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Connecting

January 26, 2021

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QUOTERY

Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this the 26th day of January 2021,

Today's Connecting brings you more memories of legendary talk show host **Larry King**, who died Saturday at the age of 87.

(The quote above is my favorite from King.)

A longtime colleague of **Pam Johnson**, veteran newspaperwoman who once headed the AP Managing Editors, is also remembered in today's issue. I got to know her when she was at The Kansas City Star and she was as good a person as she was a journalist and leaves a legacy that our colleague **John Wylie** describes so well.

I look forward to your contributions.

Have a great day - be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

Memories of Larry King

Michael Weinfeld ([Email](#)) - Larry King was a good interviewer, but he was also a great interview.

I spoke with him four times for various books and in 1994, the subject of his seven wives (eight marriages. He married one woman twice) came up. I told him he must do very well with pick-up lines and he replied, "too well!"

So, I asked him to hit me with his best lines.

King said he was above the old standby, "What's your sign?" One of his favorites was "Mary, you've changed!" She'd inevitably reply, "My name isn't Mary," to which he'd shoot back "Changed your name, too!"



Or, he said he could go up to any woman with this line: "A friend asked me something today. I've been thinking about it all day," waiting for the woman to respond, "What

did he ask?" King would reply, "He asked me what would I do if I were invisible?" The conversation could then go one of two ways. Either he'd ask the woman "What would YOU do?" Or, he would tell the woman what he'd do. "I would follow you. I'd like to know what you have for breakfast."

I gave him a skeptical look, but he said "Come on. That's pretty good!"

Covid-19 can't stop outpouring of love, respect for 5'2" newspaper giant.

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Linda Deutsch (Email) – When I retired from the AP five years ago, the Los Angeles chapter of Society of Professional Journalists threw a roast for me. They pondered who the speakers would be and many people suggested Larry King who had made me TV-famous with his many interviews during the O.J. Simpson trial. They wondered if he would do it. Larry, who loved journalists, was thrilled to comply. This picture shows Larry seated between two well-known legal figures: LA prosecutor Alan Jackson and First Amendment lawyer Douglas Mirell. It was a memorable



evening with most of LA's journalistic community there. They were welcomed at the door by an Elvis impersonator. And a noted LA defense attorney, Tony Brooklier, wrote and performed an Elvis song for me to the tune of "Heartbreak Hotel."

'At 5'2", a giant in the newspaper world'

John Wylie (Email) - Pam Johnson would have loved her sendoff Saturday at Faith Lutheran Church in her native Carthage, Mo., even though most guests could only attend virtually to see and hear her eulogy: "At 5'2", she was a giant in the newspaper world."

Pam, who died Wednesday at 74 in suburban Kansas City following a long illness, would have been too modest to accept sole credit for her role as a pioneer for female journalists, saying those attending and many others were equally responsible.

Speaking through her eldest son Matthew, she told the group that leading women through the glass ceiling of the newspaper world took their contributions and her accepting that she

had to work twice as hard as men to achieve success.

Only the second woman elected president of APME in 1999 since the organization's founding in 1933, she became the first of eight female presidents for the following two decades through 2019--one of many milestones from posts in Missouri, Arizona, Florida and back to Missouri.



Matthew also shared personal traits some in the audience hadn't known while others had shared, bringing chuckles from both sides. She loved piano playing for both the music and relaxation it brought. She didn't think much of grocery shopping, especially as a single mother of two active boys.

She loved her alma mater, the University of Missouri, but, "She didn't like KU. She knew that I loved KU. We battled over this very often." He didn't reveal whether it got better or worse when the Big 8 became the Big 12.

But perhaps most of all, "She loved Elvis. It was borderline uncomfortable how much she loved Elvis."

That was the first I knew about her popular music preferences, let alone how deep they ran, but it explained an uncomfortable event on Aug. 17, 1977, the day The King died. Pam was assistant city editor at The Kansas City Star and for some reason I was filling in that day as assignment editor on the desk and thus attended my first afternoon news budget meeting for the next afternoon's paper.

News Editor Howard Chennell chaired, telling the gathering that obviously Elvis was THE story for the following day, outlining a long list of topics that needed to be covered. He asked for comments and was greeted with hearty agreement.

As the youngest in the room, I waited til last, then suggested that perhaps Elvis--though a huge force--had passed the peak of his popularity and besides, by then, three news cycles would have passed and all those stories would have been told.

I got a bunch of stony stares, with Howard's the strongest as he said something like, "Point noted and rejected." The look and tone sent a clear message: If you ever want to see your byline on P1 again, renounce your blasphemy and forgo future heresy.

Now I know why.

Pam's main topic of conversation other than work or the fate of her favorite sports teams was her two boys. "She loved her boys, who were loud always."

Pam's people skills and management creativity were legendary, and I was reminded of another incident about two years later, when I was still The Star's Energy/Environment specialist, one of the few such full-time positions at any major newspaper.

Myron Levin, now founder and editor of the highly respected FairWarning non-profit independent news organization based in Pasadena after 20 years at the Los Angeles Times following his Star stint, was working another beat that sometimes crossed mine and we both came on the same story from two angles at the same time.

Obvious answer to everyone: It was big, it was hot, so John and Myron should do it together. One problem--we got along fine except dealing with joint bylines, where my hard-headedness was met by the armor plate in his head and his Missouri Mule stubbornness was met by my firm belief that God, President Truman and the Seventh Fleet were behind me. Couple that with two equally volatile tempers and you had a mixture akin to a Molotov cocktail laced with Styrofoam, which the FBI recently found in a car loaded with explosives and said created a crude form of napalm.

We arrived early that morning and went to work, followed immediately by a growing discussion which boiled over into a full blown shouting match audible throughout the square-city-block newsroom with no walls.

Neither of us can remember the topic of the story or the origin of the ensuing verbal war, but Pam finally ended before blows were exchanged it by sternly warning us (and the entire newsroom), "Matthew. Bradley. Stop." It may have been "stop it" or "quit it" but point taken. We worked in silence, finished the story and Pam stopped by our almost next-door desks later to say that if we promised to be good in the future we still had jobs and no permanent records. We quickly agreed.

In an email this morning, our first contact in ages but very cordial, Myron thanked me for notifying him of Pam's passing and said, "I'm sorry to hear about Pam, and thank you for letting me know. What you said about her good sense and diplomatic skills is so true."

The memory was triggered by Matthew's comment during his eulogy, "She loved her boys, who were loud always."

The full service and eulogy last well less than an hour and can be viewed in high quality TV video and audio at the church website, www.faithcarthage.org Pam's full obituary including information on the MU scholarship fund in her honor is located at [Knell Mortuary](#) | Carthage, MO Funeral Home & Cremation.

Matthew closed the service with a final tribute: "I love you Mom. Thank you. Now go find Elvis and have that dance."

In ambulances, an unseen, unwelcome passenger: COVID-19



Emergency medical workers Jacob Magoon, from left, Joshua Hammond and Thomas Hoang lift a patient onto a gurney in Placentia, Calif., Saturday, Jan. 9, 2021. (AP Photo/Jae C. Hong)

By STEFANIE DAZIO

LOS ANGELES (AP) — It's crowded in the back of the ambulance.

Two emergency medical technicians, the patient, the gurney — and an unseen and unwelcome passenger lurking in the air.

For EMTs Thomas Hoang and Joshua Hammond, the coronavirus is constantly close. COVID-19 has become their biggest fear during 24-hour shifts in California's Orange County, riding with them from 911 call to 911 call, from patient to patient.

They and other EMTs, paramedics and 911 dispatchers in Southern California have been thrust into the front lines of the national epicenter of the pandemic. They are scrambling to help those in need as hospitals burst with a surge of patients after the holidays, ambulances are stuck waiting outside hospitals for hours until beds become available, oxygen tanks are in alarmingly short supply and the vaccine rollout has been slow.

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

Same Facts, Different Story

Bill Wertz (Email) - One of the basic exercises I remember from journalism school was writing news stories based on long lists of bits and pieces of information handed out by the instructor. I don't remember the specific stories anymore, but a typical example would be a school bond election. You'd get facts about the proposal, background on the city's finances and demographics, and other pertinent and non-pertinent information. You'd also get quotes from a variety of individuals, some in favor of the project, others opposed, still others commenting on assorted issues that might or might not be related to the election. The next day the instructor would read back to us some of the stories we had written, and it was remarkable how different they would be, depending on which facts and quotes the reporter chose to include – or leave out. You might believe after hearing one story that without a new high school, the city's children would be doomed to illiteracy and poverty. But the next story would have you believe that the old high school was fine, a new one proposed only because school board members were getting kickbacks from the construction firms that would be hired for the project. The point of this exercise wasn't to teach us how to be misleading. It was to warn to be careful to choose the facts that would result in fair and honest reporting.

Few of the news stories we read today contain outright lies. Instead, they consist of facts and comments selected by reporters whose objective may not be to tell both (or many) sides of the issue so you can make up your own mind. Instead, they're telling you the story they really believe is the "correct" one. The more important question is how do you steer between the sales pitches you may be getting from both sides? Reading many different articles is way. Skepticism is another. In journalism schools an old joke used to circulate: "If your mother says she loves you, get a second source." Even sincere and well-meaning people can pass along misinformation, and conspiracy theories abound. I keep hearing here in Oregon that the vapor trails left by airplanes are really part of a government plot to change the weather. Some people seem to really believe that. I'm skeptical. Remember the Russian proverb that Ronald Reagan liked so much: "Doveryai, no proverai." Trust, but verify.

(From my [new blog](#) on media and politics called "2wiceasfast" on Facebook. You're welcome to join.)

AP's Joe Morton: War correspondent executed by the Nazis

Chris Carola (Email) - For those interested in WWII and the journalists who covered it, this is an excellent website for stories on the subject, with frequent mentions of AP correspondents, photographers, etc. Here is a story on AP's Joe Morton:

By **Marc Lancaster**

Dozens of journalists died covering World War II, some of them victims of stray bullets or shrapnel on the battlefield, others aboard planes or ships that went down in combat. We have told many of their stories here.

Of all those who gave their lives in pursuit of the news, though, only one was deliberately targeted for death: Associated Press correspondent Joe Morton, who was executed Jan. 24, 1945 at the Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria. This is his story.



Joseph Morton was born June 30, 1911, near St. Joseph, Missouri. His father, also named Joseph, was an accomplished local attorney who had married Joe's mother, Pearl, in 1909 after the death of his first wife. When the elder Morton died in 1938, an editorial in the St. Joseph News-Press compared him at length to John Quincy Adams.

Joe caught the journalism bug early. Census records from 1930 list the occupation of the teenager, still living at home, as a newspaper reporter. Morton was doing some work for the News-Press at the time, but his name appeared in the local papers mostly for his tennis exploits: he won the city high school singles championship in 1929 and continued to play in area tournaments for the next few years.

Read more [here](#).

Gull over Belle Isle, Detroit



Shared by Hank Ackerman

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



David Royse - daveroyse@gmail.com

Welcome to Connecting



Andy Acton - andyactoncts@gmail.com

Mary Esch - email.mary@gmail.com

Stories of interest

POLITICO Playbook: Don't believe the media's celebration of Biden's boringness



If the Biden administration shows some success at being boring, our bet is that the D.C. press corps will do everything in its power to make it not so. | Evan Vucci/AP

Photo

By MIKE ZAPLER

The reviews from the media came in fast and furious: The Biden presidency is orderly, normal, even boring — and it's so refreshing.

Perhaps this was a genuine expression of relief after a wrenching two-and-a-half-month transition for the country. But who'd like to place odds on how long it lasts before boring-good becomes boring-boring for the media?

First, a quick sampling of the commentary earlier this week exulting over all the normalcy:

"Biden's inauguration offered what America needs: A 'return to normalcy,'" read the headline on Max Boot's WaPo column.

Read more [here](#).

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Appreciation: Larry King loved 'dumb' questions. With them, he helped write cultural history (Los Angeles Times)

By ROBERT LLOYD
TELEVISION CRITIC

I became a Larry King fan late — to have become one early I would have needed to listen to him from the cradle — and even in his CNN salad days, when "Larry King Live!" aired nightly over a quarter century, from 1985 to 2010, my attention was usually elsewhere. (I have had cause to watch the old shows since; they constitute an Alexandrian library of cultural history.)

My first sense of the host, who died Saturday at 87, came instead from the old-school newspaper column that appeared in USA Today back around the time the CNN run began, a collection of celebrity news bites and brief observations that in this century found atomized expression in his @kingsthings Twitter feed (and from imitations my friend Steve would do of King taking callers on his TV and/or radio show: "Tampa, Florida, go ahead").

When I did tumble to his particular brand of greatness, it was from the web-based "Larry King Now," which I stumbled upon a couple of years after its 2012 launch, part of a joint venture — Ora Media — between King and Mexican magnate Carlos Slim.

(Its several seasons stream on Hulu as well as from its own dedicated site, along with the current affairs companion show, “Politicking With Larry King.”)

Read more [here](#).

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An old arrest can follow you forever online. Some newspapers want to fix that. (Washington Post)

By Elahe Izadi

The Boston Globe has joined a handful of newsrooms around the country doing something once unthinkable: changing old articles because they are ruining a person’s life.

The newspaper on Friday launched its Fresh Start initiative, which allows people to petition to have information about them removed from or added to old stories, to have their names anonymized, or to have the stories delisted from Google searches. The Globe will prioritize stories involving minor crimes and those from long ago, but will also consider ones about “embarrassing” noncriminal behavior.

“Our journalism was never meant to be a permanent obstacle for someone’s future, especially not in cases where a minor crime, transgression, or embarrassing moment follows them at the top of a Google search result forever,” said Jason Tuohey, the Globe’s managing editor for digital.

Read more [here](#).

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Federal Court Holds National Parks Service Film Permitting Rule Unconstitutional (NPPA)

NPPA is celebrating a victory for videographers after a federal judge struck down a portion of the Department of Interior film permit requirements on Friday. The judge ruled that the “commercial filming” permit requirements violate the First Amendment and enjoined their enforcement. The National Press Photographers Association, as a part of its partnership with the First Look Media Works’ Press Freedom Defense Fund, drafted and filed an amicus brief in the case, which was joined by nine other organizations. The ruling overturns commercial film permit requirements in the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

In her ruling, Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia declared that the statute and enacting regulations that require those engaged in “commercial filming” to obtain permits and pay certain fees are unconstitutional. The court also found that the permit rules restrict speech in public forums, including the many National Park locations that are already considered traditional public forums such as the National Mall. The court found that the rules were content-based restrictions on speech, subject to strict scrutiny. Likewise, she found, the regulations and underlying reasons offered by the government—namely obtaining a “fair market” payment on top of any administrative costs—do not meet that scrutiny. “The government may not impose a charge for the enjoyment of a right granted by the federal constitution, including the First Amendment right to free expression.” Judge Kollar-Kotelly wrote.

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word



Shared by Adolphe Bernotas

Today in History - Jan. 26, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 26, the 26th day of 2021. There are 339 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 26, 2020, NBA legend Kobe Bryant, his 13-year-old daughter and seven others were killed when their helicopter plunged into a steep hillside in dense morning fog in Southern California; the former Lakers star was 41.

On this date:

In 1788, the first European settlers in Australia, led by Capt. Arthur Phillip, landed in present-day Sydney.

In 1907, Congress passed the Tillman Act, which prohibited corporations from making direct campaign contributions to federal election candidates.

In 1960, National Football League team owners chose Pete Rozelle to be the new commissioner, succeeding the late Bert Bell.

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy appointed Dr. Janet G. Travell to be his personal physician; she was the first woman to hold the job.

In 1962, the United States launched Ranger 3 to land scientific instruments on the moon [–] but the probe ended up missing its target by more than 22,000 miles.

In 1988, the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical "Phantom of the Opera" opened at Broadway's Majestic Theater.

In 1992, Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton, appearing with his wife, Hillary, on CBS' "60 Minutes," acknowledged "causing pain in my marriage," but said past problems were not relevant to the campaign.

In 1993, Vaclav Havel (VAHTS'-lahv HAH'-vel) was elected president of the newly formed Czech Republic.

In 1994, a scare occurred during a visit to Sydney, Australia, by Britain's Prince Charles as college student David Kang lunged at the prince, firing two blank shots from a starter's pistol. (Kang was later sentenced to 500 hours of community service.)

In 1998, President Bill Clinton forcefully denied having an affair with a former White House intern, telling reporters, "I did not have sexual relations with that woman, Miss Lewinsky."

In 2005, a U.S. Marine helicopter crashed in western Iraq, killing 30 Marines and a Navy medic aboard. A man parked his SUV on railroad tracks in Glendale, California, setting off a crash of two commuter trains that killed 11 people. (The SUV's driver, Juan Alvarez, was convicted of murder and sentenced to 11 consecutive life terms.)

In 2009, Nadya Suleman gave birth at Kaiser Permanente Bellflower Medical Center in California to six boys and two girls; criticism came after the public learned that the unemployed, single mother had gotten pregnant with the octuplets and six elder children through in vitro fertilization.

Ten years ago: Speaking in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, President Barack Obama campaigned vigorously for his revamped economic message, warning that other countries were grasping for first place in the global marketplace as the U.S. fell down on the job. Afghan President Hamid Karzai swore in the country's new parliament, marking the end of a drawn-out battle over whether the lawmakers would be able to start work despite ongoing investigations into electoral fraud.

Five years ago: The FBI arrested the leaders of an armed group that was occupying a national wildlife refuge in Oregon for more than three weeks during a traffic stop that left one man, Robert "LaVoy" Finicum, dead. Pope Francis held talks with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani at the Vatican, calling on Tehran to play a key role in stopping the spread of terrorism. The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists announced that its symbolic "Doomsday Clock" remained at three minutes to midnight, citing rising tension between Russia and the U.S., North Korea's recent nuclear test and a lack of aggressive steps to address climate change. Character actor Abe Vigoda, 94, died in Woodland Park, New Jersey.

One year ago: The U.S. consulate in the Chinese city of Wuhan, the epicenter of the coronavirus epidemic, said it would evacuate its personnel and some private citizens aboard a charter flight. Five cases of the new coronavirus were now confirmed in the United States, including new cases in California and Arizona; all involved people who had traveled to Wuhan. The New York Times reported that in a draft of an upcoming book, former national security adviser John Bolton said that President Donald Trump had wanted to maintain a freeze on military assistance to Ukraine until it aided political investigations into his Democratic rivals. Eighteen-year-old singer Billie Eilish made history at the Grammy Awards, becoming the youngest to win one of Grammy's top awards and the first to sweep all four in nearly 40 years.

Today's Birthdays: Cartoonist Jules Feiffer is 92. Sportscaster-actor Bob Uecker is 86. Actor Scott Glenn is 82. Singer Jean Knight is 78. Activist Angela Davis is 77. Actor Richard Portnow is 74. Rock musician Corky Laing (Mountain) is 73. Actor David Strathairn (streh-THEHRN') is 72. Producer-director Mimi Leder is 69. Alt-country singer-songwriter Lucinda Williams is 68. Reggae musician Norman Hassan (UB40) is 63. Actor-comedian-talk show host Ellen DeGeneres is 63. Rock musician Charlie Gillingham (Counting Crows) is 61. Hockey Hall of Famer Wayne Gretzky is 60. Musician Andrew Ridgeley is 58. R&B singer Jazzy B (Soul II Soul) is 58. Actor Paul Johansson is 57. Director Lenny Abrahamson is 55. Actor Bryan Callen is 54. Gospel singer Kirk Franklin is 51. Actor Nate Mooney is 49. Actor Jennifer Crystal is 48. Rock musician Chris Hesse (Hoobastank) is 47. Actor Matilda Szydagis is 47. Actor Gilles

Marini (ZHEEL ma-REE'-nee) is 45. Gospel singer Tye Tribbett is 45. Retired NBA player Vince Carter is 44. Actor Sarah Rue is 43. Actor Colin O'Donoghue is 40.

Got a story or photos to share? (And oh yes, Go Chiefs!)

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.

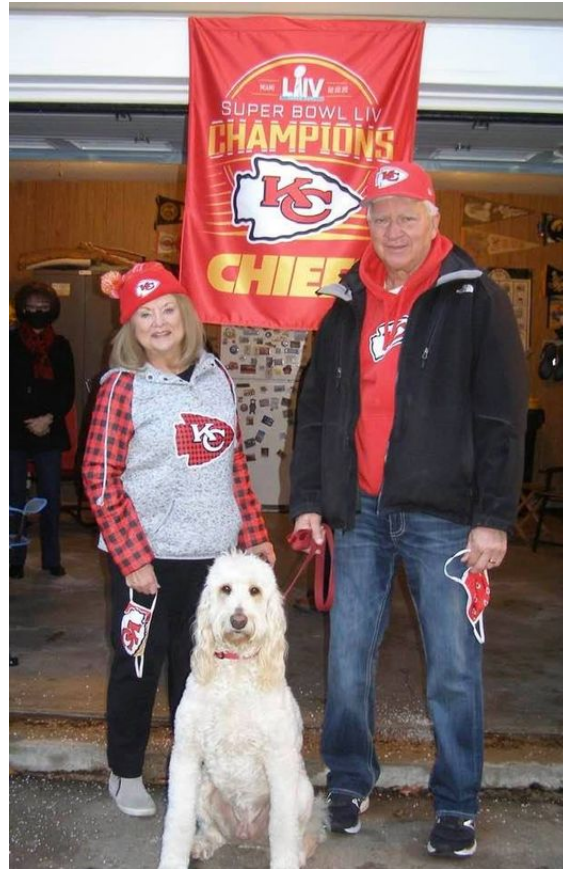
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

- **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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