse in Newark, New Jersey. (Schultz died the following day.)

In 1942, during World War II, Britain launched a major offensive against Axis forces at El Alamein (el ah-lah-MAYN') in Egypt, resulting in an Allied victory.

In 1954, West Germany was invited to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which it did the following year.

In 1956, a student-sparked revolt against Hungary's Communist rule began; as the revolution spread, Soviet forces started entering the country, and the uprising was put down within weeks.

In 1972, the musical "Pippin" opened on Broadway.

In 1983, 241 U.S. service members, most of them Marines, were killed in a suicide truck-bombing at Beirut International Airport in Lebanon; a near-simultaneous attack on French forces killed 58 paratroopers.

In 1984, BBC Television reported on the famine in Ethiopia; the story, which shocked viewers, prompted rock star Bob Geldof to organize "Band Aid," a group of celebrities who recorded the song "Do They Know It's Christmas?" for charity.

In 1989, 23 people were killed in an explosion at Phillips Petroleum Co.'s chemical complex in Pasadena, Texas. In a case that inflamed racial tensions in Boston, Charles Stuart claimed that he and his pregnant wife, Carol, had been shot in their car by a black robber. (Carol Stuart and her prematurely delivered baby died; Charles Stuart later died, an apparent suicide, after he himself was implicated.)

In 2002, gunmen seized a crowded Moscow theater, taking hundreds hostage and threatening to kill their captives unless the Russian army pulled out of Chechnya. (Three days later, special forces stormed the theater; 130 captives died, along with all 40 gunmen.)

Ten years ago: Gunmen ambushed a group of U.S.-trained Iraqi soldiers east of Baghdad; around 50 of the unarmed soldiers were killed execution-style. A 6.8 magnitude earthquake in northern Japan killed 40 people. Brazil launched its first

rocket into space, 14 months after an accident killed 21 space agency employees. The Boston Red Sox took Game 1 of the World Series, defeating the St. Louis Cardinals 11-9. Singer Ashlee Simpson, performing on NBC's "Saturday Night Live," was tripped up when the backing track for a different song featuring her voice began to play, prompting accusations of lip-synching. Opera singer Robert Merrill, 87, died in New Rochelle, New York.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama declared the swine flu outbreak a national emergency, giving his health chief the power to let hospitals move emergency rooms offsite to speed treatment and protect noninfected patients. Bank closings for 2009 surpassed 100, hitting 106 by day's end. The NBA and the referees union agreed on a two-year contract, ending a lockout of more than a month. Character actor Lou Jacobi died in New York at age 95. Shiloh Pepin, 10, a girl who was born with fused legs, a rare condition often called "mermaid syndrome," died in Portland, Maine.

One year ago: A defensive Obama administration acknowledged its problem-plagued health insurance website didn't get enough testing before going live; it said technicians were deep into the job of fixing major computer snags, but provided no timetable. German Chancellor Angela Merkel called President Barack Obama to complain about allegations U.S. intelligence had targeted her cellphone. (The White House said it wasn't monitoring and wouldn't monitor Merkel's communications, but conspicuously didn't say they had never been monitored.) The Boston Red Sox took the World Series opener, beating the St. Louis Cardinals 8-1.

Today's Birthdays: Baseball Hall of Famer and former U.S. Senator Jim Bunning, R-Ky., is 83. Movie director Philip Kaufman is 78. Soccer great Pele (pay-lay) is 74. Rhythm-and-blues singer Barbara Ann Hawkins (The Dixie Cups) is 71. ABC News investigative reporter Brian Ross is 66. Actor Michael Rupert is 63. Movie director Ang Lee is 60. Jazz singer Dianne Reeves is 58. Country singer Dwight Yoakam is 58. Community activist Martin Luther King III is 57. Movie director Sam Raimi is 55. Parodist "Weird Al" Yankovic is 55. Rock musician Robert Trujillo (Metallica) is 50. Christian/jazz singer David Thomas (Take 6) is 48. Rock musician Brian Nevin (Big Head Todd and the Monsters) is 48. Country singer-musician Junior Bryant is 46. Actor Jon Huertas is 45. Movie director Chris Weitz is 45. CNN medical reporter Dr. Sanjay Gupta is 45. Country singer Jimmy Wayne is 42. Actress Vivian Bang is 41. Rock musician Eric Bass (Shinedown) is 40. TV personality and host Cat Deeley is 38. Actor Ryan Reynolds is 38. Rock singer Matthew Shultz (Cage the Elephant) is 31. Rhythm-and-blues singer Miguel is 29. Actress Masiela Lusha (MAH'-see-ella loo-SHA') is 29. Actress Emilia Clarke (TV: "Game of Thrones") is 28. Actress Briana Evigan is 28. Actress Jessica Stroup is 28.

Thought for Today: "Be content with what you are, and wish not change; nor dread your last day, nor long for it." - Marcus Aurelius, Roman emperor (CE 121-CE 180).

Paul Stevens
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