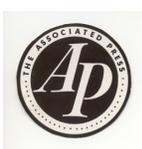

From: Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 16, 2014 8:50 AM
To: stevenspl@live.com
Subject: Connecting - December 16, 2014

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Connecting

December 16, 2014

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Colleagues,

Greetings this Tuesday morning from Denver where my deputy editor decided to sleep in this morning.

"How did you land your first paid job" is off to a good start with comments that I think you'll enjoy as much as I have.

If you haven't responded, why not share your own story with your Connecting colleagues.

Paul

How I got my first job in journalism



Mike Cochran ([Email](#)) - Several weeks before I was to graduate from the University of North Texas in 1958 (then NTSU), I received an offer from Sohio Oil Co. for a PR job paying \$150 a week. That was a huge salary for a journalist back then, and the only reason I got such an offer was because my wildcatter grandfather had worked closely with Sohio after one of his oil discoveries in Oklahoma. And it was kind of a payback of sorts. I rushed down the hall of the journalism building on the Denton campus to inform C.E. (Pop) Shuford, the legendary head of the department.

I would one day write that Pop had the mind of a scholar, the soul of a poet, the disposition of a drill sergeant and a poorly concealed affection for any student he thought capable of writing a legible sentence for an American newspaper or news magazine. His laughter was contagious, his frown terrifying.

"Nope," he told me that day I was so jubilant over my princely job offer. "You're going to work for the Denton Record-Chronicle. I've already made all the arrangements. "

"What's the deal?" I wondered incredulously. He said I actually was going to start part time before graduation and full time when I graduated. Part time at \$1 an hour and \$60 a week full time.

"You mean I'm going to take a \$90 a week pay cut on my very first job?" I asked in bewilderment. "That's correct," he responded authoritatively, adding: "One of these days you'll thank me."

I did as he ordered, not asked, and quickly became sports editor of the small Denton daily. A year later I went to the Abilene Reporter-News as one of five sportswriters on the staff. I had befriended Harold Ratliff, a wonderful character and sports editor of the Texas AP, and I approached him in the press room to say hello during the 1960 Cotton Bowl in Dallas. After he finished the story he was working on, he came to the bar and--confusing me with somebody else--asked: "So you really would like to work for the AP?"

Surprised and a bit stunned, but not totally stupid, I replied: "I sure would."

Later, back in Abilene, I got a call from Bill Barnard the Texas AP bureau chief at the time. He said the next time I was in Dallas come by the office and talk with him about the job. A terrible dust storm blew into Abilene that very evening and as luck would have it, both my wife Sondra, a hospital nurse at the time, and I had the next day off. When Bill arrived at the office that morning, there I sat wearing probably the only sports coat and tie I owned.

He was impressed by my immediate arrival and hired me on the spot, adding that if things didn't work out he would get me a job at any Texas newspaper I requested. Thirty-nine years later, most of which was spent based in Fort Worth but traveling Texas as a roving AP correspondent, I retired.

It had been a fantastic career because of exposure to many of the great writers of the AP on a slew of international stories such as the JFK assassination, the Lee Harvey Oswald murder, the Jack Ruby trial, the University of Texas tower sniper, the Apollo moon shots, the Branch Davidian episodes, the Mexico City earthquake and on and on. Imagine working with such writers as Saul Pett, Jules Lowe, Frank Cormier, Jack Bell, Sid Moody, Art Everett, Walter Mears, Hugh Mulligan, John Barbour, Howard Benedict and many others.

And how about working off and on personally with a general manager like Lou Boccardi on the space shots and through the years with Texas bureau chiefs such as Bill Barnard, Bob Johnson, Jim Mangan, Doug Cornell, John Lumpkin and Dale Leach.

Long before my retirement, Pop Shuford died, and I wrote a national AP story about his great career as a storied journalism professor. I related the tale of how I entered the news business at \$60 a week instead of \$150 weekly in public relations. And I ended it thusly:

"Thank you, Pop."

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Bob Daugherty ([Email](#)) - My 'break' in journalism came sometime during my junior year of high school in Marion, Indiana. The newspaper, the Chronicle-Tribune, was looking for a young (maybe cheap) photographer and the school's vocational director sent two students with the understanding that one of us would be let go after a month or so. We were met by the managing editor, Drysdale Brannon. I was so nervous that I almost tripped over his spittoon as I approached to shake his hand. At the end of the trial period, I was made a permanent staffer, working full time nights. My salary more tax doubled what I was earning at the drug store, \$1 hourly. This was heady stuff for a 16-year-old not that far beyond an early career as a shoeshine boy in a

Mount Sterling, Kentucky pool parlor.

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Sue Price Johnson ([Email](#)) - I grew up in a tiny community within 10 miles of two newspapers - a daily in Goldsboro, N.C., where my dad, Gene Price, was managing editor, and the other, in Mount Olive, N.C.

I started job-hunting at about 15 - before I could drive legally. The folks in Mount Olive said that as a non-daily, they didn't really have an after-school or weekend writing or editing job available.

The Goldsboro News-Argus had a nepotism policy, so I went to the publisher to plead my case. I urged him to consider hiring me and letting me report to the city editor rather than my dad. I told him I didn't want to be hired because my dad worked there, but I didn't want to be rejected because of him, either. The publisher bought my argument and hired me as a weekend copy editor/reporter to work every Saturday morning and every Saturday evening. I even called in a couple of stories to the AP during my fulltime reporter days in the summers of my high school and college years.

By the way, my first AP job was as a vacation relief staffer during the summer between my junior and senior years at East Carolina University in Greenville, N.C. The late (and wonderful) Joe Dill recruited me while I was working a part-time job afternoons and alternate weekends at the Daily Reflector in Greenville. (Skip Foreman, now working at the AP in Charlotte, worked the other weekend!)

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Joe McKnight ([Email](#)) - I stumbled into the profession, thanks to my registration advisor at University of Alabama in 1946.

After three years of military service, I knew I did not want a military career. A few months after receiving my discharge, I knew I wanted to go to college, but thoughts about the future long-term had not matured.

In September, 1946, three friends drove with me to Tuscaloosa and we registered for classes. The professor helping me select freshman classes asked about my major. I must have given a vague response so he asked what I did in the military. I had been a radio operator and wanted no more Morse Code pounding in my head. Then the professor asked about other interests and I told him about working at the Times-Journal mechanical department while in high school. So he put down my major as Journalism, and it stuck.

After two academic quarters, I was put on academic probation, dropped out and took a job working in a commercial print shop back in Selma. After a few

months of feeding paper into a platen press and setting type by hand from the California job case, I knew there had to be more to life. So I enrolled at Howard College, a small school supported by the Baptist Church at Birmingham. It had no journalism program, so I got a degree in English in the Spring of 1950.

I visited a dozen or so daily newspaper offices from Huntsville to Mobile. None offered work so I left applications.

My first job was editorial work with The Alabama Baptist, a weekly newspaper headquartered in Birmingham where the editor started every business day with a prayer meeting, attendance required. After a few months of this, the editor one afternoon happened to meet me coming out of a liquor store with a brown bag in hand. Next morning, he asked if I was seriously looking for another job. I assured him I was. At that point I had visited several times with Leroy Simms, then AP correspondent in Birmingham. As luck would have it, he called on a Tuesday and invited me to stop by his office, which was a room adjacent to the Birmingham News city room. He said there was an opening in Atlanta starting the next Monday if I was interested. I returned to The Alabama Baptist office, wrote my resignation, and the following Monday, found the AP bureau on 2nd floor of the Atlanta Journal/Constitution Building, 10 Forsyth Street, Atlanta, and reported to go to work on March 26, 1951.

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Charles Monzella ([Email](#)) - My only full-time paid job was with the AP. Forty-three years. But that's a story for another time, perhaps. My first paid job was as an announcer and disc jockey at a 250-watt radio station. This came while I was a teenager in Alabama. An entrepreneur who had just put the station on the air in my hometown came to the high school speech class I was attending and asked if any of us would be interested in working for him. I was one of three who took him up. All of us were hired, but I outlasted the others because I was a junior and they were seniors and soon went off to college. I worked on weekends as an announcer, reading not only commercials but also doing five-minute newscasts using the AP wire. Later, I was given my own half-hour afternoon program during which I interviewed fellow students and played music. This was in the late 1940s, and the wage I was paid was 50 cents an hour!

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Eric Newhouse ([Email](#)) - I was born into a family of journalists, with Dad working for the Wisconsin State Journal in Madison and Mom retiring to raise their children, And I got my first job at the Rockford (Ill.) Morning Star, where both my parents had met while working as reporters.

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Paul Stevens ([Email](#)) - I worked a host of part-time news and sports writing jobs through high school and college at the University of Iowa to pay my way through school. After military service and graduate school at the University of Kansas, I applied to a half-dozen newspapers and the AP on the East Coast. We had lived in the East, in Virginia, while in the military and wanted to return to that area to see more of it.

One of the part-time jobs, sports stringing for AP at Iowa, opened a door for me at the AP. Dan Perkes was Des Moines chief of bureau at the time and he put in a word for me. I visited AP headquarters at 50 Rockefeller Plaza and was administered the writing, Wonderlic and vocabulary tests by then-personnel vice president Keith Fuller, who would soon become president and general manager. I guess I passed them fine as I got a call a few months later from Ed Staats, chief of bureau in Albany, with an offer to be a probationary newsman in the Albany bureau.

One of my professors at Kansas, editing guru John Bremner, discouraged me from taking the AP job, deriding what he called "the formula writing" that he viewed as part of wire-service journalism. But I liked the idea of the variety of work I could do and accepted Ed's offer. Things worked out, even though I was caught in a layoff a year after joining but thanks to Ron Thompson in Personnel and Wick Temple in Sports, I was guided to an opening in the St. Louis bureau and my career continued through assignments in Wichita, Albuquerque, Indianapolis and Kansas City.

My experience prompted me to always advise students whom I interviewed during my career to build their resumes with any part-time work they could get. Opportunities are fewer these days for internships and the like, but they're still out there.

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Mike Tharp ([Email](#)) - Each year in Topeka, the newest Eagle Scouts were invited to a dinner with someone in a profession or field that we had designated as one that interested us. I wrote "foreign correspondent," though at 15 I didn't really know what that meant. But it sounded good. So my dinner companion was the stately Sunday editor of the Topeka Capital-Journal, Charles Pearson (who later was a top editor at the Wichita Eagle). We talked a lot, though even then I knew enough to get him to talk more. He suggested that I read the "Notes and Comments" section of the New Yorker as a model of style.

Luckily, my dad subscribed so I could do that. He also asked if I'd be interested in a copy boy (no girls back in 1960) job, should one come open at the C-J. Sure, I said, and he took my phone number. A few months passed.

A week before the family was to take the Super Chief to Southern California to see one of my brothers (we could ride free because my dad was a railroad bull for the Santa Fe), I got a call from Mr. Pearson. There's an opening for a copy boy, he said. Are you still interested? So I had to make the first value judgment of my life. The next week I stood outside the AT&SF depot, waving goodbye to my folks and younger brothers headed to L.A. Next day I reported for work at the Daily Capital. Kept the job three years.

Eventually, I got asked by the now-legendary Rich Clarkson to also be a darkroom boy. And the sports desk guys asked me to take phoned-in football scores on Friday nights. I was playing basketball for Hayden High so the few times I played a good game, those guys would write about me. That was the time of the clackety-clack of wire service machines and typewriters, of black copy pencils thick as cigars, of copy paper as dense as papyrus, of cigarette smoke thick above the copy desk, of pints of whiskey in bottom desk drawers, of pre-HR cussing and shouting--in short it was the best time for a kid to learn newspapering. Later they gave me a reporting internship and still later I was the C-J's environmental writer. The newsroom/darkroom talent was superb, so I soaked it all up like a sponge. And then on March 11, 1976, I landed in Tokyo as the Wall Street Journal's northeast Asia bureau chief. I had become a foreign correspondent.

Thank you, Mr. Pearson.

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Michael Weinfeld ([Email](#)) - I had graduated NYU with a degree in Broadcast Journalism, which was no help in landing a radio job in NYC, so I sent my resume to every TV and radio station on the East coast (easy with my handy dandy IBM Selectric) and the only positive response was from David Melendy, News Director at WINY in Putnam, CT. He said he had no openings but if I was ever in the neighborhood I could stop by. Well, no one is ever in the neighborhood of Putnam because it's a small town with more cows than people, so I drove up there and arrived just as his afternoon anchor had quit. I got the job and David and I have been linked ever since. He and I followed each other from station to station in CT and then we both were up for the same position at AP Radio in DC. He got it, but Rob Dalton told me to apply for a writing position at AP Broadcast in NYC. I got that and 6 months later we were transferred to DC where I reunited with David and worked with him for 31 years before retiring.

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Marc Wilson ([Email](#)) - I worked at a country club - picking up range balls, cleaning clubs, maintaining golf carts - in Golden Colorado. One of the members, Dick Hilker, was editor/publisher of the suburban Sentinel newspapers. After a round of golf, he handed me his clubs for cleaning and

storage, and asked me if I knew any student at Wheat Ridge High who might want to write a column for the Wheat Ridge Sentinel. "I would!" I told him. I wrote a weekly column for the Sentinel for two years before attending the University of Colorado J-School. While in college, I worked for the Colorado Student News, the Denver Post (as a weekend sports writer), and the Boulder Camera (covering outlying city councils and school boards). Three days after graduation, I went to work in the Denver AP bureau, working for COB Dorman Cordell and News Editor Rob Dalton.

Connecting mailbox

Remembering Phil Emanuel

Charles Bruce ([Email](#)) - Very saddened to learn of the loss of Phil. I first met Phil in 1972 when he was assigned as a technician to the two national political conventions being held in Miami where I was chief of communications. AP sent two 18-wheelers full of Model 15s, 19s, 20s, and TTS perforators along with wirephoto equipment. We were sorting the equipment on the loading dock of the Fontainebleau hotel on a hot and humid July morning in direct sunlight. Sweat was pouring off of all of us. I told Phil it will be nice as soon as it warms up. He was not amused but knew the remark was in jest. Phil later went on to managerial assignments in New York and we had steady contact on a business basis. He finished that by attending my retirement party in February 2002 and I have always appreciated that gesture.

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Link to Molly May Baltzelle's obituary

Jim Baltzelle ([Email](#)) - whose eulogy for his daughter Molly published in Monday's Connecting touched many hearts, shares this [link](#) to her obituary on Legacy.com.

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Negotiation skills started early



New Connecting member **Lee Perryman** ([Email](#)) started his negotiation skills at an early age, in this 1959 photo of AP's director of broadcast technology in Washington.

Memory of an AP track & field star



A Boston sports fan living and thriving in New York City, **Jonathan Lemire** carries to work each day the competitive edge that once helped propel the Lowell native to track-and-field titles at Central Catholic High in Lawrence.

After spending a dozen years as a reporter for the New York Daily News, covering everything from the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks to mayoral and presidential elections, Lemire joined the Associated Press in June 2013 as its New York City Hall reporter. He continues to cover politics and all angles of news.

Click [here](#) to read more from The Boston Globe. (Shared by Marc Humbert)

On the Road in North Korea



When North Korea opens its doors, it does so for a reason. So it was when the authoritarian government granted permission for a road trip so extensive that few North Koreans - let alone a pair of American journalists - could imagine taking it.

We drove 2,150 kilometers (1,336 miles) in a country that has barely 25,000 kilometers of road, and only 724 kilometers of those paved. By the time we returned to the capital a week later, our Chinese-made Great Wall SUV had a few new scratches and one less hubcap.

Our official destination was majestic Mount Paektu, with its jagged peaks surrounding a crystal-blue crater lake. North Korea is pursuing a plan to create dozens of special foreign investment and tourism zones, and this is one of the places it most wants to promote.

Click [here](#) to view more photos by David Guttenfelder.

AP PHOTOS: Best of 2014 from Latin America



A selection of our best images of 2014 from Latin America and the Caribbean starts with the case of 43 missing - and apparently slain - students in Mexico that ignited indignation across the country and around the world. Officials acknowledged they disappeared at the hands of a corrupt local government and federal authorities took 10 days to intervene.

Whip-cracking vigilantes served up justice in the highlands of Peru, and self-defense groups in Mexico fought to flush out cartels from their neighborhoods, two examples of how some Latin Americans are responding to corrupt, indifferent police forces and the erosion of state-run criminal justice.

Click [here](#) to view more.

Stories of interest

[As Legacy News Outlets Retreat, Who Will Be There to Report on the World?](#)

In a year dominated by crises—the twin horrors of Ebola and the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS), Russian President Vladimir Putin's showdown with the West over Ukraine, the Gaza war—foreign reporting is once again in the spotlight. What's most striking about the coverage now is just how different the people reporting it look from a decade ago. The veteran correspondents from the so-called legacy media who once flooded the crisis zones have faded away. In their place have come an army of upstarts: staff reporters for new outfits such as Vice Media and BuzzFeed and freelance journalists patching together assignments.

In the body of the story: Kathleen Carroll, executive editor of the Associated Press, says her agency never uses freelancers unless they've been vetted and have insurance and protective gear, and won't send them to Syria or Libya. "Plenty of journalists go out on the branch until the branch is cracked, and our job is to pull them back," she says. "We owe them that. To say 'I trust their

judgment' is a complete abdication of responsibility."

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[Bucks County Courier Times statement on cartoon](#)



By Amy Gianficaro Community affairs director

The editorial staff and management team of the Bucks County Courier Times respect the work of law enforcement and appreciate the risks they take and sacrifices they make each day.

The editorial cartoon that was published in our newspaper on Sunday, Dec. 7, was a commentary about the broad and complex relationship between black youth and police in America. It's a relationship that has room for improvement, as has been acknowledged by members of both communities.

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[Smart people predict what's up for journalism in 2015. \(More robots?\)](#)

Nieman Reports: To close out 2014, we asked some of the smartest people we know to predict what 2015 will bring for the future of journalism. Here's what they had to say.

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[2014: The year in millennial media consumption](#)

The media world remains obsessed with millennials. The generation born roughly between 1980 and 2000, millennials are the largest demographic in the U.S., representing a third of its population. They wield enormous spending power and even greater social influence.

To publishers, brands and marketers, millennials are potential lifetime customers, if managed appropriately. That's why those groups spend enormous sums of time and money attempting to understand (and appeal to) the millennial audience.

We kept a careful eye on millennials this past year, too. Here are five things we learned:

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[Why Sony probably can't stop the media from publishing stories from the hack](#) (Shared by Bob Daugherty)

The Pentagon Papers. Climategate. Wikileaks. The celebrity nude photo scandal. Confidential information stolen and leaked.

News organizations have long used material, stolen by others, when they deem it newsworthy, whether it's from the files of the government or private companies and individuals. Lots of people have tried to stop them. Rarely have they succeeded.

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[Sowing Mayhem, One Click at a Time](#)

By **David Carr**
The New York Times



The Internet has given us many glorious things: streaming movies, multiplayer games, real-time information and videos of cats playing the piano. It has also offered up some less edifying creations: web-borne viruses, cybercrime and Charles C. Johnson (left).

His name came out of nowhere and now seems to be everywhere. When the consumer Internet first unfolded, there was much talk about millions of new voices blooming. Mr. Johnson is one of those flowers. His tactics may have as much in common with ultimate fighting as journalism, but that doesn't mean he is not part of the

conversation.

Mr. Johnson, a 26-year-old blogger based in California, has worked his way to the white-hot center of the controversy over a Rolling Stone article about rape accusations made by a student at the University of Virginia. His instinct that the report was deeply flawed was correct, but he proceeded to threaten on Twitter to expose the student and then later named her. And he serially printed her photo while going after her in personal and public ways.

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[N.J. trooper who photographed protesters at Christie event was posing as media, AG says](#)

TRENTON - A State Police trooper who was caught photographing protesters during one of Gov. Chris Christie's town halls in March was posing as a member of the media in order to provide extra protection for the governor, an internal investigation has found.

The review was conducted by acting state Attorney General John Hoffman after the incident sparked backlash from Democrats and free speech advocates.

Hoffman concluded the plain-clothed trooper assumed the identity of a photographer to "blend in with the press pool" as part of a security detail, a spokesman, Paul Loriquez, said.

The Final Word



Gun ad shields Courier-Journal's Page One investigation of Louisville police shootings

Gannett's Courier-Journal in Louisville has a good police-shooting investigation on Sunday's page one. Unfortunately, much of it is covered by a gun sale ad.

Jim Romenesko Update: The Courier-Journal's publisher says "this positioning was unfortunate and unintended."

This timing of the advertisement and the decision to run the story were independent actions within different departments of The Courier-Journal; however, we should have identified the inappropriate relationship and made an adjustment. We are reviewing our internal processes and will make adjustments to ensure we prevent this problem in the future.

Click [here](#) to view more.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 16, the 350th day of 2014. There are 15 days left in the year. The Jewish Festival of Lights, Hanukkah, begins at sunset.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 16, 1944, the World War II Battle of the Bulge began as German

forces launched a surprise attack against Allied forces through the Ardennes Forest in Belgium and Luxembourg (the Allies were eventually able to turn the Germans back).

On this date:

In 1653, Oliver Cromwell became lord protector of England, Scotland and Ireland.

In 1773, the Boston Tea Party took place as American colonists boarded a British ship and dumped more than 300 chests of tea into Boston Harbor to protest tea taxes.

In 1809, the French Senate granted a divorce decree to Emperor Napoleon I and Empress Josephine (the dissolution was made final the following month).

In 1811, the first of the powerful New Madrid earthquakes struck the central Mississippi Valley with an estimated magnitude of 7.7.

In 1907, 16 U.S. Navy battleships, which came to be known as the "Great White Fleet," set sail on a 14-month round-the-world voyage to demonstrate American sea power.

In 1930, golfer Bobby Jones became the first recipient of the James E. Sullivan Award honoring outstanding amateur athletes.

In 1950, President Harry S. Truman proclaimed a national state of emergency in order to fight "world conquest by Communist imperialism."

In 1956, Francis Cardinal Spellman, the Archbishop of New York, personally denounced the about-to-be released movie "Baby Doll" starring Carroll Baker, saying Catholics would be committing a sin if they saw it.

In 1960, 134 people were killed when a United Air Lines DC-8 and a TWA Super Constellation collided over New York City.

In 1976, the government halted its swine flu vaccination program following reports of paralysis apparently linked to the vaccine.

In 1982, Environmental Protection Agency head Anne M. Gorsuch became the first Cabinet-level officer to be cited for contempt of Congress for refusing to submit documents requested by a congressional committee.

In 1991, the U.N. General Assembly rescinded its 1975 resolution equating Zionism with racism by a vote of 111-25.

Ten years ago: Bobbie Jo Stinnett, 23, of Skidmore, Missouri, was found dying

in her home, her unborn baby cut from her womb. (The baby was recovered by authorities in Melvern, Kansas; Stinnett's killer, Lisa Montgomery, was later sentenced to death). Britain's highest court dealt a huge blow to the government's anti-terrorism policy by ruling that it could not detain foreign suspects indefinitely without trial. Former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein met with a lawyer for the first time since his capture a year earlier. Agnes Martin, one of the world's foremost abstract artists, died in Taos, New Mexico, at age 92.

Five years ago: Two hundred Mexican Marines raided an upscale apartment complex and killed drug cartel chief Arturo Beltran Leyva in a two-hour gunbattle. Iran test-fired a missile capable of hitting Israel and parts of Europe. Police fired pepper spray and beat protesters with batons outside the U.N. climate conference in Copenhagen. Tiger Woods was voted Athlete of the Decade by members of The Associated Press. Yegor Gaidar, 53, who oversaw Russia's painful transition from communism to a free market economy, died in Moscow. Roy E. Disney, 79, the son and nephew of the Walt Disney Co. founders, died in Newport Beach, California.

One year ago: In the first ruling of its kind, U.S. District Court Judge Richard Leon declared that the National Security Agency's bulk collection of Americans' telephone records likely violated the Constitution's ban on unreasonable search. Ray Price, 87, one of country music's most popular and influential singers and bandleaders, died in Mount Pleasant, Texas.

Today's Birthdays: Civil rights attorney Morris Dees is 78. Actress Joyce Bulifant is 77. Actress Liv Ullmann is 76. CBS news correspondent Lesley Stahl is 73. TV producer Steven Bochco is 71. Former Nevada Gov. Jim Gibbons is 70. Pop musician Tony Hicks (The Hollies) is 69. Pop singer Benny Andersson (ABBA) is 68. Actor Ben Cross is 67. Rock singer-musician Billy Gibbons (ZZ Top) is 65. Rock musician Bill Bateman (The Blasters) is 63. Actor Xander Berkeley is 59. Actress Alison LaPlaca is 55. Actor Sam Robards is 53. Actor Jon Tenney is 53. Actor Benjamin Bratt is 51. Country singer-songwriter Jeff Carson is 51. Actor-comedian JB Smoove is 49. Actor Daniel Cosgrove is 44. Rhythm-and-blues singer Michael McCary is 43. Actor Jonathan Scarfe is 39. Actress Krysten Ritter is 33. Actress Zoe Jarman (TV: "The Mindy Project") is 32. Country musician Chris Scruggs is 32. Actress Amanda Setton is 29. Rock musician Dave Rublin (American Authors) is 28. Actress Hallee Hirsh is 27. Actress Anna Popplewell is 26.

Thought for Today: "There is no king who has not had a slave among his ancestors, and no slave who has not had a king among his." - Helen Keller, American author and lecturer (1880-1968).

Paul Stevens
Connecting newsletter

stevenspl@live.com

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