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Connecting - January 30, 2020

1 message

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Connecting

January 30, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this the 30th day of January 2020,

The deaths of Kobe Bryant and his daughter Gianna and seven others Sunday morning in Los Angeles resonated deeply and personally with one of our Connecting colleagues, **Bill Hancock**.

The next day, Monday, Jan. 27, was the 19th anniversary of the death of his son Will Hancock when an aircraft carrying 10 members of the Oklahoma State University basketball team and staff crashed in a snowstorm in Colorado, killing all aboard. Will was OSU's basketball media relations director and his father was director of the NCAA Division I men's basketball tournament at the time. Today, Bill is executive director of the College Football Playoff.



Will Hancock

Bill and his wife, Nicki, coped with how to survive the loss. Bill, who had run 15 marathons, chose to bicycle across the United States in an effort to confront his grief, head-on. He and Nicki started the journey in Huntington Beach, Calif., and concluded at Tybee Island, Ga. Their 2,747-mile journey resulted in a book he wrote in 2015, "Riding with the Blue Moth." I asked Bill to share his thoughts and they lead today's issue.

Today's Connecting brings first responses to the turmoil created within the AP over a decision to crop an African climate activist out of a photo sent to AP members and customers. We would welcome your comment.

Finally, a Poynter story asks: **"Should journalists sacrifice their right to vote in primaries to keep their politics private?"** Written by Kelly McBride, it leads: "What if your boss told you that you weren't allowed to vote? If you're a journalist, it's not unheard of for your manager to rule out this basic civic right. A core journalistic value is objectivity, and voting in a primary that involves publicly declaring yourself a D or an R compromises the public perception of a journalist's neutrality." Click [here](#) to read the story.

Connecting would like to know your thoughts.

Have a great day!

Paul

Kobe Bryant tragedy a personal gut punch as other families cross into lives of grief



Will Hancock (center), his brother, Nate, and their dad Bill Hancock on a backpacking trip across the Grand Canyon in the late 1980s.

Bill Hancock (Email) - The January 26 Kobe Bryant tragedy rocked the sports world at-large and was a personal gut punch for those of us who have endured our own misfortunes. We lost our son, Will, in the crash of the Oklahoma State team's airplane that killed 10 members of the OSU basketball family January 27, 2001. This week's California accident brought back the pain as we realized that other families were crossing into lives of grief.

Reporters were remarkably kind to us in those horrible weeks 19 years ago. Can there be worse duty for a journalist than to have to call a heartbroken father? Many said to me, "Bill, I am grieving for Will and I am sorry to be calling, but my editor wanted me to get some comments from you. Would now be okay?"

Veteran AP scribe Doug Tucker, Kansas City sports editor, a dear friend and professional comrade from my days working in the Big Eight Conference office and the NCAA in Kansas City, did not lay it off onto his editor. But he did call, and reached my wife, Nicki, at our home. Later, Nicki recalled that she didn't know who had wept more: Doug or she.

Doug's heartfelt piece helped us claw through those first few days. His kind thoughts each year continue to boost our spirits, which, despite the blessings of a nice career and three wonderful grandchildren, still sag from time to time.

Nicki and I can only hope and pray that the family of Kobe and Gianna Bryant - and the other families affected by the tragedy in Los Angeles - will receive the same respect that ours did when we suffered our loss.

(Bill Hancock is a former editor of the daily Hobart, Okla., Democrat-Chief and a devotee of "Connecting." He is executive director of the College Football Playoff but insists that he will always be a journalist at heart. His granddaughter, Andrea, is following his footsteps - she is a student in the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University.)

Thoughts on turmoil in AP created by photo cropping

Norm Abelson ([Email](#)) - In regard to the AP cropping out a young black woman, I believe intent must be taken into consideration. There is a difference between insensitivity and outright bigotry.

Still, if someone drops a boulder on your foot, it hurts just as much no matter why it was dropped. I can have empathy for Vanessa Nakate; she should not have had to go through that pain.

Through the years, my family and I have had to fend off numerous examples of anti-Semitism. Some of it was fueled by inherited hatred, other times it was the result of sheer ignorance. Believe me, none of it felt good.

While a little late, I believe the AP is taking the proper steps. First a meaningful apology. Then education and working to understand each other better, yes, and trying to relate to others' pain.

But there is another element here; as a kid I was taught the biblical injunction that words are important, but some action accompanying them is essential. Perhaps the AP could invite Ms. Nakate to visit headquarters in New York for an interview.

Incidentally, I wish I could claim purity, of having a clean slate, of never having uttered any hurtful words. But I can't. My action is to try to do better.

-0-

Bob Daugherty (Email) - In my nearly 50 years in various positions shooting and editing images, one occasion stands out. In my early years I was a staff photographer on The Indianapolis Star. Our Sunday edition contained an eight column of two or three images from Saturday night social events. I recall that on one Saturday night, a gentleman of questionable sobriety was into the left side of an image. I pointed this out to the editor. The next morning, I was surprised to see that artist Gilbert Sweeney had transformed the gentleman into a potted palm.

Times change.

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Marc Humbert (Email) - As my former AP colleague Beth Harpaz has suggested, the least the AP should do now is a complete takeout on Vanessa and the work she has been doing to fight climate change and how she came to her activism and what that has meant to her life at home. She has a story to be told. The AP must do the right thing and tell it. An apology and a promise to be better in the future is not good enough.

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Ray Newton (Email) - Wow-that decision to crop the photo of the five women at Davos-wrong.

Likewise, the decision to suspend the reporter for tweeting about (Kobe) Bryant's trial for the alleged rape.

But such bad decisions do create consequent awareness of the constant need for the ABCs of good journalism-accuracy, balance, and clarity.

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Bob Seavey ([Email](#)) - Glad they're not disciplining staff. In my opinion those contrasting pics show cropping improved photo, especially because it provided a better view of well-known Greta thunberg. Still the trim was unfortunate because editors today need to take more than technical elements into account. But I know from experience that it's hard to keep that in mind when you're busy.

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Hal Spencer ([Email](#)) - One of my favorite AP photographers from back in the day, Portland's Jack Smith, told me "you shoot a frame, but you make a picture." Clearly, in today's world the photo-maker has to consider more than the gold standard of a "nice tight shot." Training will help.

Memories of Frank Wetzel



Frank Wetzel in 1970. (Photo/AP Corporate Archives)

Joe Frazier ([Email](#)) - Sorry to hear about Frank Wetzel. He gave me my first AP job in 1972, the start of a career that lasted nearly 38 years. He was a good guy who lived a good life on his terms and, it seems, left it that way.

Frank was about as far as you can get from the stereotypical hard-boiled COB as you can get. He had an ingrained sense of tolerance and decency and valued that in others.

He tended to hold life out at arm's length. He loved sports but respected those of us who considered the emphasis the AP gave it a pluperfect pain into the prat.

He had a cancer scare on the mid 1970s and said he was not scared of dying as much as he was of not doing the things loved.

He was at the end of the day a very nice guy, maybe too nice given the AP climate of the day. Frank was more of a peacemaker than a warrior.

He hired me off The Oregonian in 1972 and did his best to get me to NYC and the foreign desk but he was not really among The Club in NY. It took five years. We stayed in casual touch well into my years in Mexico and Central America.

We last talked, I think , on about 1985 when I was based in El Salvador. He had moved on from the AP years earlier but we chattered of old times, light gossip, what ever happened to (fill in the blank).

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Kernan Turner (Email) - I remember Frank Wetzel as a firm bureau chief, but a kind and caring gentleman who took a personal interest in helping me further my AP career.

My first job for the Associated Press was as an editor in the Portland, Ore., bureau in 1967. Frank had recruited me earlier during a membership visit to the Albany (Ore.) Democrat-Herald, where I was the 28-year-old managing editor. I asked him at lunch that day for guidance from his perspective on how to become a foreign correspondent. I had long dreamed of working in Latin America, a region that I had first felt in college was too lightly covered by the media. Frank answered, "Join the AP."

At the Portland bureau, Frank's tutelage and encouragement gradually improved my news writing, I passed the six-month trial period, and became an AP employee for life.

Frank's personal guidance helped me achieve my goals. With his support, the AP transferred me to the World Desk in New York and by 1975 I was the news editor in Mexico City and Central America. Later, I served as bureau chief in Lima, Peru; chief of Caribbean Services in San Juan, Puerto Rico; and chief of Iberian Services in Madrid, Spain.

When I retired in 2002 to the town where I was born, Ashland, Ore., we continued a sporadic correspondence by email, and once he stopped for a visit while attending the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland.

Frank's support of his newsmen also helped promote the careers of at least two other longtime Latin American correspondents who joined the AP in Portland, Joe Frazier and Bruce Handler. For a time, Bruce and I worked together on the Portland desk, and Joe landed in the Mexico bureau shortly after I had left for the Lima assignment.

Connecting mailbox

INN head Sue Cross, JSK alumna María Teresa Ronderos join JSK Journalism Fellowships Board of Visitors



Sue Cross (left) and Maria Teresa Ronderos

The John S. Knight Journalism Fellowships at Stanford today (Tuesday) announced the appointment of Sue Cross, executive director and CEO of the Institute for Nonprofit News, and JSK alumna María Teresa Ronderos, a Colombian journalist who is director and co-founder of the Latin American Center for Investigative Journalism, to its Board of Visitors. Ronderos is a member of the JSK Class of 1997.

Stanford President Marc Tessier-Lavigne appointed Cross and Ronderos to the advisory board, which provides strategic guidance for the JSK Fellowships. The program supports diverse, resilient leaders from around the world who are exploring solutions to journalism's most urgent problems both in residence at Stanford and in communities around the world with a network of more than 950 alumni. In collaboration with JSK's directors, the board, which reports to Tessier-Lavigne, extends the impact and visibility of the program.

"Sue and María bring complementary expertise to our board," said Dawn Garcia, director of the JSK Fellowships. "They understand the many dimensions of journalism in the digital age, both at the local and global level, and how the different elements of entrepreneurship, philanthropy, and engagement are creating new models in our communities. Working with other members of the board, their insights will help JSK remain at the forefront of preparing journalists to be effective change agents in journalism."

Read more [here](#).

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Remember the AP portable transmitter?

What Sends Black & White or Color Pictures and Solves a Weighty Problem?

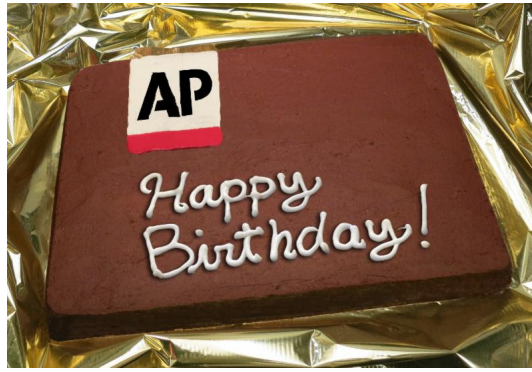
AP's Portable Picture Transmitter!
At only nineteen pounds this little wonder can be hand-carried to any assignment. And its small size makes it carry-on luggage on any airplane. It's not only easy to transport but also a cinch to set up and operate.

Besides color photographs, the AP Portable Picture Transmitter can send black and white photos, drawings and printed material. And it can be used to make color separations. This versatile lightweight already is a hit at dozens of U.S. newspapers. Little wonder.

AP Associated Press

(Shared by Bernd

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Charlie Bruce - cbruceusa@gmail.com

Rich Oppel - richinaus@gmail.com

Stories of interest

Warren Buffett gets out of the newspaper business



FILE - In this May 5, 2019, file photo Warren Buffett, Chairman and CEO of Berkshire

Hathaway, speaks during a game of bridge following the annual Berkshire Hathaway shareholders meeting in Omaha, Neb. (AP Photo/Nati Harnik, File)

By JOSH FUNK

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) - Billionaire Warren Buffett is giving up on the newspaper business.

He's selling all of Berkshire Hathaway's publications to Lee Enterprises for \$140 million, including the Omaha World-Herald in Nebraska and The Buffalo News in New York.

Buffett is a lifelong fan of newspapers but he has said for several years that he expects most of them to continue on their declining trajectory, save for a handful of national papers such as The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal.

The deal covers 31 daily newspapers in 10 states as well as 49 paid weekly publications with digital sites and 32 other print products. Other newspapers include the Tulsa World in Oklahoma and the Winston-Salem Journal in North Carolina. As part of the agreement, Lee will enter into a 10-year lease for BH Media's real estate.

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

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ABC News suspends reporter over inaccurate statement on Kobe Bryant's crash (CNN)

By KERRY FLYNN

New York (CNN Business) - ABC News has suspended Matt Gutman, chief national correspondent, for an inaccurate statement he made on-air Sunday following the death of Kobe Bryant.

Gutman had erroneously reported on-air that all four of Bryant's children were on board the helicopter that crashed on a hillside in Calabasas, California, on Sunday. Bryant and his 13-year-old daughter Gianna died in the crash along with seven other people. Bryant's other children were not on the helicopter.

"Reporting the facts accurately is the cornerstone of our journalism," an ABC News spokesperson said in a statement to CNN Business. "As he acknowledged on Sunday, Matt Gutman's initial reporting was not accurate and failed to meet our editorial standards."

The Los Angeles Times first reported the news of Gutman's suspension.

Gutman had corrected the error and apologized for it later on Sunday.

Read more [here](#).

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What Happens When the News Is Gone? (New Yorker)

By CHARLES BETHEA

For a long time, the commissioners of Pollocksville, a town of three hundred or so people in the far eastern part of North Carolina, held their monthly public meetings in a century-old former train depot on Main Street, near the Trent River. In September, 2018, Hurricane Florence flooded the Trent; the water rose as high as ten feet downtown, severely damaging dozens of structures in Pollocksville. The train depot was nearly destroyed, along with town records that dated back to the nineteenth-twenties.

The commissioners' meetings are now held in a former pharmacy across the street from the Dollar General store. On a Tuesday evening in November, Pollocksville's five town commissioners gathered there, sitting on a raised platform beneath fluorescent lights and an American flag, to which they and the seven residents who had come to the meeting—a typical number of attendees—pledged allegiance. Among the first orders of business was a proposed flood-damage ordinance, one of many responses to Florence that the board has considered in the past year. Jay Bender, who's been the mayor of Pollocksville for nearly four decades, has a solid helmet of

gray hair and a careful drawl. He asked if anyone in the audience would like to comment on it.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Bob Daugherty.

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Ben Smith of BuzzFeed Named New York Times Media Columnist (New York Times)



Ben Smith in his office at BuzzFeed headquarters in 2018. Photo/Drew Angerer/Getty Images

By Mihir Zaveri

Ben Smith, the editor in chief of BuzzFeed, who built a hard-hitting news operation within a digital media organization better known for clickbait and listicles, will be The New York Times's next media columnist.

Mr. Smith will leave the digital news outlet to replace Jim Rutenberg, who recently became a writer at large at The Times, splitting duties between the politics desk and

The Times Magazine. Before Mr. Rutenberg, the columnist position was held for years by David Carr, the prolific media columnist who died in 2015.

An announcement on Tuesday - signed by Dean Baquet, the executive editor; Joe Kahn, the managing editor; and Ellen Pollock, the business editor - called Mr. Smith "a relentless innovator who helped change the shape of modern journalism." He is expected to start on March 2.

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word



By RUDY TAYLOR ([Email](#))

Happy birthday, Kansas.

For a lass of 159, you're still in fabulous shape --- just starting to develop your sea legs, which is a pretty good trick for a prairie girl.

You've taken your share of undeserved jabs over the years, especially among those TV comedians who laugh at your flat chest, not realizing that your other terrain is fully blossomed, curvy and well endowed.

You've got a cute smile --- that wide stretch of prairie that sweeps from Sedan to Emporia to Abilene and north to the collar of your beautiful neck at the Nebraska state line.

Your giggle can be heard every time the wind blows that cool air in from the Colorado Rockies, and your sweet song drifts in and out while your children sleep in the quiet of dawn.

You've been jilted too often by ingrates who gained their wisdom from your mentoring, their stability from your warm embrace, their direction from your footprints, their strength from your traditions, and their very steps from your drum beat.

You're the center of America --- the prime piece of real estate in all the world. What you lack in mountains and oceans you make up in meandering rivers that bear the names of states: The Kansas, Arkansas and the wide Missouri.

Your skies seem bluer, wider and brighter than those in New York or Detroit, and the tall grasses on your prairies light up your eyes in deep green hues. Your days start early, your labor unending, and even your nights emit a certain glow as the stars of the heavens reflect from your waving wheat fields.

Your bashful passion wafts slowly yet lovingly as the mother nation sways to and fro. You gain few accolades for keeping this country on course, but everybody knows that without a solid, brave, unyielding, energized core, this nation would fall off the earth, and the big globe would wobble into the far off skies.

That makes you the belle of the universe, Lady Kansas. And, if ever anyone deserved a day of honor, it's the one whose name is like none other --- Kansas.

(Kansas was admitted to the Union as a free state on January 29, 1861, making it the 34th state to join the United States. This column shared by the Kansas Press Association was first printed by Kansas newspaper publisher Rudy Taylor in 2006,

and has been reprinted many times on the yearly celebration of Kansas Day. Taylor and his family publish three weekly newspapers in southeast Kansas.)

Today in History - January 30, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Jan. 30, the 30th day of 2020. There are 336 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 30, 1933, Adolf Hitler became chancellor of Germany.

On this date:

In 1649, England's King Charles I was executed for high treason.

In 1931, the Charles Chaplin feature "City Lights" had its world premiere in Los Angeles.

In 1945, during World War II, a Soviet submarine torpedoed the German ship MV Wilhelm Gustloff in the Baltic Sea with the loss of more than 9,000 lives, most of them war refugees; roughly 1,000 people survived. Adolf Hitler marked the 12th

anniversary of his appointment as Germany's chancellor with his last public speech in which he called on Germans to keep resisting until victory.

In 1948, Indian political and spiritual leader Mohandas K. Gandhi, 78, was shot and killed in New Delhi by Nathuram Godse (neh-too-RAHM' gahd-SAY'), a Hindu extremist. (Godse and a co-conspirator were later executed.)

In 1962, two members of "The Flying Wallendas" high-wire act were killed when their seven-person pyramid collapsed during a performance at the State Fair Coliseum in Detroit.

In 1968, the Tet Offensive began during the Vietnam War as Communist forces launched surprise attacks against South Vietnamese towns and cities; although the Communists were beaten back, the offensive was seen as a major setback for the U.S. and its allies.

In 1969, The Beatles staged an impromptu concert atop Apple headquarters in London; it was the group's last public performance.

In 1972, 13 Roman Catholic civil rights marchers were shot to death by British soldiers in Northern Ireland on what became known as "Bloody Sunday."

In 1974, President Richard Nixon delivered what would be his last State of the Union address; Nixon pledged to rein in rising prices without the "harsh medicine of recession" and establish a national health care plan that every American could afford.

In 1981, an estimated 2 million New Yorkers turned out for a ticker-tape parade honoring the American hostages freed from Iran.

In 1993, Los Angeles inaugurated its Metro Red Line, the city's first modern subway.

In 2005, Iraqis voted in their country's first free election in a half-century; President George W. Bush called the balloting a resounding success.

Ten years ago: China suspended military exchange visits with the United States in protest over \$6.4 billion in planned U.S. arms sales to Taiwan. (Those exchanges were reinstated in Jan. 2011.) Thousands of demonstrators from across Japan marched in central Tokyo to protest the U.S. military presence on Okinawa. Serena

Williams ended Justine Henin's (EH'-nenz) hopes of a Grand Slam title in her return from retirement with a 6-4, 3-6, 6-2 victory in the Australian Open final.

Five years ago: Mitt Romney announced that he had put "considerable thought into making another run for president," but in the end, he decided to give other leaders in the Republican party a chance. Death Row Records co-founder Marion "Suge" Knight was arrested on suspicion of hitting and killing a man with his truck and fleeing the scene of the crash near Los Angeles. (Knight is serving a 28-year sentence after pleading no contest to voluntary manslaughter.)

One year ago: President Donald Trump lashed out at his intelligence chiefs after they told Congress that North Korea was unlikely to dismantle its nuclear arsenal and that the Iran nuclear deal was working; Trump tweeted, "Perhaps Intelligence should go back to school!" A California panel recommended that Charles Manson follower Leslie Van Houten be paroled after serving more than four decades in prison. (Gov. Gavin Newsom overruled the decision, marking the third time a governor had stopped Van Houten's release.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor Gene Hackman is 90. Actress Vanessa Redgrave is 83. Country singer Jeanne Pruett is 83. Chess grandmaster Boris Spassky is 83. Country singer Norma Jean is 82. Former Vice President Dick Cheney is 79. Rhythm-and-blues musician William King (The Commodores) is 71. Singer Phil Collins is 69. Actor Charles S. Dutton is 69. World Golf Hall of Famer Curtis Strange is 65. Actress Ann Dowd is 64. Actress-comedian Brett Butler is 62. Singer Jody Watley is 61. Actor-filmmaker Dexter Scott King is 59. The King of Jordan, Abdullah II, is 58. Actor Wayne Wilderson (TV: "Veep") is 54. Actor Norbert Leo Butz is 53. The King of Spain, Felipe VI, is 52. Country singer Tammy Cochran is 48. Actor Christian Bale is 46. Rock musician Carl Broemel (My Morning Jacket) is 46. Actress Olivia Colman is 46. Actress-singer Lena Hall is 40. Pop-country singer-songwriter Josh Kelley is 40. Actor Wilmer Valderrama is 40. Actress Mary Hollis Inboden is 34. Actress Kylie Bunbury is 31. Actor Jake Thomas is 30. Actress Danielle Campbell is 25.

Thought for Today: "Courage is the art of being the only one who knows you're scared to death." [-] Harold Wilson, British prime minister (1916-1995).

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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