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Connecting - April 6, 2015

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Connecting

April 6, 2015

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Madge Stager: 'Happiness personified'

Colleagues,

Good Monday morning!

It is with sorrow that I convey news of the death on Saturday morning in a New York City hospital of our Connecting colleague, **Madge Stager**.

She was beloved by the many who worked with her in her 37 years as a member of the New York Photos staff, before retiring in 2009, and today's newsletter contains just a fraction of the outpouring of loving remembrances of our colleague that moved on Facebook and other social media over the weekend.

The photo at top was taken by Madge's friend and former NY Photos colleague **Claudia Counts** on a spring afternoon in May 2013. Claudia describes: "We had just watched a documentary film at the Rubin Museum of Art and were walking along Sixth Avenue in New York City with our husbands on our way to a meal out. We saw this happiness circle, and Madge thought it perfectly fit her frame of mind, so she stepped inside. Happiness personified."

Funeral services were not completed at the time today's Connecting was published, but as soon as they are announced, I will share with you.

Please keep Madge and her husband Chris and her family in your thoughts and prayers. And if you'd like to share your memories of Madge, send them along for use in Tuesday's edition.

Paul

Madge Stager:
Formidable force on New York photo desk

Madge Stager, a member of the photo staff at AP's New York headquarters who was known and respected by AP colleagues around the world during her 37-year career, died Saturday at NYU Langone Medical Center.

The cause of death was not immediately known, but she had contracted the flu earlier in the week before entering the hospital on Saturday morning. Funeral services are pending.

She made a great impact on the AP during her career, which ended in 2009 when she retired. Beyond her work on the photo desk, she was a key part of AP's 9/11 coverage team and was assigned to the AP's 2008 Olympics coverage team in Beijing.

"Madge was a steady hand who, without drama, took on and mastered whatever we asked her to do," said **Lou Boccardi**, former AP president and general manager. "She was an excellent photo editor whose skills and quick wit made her a well known presence throughout the photo system. I know her death brings sadness in many AP places."

Hal Buell, former director of AP Photos, said, "Madge was a formidable force on the New York photo desk, journalistically aggressive who over the years became an accomplished

editor well known throughout AP's worldwide photo service. She was widely admired and well liked throughout the system. And she melded it all with a quick, Irish wit."

Madge was a product of the Cornell School of Management Development and Studies, and the High School of Art and Design in New York City.

She began her career with the AP in 1972 in the Photo Library, and four years later she was named a photo editor. Madge served in that position, assigned to various desks including a long stint on the international photo desk, before she was promoted in 2000 to enterprise photo editor. She became chief of the headquarters photo desk in 2004 and served in that position until taking early retirement in 2009.

Former Photos colleague **Brian Horton** noted, "Her work on the international desk in Photos meant that she had hundreds of phone friends around the world but had actually met very few of them in person. That didn't stop her from offering them emotional support in times of personal need and helpful suggestions on how to overcome some kind of logistical or coverage issue. She was the personal and professional safety net for a long list of people in some far-off places."

Her brother, Tom Kelly, worked on the photo desk just prior to Madge joining AP and later was a reporter in the city bureau.

"Madge was one of the first women on the New York photo desk," Buell said. "Her successful tenure and growth into key positions helped pave the way for other women in what had been since World War II a male-dominated group. In those early days - long before the digital revolution - the photo desk was a noisy corner with constant verbal communication among editors and between editors and Wirephoto operators. Throughout, Madge's voice could be heard as she chatted over shaky circuits with far-flung places in Europe, the Middle East, South America and Asia."

The photo above, taken in 1984 by photographer Marty Lederhandler, shows Madge, foreground right, staffing the international slot on the photo desk. The other women in the photo are Claudia DiMartino and Diane Pleines on the Northeast Regional desk, Pat Conroy on TV desk, Claudia Counts on Swing Desk, and Despina Karston, National Monitor.

"Whether with the bureaus in London, Tokyo, Frankfurt, Rome or throughout Latin America and Africa, Madge listened, supported, encouraged and demanded solid coverage. In a sense, she provided a feeling of home," said former Photo colleague **Sally Stapleton**, now managing editor of The Day in New London, Connecticut.

Madge was working on the photo desk on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, when airliners were flown into the World Trade Center twin towers. She and fellow staffers Michael Feldman and Bill Pilc left the AP offices to cover the terrorist attacks, first heading to the apartment of photo editor Bernadette Tuazon, two blocks from the scene, to establish a base for coverage but then to Madge's house that was outside the police barricades. An account of her experiences can be found by clicking here, in a chapter from the book, Women Journalists at Ground Zero: Covering Crisis.

After she retired from AP, Madge joined her husband Chris in his hardscaping company and was a free-lance photo editor. She noted in her LinkedIn page that more recently, she edited, organized and published coffee-table photo books. "My passions are storytelling through images, paint and thread; common humanity."

Memories of Madge

Two of Madge's nieces shared these memories on Facebook:

Devon Moran - Today we lost one of the most beautiful people this world has to offer, my aunt Madge Stager. This news comes unexpected and is a huge loss for anyone who has ever encountered my aunt. She captivated a room with that long silver hair, tattoos and smile. But most of all when she walked into a room she brought this aura with her that instantly would make you feel special and important. She could turn anyone's bad day into a better one by just keeping it real with you.

I know today, I lost my rock and a big part of my support system. As I know, she was a big part of many of yours as well. Whether you are a past colleague or friend, I know Madge's death comes as a shock and with great sadness, as we are all grieving the loss of someone truly irreplaceable.

My aunt was one of the most giving, thoughtful, strongest women I know. She loved helping people no matter what she was going through and we often bonded in trying to make the best of awful situations. I find myself at a loss for words trying to make sense of this all, but as I search for some comfort in a book I recently sent her for her birthday, I found a quote that reflects the kind of person my aunt was and what I think she would all want us to do in this tragic time, so I will leave you with this...

"May we always find a sliver of light when we need it most. May we support each other in shamelessly sharing our inner worlds so that no one suffers alone. And may we give each other a little bit of our own light when we have some to spare. Surely there is enough light to go around." - Jeff Brown

To the brightest light I know, you are loved and missed by so many already. Rest in peace Madge Stager.

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Jillian Kelly - Thank you all for these beautiful words about my beautiful aunt Madge. It brings peace to my heart knowing how much she touched so many people. I just read the last written conversation I have saved from her about 100 times and she said "Be strong but not too strong, remember you are also a gentle soul. P.S., if you want to kick his ass and need help, I have your back, honey." I think that sums up exactly who my aunt was .. so soft and nurturing but also a take-no-crap kind of woman."

And from her former colleagues

Claudia Counts (Email) - I first met Madge three decades earlier when I, a naive Midwestern girl fresh out of college, arrived at the AP Photo desk in NYC. Madge was already a veteran photo editor and smart as a whip, wickedly funny, with a blunt Queens vocabulary that could sometimes make me blush but always delighted me. (What is a

mook, anyway?) I knew I could learn a lot from her, and remember approaching her, timidly saying "this might be a stupid question, but..." and her barking back at me, "there ARE no stupid questions, you would only be stupid if you DIDN'T ask." First of many life lessons I learned from Madge.

We went on to be close colleagues throughout the 80s and 90s. In her time on the international photo desk, I saw the network of photographers around the globe who relied on her steadiness and common sense as they documented wars and disasters. Madge put her all into her work, typing furiously to keep up with the never-ending news-cycle. She was sidelined for a while with carpal tunnel syndrome, and feared she would never make it back to the newsroom. I was delighted when she returned, joining me in the photo enterprise department, where the stories we worked on were sometimes happy, and the deadlines gentler, giving her wrists a needed break.

Madge and I remained dear friends after we both left the AP. She suffered from years of physical pain, and that suffering made her compassion for other's suffering grow. For the past several years, Madge has actively studied how to bring more compassion and kindness into the world. She had a formal meditation practice where she spent time each morning wholeheartedly wishing that all beings everywhere be safe, happy, healthy and at ease. I know that she brought more happiness into my world, and to that of all who knew her.

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Bob Daugherty (Email) - Madge was a fixture in New York photos during a large chunk of my AP career. She was a no BS person, maybe owing to her New York experience, or perhaps to her Irish ancestry. She was the point of contact in NY photos. Her passing comes as a complete shock.

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Michael Feldman (Email) - What can one say, I think the Friends posting of Devon, Madge Stager's niece, said it best. I will miss her. She taught me how the AP worked as much as Hal Buell taught me how to be a manager. As many of you know, I have a liver disease that could be fatal someday without a transplant. Madge told not to cry about this, tough guys do not cry. Well this tough guy is crying - Madge, Henny, Anja and my mentor Horst Faas have all died and I live.

Fate, it is always fate, Chris stay strong no matter how hard it is.

RIP mon ami, Madge, RIP.

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Sergio Florez (Email) - I arrived at church on the day of my wedding and paced nervously as my parents and other relatives chatted and fussed over my lapels, buttons, making sure all was right. I looked down the street and saw a group of my AP friends waiting to go in. One stood out - it was Madge. She was waving with a huge smile. That's one of so many

fond memories of Madge that have overtaken me as I learn of this sad news. Madge was a mentor, friend and just a great example of how a person who had gone through so much could find joy. My heart goes out to Chris and her family.

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Sam Heiman (Email) - I have known Madge from the beginning of her AP career, but I guess the shock of her death is still too much because I can't come up with any memorable stories about her. I do remember how my two little sons would love to see her whenever they paid the AP Photo Desk a visit, They used to love to sit on her lap and bang away on the typewriter. It's a good thing that computer keyboards had not yet made it into the picture. She was really good with kids and they loved her. I will miss her and her wonderful sense of humor.

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Brian Horton (Email) - Madge was certainly the product of growing up in New York City - tough as nails on the outside with a giant heart.

Her work on the international desk in Photos meant that she had hundreds of phone friends around the world but had actually met very few of them in person. That didn't stop her from offering them emotional support in times of personal need and helpful suggestions on how to overcome some kind of logistical or coverage issue. She was the personal and professional safety net for a long list of people in some far-off places.

She was a great listener, which was the perfect fit for that job.

Madge started in the photo library and then moved on to the photo desk at a time when most of the staff was male. She was a strong voice for the women on the staff and was a mentor to many women who followed her.

Later, while heading up the New York desk, she could work with the staff from the perspective of having sat in those chairs many hours.

She was quick to voice concern over the AP's shortcomings but equally quick to defend the AP and any member of the staff.

Madge left the AP, like so many of us, in the summer of 2009 and began working with her husband, Chris, in his business. Chris installs irrigation systems, outdoor garden lighting and hardscaping with some amazing views in some of the top buildings in New York. Madge's pictures from each work site were a fun diversion on Facebook.

She seemed so happy getting her hands dirty and creating things with Chris. A far cry from working at a desk in a flourescent-lit room every day.

She also took up several different pursuits in art and posted some beautiful images of her work. It was a different side of Madge than what many of us had known.

I last saw Madge at my surprise birthday party this past January. We only had a few moments to talk with everything going on and now I regret not taking more time to catch up with her.

A wonderful spirit who brought laughter and good conversation to any gathering.

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Gregory Payan - After being sent by the AP to cover the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, Madge and I figured we'd jump out whenever we could for a long lunch to take in some of the city or go for late night jaunts after long days in the MPC. Those who knew Madge's passion can only imagine what happened when a vendor tried to overcharge me at the night market. Her feeling was damned if we were going to be halfway around the world and not sneak off whenever we could for a few hours. Camera shy throughout, this was the only pic she grudgingly allowed me to take in our journeys. To her family and dear friends, know that all who knew Madge was a better person for having had the experience. Madge was the best.

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Sally Stapleton (Email) - A week ago Sunday, Madge wrote on her Facebook page, "For anyone who ever wishes I would just stop talking, I have laryngitis today." Inevitably, all her friends who saw this smiled. Some, like Mike Feldman and Maggie Steber, responded with the sentiment that the world was a bit off kilter with the idea of a hushed Madge but we all waited to hear that the cold, flu she was fighting had subsided.

I was thinking about Madge two days ago before I read the news of her untimely death Saturday night. I had a revelation that she's the best listener I've ever known so I was dissecting what made that so. She understood way before the rest of us what leads to happiness and that knowledge she enthusiastically passed along whether one was entirely open to the information or not. Those who are happy in their own skins and honestly wish

happiness for others make good listeners. That's how I'd describe Madge.

Bogota-based photographer and photo editor Ricardo Mazalan says Madge's voice on (extension) 1906 was what photographers in difficult, dangerous and isolated world spots needed for guidance. Whether with the bureaus in London, Tokyo, Frankfurt, Rome or throughout Latin America and Africa, Madge listened, supported, encouraged and demanded solid coverage. In a sense, she provided a feeling of home.

The way I want to remember Madge is the day of her happy garden wedding to Chris. All of us there experienced the love and joy they felt. But it's the loss of her voice, literally and figuratively, that has me unsettled and missing home.

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Connecting mailbox

Recalling Ralph Pelletiere

Doris Selig (Email) - I worked with Ralph in the Glass House in New York. He really was a great guy. His main problem in the Glass House was the space between the backs of the 3400 computers and the wall. If he had to swap out a board in a computer there just wasn't enough room. The story mentioned he liked to dine out. I know when the 25-year dinners were held at restaurants, the employees there all seemed to know Ralph. In fact, if you wanted extra special service all you had to do was sit at Ralph's table. Ralph usually worked days and I was frequently his relief at 4p.

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In interest of fairness

Terry Anderson (Email) - (Re Saturday Connecting) - In the interest of fairness, it should be fairly pointed out that: a) Ms. (Judith) Miller's piece contains the same kind of unsupported assertions, with same lack of checkable facts, that pervaded her reporting then; and b) her reporting from and about Lebanon during the '80s war was just as bad, relying on the same number of unnamed official sources and embassy briefings. I couldn't understand then, and still don't, how the NY Times, with such a great stable of foreign correspondents and editors, allowed her to achieve such prominence.

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Two of his favorite gambling stories

Gene Herrick (Email) - Prostitution is reported to be one of the first travails of the human race, but gambling had to be the next door neighbor.

But, speaking of gambling, two of my favorite gambling stories, relating to AP staff people, happened many, many miles apart - one in far North Korea during the Korean War, and the other in the good old southern city of Nashville, Tennessee.

Tom Stone and I were AP war correspondents traveling with the 17th Regiment of the 7th Division. We had inside information that the 17th was going to the Yalu River, on the Manchurian border. We traveled with them for a few weeks. We slept with the air section of the regiment for a few reasons. One, they were nice guys who flew those tiny spotter planes. Two, I used them for taxi cabs to reach the front each day. They would drop me off on a tiny dirt road at the front, and then pick me up there in the afternoon. Three, they often received bottles of whiskey for the number of combat flights, and four, Tom and I enjoyed playing a little nickel or dime limit poker with the pilots before dinner.

Of course, we billeted in various places, but often in abandoned school houses, whose windows were knocked out because of the fighting, and thus permitting the 25-below-zero winds to come in.

One evening, a poker game was in progress. Tom Stone came in the room. The pilots invited Tom to join the game. Tom said he didn't think he should play, and declined. The pilots, about four of them, kept urging Tom to join the game. Tom said he was too good, and that he would win. The pilots scoffed, and continued to invite him to play. Tom finally sat down, but said he would not play for money because he would beat them. They jeered. Tom then opened a new deck of cards, shuffled them, and dealt five cards to each of them. After they arranged their cards, Tom said, "Now I'll tell you why I didn't want to play." Tom proceeded to go left to right and amazingly described in detail the cards each man held.

Faces dropped. Tom then said to them, "You see, I used to be a professional card dealer in Las Vegas."

- O -

The other gambling story occurred in Nashville, Tennessee, about 1955. It was during an Associated Press state meeting, and at the headquarters hotel. Nashville Chief of Bureau Ed Ball had a suite with a living room and bedroom. One of Ed's old buddies was Red Mason, the AP radio regional salesman, who was in town for the meeting. Ed and Red were old crap shooters as well, and very competitive with the bones.

Ed Ball had apparently beat Red with the dice earlier in the day. While I was there in the room talking with folks, Red Mason entered the room with challenging eyes and waving a $5 bill, "I'm going to get even," he said. Ball said no that he didn't want to play him again. They kept up the banter, and then Ball said okay, you throw the dice. Mason would have none of that, and demanded Ball throw the dice.

What was amazing, Ball went into the living room, threw the newly opened dice across the room, under a ceiling alcove, up against the wall in the bedroom - some 16 feet away - whereupon the dice fell onto the chenille bedspread. Everyone ran over to peer at the

result.

Yep, a winning seven!

Mason left the room, red-faced and cussing.

AP names Joshi to top Southeast Asia news position

BANGKOK (AP) - Vijay Joshi, a veteran foreign correspondent and news leader for The Associated Press who has spent three decades covering Asia and the Middle East, has been named the cooperative's director of news for Southeast Asia.

Joshi, 53, currently the assistant Asia-Pacific editor, will continue to be based in Bangkok. From there he will oversee day-to-day operations of more than three dozen AP journalists in 12 countries in the region, which contains nations from Myanmar to Papua New Guinea.

Ted Anthony, the AP's director of Asia-Pacific news, announced Joshi's new role on Friday.

"Vijay is that rare combination of a true area expert and a genuinely nimble mind," Anthony said. "As we integrate Asia's operations to provide a multiformat news experience for our customers, I can't imagine a better leader to help a talented staff tell stories that make a difference and figure out how to deliver our journalism in exciting and unexpected new ways."

The position of Southeast Asia news director was created as part of the AP's plan to divide Asia-Pacific into key sub-regions, each managed by a leader overseeing all media formats - video, text and photos. This is aimed at ensuring that customers receive an integrated multiformat news report from the AP.

"The importance of Southeast Asia in the region's geopolitics and economics cannot be overstated," Joshi said. "The AP has always listened to its customers, and what we are hearing is that they want stories that can be presented as a complete package - text complemented by visual elements or the other way around. My aim will be to provide them that."

Joshi joined AP in 1989 as a correspondent in New Delhi, where he covered politics, insurgencies, wars, tragedies and sports in South Asia and Afghanistan.

He was a correspondent in Cairo and did several assignments in the Middle East, including

Iraq and Iran. He was also news editor in Singapore and Bangkok before becoming chief of bureau for Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei, based in Kuala Lumpur, in 2004. He held that position for six years before moving to Bangkok as the assistant Asia-Pacific editor in 2011.

A journalism graduate from Osmania University in Hyderabad, India, Joshi also has a master of science degree in marine geology from Andhra University in Waltair, India, and a bachelor's degree in geology from Osmania.

A native of India, Joshi began his journalism career with the Indian Express newspaper in 1985. He also worked for India's biggest news agency, Press Trust of India, before joining AP.

Click **here** for a link to the story.

AP White House reporter takes top honors for deadline reporting

Most of the White House Press Corps had departed for the evening, but AP's Josh Lederman was one of a few still at work inside at 8 p.m. on Sept. 19, 2014, when he heard a commotion outside the doors of the briefing room. Secret Service agents were shouting at people to get inside, saying the building was on lockdown.

Lederman rushed to the press office, where officials were not yet aware that there had been an incident. A few seconds later, agents stormed in with weapons drawn and began evacuating White House staffers into the basement. Lederman was sent there too, along with the White House communications director and a senior adviser to President Barack Obama.

After a few minutes of chaos, Lederman and the White House staffers were hurried out

through a side door into the street, where the Secret Service had blocked off the perimeter of the campus. A uniformed agent rushing by said that someone had jumped the fence. Using his iPhone, Lederman wrote a quick, brief story that hit the AP wire at 8:17 p.m.

Then he kept reporting.

His story, written under deadline pressure on one of the most competitive beats in Washington, earned Lederman the prestigious Merriman Smith Memorial Award from the White House Correspondents' Association (WHCA), which announced its annual honors on Tuesday.

"Lederman was also resourceful enough to use social media to locate an official source for comment on a Friday night, when official Washington normally rolls up the sidewalks, to confirm his hunch that the breach was more serious than it was being portrayed," the judges said. "Lederman's quick thinking and ability to turn around a story with nuance in a short time frame made this report stand out."

Lederman will accept his award on April 25, at the WHCA's annual dinner in Washington. AP was also honored in 2013, when Chief White House Correspondent Julie Pace won the Merriman Smith award for an on-deadline story explaining Obama's path to re-election.

"We're thrilled Josh has won the Merriman Smith award. He's done a terrific job covering both spot news and also developing expertise on environmental stories and national security stories," said Washington Bureau Chief Sally Buzbee. "He's a real building block for our bureau going forward and we're really proud of him."

Lederman, 29, has been on the White House beat since 2013 and focuses on domestic and foreign policy, as well as electoral politics and Vice President Joe Biden. He previously reported for AP in Jerusalem and covered Gov. Chris Christie and state politics in New Jersey, and reported for The Hill newspaper.

A native of Tucson, Arizona, Lederman has a master's degree in journalism from Northwestern University and a bachelor's degree in anthropology from The George Washington University. He makes regular appearances on national television and radio, including on NPR, Fox News, BBC America and other outlets.

Click **here** for a link to the story.

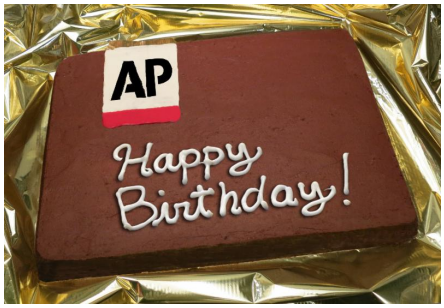
AP women's basketball awards presented

Associated Press Assistant Sports Editor, South Region Oscar Dixon presents the Associated Press Player of the Year award to Connecticut's Breanna Stewart at the NCAA Final Four tournament on Saturday in Tampa. Stewart earned The Associated Press Player of the Year award for the second consecutive year.

In photo below, Dixon presents the Associated Press Coach of the Year award to Florida State's Sue Semrau.

AP Photos by Chris O'Meara

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Kia Breaux (Email)

Mike Tharp (Email)

Welcome to Connecting

Tom Berman (Email)

Claudia Counts (Email)

Mark Duncan (Email)

Noreen Gillespie (Email)

Pam Haggerty (Email)

Stories of interest

Report: Rolling Stone rape article 'journalistic failure'

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) - Rolling Stone magazine retracted a widely discredited article about an alleged gang rape at the University of Virginia after a top journalism school issued a scathing report Sunday concluding it had failed to meet proper journalistic standards.

The review, undertaken at Rolling Stone's request, presented a broad indictment of the magazine's handling of a story that had horrified readers, unleashed widespread protests at the university's Charlottesville campus and sparked a national discussion about sexual assaults on college campuses.

The way the magazine reported, edited and vetted the article is a "story of journalistic failure that was avoidable," the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism said in the report. The criticism came two weeks after the Charlottesville police department said it had found no evidence to back the claims of the victim identified in the story only as "Jackie," who said she was raped by seven men at a fraternity house.

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Malaysian cartoonist charged with 9 counts of sedition

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) -- A Malaysian cartoonist known for lampooning the ruling coalition was charged Friday with nine counts of sedition over a series of tweets criticizing the country's judiciary.

The charges against Zulkiflee Anwar Alhaque, better known as Zunar, came amid a widening government crackdown on opposition politicians and the media slammed by critics as a move to stifle freedom of expression.

"This is a record, being charged nine times and using the sedition law. It is excessive and targeted at silencing vocal critics," said Zunar's lawyer, Latheefa Koya.

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Covering Hostages, Without Becoming Pawns (New York Times) (Shared by Sibby Christensen)

TO TAKE up the topic of how The Times has covered the Islamic State kidnappings of Western journalists and aid workers is to venture into a journalistic minefield.
The memorable stories of recent months bring up strong and conflicting feelings among journalists, former hostages, family members of past hostages, and certainly Times readers.

The Times stories were riveting to read; they broke new ground and served the public interest by opening a hidden subject to the light of public scrutiny and debate.

But some say that such coverage may give brutal killers the publicity they seek or that it could even put hostages in worse danger. And, in two different ways, the accuracy and sourcing of some of these stories have been challenged.

The stories are among the most striking work in the career of the Times reporter who wrote them, Rukmini Callimachi. They began appearing soon after she arrived at The Times from The Associated Press early last year.

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Lynsey Addario: 'War journalists are not all addicted to adrenaline. It's a calling' (The Guardian)

Lynsey Addario, 41, is a photojournalist who works mostly in conflict zones. She grew up in Connecticut, the daughter of Italian-American hairdressers, and was given her first camera, a Nikon FG, by her father when she was 13.

She joined the Associated Press in 1996, and later began working for the New York Times, initially as a stringer. She has reported from Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Darfur, Iraq, Syria and Libya, where she was kidnapped in 2011. In 2009 she was part of the team that won the Pulitzer prize for the New York Times for its "Talibanistan" series, and the same year she won a $500,000 MacArthur "genius" Fellowship. It has been reported that her new memoir, It's What I Do: A Photographer's Life of Love and War, is to be made into a movie by Steven Spielberg. She is married to Paul de Bendern, formerly a Reuters bureau chief, with whom she has a three-year-old son, Lukas. She lives in London.

You're used to working visually. What was it like to write instead?

That's interesting. For me, taking photographs is such a tortured process. I'm always feeling like I'm not getting enough: I'm in the wrong place, the light isn't good, the subject's not comfortable. When I'm writing, I don't bring that pressure to bear. I guess I don't have such high expectations about it. So the whole process was fun. It was the first time in 15 years that I'd really given myself time to download my experiences. I'd been moving at such a fast pace for so long that I never stopped to process it all. It was therapeutic.

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Confessions of a Vulture Journalist (Newsweek)

By the time I arrived at the staging area in the French Alps last week, I was a day late to the biggest story in the world. German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Françoise Hollande had just sped past me in a fleet of black cars after their obligatory appearance at the grim scene near the site of the March 24 crash of Germanwings Flight 9525. When I arrived there, most of the hundred or so television news tripods stood unmanned, their operators off to dinner, or maybe scoring some exclusive interview.

I don't speak French and had no idea what was going on, which is why I'd been pecking out ridiculous notes on my phone on the winding drive through the foothills of the Alps, hoping maybe the "wide lush valley rimmed with snowcapped peaks" might come in handy for whatever story I could cobble together.

I was helpless. We all are, we vulture journalists, when we first begin to encircle the

victims of a tragedy like last week's crash near Seyne-les Alpes, France. We're desperate for some kind of "scoop," to prove to the world that it's our media outlet you should be watching or reading. In reality, at least in those first blind couple of days, we were all going to write the same version of the sparse collection of facts the gatekeepers of real information fed us. Some of us may scribble more cleverly, some may look cuter on camera, but there were a hundred of us here, from all over the world. So I did the same thing most reporters do when they show up at the scene of a big breaking story: I asked some other journo what the hell was going on.

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For women in sports media, the uphill battleground lives online (Dailydot.com)

Kavitha Davidson has hate-readers. The Bloomberg View sports columnist will write a story for the website, and as soon as it publishes, she knows the trolls are waiting to bubble up from underground and attack her. Not only for the words she uses or the ideas she espouses, but because she's a woman and she's writing about sports and she has the gall to put forth controversial takes.

"It's really unfortunate that we've become so accustomed to this type of thing," Davidson tells the Daily Dot. "It's just kind of normalized when it comes from fans... One of the biggest problems is that it's such an insular industry. Women are making incredible strides, but it's still male and it's still white. Until we get a little more parity, this kind of culture will continue to be fostered."

Davidson is a woman writing about sports, and so, she's attacked.

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What Exactly Was Joseph Mitchell Doing All Those Years at 'The New Yorker'? (Publishers Weekly)

Joseph Mitchell, one of America's greatest nonfiction writers, is given an astounding biography in Thomas Kunkel's Man in Profile. Mitchell, who wrote some of the most enduring pieces ever to appear in the New Yorker, including profiles of McSorley's Old Ale

House and Bowery ticket-taker Mazie, was also infamous for not producing anything after 1964--over three decades before his death at age 87. But despite not publishing one single piece during that time, Mitchell kept showing up to work, and The New Yorker kept paying him. So, what exactly was Mitchell doing the last 30 years of his life? Kunkel investigates.

In his long career at The New Yorker, Joseph Mitchell built a reputation as both a distinguished writer and an unusually deliberate one. Throughout the entire decade of the Fifties, for instance, he produced only five stories, though they were among the most substantive and satisfying he would ever write. The last of these, "The Rivermen," about shad fishermen who worked the Hudson, appeared in 1959. And then it would be five more years until Mitchell's byline turned up again.

The Final Word

On Harnessing the Power of Praise

Corner Office: This interview with Cindi Leive, editor in chief of Glamour magazine, was conducted and condensed by Adam Bryant.

Click **here** to read.

Today in History: April 6, 2015

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, April 6, the 96th day of 2015. There are 269 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 6, 1965, the United States launched Intelsat I, also known as the "Early Bird" communications satellite, into geosynchronous orbit.

On this date:

In 1830, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized by Joseph Smith in Fayette, New York.

In 1865, in the closing days of the Civil War, Union forces led by Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant defeated Gen. Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia in the Battle of Sailor's Creek.

In 1896, the first modern Olympic games formally opened in Athens, Greece.

In 1909, American explorers Robert E. Peary and Matthew A. Henson and four Inuits became the first men to reach the North Pole.

In 1917, Congress approved a declaration of war against Germany.

In 1945, during World War II, the Japanese warship Yamato and nine other vessels sailed on a suicide mission to attack the U.S. fleet off Okinawa; the fleet was intercepted the next day.

In 1947, the first Tony Awards were held in New York. (This event, focusing on individual achievement, did not specifically recognize plays or musicals; honorees included Ingrid Bergman, Helen Hayes, Jose Ferrer and Fredric March and playwright Arthur Miller.)

In 1954, a month after being criticized by newsman Edward R. Murrow on CBS' "See It Now," Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, R-Wis., given the chance to respond on the program, charged that Murrow had, in the past, "engaged in propaganda for Communist causes."

In 1963, the United States signed an agreement to sell the Polaris missile system to Britain.

In 1971, Russian-born composer Igor Stravinsky, 88, died in New York City.

In 1985, William J. Schroeder (SHRAY'-dur) became the first artificial heart recipient to be discharged from the hospital as he moved into an apartment in Louisville, Kentucky.

In 1998, country singer Tammy Wynette died at her Nashville home at age 55.

Ten years ago: Iraq's new government finally began to take shape as lawmakers elected as president Jalal Talabani, a Kurdish leader who promised to represent all ethnic and religious groups. Fifteen U.S. service members and three American civilians were killed when their Chinook helicopter crashed in Afghanistan. Prince Rainier III of Monaco died at age 81, leaving the throne to Prince Albert II.

Five years ago: The White House announced a fundamental shift in U.S. nuclear strategy that called the spread of atomic weapons to rogue states or terrorists a worse threat than the nuclear Armageddon feared during the Cold War. Former Soviet diplomat Anatoly

Dobrynin, 90, died in Moscow. Actor Corin Redgrave, 70, died in London. Wilma Mankiller, the first female chief of the Cherokee Nation, died in Oklahoma at age 64.

One year ago: Legendary Hollywood actor Mickey Rooney, 93, died in North Hollywood. U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel delivered a two-pronged warning to Asia Pacific nations, announcing in Tokyo that the U.S. would send two additional ballistic missile destroyers to Japan to counter the North Korean threat, and saying China had better respect its neighbors. The U.S. Navy rescued an American family with an ill 1-year-old from a sailboat that had broken down hundreds of miles off the Mexican coast. George Strait won his second entertainer of the year - 25 years after winning his first - and Miranda Lambert and Keith Urban teamed up to earn top honors at the Country Music Awards.

Today's Birthdays: Nobel Prize-winning scientist James D. Watson is 87. Composer-conductor Andre Previn is 86. Country singer Merle Haggard is 78. Actor Billy Dee Williams is 78. Actor Roy Thinnes is 77. Writer-comedian Phil Austin (Firesign Theatre) is 74. Movie director Barry Levinson is 73. Actor John Ratzenberger is 68. Baseball Hall of Famer Bert Blyleven is 64. Actress Marilu Henner is 63. Olympic bronze medal figure skater Janet Lynn is 62. Actor Michael Rooker is 60. Former U.S. Rep. Michele Bachmann, R-Minn., is 59. Rock musician Warren Haynes is 55. Rock singer-musician Frank Black is 50. Actress Ari Meyers is 46. Actor Paul Rudd is 46. Actor-producer Jason Hervey is 43. Rock musician Markku Lappalainen (mar-KOO' lap-uh-LAN'-en) is 42. Actor Zach Braff is 40. Actor Joel Garland (TV: "Orange is the New Black") is 40. Actress Candace Cameron Bure is 39. Actor Teddy Sears is 38. Jazz and rhythm-and-blues musician Robert Glasper is 37. Actress Eliza Coupe is 34. Folk singer-musician Kenneth Pattengale (Milk Carton Kids) is 33. Actor Bret Harrison is 33. Actor Charlie McDermott is 25.

Thought for Today: "History is the ship carrying living memories to the future." - Sir Stephen Spender, British poet and critic (1909-1995).

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