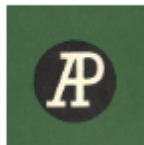


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Connecting

July 30, 2020

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Colleagues,

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

Since she joined the Kansas City bureau in 1997, **Kia Breaux** had success written all over her and progressed through various Associated Press news and administrative assignments with talent and hard work – qualities that also have made her a great mom to two young sons.

So it was no surprise when the Missouri Press Association on Wednesday selected her to join two others – **Dane Vernon** and **Laura Hockaday** – for its Newspaper Hall of Fame Class of 2020.

Please join me in congratulating our colleague on a great honor and being a wonderful credit to The Associated Press.

Today's Connecting brings you more of your colleagues' stories on their favorite car – led by an intriguing piece by **Myron Belkind** on purchasing a retired London black cab for his family when he was transferred by AP to England from New Delhi in the late 1970s. Hope you share your story.

Have a great day – be safe and stay healthy.

Paul

AP's Kia Breaux among 3 selected to Missouri Newspaper Hall of Fame



AP regional director **Kia Breaux** ([Email](#)) is among three who were named Wednesday to the 30th class of the Missouri Newspaper Hall of Fame.

Due to event cancellations caused by COVID-19, their actual induction will be delayed until the 2021 Annual Convention and Trade Show of the Missouri Press Association at The Elms Hotel in Excelsior Springs when they will be inducted with the 2021 class.

Selected with Breaux were the late **Laura Hockaday**, longtime society editor for The Kansas City Star, and **Dane Vernon**, former publisher of Vernon Publishing and former

MPA President.

Hall of Fame inductees or their families receive Pinnacle Awards in honor of the inductees' service to the Missouri newspaper industry and their communities. Inductees' plaques will join the permanent display of inductees in the MPA office in Columbia and in the student lounge in Lee Hills Hall at the Missouri School of Journalism.

A 24-year journalism professional, Breaux is the Midwest regional director for The Associated Press based in Kansas City. As regional director, she's responsible for business development and managing strategic partnerships.



Kansas City AP connections abounded in 2019 when AP Executive Editor Sally Buzbee was honored with the William Allen White Foundation's national citation. From left: Kia Breaux, Paul Stevens, Peg Coughlin and Sally Buzbee. All worked in KX at one point in their careers.

A 1996 graduate of the Missouri School of Journalism, she worked in Washington, D.C., for Bridge News and Knight-Ridder Financial News before joining AP in 1997 in the Kansas City bureau. She was promoted to correspondent in the AP's Roanoke, Va., bureau and later was named news editor for Nebraska operations, based in Omaha. She returned to Kansas City in 2005 as assistant chief of bureau for Missouri and Kansas, then interim bureau chief in 2008 and bureau chief in 2010.

In support of her nomination, Diane Parker, director of Staffing and Diversity for the AP, said Breaux “has been an excellent role model as an exemplary leader who excels in her responsibilities and in her commitment to diversity. I have worked closely with Kia in advancing AP’s diversity recruitment initiative. She has promoted AP at various conventions and recommended high-caliber journalists who were hired at the company in leadership roles.

“In addition, Kia actively sources students for AP’s Global News Internship Program and has successfully served as a mentor for a number of our interns who are now accomplished journalists in their own right. Kia has held progressively higher-level roles within the organization due to her demonstrated ability to excellence, her flexible and visionary leadership style and her solid knowledge of the company and the industry.”

Tad Bartimus, a Connecting colleague and one of AP’s finest writers, who was inducted to the Missouri Hall in 2016, said she interviewed Breaux during her 2015-16 Reynolds Journalism Fellowship year. “Her life story’s foundation, I learned, is grounded in gumption, grit and a determination to create her own luck. Watching her career from a distance over many years, its hallmarks seem to be an instinct to do what is right and the perseverance to move forward while bringing others along with her.”

Breaux’s commitment to journalism extends beyond her day job, including having served as a member of the Missourian Publishing Association Board of Directors, Mizzou’s Honors College Advisory Council and the Mizzou Alumni Association Board of Directors. She also serves as vice president of the Missouri Sunshine Coalition, and a trustee of the William Allen White Foundation.

Todd McCubbin, executive director of the Mizzou Alumni Association, said, “Kia is a tremendous volunteer leader for Mizzou. She is the consummate professional who provides timely and critical advice to the university leadership on a variety of topics.”

She Votes!

Week 2

Are Women People?

By Lynn Sherr ([Email](#))

Are Women People?

Seriously?

It’s a question that haunts the through-line of women’s battle for the ballot, and it’s the title of Episode 2 of our new podcast, [She Votes!](#)

And it will surprise no reader of *Connecting* that the of woman suffrage is closely linked to the history of American journalism.

My co-host, Ellen Goodman (Pulitzer-prize-winning columnist based at the Boston Globe) and I couldn't help but turn to our professional homes when we looked at the way women were treated during the seven-decade battle for the ballot. Legally, socially and personally, they were often second-class citizens at best. Susan B. Anthony (see Episode 1) was arrested in 1872 for the crime of voting while female. Sojourner Truth had to speak out to prove her womanhood as an African American, formerly enslaved.

As reporters in the modern era who were born with the right to vote, and so many more liberties denied our foremothers, we still saw the enduring reliance on biology and tradition to keep us in our place. At first.

Long before I got to ABC News, its president had said that women's voices were not "appropriate for reporting crucial events. For hard-core news, the depth and resonance of the male voice are indispensable." Right.

And Ellen's first job was at *Newsweek* in 1963, when women were not allowed to write. She'd gone to college with Peter Benchley, who later wrote *Jaws*, but at *Newsweek* she ended up working *for* him. At a fraction of the salary. That was legal then.

So what a delight to discover the column in the liberal New York *Tribune* that Alice Duer Miller wrote in the early 20th century. She took on the anti-suffrage opposition and reflected the absurdity of their arguments back at them. She was, according to historian Mary Chapman from the University of British Columbia, the original Jon Stewart, quoting something dumb said by a legislator and then skewering him with it.

For instance, vice-president Thomas Marshall came out against the vote for women, saying, "My wife is against suffrage and that settles it for me." So Alice wrote (as she did often, in poetry), "My wife dislikes the income tax, and so I cannot pay it. She thinks that golf all interest lacks, so now I never play it." Et cetera.

Alice Duer Miller made fun of anti-suffrage men by hoisting them on their own dopey petards. Another example: anti-suffrage organizations often printed lists like, "Why we oppose votes for women." Alice's list was called, "Why We Oppose Votes for Men." Reason #5: "Because men are too emotional to vote. Their conduct at baseball games and political conventions shows this, while their innate tendency to appeal to force renders them peculiarly unfit for the task of government."

Brava.

Have I mentioned that Alice's column was called, "Are Women People?"

So yes, journalism to the rescue, at least temporarily. And Alice Duer Miller for the ages. Lots more in the podcast, of course. But I'll end on my all-time favorite Alice poem, which may explain our struggle better than any other. It's another poem, a dialogue between a little girl and her mom:

"Mother, what is a feminist?"

"A feminist, my daughter,

Is any woman now who cares

To think about her own affairs

As men don't think she oughter."

Hope you enjoy the podcast as much as we did creating it.

More memories of your first or favorite rides



Myron Belkind ([Email](#)) - When in London, buy one of the famous black cabs!

That's what we did following our transfer from New Delhi in the late 1970s, and it was the perfect setting for family outings.

In those days, the London black cab could only be a licensed hackney for 10 years, and then they were sold to other cities with less stringent rules or, as in our case, to crazy Americans!

As often would happen, Rachel and I, along with our daughter Yael and our son Joshua, would set out for a family picnic and, of course, it would inevitably start raining. No problem! Just pull over to a nice scenic area, usually Hyde Park, and have that picnic lunch in the back passenger area, large enough for a family of four.

Or, when taking our two children to school and we were running late, I would drive them down the special taxi lane of Finchley Road to the American School in London, thus avoiding the rush hour traffic.

I also would use the taxi to drive to the AP London bureau in the Fleet Street area, a scene depicted in the caricature above drawn by Peter West, a designer for Herman Miller, which supplied the modular work stations for the newsroom when AP moved from its old offices on Farringdon Street to what was officially named by the City of London as The Associated Press House on Norwich Street in 1983.

AP House was a major hub for AP news, photos, communications, accounts, AP Radio and AP Dow Jones. In 1994, it became the birthplace and headquarters of APTV. The six-story building also was an international press center, with tenants from the Sydney Morning Herald, Canadian Press, Yomiuri Shimbun and Mainichi Shimbun.

A footnote: if there was one problem with our London taxi, it occurred on the way home each evening. Driving through Hampstead in north London and stopping by a red light outside one of the area's many pubs, someone would inevitably open the door and get into the back seat and tell me where he or she would want to go. It might have been tempting to earn a few British pounds, but instead I had to explain why I was not an official licensed hackney and I was on the way home for dinner with my family. Hearing an American accent, everyone politely exited the taxi.

It all was great fun until after three years our London taxi's diesel engine gave out just outside the Royal Free Hospital. I called the London Cab Company from which we had purchased the taxi and had them come and tow it away, leaving me with the special rear license plate, which said "Myron's Taxi". We still keep it as among the memorabilia from our days in London.

-0-



Mike Harris ([Email](#)) - In 1961, my first year of college, I was driving a very basic Chevrolet Biscayne. It was decent transportation, but certainly not very exciting. I had my heart set on upgrading to an Impala.

But I had no money.

I was attending the University of Wisconsin and living with my parents. My dad got tired of hearing me talk about getting a "better" car and finally said, "If you can earn enough to pay for half of a new car, I'll pay the other half."

It was a challenge I could not turn down.

Over the next two years, while attending school, I worked part-time at several different jobs - a clothing store, an Army-Navy store, working one summer on a road crew and writing sports for the Madison City Recreation Department and as a part-timer for the Wisconsin State Journal.

Finally, I had put together \$1,400. By then, I had moved on from dreaming about an Impala to dreaming about a new Pontiac GTO. We priced them and, lo and behold, my \$1,400 was almost exactly half of a new GTO convertible.

I loved that car. Once, on I-80 in Iowa, where it was six lanes wide and you could see for about 20 miles in every direction, I found myself all alone, put my foot down on the accelerator and buried the speedometer needle below the 120 mark for about a minute. Smooth.

That's the car I was driving when I met my future wife, Judy, at the UW. She didn't drive a stick shift car and, when we were about to get married in 1968, I knew the GTO was no family car, I traded in the GTO for an Oldsmobile Cutlass two-door coup

with automatic transmission. But I still have occasional dreams about driving that GTO. It's certainly the best car I ever owned.

-0-



Mike Holmes ([Email](#)) - Another vote for the Austin-Healey Sprite. It was my first new car. When not driving, racing or rallying it, I made the payments with a job at a car wash. Which is where I learned about irony.

You see, those flimsy roadster tops fit so poorly you couldn't take it through a car wash (or thunderstorm) without major leaks. In fact, one chapter in Dick O'Kane's foreign car repair book was titled: "Why, when Britannia rules the waves, will her cars not go through a puddle?"

But on sunny days it was a blast, and I do wish I'd kept it.

-0-



Marty McCarty ([Email](#)) - The car I cherished was my wood-sided Chrysler Town and Country convertible, thanks to the inspiration of Lee Iacocca. I'd pick my son up at the roller skating rink on Friday nights and we'd cruise around town, top down on the convertible, singing to Creedence Clearwater Revival--Born on the Bayou--at the highest volume.

Now that's a summer night!

I suggest our Connecting editor do the same in his red VW convertible, top down, Roy Orbison crooning Pretty Woman, mile after mile on the open road.

-0-



Mark Mittelstadt ([Email](#)) - All those sporty cars put my 1992 Miata to shame! LOL. It's Dad's Fun car to take out on weekends (when it's a little cooler. Jim (Hood), I hear you about having a convertible in the Southwest heat — it has "air" when you put the top down!)

As news editor in Des Moines I bought (photographer) Bob Jarboe's company car, a Chevy Impala, for myself. By the time I got to the company car stage of my career, AP had shrunk its Pontiac model from the Prix to the Am. But it was still a nice car and the fleet manager in NY found me one in Albuquerque with a lot of upgrades, including a bigger engine that made it a lot of fun to drive in the NM mountains and on wide open roads.

I had to leave that car to Dale Leach.

The boys were growing, so when I got to New Jersey I opted for the Taurus. I kept my second company Taurus when I started commuting by train to NY and gave it my younger son, who drove it into the ground via high school and then college.

In addition to the Miata, we have a 2003 F150 which has come in handy in more ways than I would have imagined, and Mary's beloved Mazda3.

Delicate situation ... involving Shirley Temple

Henry Bradsher ([Email](#)) - Perhaps a number of AP reporters have been in the delicate situation of breaking the news of a death to the deceased's close relative. Mine involved Shirley Temple.

In the mid-1960s, when I was Moscow bureau chief, the 1930s child star came to Moscow with her husband, Charles A. Black (pictured at right). A member of a prominent and wealthy California family with a Silver Star from his Navy service, Black was exploring business possibilities for the electronics Ampex Corporation.



We naturally covered the visit, and I talked with him and Shirley several times. Then one day the AP wire reported one of Black's parents had died (I forget whether father or mother). Seeing this, I phoned the hotel where they were staying. Black answered. But I asked for Shirley, thinking it was better for her to tell him rather than my doing so. She thanked me, saying the news was not unexpected.

An adorable child, she was a charming adult, active in many causes. Representing the International Federation of Multiple Sclerosis Societies, she was in Prague when the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact invaded Czechoslovakia in August 1968 to crush the Prague Spring, seeing from her hotel roof a woman shot down by Soviet tanks. She later became the U.S. ambassador to Ghana, chief of protocol in Washington, and then ambassador to Czechoslovakia during the Velvet Revolution that ended Communism there.

Connecting sky shot – Parker Canyon Lake



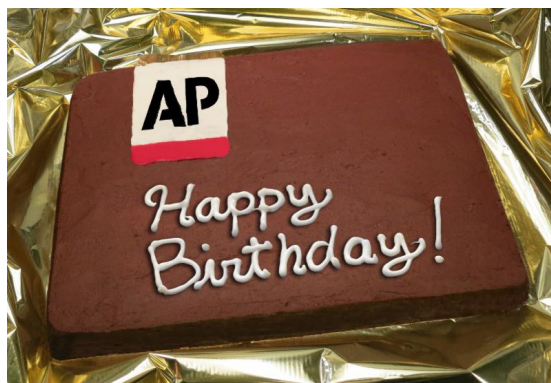
Mark Mittelstadt ([Email](#)) - Desert monsoon showers in the distance were painted orange by the sunset as we drove back to Tucson from Parker Canyon Lake in southern Arizona. Matt, our daughter-in-law Mari and grand stepson, Moises, joined Mary and I for a refreshing visit to the lake. We got drenched by a late afternoon rain and thunderstorm and headed home. It was 65 degrees when we left the lake; 97 when we got to Tucson around 9 pm.

Remembering Nancy Kassebaum – a Kansas legend



Paul Stevens ([Email](#)) – I noted in Wednesday’s Birthdays section of Today in History that Nancy Kassebaum, the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate from Kansas, celebrated her 88th birthday. It took me back to 1978 when she was 45 and I was 31, working in Wichita as AP’s correspondent who covered her election to the Senate in the November elections. I have seen her twice since, at the retirement party for longtime Topeka Correspondent Lew Ferguson – a good friend of her father, 1936 Republican presidential candidate Alf Landon – and three years ago, at the memorial service for Ferguson. I cannot think of anyone I covered who was a nicer person than Nancy. I wish her many more birthdays.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



David Briscoe - dcbriscoejr@gmail.com

Stories of interest

New Pentagon training refers to protesters, journalists as 'adversaries' (Politico)

By LARA SELIGMAN

A new mandatory Pentagon training course aimed at preventing leaks refers to protesters and journalists as "adversaries" in a fictional scenario designed to teach Defense Department personnel how to better protect sensitive information.

The new course was recently launched as part of Defense Secretary Mark Esper's effort to improve "operational security," or OPSEC, and clamp down on leaks. The training materials are public and include a video message from Esper, as well as a July 20 memo outlining his concerns about operational security and directing all DoD personnel — military, civilian and on-site contractors — to take the course within the next 60 days.

"Unfortunately, poor OPSEC practices within DoD in the past have resulted in the unauthorized disclosure or 'leaks,'" Esper writes in the memo. "The Department of Defense (DoD) remains committed to transparency to promote accountability and public trust. [However] unauthorized disclosures jeopardize our DoD personnel, operations, strategies and policies to the benefit of our adversaries."

Read more [here](#) . Shared by Dennis Conrad.

-0-

Column: What happened to an America where you could freely speak your mind? (Chicago Tribune)

By JOHN KASS

The angry left-handed broom of America's cultural revolution uses fear to sweep through our civic, corporate and personal life.

It brings with it attempted intimidation, shame and the usual demands for ceremonies of public groveling.

It is happening in newsrooms in New York, Philadelphia, Los Angeles. And now it's coming for me, in an attempt to shame me into silence.

Here's what happened:

Last week, with violence spiking around the country, I wrote a column on the growing sense of lawlessness in America's urban areas.

In response, the Tribune newspaper union, the Chicago Tribune Guild, which I have repeatedly and politely declined to join, wrote an open letter to management defaming me, by falsely accusing me of religious bigotry and fomenting conspiracy theories.

Newspaper management has decided not to engage publicly with the union. So I will.

Read more [here](#) . Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

-0-

Local journalism is on its knees – endangering democracy. Who will save it? (Guardian)

By ADAM GABBATT

One of the worst affected industries during the coronavirus outbreak has been, ironically, a profession that should have been reporting on it.

Scores of newspapers have laid off staff, or closed entirely, in the past four months, in what one expert has predicted will be an “extinction-level” event for the industry.

The more recent cuts come to an industry which has long been in decline, robbing large swathes of the US of news coverage, and it's the state of journalism that is examined in *Ghosting the News*, a book by the Washington Post media columnist Margaret Sullivan, which lays out the state of journalism in America, and the desperate need for its revival.

Read more [here](#) . Shared by Dennis Conrad.

Today in History - July 30, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, July 30, the 212th day of 2020. There are 154 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 30, 1945, the Portland class heavy cruiser USS Indianapolis, having just delivered components of the atomic bomb to Tinian in the Mariana Islands, was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine; only 317 out of nearly 1,200 men survived.

On this date:

In 1619, the first representative assembly in America convened in Jamestown in the Virginia Colony.

In 1792, the French national anthem "La Marseillaise" (lah mar-seh-YEHZ'), by Claude Joseph Rouget de Lisle, was first sung in Paris by troops arriving from Marseille.

In 1844, the New York Yacht Club was founded.

In 1908, the first round-the-world automobile race, which had begun in New York in February, ended in Paris with the drivers of the American car, a Thomas Flyer, declared the winners over teams from Germany and Italy.

In 1916, German saboteurs blew up a munitions plant on Black Tom, an island near Jersey City, New Jersey, killing about a dozen people.

In 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a measure making "In God We Trust" the national motto, replacing "E Pluribus Unum" (Out of many, one).

In 1960, the recently founded American Football League saw its first pre-season game, in which the Boston Patriots defeated the host Buffalo Bills 28-7.

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed a measure creating Medicare, which began operating the following year.

In 1975, former Teamsters union president Jimmy Hoffa disappeared in suburban Detroit; although presumed dead, his remains have never been found.

In 1980, Israel's Knesset passed a law reaffirming all of Jerusalem as the capital of the Jewish state.

In 2001, Robert Mueller (MUHL'-ur), President George W. Bush's choice to head the FBI, promised the Senate Judiciary Committee that if confirmed, he would move forcefully to fix problems at the agency. (Mueller became FBI director on Sept. 4, 2001, a week before the 9/11 attacks.)

In 2003, President George W. Bush took personal responsibility for the first time for using discredited intelligence in his State of the Union address, but predicted he would be vindicated for going to war against Iraq.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama toured Chrysler and General Motors assembly plants, where he offered an upbeat assessment of the U.S. auto industry a year after the big government bailouts. A 12-year-old Florida girl was seriously injured when she plunged about 100 feet to the ground from an amusement park free-fall ride in Lake Delton, Wisconsin. (Nets and air bags that were supposed to catch Teagan Marti (TEE'-gehn MAHR'-tee) had not been deployed.)

Five years ago: The Associated Press released the results of a five-month independent study it had commissioned which found that athletes competing in the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro would be swimming and boating in waters so rife with sewage bacteria and viruses, they faced the risk of becoming seriously ill. The Afghan Taliban confirmed the death of longtime leader Mullah Mohammad Omar and appointed his successor, Mullah Akhtar Mansoor. Singer Lynn Anderson, 67, whose strong, husky voice carried her to the top of the charts with "(I Never Promised You a) Rose Garden," died in Nashville, Tennessee.

One year ago: At a debate in Detroit, the "Medicare for All" proposal from the leading Democratic progressive candidates came under fire from moderates who warned that "wish list economics" would hurt the party's chances for winning the White House in 2020. President Donald Trump marked the 400th anniversary of American democracy at an event in Jamestown, Virginia; it was boycotted by Black Virginia lawmakers angered by Trump's continued disparagement of veteran Black congressman Elijah Cummings. Hall of Fame football middle linebacker Nick Buoniconti, who helped lead the Miami Dolphins to their unbeaten record in 1972, died at the age of 78.

Today's Birthdays: Former Major League Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig is 86. Blues musician Buddy Guy is 84. Movie director Peter Bogdanovich is 81. Feminist activist Eleanor Smeal is 81. Former U.S. Rep. Patricia Schroeder is 80. Singer Paul Anka is 79. Jazz musician David Sanborn is 75. Former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is

73. Actor William Atherton is 73. Actor Jean Reno (zhahn rih-NOH') is 72. Blues singer-musician Otis Taylor is 72. Actor Frank Stallone is 70. Actor Ken Olin is 66. Actress Delta Burke is 64. Law professor Anita Hill is 64. Singer-songwriter Kate Bush is 62. Country singer Neal McCoy is 62. Actor Richard Burgi is 62. Movie director Richard Linklater is 60. Actor Laurence Fishburne is 59. Actress Lisa Kudrow is 57. Bluegrass musician Danny Roberts (The Grascals) is 57. Country musician Dwayne O'Brien is 57. Actress Vivica A. Fox is 56. Actor Terry Crews is 52. Actor Simon Baker is 51. Actor Donnie Keshawarz is 51. Movie director Christopher Nolan is 50. Actor Tom Green is 49. Rock musician Brad Hargreaves (Third Eye Blind) is 49. Actress Christine Taylor is 49. Actor-comedian Dean Edwards is 47. Actress Hilary Swank is 46. Olympic gold medal beach volleyball player Misty May-Treanor is 43. Actress Jaime Pressly is 43. Alt-country singer-musician Seth Avett (AY'-veht) is 40. Actress April Bowlby is 40. Soccer player Hope Solo is 39. Actress Yvonne Strahovski is 38. Actor Martin Starr is 38. Actress Gina Rodriguez is 36. Actor Nico Tortorella is 32. Actress Joey King is 21.

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.



Paul Stevens

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