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Connecting - February 07, 2019

1 message

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Thu, Feb 7, 2019 at 9:02 AM

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Connecting

February 07, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning!

Our Connecting colleague **Adolphe Bernotas** spotted a recent Letter to the Editor in the North Port (Florida) Sun that reads:

Many regrets with news career

When my 25-year newspaper career came to an end, I was asked if I had any regrets. At that time, as I was changing careers, I said no, I have no regrets. Being part of the daily media world and showing up for work every day in an active newsroom was something I had wanted to do since I was a kid and got to do it for those many years. I had no regrets.

But now I do have regrets.

I regret that the world of journalism has chosen political sides.

I regret that I pick up the daily newspaper and see photos of individuals disliked by the media sporting unflattering, sometimes laughter-inducing, facial expressions. Remember, these photos are specifically selected for publication.

I regret that the media is full of news stories which choose to use negative-sounding words, phrases and ideas in association with anybody it does not like politically.

I regret that the media will be a shameless cheerleader for a given person or ideology under the guise of a so-called news story.

I regret that the media will say one side of the political landscape, which it detests, is forced to retract earlier statements, but will say the other side of the political landscape, which it adores, simply clarifies its remarks.

I regret that I bothered to get my journalism degree in the first place. I should have picked an honorable profession.

Connecting invites you to share your thoughts on the letter - and asks, do you share similar feelings about the state of journalism and your own career? Adolphe and I think this could spark some interesting thoughts among our group.

Have a good day!

Paul

New information on memorial services

Jim Dietz - A memorial ceremony for Jim Dietz, who with Getty Images and the AP helped photojournalists document history, will be held at noon on February 16, in Ottawa, Kansas, where Jim grew up, at [Lamb-Roberts Funeral Home](#), followed by a reception at [The Bottle House](#) in Ottawa. "All are welcome should they like to join and make their way to Kansas," said his partner, Diane Turner. "They can contact me so I can provide numbers to the family for the catering." Turner said there will be a large celebration of Jim's life in New York City sometime between mid-March and

end of April and that she will update his friends and colleagues when the plans are finalized.

In lieu of flowers, Turner said, the family asks that any donations go to NYC SALT. It is a non-profit all scholarship program that works with teenagers to learn life skills through photography, workflow, editing, and technology. Jim was an instrumental part of this organization from its beginnings. Click [here](#) for its web site. Click [here](#) for a link to the donation page. (Shared by Diane Turner ([Email](#)))

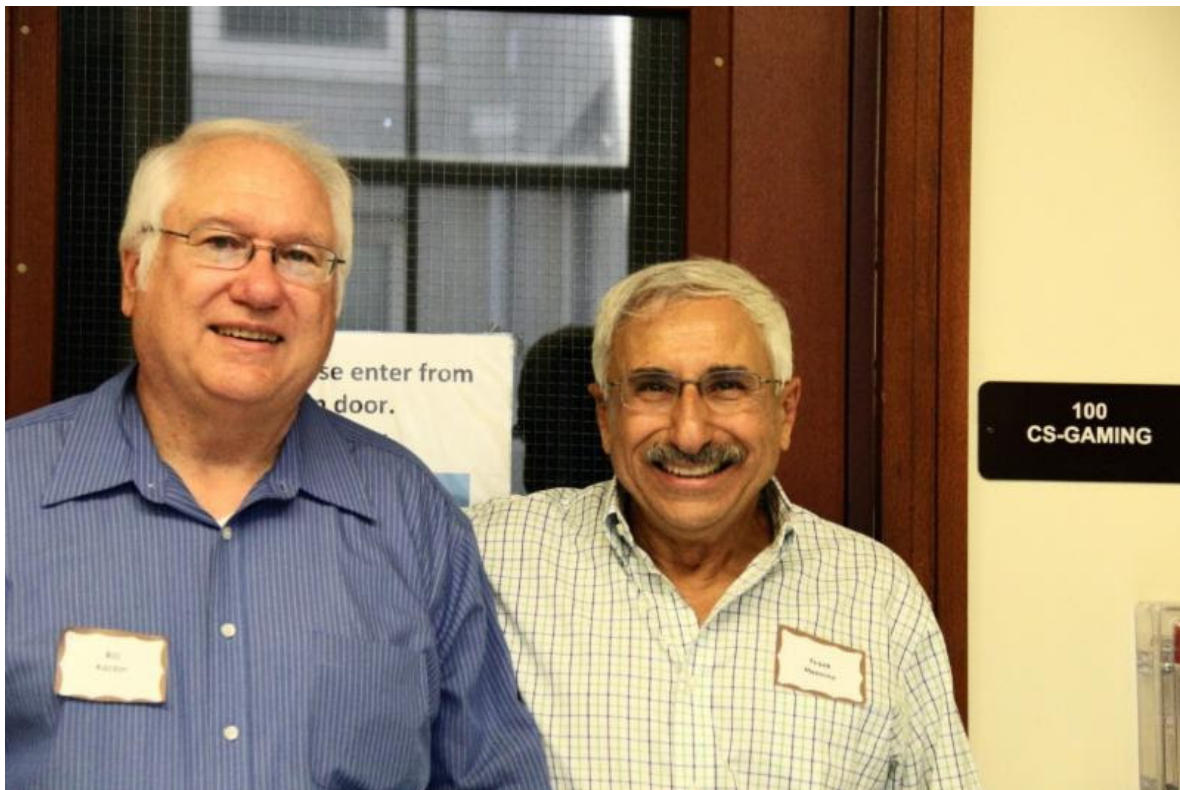


Mark Olchow - Services for Mark Olchow, deputy director of support in AP's Washington bureau, will be held on Saturday, March 23 at the Covenant Funeral Services' Fredericksburg Chapel, [4801 Jefferson Davis Highway, Fredericksburg 22408](#). Mark died Dec. 21, 2018, at the age of 57. There will be a viewing period from 1-2 pm, with the funeral services following at 2. Afterward, everyone is invited back to the house. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to American Heart Association, American Cancer Society or St. Mary Catholic Church, [1009 Stafford Ave, Fredericksburg, VA 22401](#). (Shared by Marilyn Lombardi ([Email](#))).

Patrick Sloyan - A memorial service is planned for Patrick J. Sloyan, who was Washington bureau chief of Newsday and a Pulitzer Prize winner, at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church, [9200 Kentsdale Drive, Potomac, MD 20854](#), at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 16th, 2019. Sloyan died Feb. 4 at the age of 82. (Shared by Carl P. Leubsdorf Sr.)

Connecting series

Lessons learned in high school journalism, how they impacted your career



This shows Dr. Frank Mannino, M.D., of San Diego, (right) and me outside the former school newspaper office at the now-Lindblom Math and Science Academy in Chicago during a 50th class reunion tour in 2014. Frank had been the paper's business manager.

Bill Kaczor (Email) - About a year and a half ago we went through a similar exercise and I recalled then that the most important thing I had learned in high school related to my journalistic career was typing. I went into quite a bit of detail then about my typing experiences including going to another school to take a summer class in which I was the only male student.

My urge to learn typing grew out of frustration with having to hunt and peck my way through stories for my school newspaper. When I began at Lindblom High School on Chicago's South Side in 1960, my career goal had been to become a civil engineer. Then I came face-to-face with algebra, followed by geometry and trigonometry. As it turned out numbers and I did not get along very well. I soon ended my thoughts of a mathematical future because I had become much better at dealing with letters and words.

My first demonstration of writing talent came in a history class during my freshman year. I wrote a single-page, hunt-and-pecked typed report on a subject I no longer can recall. But I do remember I was given a failing grade. The teacher thought it was so well written that it must have been plagiarized.

Meanwhile, Harriet Brown, the school newspaper adviser, had appealed to students in Honors English classes for volunteers. I had been an avid newspaper reader (mainly The Chicago Daily News, which included such luminaries as Keyes Beech, Peter Lisagor, Georgie Anne Geyer and Mike Royko). Also, my father wrote a

column for a fraternal benefit organization's newspaper and once had been a printer. So I already had an interest in newspapering and put my name on the sign-up sheet. I, though, was the only one who showed up at the school newspaper's office at the appointed time, but Mrs. Brown said she didn't see my name on the sign-up sheet. My English teacher had scratched it out, apparently because my sentence diagraming and spelling had not been up to par.

Those were not issues for Mrs. Brown. The main thing was that I was willing and a boy. Most of her staff was female and none of the girls were much interested in sports. So I covered sports for most of the rest of my high school career. She appointed me editor in chief of the Lindblom Leader for the final semester of my senior year. Along the way I learned about what, when, where, how and why, deadlines, page layout, headline writing and the inverted pyramid. But most of all I learned to type.

A post-script: My old high school has been repurposed and now is the Lindblom Math and Science Academy, so I probably couldn't even get in. On a tour almost five years ago during my 50th class reunion I discovered that our former newspaper office and the yearbook office next door had been combined into a single room. The sign on the door reads "CS-Gaming." I think that's some kind of computer science competition.

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Kelly Kissel (Email) - Four things from my high school journalism classes that are still with me after more than four decades:

1, I don't mark up people's copy with red felt-tip pens. My first high school journalism adviser used a red marker. Often, after turning in copy, I could hear the squeaks from her marking up my golden prose before I even reached my seat.

2, Truth trumps all. Our school paper's obituary for a dead classmate mentioned how reliably he could be found at the baseball field bullpen at lunch, smoking weed. The family dropped its threat of a libel lawsuit when the principal and journalism adviser assured the family his getting high at school was common knowledge and they had no chance of winning.

3, Be willing to move for the job you want. I switched schools between my junior and senior years because the new high school would let me take a third journalism class (and also work on the radio station and yearbook), but my old school wouldn't. I made connections that final year that changed my life.

4, If you underline a correction for a typesetter, not only will he fix it, he'll capitalize it. This one doesn't come up that often any more.

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Andy Lippman (Email) - I am going back to the future by critiquing and providing resources for the staff of the high school paper that I was editor of about 54 years ago.

The "Pitch" from Walter Johnson High School in Bethesda, Md. e-mailed me after seeing a biography I had submitted to the website for my 50th high school reunion.

A student did a story on me, and I wrote the adviser telling her how much I enjoyed it. I also offered to critique each an issue and the adviser quickly took me up on my offer. I also do at least one Skype session a year - usually with the incoming editors.

This year, I enlisted Sandy Johnson to do a Skype session on investigative reporting, and Mike Fleeman has done two critiques of the paper's online site.

When I was editor of the school paper in 1966, I was also working for the Scripps-Howard scholastic sports section which appeared each Saturday afternoon in the Washington, D.C. Daily News. I earned \$10-20 a game and you got to sit at the same desks as "real journalists." In those days, that meant opening a desk and often finding a bottle of liquor.

They also still had the desk used by Ernie Pyle at one time in his career.

I remember my journalism adviser often would laugh and shake her head when I loved to work after school. She'd say, "You are something else, altogether different, Andy Lippman."

She wasn't far from wrong.

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Bill McCloskey (Email) - Reading Bill Hancock's story (in Wednesday's Connecting) about being allowed to set headlines on a Ludlow machine, I'm reminded that at Villanova University I covered student government for The Villanovan. Although I never "got to" go to the printers, I did figure out one of the tricks of the trade. When the news hole wasn't quite filled, rather than run a house ad or similar, one of the editors would type up enough copy on something or other and slap a headline and byline on it. The byline was always Phillip A. Ludlow.

Connecting mailbox

Tools of the trade - Page One!



Paul Stevens (Email) - Back in the day, this stamp atop a typewritten first page of a story designated Page One play in The Messenger, my hometown newspaper in Fort Dodge, Iowa. It is a treasure on my desk at home where Connecting is produced daily.

Robot writers? I prefer a human being

Hal Bock ([Email](#)) - I am old fashioned and that means I believe that human beings can write better accounts of events than robots.

Sure, the robot can read a baseball box score and write a story based on the numbers. But that story will lack perspective and perspective is vital in journalism. If a team loses a game with its best player sidelined by injury will AI report his absence or simply ignore it while using the available statistics to create a story? If an outfielder leaps over the fence to turn a home run into an out, can AI tell the reader that fact? I think not.

So please don't tell me that a baseball story can be written by a robot. I prefer a human being, one who can add perspective to the story.

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Connecting sky shot - LA



Nick Ut ([Email](#)) - Downtown Los Angeles skyline snow show in San Gabriel mountain after rain and snow.

Welcome to Connecting



Eileen Putman - eileenput@aol.com

Stories of interest

Craigslist founder donates \$15 million for journalism ethics



FILE - In this Nov. 5, 2018 file photo, Craig Newmark attend the 12th annual Stand Up For Heroes benefit red carpet at the Hulu Theater at Madison Square Garden in New York. The founder of Craigslist says he will donate \$15 million to Columbia University and the Poynter Institute for separate efforts promoting ethics in journalism. The announcement on Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2019, establishes Newmark in the forefront of philanthropists focused on journalism, a cause he's supported with some \$85 million in the past few years. (Photo by Brad Barket/Invision/AP, File)

By DAVID BAUDER

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) - The founder of Craigslist says he will donate \$15 million to Columbia University and the Poynter Institute for separate efforts promoting ethics in journalism.

The announcement on Wednesday establishes Craig Newmark in the forefront of philanthropists focused on journalism, a cause he's supported with some \$85 million in the past few years. Some in the industry see irony in that, since the online classified advertising site that made him rich took away a lucrative revenue source for many newspapers.

Columbia, with one of the leading graduate journalism programs in the country, will get \$10 million to establish the Craig Newmark Center for Journalism Ethics and Security. The Florida-based Poynter think tank will get \$5 million, its largest single donation ever, to offer additional journalism ethics training.

Newmark said he's been concerned since the 2016 election about attacks on the press and the trust of citizens in the institution. Among his other gifts has been \$20 million to establish a graduate school for journalism at the City University of New York.

"A trustworthy press is the immune system of democracy," Newmark said.

Read more [here](#).

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The New York Times is getting close to becoming a majority-digital company (Nieman)

By JOSHUA BENTON

The dream for any newspaper seeking to last longer than print itself is to transition its business model into digital. The New York Times is almost there.

The Times announced its fourth-quarter and full-year 2018 financials this morning, and there's a lot of good news. (One quick heuristic I like to run with newspaper company earnings reports is searching the press release to see the ratio of "digital" mentions to "print" mentions. Today: 40 to 17.) The most important: The Times generated \$709 million in digital revenue in 2018, putting it ahead of the ambitious goal it set out back in 2015 to hit \$800 million in digital revenue by 2020. They'll make that with little trouble - barring economic collapse, civil war, and so on.

Flush with confidence, Times CEO Mark Thompson laid out a new goal: "to grow our subscription business to more than 10 million subscriptions by 2025." (He's really formalizing a goal more than laying one out - 10 million subscriptions has been a Timesian aspiration for several years now. It has 4.3 million now, counting both digital and print.)

Read more [here](#).

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As newspapers shrink, the civic cost grows

(Raleigh News & Observer)

By ERIC JOHNSON

Facebook made \$6.88 billion in the 4th quarter of last year, and a chunk of it came at the expense of this newspaper. As news migrated from print to digital over the past decade, the vast majority of advertising revenue was captured by just two companies: Google and Facebook.

That means billions of advertising dollars that once stayed in local economies and sustained local reporters all over the country now get vacuumed out to Silicon Valley, fattening the profits of companies that compete for our attention without producing any journalism. It's why the median home price in Menlo Park is north of \$2 million, while small-town reporters subsist on poverty wages. It's the reason one in five newspapers have shuttered in the past 15 years - and part of the reason McClatchy, The N&O's parent company, just announced yet another round of early retirement offers.

"In 2010, newspaper revenue shrank below its 1950 level," said Penny Abernathy, a professor at UNC's School of Media and Journalism who studies the shifting economics of the news business. "You've lost people who routinely covered town council meetings, county commissioners meetings - the local news that's the lifeblood of democracy."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady.

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Reporter alleges Jill Abramson lifted material for her book



FILE - In this April 19, 2010, file photo, Jill Abramson attends the 2010 Matrix Awards presented by the New York Women in Communications at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York. (AP Photo/Evan Agostini, File)

By HILLEL ITALIE

NEW YORK (AP) - Former New York Times executive editor Jill Abramson is facing allegations that she lifted material from other sources for her new book, "Merchants of Truth." Abramson and her publisher are promising to investigate.

A Twitter thread posted Wednesday by Vice correspondent Michael Moynihan lists several examples of passages in "Merchants of Truth: The Business of News and the Fight for Facts" that closely resemble material in The New Yorker, Time Out and other publications. Released this week and praised by Walter Isaacson and Gay Talese among others, "Merchants of Truth" is a critique of the news business focused on two long-running newspapers, the Times and the Washington Post, along with Vice and fellow digital company BuzzFeed.

"I take seriously the issues raised and will review the passages in question," Abramson tweeted Wednesday night. "I endeavored to accurately and properly give attribution to the hundreds of sources that were part of my research." She has previously been criticized for alleged factual errors, with reporters at Vice and PBS among those faulting her. On Wednesday, she responded that some criticisms arose from Vice's unhappiness with "Merchants of Truth" and its portrait of hypocrisy and sexism. Abramson tweeted that her book offered "a balanced portrayal."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

The Final Word

Repairman keeps trusty typewriters clicking (Los Angeles Times)



MARTIN QUEZADA refurbishes a 1940s Underwood typewriter, which he found at a yard sale, at his International Office Machines shop in San Gabriel. (Myung J. Chun Los Angeles Times)

By Matthew Ormseth

Twenty years ago, Martin Quezada was told the end was nigh. The sun was setting on the typewriter. Computers were king.

Twenty years later, Quezada's shop, International Office Machines in San Gabriel, is still in business. The downturn happened. But it did not defeat Quezada, now 61, who kept his doors open.

He had loyal customers - small-business owners set in their ways, retirees unwilling or unable to learn to use a computer. He branched out into copiers and printers. He held on.

Then young people took an interest in antique typewriters.

A group of street poets brought Quezada several to repair. The typewriters were used to write poetry on demand for passersby.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Steve Graham.

Today in History - February 7, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Feb. 7, the 38th day of 2019. There are 327 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 7, 1962, President John F. Kennedy imposed a full trade embargo on Cuba.

On this date:

In 1795, the 11th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, dealing with states' sovereign immunity, was ratified.

In 1812, author Charles Dickens was born in Landport, Portsmouth, England.

In 1817, America's first public gas street lamp was lighted in Baltimore at the corner of Market and Lemon streets (now East Baltimore and Holliday streets).

In 1904, a fire began in Baltimore that raged for about 30 hours and destroyed more than 1,500 buildings.

In 1943, the government abruptly announced that wartime rationing of shoes made of leather would go into effect in two days, limiting consumers to buying three pairs per person per year. (Rationing was lifted in October 1945.)

In 1948, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower resigned as U.S. Army chief of staff; he was succeeded by Gen. Omar Bradley.

In 1964, The Beatles arrived at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport to begin their first American tour.

In 1971, women in Switzerland gained the right to vote through a national referendum, 12 years after a previous attempt failed.

In 1984, space shuttle Challenger astronauts Bruce McCandless II and Robert L. Stewart went on the first untethered spacewalk, which lasted nearly six hours.

In 1986, the Philippines held a presidential election marred by charges of fraud against the incumbent, Ferdinand E. Marcos. Haitian President-for-Life Jean-Claude Duvalier (doo-VAHL-yay') fled his country, ending 28 years of his family's rule.

In 1998, the Winter Olympic Games were opened in Nagano, Japan, by Emperor Akihito.

In 1999, Jordan's King Hussein died of cancer at age 63; he was succeeded by his eldest son, Abdullah.

Ten years ago: A miles-wide section of ice in Lake Erie broke away from the Ohio shoreline, trapping about 135 fishermen, some for as long as four hours before they could be rescued (one man fell into the water and later died of an apparent heart attack). Walls of flame roared across southeastern Australia, leveling scores of homes, forests and farmland in the country's worst wildfire disaster in a quarter century. Bolivia's new constitution took effect. Death claimed jazz singer Blossom Dearie at age 84, country singer Molly Bee at age 69, and Jack Cover, inventor of the Taser stun gun, at age 88.

Five years ago: The Sochi Olympics opened with a celebration of Russia's past greatness and hopes for future glory. President Barack Obama, during a visit to Michigan State University, signed an agriculture spending bill spreading benefits to farmers in every region of the country while trimming the food stamp program that had inspired a two-year battle over the legislation.

One year ago: St. John's beat top-ranked Villanova, 79-75, for its second win that week over a top-five team. (St. John's had earlier snapped an 11-game losing streak by beating fourth-ranked Duke.) Biotech billionaire Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong struck a \$500 million deal to buy the Los Angeles Times, the San Diego Union-Tribune and some other publications; the deal would take effect in June.

Today's Birthdays: Author Gay Talese is 87. Former Sen. Herb Kohl, D-Wis., is 84. Reggae musician Brian Travers (UB40) is 60. Comedy writer Robert Smigel (SMY'guh) is 59. Actor James Spader is 59. Country singer Garth Brooks is 57. Rock musician David Bryan (Bon Jovi) is 57. Actor-comedian Eddie Izzard is 57. Actor-comedian Chris Rock is 54. Actor Jason Gedrick is 52. Actress Essence Atkins is 47. Rock singer-musician Wes Borland is 44. Rock musician Tom Blankenship (My Morning Jacket) is 41. Actor Ashton Kutcher is 41. Actress Tina Majorino is 34. Actress Deborah Ann Woll is 34. NBA player Isaiah Thomas is 30.

Thought for Today: "No one is useless in this world... who lightens the burden of it for any one else." - From "Our Mutual Friend" by Charles Dickens (born this date in 1812, died in 1870).

Got a story or photos to share?

Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

Here are some suggestions:

- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.
- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.
- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.
- **"A silly mistake that you make"**- a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.
- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?
- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.
- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.



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