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Connecting
January 22, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this the 22nd day of January 2021,

"We've come a long way, baby."

That was the title of a posting by colleague **Kristin Gazlay** on Facebook of the 1966 AP World story – Welcome, Ladies! – that was published in Thursday's Connecting. Kristin's posting received a flood of comment from AP men and women past and present – most of it understandably negative toward the condescending tone toward female staffers.

One woman said, "We stand on the shoulders of the gals who came before us."

Today, four of the eight members of the AP Management Committee are women:

Jessica Bruce, Senior Vice President, Human Resources & Corporate Communications

Sally Buzbee, Senior Vice President, Executive Editor

Karen Kaiser, Senior Vice President, General Counsel, Corporate Secretary

Daisy Veerasingham, Senior Vice President, Chief Revenue Officer

Our colleague **Joyce Rosenberg** has strong feelings about the topic that lead today's issue.

Have a great weekend – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Enraged by articles how AP condescended to, patronized female staffers

Joyce Rosenberg (Email) - I was enraged on several levels by the articles about how AP condescended to and patronized its female staffers. (See Thursday's Connecting.) Look beyond the insulting "gals" and "ladies" which reveal a denigrating attitude toward women. Look at the numbers. They are appalling. In 1972, there were nine women in the Washington, D.C., bureau out of how many more men who were journalists? Three in Los Angeles, again, out of how many? But you can hear the men patting themselves on the back, chuckling.

In the interest of full disclosure ... When I was a per diem in the Broadcast Department in New York in the fall of 1977, there were four women out of 34 staffers. I was passed over twice for a permanent job as two men with less time there were hired ahead of me -- despite supervisors' great reviews of my work. It took nearly six months for me to go on staff, and it didn't happen until one of those four women left. Now, look at the number of women in the 1972 article: four.

It was a very different time in this country and world, to be sure. But the AP was also way behind as that world changed, and it remained behind even after the EEOC suit against the company was settled in the early 1980s.

Some signs of change through the years that are important to note, acknowledge and encourage. The first is personal.

-- Once I made it on staff, I pretty much was on an upward trajectory for the rest of my career, and I know that was based on my performance, period. I have always appreciated that.

- -- As we know, women have made it to the most senior positions in the News Department. The last two executive editors have been women. The last three people who have led the Washington, D.C., bureau have been women. I have been a manager in Business News and I have worked for a business editor who was a woman. I would say this momentum began in the last two decades.
- -- The AP has acknowledged within the past year that it has more work to do on diversity and inclusion. I do see more change, and I am looking forward to even more including more people of color joining women in senior ranks of news management.

Napalm girl coverup

Jim Carrier (Email) - I wanted to pass on a brief, bizarre sidebar about Nick Ut's "napalm girl" photo.

I was on duty at the Hartford bureau when the photo moved. It was shot June 8, 1972, and moved on the wire in time for PM papers. The Hartford Times, then owned by Gannett, ran it prominently, but covered the girl's belly and crotch with a crudely drawn pair of shorts. Some staffer described it as a looking like a smudge from a chocolate bar. The edges of the "shorts" were wider than her body.

I called the city editor and let him know how stupid it looked. I don't remember whether they removed it in a later edition. The Hartford Courant, the morning paper, played it straight and raw the next day. By then, of course, the photo was in print worldwide. The NY Times published at the bottom of page 1 on June 9.

Googling around in a vain attempt to find the Hartford Times for the day, I found a 9/9/16 story that Facebook removed the image from a Norwegian author's page, saying it violated its rules on nudity. When Norway's prime minister, Erna Solberg, posted it on her profile, in protest, Facebook deleted that too, according to a "Tribune Wire Services" piece in the Chicago Tribune. Here are some grafs from the story:

Initially, Facebook stood by the decision, saying it was difficult to create a distinction between allowing a photograph of a nude child in one instance and not others. But late Friday it said it would allow sharing of the photo.

"In this case, we recognize the history and global importance of this image in documenting a particular moment in time," Facebook said in a statement. "Because of its status as an iconic image of historical importance, the value of permitting sharing outweighs the value of protecting the community by removal, so we have decided to reinstate the image on Facebook where we are aware it has been removed."

"Today, pictures are such an important element in making an impression, that if you edit past events or people, you change history and you change reality," Solberg told

the AP earlier Friday, adding it was the first time one of her Facebook posts was deleted.



Solberg later reposted the image with a black box covering the girl from the thighs up. She also posted other iconic photos of historic events, such as the man standing in front of a tank in Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1989, with black boxes covering the protagonists.

Like its Scandinavian neighbors, Norway takes pride in its freedom of speech. It's also a largely secular nation with relaxed attitudes about nudity.

Several members of the Norwegian government followed Solberg's lead and posted the photo on their Facebook pages. One of them, Education Minister Torbjorn Roe Isaksen, said it was "an iconic photo, part of our history."

Biden Snipes at (AP) Reporter Questioning His Vaccine Plan: 'C'mon, Give Me a Break Man'

By Joe DePaoloJan, MEDIAite

President Joe Biden has gotten into his first dustup with the media since taking office.

It happened Thursday in the White House when the AP's Zeke Miller pressed Biden about one of the signature promises of his first 100 days — the pledge that 100 million doses of the coronavirus vaccine will be administered in that time.

"You set the goal at 100 million vaccines in the first 100 days — is that high enough?" Miller asked. "Shouldn't we set the bar higher? That's basically where the U.S. is right now."

Biden bristled at the question and sniped at Miller in response.

"When I announced it you all said it's not possible," Biden said. "Come on, give me a break, man. It's a good start, 100 million."

The president did not engage further. He got up and left the room as an aide broke up the proceedings by urging reporters out.

Read more **here**. Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

A perfect day

Joni Beall (Email) - I spent Inauguration Day in my den, fixed on the TV. I sobbed, big time. My nightmare was over. Joe Biden's calm voice ushered in a new era. And, being a woman, I bawled something fierce when Kamala Harris was sworn in. But my big WOW moment came in the evening when Jennifer Psaki stood at the podium and conducted --- wait for it -- a real news conference. Questions! Answers! It was so refreshing. She even smiled. That, and seeing Bruce Springsteen in front of the Lincoln Memorial, really topped off my perfect day.

A new blog on media, politics – you're welcome to join, offer thoughts

Bill Wertz (Email) - I've launched a new blog on media and politics called "2wiceasfast" on Facebook. This is sort of a New Haven-style tryout before it opens on Broadway (with a stand-alone web site) "2wiceasfast" comes from a comment by Lewis Carroll's Red Queen, who tells Alice that in her country " ... it takes all the running you can do just to keep in the same place. If you want to get somewhere else, you have to run twice as fast as that!"

Many of the people I talk to these days are anxious, upset and bewildered by the constant swirl of events these days. They're fed up with angry political gridlock and feel they can't depend on the media any longer to tell them what's really going on. (Let me stress that these are not just people our age!) I started the blog to provoke discussion and commentary from others, I would bet no one knows more about the media and how it works than the "Connecting" family. It would be wonderful to be able to share their observations. You don't have to have a FB



account to read and comment on the blog. Also, comments can be shared privately with me via e-mail, and I welcome constructive feedback, positive and negative. I hope members of the "Connecting" audience will add their own thoughts. A recent post is included below. For more, go to: facebook.com/2wiceasfast

Latest Newsweek issue features AP's Nick Ut and decision to accept Medal of Arts



Nick Ut (<u>Email</u>) - Many people asked me why I accepted the Medal of Arts from President Trump. I explained why to senior editor Jenny Haward in the new issue of Newsweek with photographs by @MarkEdwardHarrisPhoto.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This same Newsweek story in print edition appeared on its web site last week and was published in Connecting. Click **here**.

Connecting snowman - Michigan



Hank Ackerman (<u>Email</u>) - Along the Huron River, some 10 miles west of Ann Arbor in Dexter, there is a micro-snowman...

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Amir Bibawy - qmiro@yahoo.com

Charles Pittman - <u>cpittman@schurz.com</u>

On Sunday to...

Lisa Perlman Greathouse - <u>lgreathouse@verizon.net</u>

Lisa Pane – <u>lpane@ap.org</u>

Stories of interest

Pam Johnson, former top editor of The Arizona Republic and Phoenix Gazette, has died at 74 (Arizona Republic)

Russ Wiles Arizona Republic

Pam Johnson, a trailblazing journalist who led The Arizona Republic's newsroom and that of the sibling Phoenix Gazette for 13 years, died Jan. 20 in Overland Park, Kansas, at age 74 after a lengthy battle with dementia.

"She was very peaceful and comfortable, and we were very blessed to have the opportunity to bring her home on Christmas Eve to be with family for a few hours," her son Matthew said in an email. "It was a wonderful occasion, and she was very happy."

In addition to a lengthy career in media management, Johnson served as a Pulitzer Prize juror, a judge for writing awards at the American Society of Newspaper Editors, as president of Associated Press Managing Editors and on various industry boards.





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The media had a role to play in the rise of Trump. It's time to hold ourselves accountable. (Washington Post)

Opinion by Karen Attiah Global Opinions editor

The national nightmare of Donald Trump's presidency is over. Or so we think.

For those who firmly believe in the promise of the American experiment, that multicultural democracy is worth fighting for, Joe Biden's inauguration feels like a reprieve, a cooling balm on the second- and third-degree burns that Trump and his enablers have inflicted on our country. The essence of it arrived the historic moment that Sonia Sotomayor, the first Latina Supreme Court justice, swore into office Kamala D. Harris, the first female, Black and South Asian vice president.

In his inaugural address, Biden spoke about "a rise of political extremism, white supremacy, domestic terrorism that we must confront and we will defeat." The laudable frankness about the threat of white supremacy surprised me, but I wish I could share his confidence about confronting and defeating it.

Since the Capitol siege of Jan. 6, federal and local officials have been scrambling to fortify Washington and its institutions against the threat of white supremacy and violence, but one national institution remains painfully vulnerable: the mainstream media.

Read more **here**. Shared by Michael Rubin.

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Smooth Psaki shows new tone in first Biden press briefing (AP)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — If there's one thing clear after White House press secretary Jen Psaki's first session with reporters on Wednesday, it's that she's determined to minimize drama in the briefing room.

Her 31-minute news conference stood in stark contrast to Sean Spicer's first time before reporters four years earlier. Spicer made the plainly false claim that President Donald Trump's inauguration crowd was the largest in history, which he later said he regretted.

Psaki's session was sedate, even boring at times, due at least in part to the newness of the administration.

She promised to make the sessions a weekday routine ("not Saturday and Sunday. I'm not a monster"). The 42-year-old Psaki (pronounced SOCK-eee) was a State Department spokesperson and White House communications director in former President Barack Obama's administration.

She didn't see it as a choice when asked by Associated Press reporter Zeke Miller whether she saw her job as promoting Biden's interests or providing the unvarnished truth on issues to the American people.

Read more here.

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The media can be glad for the Biden White House's return to normalcy. But let's not be lulled. (Washington Post)

By Margaret Sullivan Media columnist

White House press secretary Jen Psaki was prepared. She was professional. She was noncombative.

And she didn't peddle a whopper of a lie, the way Sean Spicer did on Day One four years ago with his "alternative facts" about the supposedly record-breaking size of the inaugural crowd.

The first official words by President Biden's spokeswoman included truth and transparency. "Rebuilding trust with the American people will be central to our focus," the former State Department spokeswoman told a small group of socially distanced reporters as she promised a return to daily briefings.

In fact, Wednesday night's session with reporters, the first of the Biden administration, was so normal — so weirdly normal — that you could be forgiven for thinking that you had mistakenly put on an old episode of "The West Wing."

This return to norms is wonderfully welcome after the horrors of the past four years. "It's like running into a friend you haven't seen in 4 years," wrote Columbia University journalism professor William Grueskin.

It's also potentially dangerous.

Read more <u>here</u>. Shared by Sibby Christensen.

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Slouching Toward Post-Journalism (City Journal)

By Martin Gurri

Traditional newspapers never sold news; they sold an audience to advertisers. To a considerable degree, this commercial imperative determined the journalistic style, with its impersonal voice and pretense of objectivity. The aim was to herd the audience into a passive consumerist mass. Opinion, which divided readers, was treated like a volatile substance and fenced off from "factual" reporting.

The digital age exploded this business model. Advertisers fled to online platforms, never to return. For most newspapers, no alternative sources of revenue existed: as circulation plummets to the lowest numbers on record, more than 2,000 dailies have gone silent since the turn of the century. The survival of the rest remains an open question.

Led by the New York Times, a few prominent brand names moved to a model that sought to squeeze revenue from digital subscribers lured behind a paywall. This approach carried its own risks. The amount of information in the world was, for practical purposes, infinite. As supply vastly outstripped demand, the news now chased the reader, rather than the other way around. Today, nobody under 85 would look for news in a newspaper. Under such circumstances, what commodity could be offered for sale?

Read more **here**. Shared by Carl Robinson.

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'Welcome Back America': Newspapers around the world react to Biden's inauguration (CNN)



By Rob Picheta, CNN

London (CNN) The culmination of Joe Biden's journey to the Oval Office was seen far beyond Washington DC on Thursday, with images of his inauguration splashed across the front pages of newspapers around the world.

Papers in most countries marked the dawn of the Biden era with pictures of the new US President taking the oath of office, and many highlighted the slew of executive orders he signed on his first day.

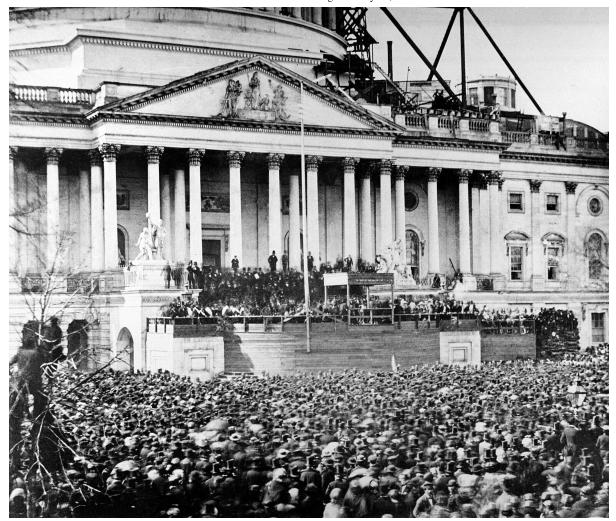
Some front pages also reflected on the end of the tumultuous Trump era, and a handful took a parting swipe at the former President -- a decision indicative of the relief much of the international community felt as his time in office drew to a close.

But for the most part, it was Biden who commanded the spotlight. Here's a selection of front pages from various parts of the world.

Read more **here**. Shared by Joyce Rosenberg.

The Final Word

Photos: Presidential inaugurations through the years ... from Lincoln to Trump



U.S. President Abraham Lincoln stands under cover at center of Capitol steps during his inauguration in Washington, D.C., on March 4, 1861. The scaffolding at upper right is used in construction of the Capitol dome. AP FILE

Associated Press

See 60+ photos from presidential inaugurations dating back to Lincoln's first in 1861 to Trump's in 2017.

View more **here**. Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

Today in History - Jan. 22, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Jan. 22, the 22nd day of 2021. There are 343 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On Jan. 22, 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court, in its Roe v. Wade decision, declared a nationwide constitutional right to abortion. Former President Lyndon B. Johnson died at his Texas ranch at age 64.

On this date:

In 1901, Britain's Queen Victoria died at age 81 after a reign of 63 years; she was succeeded by her eldest son, Edward VII.

In 1907, the Richard Strauss opera "Salome" made its American debut at the Metropolitan Opera in New York; its racy content sparked outrage and forced cancellation of additional performances.

In 1944, during World War II, Allied forces began landing at Anzio, Italy.

In 1970, the first regularly scheduled commercial flight of the Boeing 747 began in New York and ended in London some 6 1/2 hours later.

In 1973, George Foreman upset reigning heavyweight champion Joe Frazier with a second round TKO in their match in Kingston, Jamaica.

In 1987, Pennsylvania treasurer R. Budd Dwyer, convicted of defrauding the state, proclaimed his innocence at a news conference before pulling out a gun, placing the barrel in his mouth and shooting himself to death in front of horrified onlookers.

In 1995, Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy died at the Kennedy compound at Hyannis Port, Mass., at age 104.

In 1997, the Senate confirmed Madeleine Albright as the nation's first female secretary of state.

In 1998, Theodore Kaczynski (kah-ZIHN'-skee) pleaded guilty in Sacramento, California, to being the Unabomber responsible for three deaths and 29 injuries in return for a sentence of life in prison without parole.

In 2006, Kobe Bryant scored 81 points, the second-highest in NBA history, in the Los Angeles Lakers' 122-104 victory over the Toronto Raptors.

In 2007, a double car bombing of a predominantly Shiite commercial area in Baghdad killed 88 people. Iran announced it had barred 38 nuclear inspectors on a United Nations list from entering the country in apparent retaliation for U.N. sanctions imposed the previous month.

In 2009, President Barack Obama signed an executive order to close the Guantanamo Bay prison camp within a year. (The facility remained in operation as lawmakers blocked efforts to transfer terror suspects to the United States; President Donald Trump later issued an order to keep the jail open and allow the Pentagon to bring new prisoners there.)

Ten years ago: Drawing inspiration from a revolt in Tunisia, thousands of Yemenis demanded the ouster of President Ali Abdullah Saleh (AH'-lee ahb-DUH'-luh sah-LEH') in a noisy demonstration that appeared to be the first large-scale public challenge to the strongman. (He stepped down as president in 2012.)

Five years ago: North Korea said it had detained Otto Warmbier, a university student from Ohio, for what the authoritarian nation called a "hostile act." (Warmbier was later sentenced to 15 years in prison with hard labor; he'd said he had tried to steal a propaganda banner as a trophy for an acquaintance. Warmbier died in 2017, shortly after he returned to the U.S. in a coma and showing apparent signs of torture while in custody.) California Gov. Jerry Brown rejected parole for a third time for Bruce Davis, a follower of cult leader Charles Manson.

One year ago: Chinese health authorities urged people in the city of Wuhan to avoid crowds and public gatherings after warning that a new viral illness that had infected hundreds of people and caused at least nine deaths could spread further. Health officials in Washington state said they were actively monitoring 16 people who'd come in close contact with a traveler to China, the first U.S. resident known to be infected with the virus. In opening arguments at President Donald Trump's impeachment trial, House Democrats appealed to skeptical Republican senators to oust Trump from office to "protect our democracy." In an NBA debut that had been delayed three months by knee surgery, Zion Williamson, the league's top draft pick, scored 22 points for the New Orleans Pelicans, but the Pelicans lost 121-117 to the San Antonio Spurs.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Piper Laurie is 89. Celebrity chef Graham Kerr (TV: "The Galloping Gourmet") is 87. Author Joseph Wambaugh is 84. Singer Steve Perry is 72. Country singer-musician Teddy Gentry (Alabama) is 69. Movie director Jim Jarmusch is 68. Actor John Wesley Shipp is 66. Hockey Hall of Famer Mike Bossy is 64. Actor Linda Blair is 62. Actor Diane Lane is 56. Actor and rap DJ Jazzy Jeff is 56. Celebrity chef Guy Fieri is 53. Actor Olivia d'Abo is 52. Actor Katie Finneran is 50. Actor Gabriel Macht is 49. Actor Balthazar Getty is 46. Actor Christopher Kennedy Masterson is 41. Jazz singer Lizz Wright is 41. Pop singer Willa Ford is 40. Actor Beverley Mitchell is 40. Rock singer-musician Ben Moody is 40. Actor Kevin Sheridan is 39. Actor-singer Phoebe Strole is 38. Rapper Logic is 31. Tennis player Alize Cornet (uh-LEEZ' kohr-NAY') is 31. Actor Sami Gayle is 25.

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 Editor, Connecting newsletter



paulstevens46@gmail.com

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