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Connecting

March 26, 2014



Colleagues,

Steve Elliott shares this photo from "a bit of a reunion" for AP's Phoenix bureau when **Giovanna Dell'Orto**, former temporary newswoman in Phoenix and Atlanta-based immigration reporter, visited Arizona State University's Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication on Monday.

Dell'Orto, also a Connecting colleague and an assistant professor at the University of Minnesota's School of Journalism and Mass Communication, was discussing her new book on coverage along the southern borders of the U.S. and European Union. Pictured are (from right) Arizona Republic immigration reporter



Daniel Gonzalez, who was part of Dell'Orto's presentation; AP Phoenix immigration reporter **Jacques Billeaud**; Dell'Orto; and **Steve Elliott**, former

Phoenix chief of bureau and now a member of the Cronkite School's faculty. Dell'Orto has authored several books and has one in the works on AP foreign correspondents.

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Marc Wilson shared this account with Facebook friends that happened during his visit to the NAA convention in Denver earlier this month, and I thought Connecting colleagues would also enjoy:

I stepped away from the counter at McDonald's in downtown Denver to let the next customer order. He asked for "coffee with eight creams and 12 sugars." I watched him open his wallet and take out his last dollar, then fish out a nickel and three pennies -- to pay for his dinner.



My memory flashed back 13 months earlier when I'd been in the same downtown McDonald's. I'd been a speaker at a convention, and before my presentation I'd walked a block from my hotel to McDonald's for a quick breakfast.

The temperature before daybreak that February morning was just above zero. A winter wind swept through the skyscrapers.

The line to order that morning was long. When I made it to the front of the line, I ordered a breakfast egg sandwich, hash browns, orange juice and coffee. "The coffee is free today, part of a promotion," the clerk said.

Only then did I realize that the line in front and behind me was made up of men lining up to get free coffee. The restaurant was filled with homeless people who had come in from the cold for a free cup of coffee, and warmth.

I sat down and realized I was the only human eating. All the others had was their free coffee.

I zipped up my winter coat to hide my coat and tie.

I wanted to leave, but I couldn't walk away from the food. I remembered what we'd been told as kids: "Eat your food. There are thousands of starving people in China." Only the starving people weren't in China.

They were sitting all around me. I had dropped into the middle of a world I'd chosen to ignore.

None of them said a word, or even looked at me. I figured McDonald's let them stay inside only if they didn't panhandle or otherwise bother other customers.

I didn't know what to do. My brain didn't comprehend or explain.

I gulped my food down and rush out of the restaurant. But the memory haunted me.

Now I was back. The customer who ordered the coffee with eight creamers and 12 sugars asked the clerk if he could use the bathroom, which was kept locked except for paying customers.

As the manager escorted the man to the bathroom, I took out \$5 and told the clerk, "Add a Big Mac to his order, but don't tell him who bought it."

I wanted for get away before the man came back, but my order still wasn't ready when he returned from the restroom.

He grabbed his coffee and turned away. The clerk called after him, "Sir, there's a hamburger here for you too."

"I didn't buy a hamburger," he said.

"It's yours," she said. He hesitated, looked at the sandwich, then grabbed the hamburger. I kept my eyes forward. I didn't want our eyes to meet.

My order finally came, and I grabbed the bag to flee. The manager stopped me, and asked if he could walk me to the exit. I don't know if he'd seen what happened, or if he had just seen the distress on my face or in my eyes.

"Is everything OK, sir?" he asked.

It wasn't, but I said it was.

"Interesting gig you have here," I said as we neared the exit.

"Yes, it's tough."

"I was here early one morning 13 months ago. You were giving out free coffee, and the place was full."

"We do that sometimes," he said.

I fled out the door into the cold and dark street - home to too many.

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Larry Hamlin is recently retired and our newest member of Connecting, and he provided this update on his AP career in technology: "I started my AP career as a

"Copy Boy" in Oklahoma City, April 27,1964. After a stint in the US Army, I took a Technician (back then we were called "Maintenance Man") job in Alexandria, La., worked there for a few months, then back to Oklahoma City for a year, then to Dallas for about three years as Assistant Chief Of Communications under Ed Fornel and Emmett Renfrow, then to East Brunswick NJ as a Technical Service Manager (TSM) for about 11 years, then back to Oklahoma City in 1985, as a Technician. It's been a fun and interesting ride!"

Stories of interest

Pew finds embattled newspaper industry still pulls in more than half of all news revenue

Pew's 11th annual [State of the News Media report](#), out this morning, offers fresh measures of news media revenue and news staffing at digital-only start-ups. Both findings are arresting for those of us in the news-about-news business but also shed light on the well-being of the industry as a whole

Big Words Are Fading, But Many People Still Love Them (Carol Riha)

I love big words. It started when I was a kid and first heard "supercalifragilisticexpialidocious." ("Something to say when you don't know what to say," according to the movie "Mary Poppins.")

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Professor: 90% of News Stories to be Written by Computers by 2030 (Doug Pizac)

Professor of Computer Science Dr. Kristian Hammond predicts that by 2030, 90 per cent of all news stories will be written not by human reporters but by computer algorithms.

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Story of the Century

Good morning, this is Brian Bowman of CNN on Day X with breaking news on Malaysia Airlines Flight 370: The zombie plane theory still has legs! Some aviation experts say it is gaining steam as the search in the South Indian Ocean,

one of the most remote and windy places on the planet, continues in an area somewhere between the size of West Virginia and the United States. Now, what is the zombie scenario?

AND

Poll: Public OK with plane coverage

Despite the back-and-forth in the media over how much to cover Malaysian Airlines Flight 370, just a third of the public says there has been too much attention on it, according to a new poll. A plurality, 48 percent, say there has been the right amount of coverage of the missing plane, with 12 percent saying there has been too little and 33 percent saying too much in a Pew Research poll released Monday.

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Women were digital media pioneers, but there's still a gender gap there(Latrice Davis)

Women are both underrepresented and underappreciated in the journalism startup world. One of those cited in the article is Lorraine Cichowski, now senior vice president of technology for the Associated Press, who led USA Today's digital operations during what became known as the "watershed event for online news."

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Charlotte Brooks, a Photographer for Look Magazine, Dies at 95

Charlotte Brooks, one of only a handful of women ever hired to work as a full-time staff photographer at Look magazine, the major rival to Life in the heyday of American glossy photojournalism, died on March 15 at her home in Holmes, N.Y. She was 95.

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What if traffic metrics had been used throughout journalism's history? (Bob Daugherty)

That's a question that came to mind today while reading David Carr's latest. In his column, Carr identifies a trend (at least, a trend by journalism standards) of news organizations paying their contributors based on how much traffic their individual "stories" garner. If an item is really popular and brings a lot of eyeballs to the site, the "writer" of the piece earns more money. Conversely, if you write pieces that hardly anyone look at, you get paid less - or nothing.

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NPPA Discouraged by SCOTUS Continued Refusal to Allow Cameras in Its Courtroom

Unfortunately the U.S. Supreme Court continues to refuse to change its position on cameras in its courtroom. The Coalition for Court Transparency recently sent a letter to the Chief Justice requesting him to reconsider the High Court's longstanding policy barring audio-visual coverage of its proceedings. The Court's Public Information Officer timely responded by saying "there are no plans to change the Court's current practices" whereby they will continue to make audio recordings of all oral arguments available on the Court's website "at the end of each argument week" and written transcripts of those arguments "on the same day the argument is heard."

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What seemed like a high school player 'flipping off' sets off a photo firestorm

A Chicago Tribune photojournalist says another newspaper's single photograph of a star high school basketball player seeming to "flip off" the opposing team's fans was taken out of context. And Tribune photographer Scott Strazzante released all of his raw images capturing the incident as proof that the player did nothing wrong.

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Back and front pages of Tuesday's Malaysia Star



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