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Connecting - December 05, 2017

1 message

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Tue, Dec 5, 2017 at 8:52 AM

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Connecting

December 05, 2017

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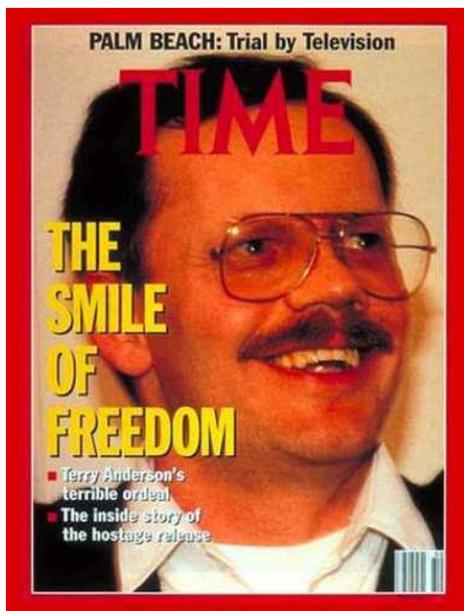
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AP Photo/Alan Diaz

Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning!



We lead today's Connecting with a story on our colleague **Terry Anderson** ([Email](#)) who 20 years ago Monday was released from captivity after being taken hostage for seven years by Muslim extremists. Terry was interviewed by National Geographic for a program that will air in January.

Also in the newsletter is a story on the retirement Dec. 1 of Associated Press photojournalist **Alan Diaz**, whose coverage of a 6-year-old Cuban boy named Elian Gonzalez earned him the Pulitzer Prize. His iconic image is at the top of the page.

We welcome your stories and contributions.

Paul

Terry Anderson recalls hostage ordeal for National Geographic special



AP Photo/Thomas Kienzle, File

By Mark Dawidziak, Cleveland Plain Dealer

Pasadena -- December marked the 20th anniversary of Lorain native Terry Anderson's release from captivity. Taken hostage in March 1985 by Muslim extremists, the Associated Press correspondent recounts his harrowing seven-year ordeal in "Surviving Death," the season opener of the National Geographic Channel's "Explorer" series. It premieres at 10 p.m. Monday, Jan. 17.

"I've done a lot of interviews and appeared in some different stories and programs, but, as a matter of daily course, I don't really think about it very much," Anderson told TV critics gathered for their semi-annual press tour. "In fact, virtually every year since I was home, I've been reminded of the anniversary by someone else who calls me up or sends me a message and says, 'Congratulations on the anniversary of your release.' And I'm saying, 'What? Oh, yeah.' "

Anderson wrote a book, "Den of Lions," about his experience and narrated a prize-winning documentary about his return to Lebanon. Still, reliving those years for

"Surviving Death" was an incredibly emotional experience.

I felt very comfortable with the National Geographic team," Anderson said. "They're very good interviewers and they very quickly built a trust that allowed me to talk frankly and easily. So it brought back some things very vividly that I haven't thought about in quite a while. And seeing the film with the reenactments had some very powerful moments in it.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Larry Blasko.

Alan Diaz, AP photographer behind Elian image, to retire



By **JENNIFER KAY** | Associated Press

MIAMI - Associated Press photojournalist Alan Diaz, whose coverage of a 6-year-old Cuban boy named Elian Gonzalez earned him the Pulitzer Prize, is retiring after 17 years.

Diaz's iconic image shows an armed U.S. immigration agent confronting the terrified boy in the Little Havana home where he lived with relatives for months after being

found floating in the waters off Florida.

Diaz agreed to an interview about his career on one condition: He'd only talk over cafecito in Little Havana.

The Miami neighborhood is the heart of the Cuban-American community. It's where Diaz started his U.S. photography career. It's where he earned a Pulitzer Prize. It's home.

"The Cuban story is a fantastic story," he said over Cuban coffee at the landmark Versailles restaurant in late October. "Just to see the people, how they're passionate. I love this story."

Diaz will retire Dec. 1.

He was freelancing for AP when a boater found a 5-year-old Cuban boy floating in an inner tube in the waters off Fort Lauderdale on Thanksgiving Day 1999.

He would be the only photojournalist to capture the moment five months later when U.S. immigration agents ended a bitter international custody battle with a pre-dawn Good Friday raid, pulling a terrified Elian Gonzalez from his uncle's Little Havana home so he could be returned to his father in Cuba.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Pizac.

Connecting mailbox

A Christmas story, and not a happy one...

Neal Ulevich ([Email](#)) - Christmas morning 1976 in Bangkok. COB Denis Gray was on a scuba vacation in southern Thailand. I was the only native English speaker in the bureau. The phone in our little home a few blocks from the office began to ring.

A Thai reporter, Visetsak, was so excited his English seemed to make little sense. Messages from Tokyo...crash. I dressed and rushed to the bureau. An Egyptair Boeing 707 had crashed into a factory while on final approach to Bangkok's airport, killing all aboard and many on the ground.

I wrote the story from what little I had - Visetsak was on his way to the airport. I called my spouse who 'celebrated' Christmas by going to the airport as well. Bill Mullen of the Chicago Tribune, my old schoolmate and friend from our University of Wisconsin days, was in town, and I called him. I feared he would think it a gag, but he took it seriously and rushed out to the airport. I kept writing. I never did get out there. We were late on the story and the pictures...let's forget about that.

My wife Maureen did come through with detail of the horrific crash scene. And Bill, who earned the Pulitzer three times during his long career, found a young Thai worker, a Christian, who had been eating a bowl of noodles outside the factory and bemoaning his overnight shift which prevented attending services. Then the young worker saw the screaming jet plow into the factory just feet away, killing 19 who were not on break, as he was.

The cause was pilot error, perhaps compounded by ground fog.

-0-

How did letter to AP colleague get into O'Reilly book?

Joe Somma ([Email](#)) - At the end of the book, Killing Reagan, by Bill O'Reilly, there is a page "Last Word".

In the last year of Ronald Reagan presidency, he was aware that some close to him were questioning the way he was running his administration.

On May 6, 1988, he finally let loose. He sent a private letter to his very good friend and adviser John Koehler.

John worked with me in AP Human Resources for many years.

When he received the letter from President Reagan, John let me read that very letter that is in Bill O'Reilly's book.

The show is open through Sunday, December 10, 2017 at [221 East 27th Street](#) in Manhattan. The church office hours are M-F 12-4PM and Sunday 11-2PM.

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Dow Jones printer part of his career collection

Bob Haring ([Email](#)) - I have in my room an original Dow Jones printer and somewhere an old AP machine. DJ had two versions, one taller than the other. I have the shorter version, with a clipboard used to hold stories pulled off the printer. I had the taller model, when DJ switched to modern machines and sold the old ones for \$1 each, but I gave that one to my Jersey neighbor who worked for the Bank of New York. We had three DJ printers in 50 Rock, two in my Business News area and the third by the General Desk. the AP printer I got in Tulsa when AP abandoned those devices. As I recall, Bob Fiveash, then the OK traffic chief, gave it to me when AP abandoned it. One of my enduring memories is rebuilding a printer with teletyped directions from Fiveash who was far and away the best Traffic man I worked with.



AP releases mini-documentary package about the US opioid crisis



Graves' troubles began more than a decade ago when he was prescribed the opioid oxycodone for degenerative arthritis in his hips, shoulders, feet and back. AP PHOTO / DAVID GOLDMAN

How best to capture the story of recovering opioid users?

Chicago-based medical writer Lindsey Tanner and Atlanta-based photographer/videographer David Goldman teamed up to produce an intimate look at a diverse group of people - among them, a lawyer, a businessman and a trucker - who got caught up in the worst opioid epidemic in U.S. history.

Their package - Tanner's story and Goldman's photos and a 9-minute mini-documentary - earn the Beat of the Week.

Tanner began developing the story several months ago during several conversations with a pain-and-addiction doctor at Vanderbilt University who had been recommended for another opioid piece that didn't pan out. It became clear during those calls that the doctor had been personally and professionally touched by the epidemic - he'd lost his brother to a possible drug overdose and was now helping people from all walks of life recover from opioid addiction.

Great story on the opioid epidemic by @lindseytanner. Honored to work on video and photos for this project with her. <https://t.co/AEFHozweyg>- David Goldman (@DavidGoldmanAP) November 21, 2017

That set in motion an ambitious project: to document through the words of these one-time opioid users their struggles and their journeys from rock-bottom to recovery. Over two to three months, Tanner had several phone and email conversations with the patients. When she sensed she'd developed a rapport, she'd ask each to describe their low points and those stories helped drive the tone of the writing.

Goldman made video the priority, aiming to produce a documentary-style piece with patients' voices driving the narrative.

Goldman decided to experiment with storytelling.

Instead of packaging a traditional AP video, he aimed to produce something more personal - a documentary-style piece with patients' voices driving the narrative. The Broadcast News Center was on board and moved a 9-minute video along with a 2-minute breakout of the doctor. Then this full-length version was posted on AP's Digital Products YouTube page:

Here's how Goldman describes capturing the documentary look: "First, I shot whenever possible with a shallow depth of field to give the visuals a moody feel. With the subject in focus, blurring out the noisy background gave it more of a cinematic look. This is something we do often for photo stills so it's as simple as applying the same principle. Second, I used a Glidecam to be able to shoot motion relatively stable. This allowed me to move with the subject to capture candid footage without having to stay stationary with a tripod or handhold the camera which can create shaky video. Third, I used still images when I thought it was stronger than B-roll footage. Fourth, I tried to keep talking heads out of the piece as much as possible. Unless the person is showing strong emotion, to me it's always more interesting to listen to someone's story while watching them doing something interesting or at the very least, something mundane they are doing but shot in an interesting way. Lastly, I created some background music which I thought would tie the piece together and gave each person's story their own music to reflect their situation."

Goldman says he didn't know how long the piece was going to be until he sat down to edit the interviews and found it very hard to keep them tight without losing crucial elements.

"The idea for the intro came just from trying something different," he says. "I was curious what it would look like to introduce the viewer to each person as they sat in their own space with themselves, not saying anything and not doing anything. And then to contrast that with each of their own statements about hitting rock bottom.

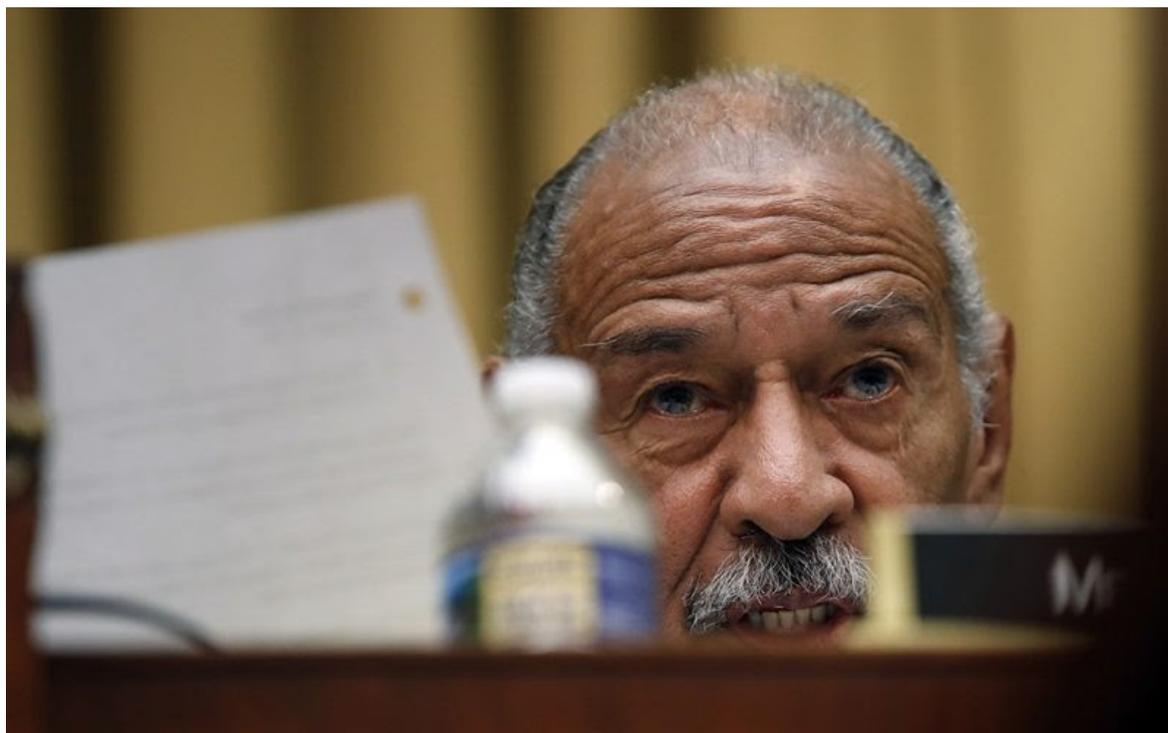
Hopefully it was engaging enough that people would want to keep watching past the intro."

Goldman says he made video rather than stills his priority for this project. "I always feel it's helpful to pick one, never both equally. I find it usually doesn't work when you're equally committed, that moments get missed and it's far too stressful."

For their illuminating package that combined powerful text and photos with a haunting mini-documentary, Tanner and Goldman share this week's \$500 prize.



AP staffers get exclusive interview with U.S. Rep. John Conyers



Ranking Member John Conyers, D-Mich., attends a House Judiciary Committee hearing on Capitol Hill, Nov. 14, 2017. Conyers has since stepped down as the top Democrat on

the committee while denying allegations by former staffers of sexual misconduct. AP PHOTO / CAROLYN KASTER

When BuzzFeed broke the news that the longest-serving current U.S. House member had settled a sexual harassment complaint, one notable thing missing from the coverage was comment from U.S. Rep. John Conyers himself.

That wasn't surprising. The 88-year-old Conyers rarely gives interviews anymore, deferring to his staff to issue statements or simply not responding.

Congress was on break the week of Thanksgiving. Was there a chance he'd be home? News Editor Roger Schneider suggested that video journalist Mike Householder and reporter Corey Williams drop by Conyers' Detroit home. Corey was about to leave for work and could meet Mike on his way.

They knew it was a long shot. Corey and Mike had been to Conyers' house on Seven Mile Road before, and knew it was gated.

To their surprise, the gate was open when they arrived at about 9:30 a.m. They were even more surprised when Conyers answered their ring.

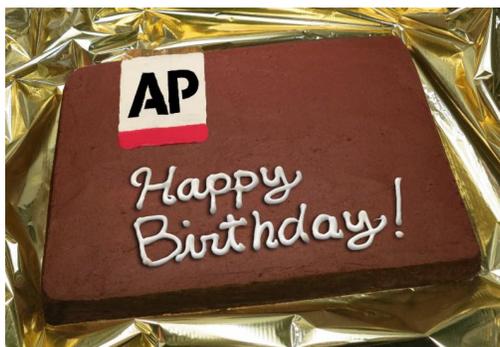
Conyers denied settling sexual harassment claims. Williams repeated the allegations. Conyers again denied them.

Conyers refused to go on camera but answered a few questions before someone's hand appeared and slowly closed the door.

Before the door closed, Conyers gave Williams and Householder a major beat. He said he was aware of the BuzzFeed reports because his wife, Monica, had told him about them before she left the house. But he denied settling sexual harassment claims and other allegations of inappropriate touching of staffers. Williams repeated the allegations. Conyers again denied them.

Corey immediately phoned in the response to the bureau and the live story was updated to lead with Conyers' response. Meanwhile, Householder gathered B-roll from inside the property and interviewed Conyers' constituents in a nearby neighborhood for a video that accompanied the text story:

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Paul Stevens - stevenspl@live.com

Cecilia White ([Email](#)) - HAIL TO THE CHIEF! Happy Birthday to our "Connecting" editor, "Elmer" Stevens. It's my nickname for you, since you are the glue that keeps us all together. I know many of my "Connecting" colleagues will join me in wishing you a grand 'new year' too! 73s, Cecilia White, Kansas City

Welcome to Connecting



Lefteris Pitarakis - lpitarakis@ap.org

Story of interest

What we found when we asked newsrooms about sexual harassment (CJR)

By **ALEXANDRIA NEASON**

ON OCTOBER 5, A NEW YORK TIMES INVESTIGATION cracked open the decades-long abuse of women by Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein, a so-called open secret that reporters had previously failed to successfully report out. He was aggressively denounced, and days later, The New Yorker followed with a similar exposé, kickstarting a near-daily barrage of allegations and, even more shockingly, firings among the entertainment elite. At that time, no one anticipated that the growing list of predatory men would soon include some of the most prominent journalists in the country.

The revelations continue to pour in, and the media industry has grappled-and often fumbled-with the public outing of the "whisper networks" women have relied on to keep safe. Today, as journalists do the difficult and necessary work of reporting out allegations of harassment and assault everywhere from the ranks of Congress to comedy halls, the damned are increasingly joined by publicly shamed male journalists who have been ousted for their inability to behave appropriately. Men are facing consequences the likes of which we've never before seen.

At the center of this stream of breaking-news alerts is the reality that our newsrooms, committed to truth and transparency in the public interest, have long fallen short on their responsibility to keep their own reporters safe. And so the Columbia Journalism Review has set out to better understand the sexual harassment policies in place at newsrooms around the country. In late October, we designed two surveys to conduct a (unscientific) study: one for journalists, and one for newsroom human resources professionals and other senior management. A third survey was created to assess the realities of freelancers. Over the course of three weeks, hundreds of staff and freelance journalists filled out the surveys and dozens, primarily women, wrote to us with stories about being sexually harassed in their current and previous newsrooms. Many made specific allegations that, with permission from the journalists, CJR will report out in the coming weeks.

But in three weeks, we heard back from not a single one of the 149 newsrooms we contacted to participate.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - December 5, 2017



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 5, the 339th day of 2017. There are 26 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 5, 1952, the Great Smog of London descended on the British capital; the unusually thick fog, which contained toxic pollutants, lasted five days and was blamed for causing thousands of deaths.

On this date:

In 1782, the eighth president of the United States, Martin Van Buren, was born in Kinderhook, New York; he was the first chief executive to be born after American independence.

In 1791, composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart died in Vienna, Austria, at age 35.

In 1792, George Washington was re-elected president; John Adams was re-elected vice president.

In 1831, former President John Quincy Adams took his seat as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

In 1916, British Prime Minister Herbert H. Asquith resigned (he was succeeded by David Lloyd George).

In 1933, national Prohibition came to an end as Utah became the 36th state to ratify the 21st Amendment to the Constitution, repealing the 18th Amendment.

In 1945, five U.S. Navy torpedo bombers mysteriously disappeared after taking off from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, on a training mission with the loss of all 14 crew members; "The Lost Squadron" contributed to the legend of the Bermuda Triangle.

In 1967, pediatrician Dr. Benjamin Spock and poet Allen Ginsberg were among more than 260 people arrested during an anti-Vietnam War protest outside an armed forces induction center in lower Manhattan.

In 1977, Egypt broke diplomatic relations with Syria, Libya, Algeria, Iraq and South Yemen in the wake of criticism that followed President Anwar Sadat's peace overtures to Israel.

In 1988, a federal grand jury in North Carolina indicted PTL founder Jim Bakker and former aide Richard Dortch on fraud and conspiracy charges. (Bakker was convicted on all counts; Dortch pleaded guilty to four counts and cooperated with prosecutors in exchange for a lighter sentence. Bakker was initially sentenced to 45 years in prison; the term was eventually reduced to eight years, and he served a total of about five.)

In 1994, Republicans chose Newt Gingrich to be the first GOP speaker of the House in four decades.

In 2013, Nelson Mandela, the anti-apartheid leader who became South Africa's first black president, died at age 95.

Ten years ago: A 19-year-old gunman went on a shooting rampage at the Westroads Mall in Omaha, Nebraska, killing six store employees and two customers before taking his own life. President George W. Bush, in Omaha for a fundraiser, called on Iran to "come clean" about the scope of its nuclear activities or else face diplomatic isolation (Bush left the city about an hour before the mall shooting).

Five years ago: Port clerks ended an eight-day strike at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach after winning guarantees against the outsourcing of jobs. Jazz composer and pianist Dave Brubeck died in Norwalk, Connecticut, a day before he

would have turned 92. Brazilian architect Oscar Niemeyer died in Rio de Janeiro at age 104.

One year ago: President-elect Donald Trump chose retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson to be secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. A judge in Marietta, Georgia, sentenced Justin Ross Harris to serve life in prison without the possibility of parole after a jury found that he intentionally left his 22-month-old son, Cooper, in a hot SUV to die. A South Carolina judge declared a mistrial after a jury deadlocked in the murder trial of a white former police officer charged in the shooting death of an unarmed black motorist. Cindy Stowell, 41, of Austin, Texas, who competed on the TV game show "Jeopardy!" while battling terminal cancer, died eight days before her first episode aired. (Stowell, who won six games and \$105,803, had pledged her winnings to cancer research.)

Today's Birthdays: Singer Little Richard is 85. Author Joan Didion is 83. Author Calvin Trillin is 82. Actor Jeroen Krabbe (yeh-ROHN' krah-BAY') is 73. Opera singer Jose Carreras is 71. Pop singer Jim Messina is 70. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL quarterback Jim Plunkett is 70. World Golf Hall of Famer Lanny Wadkins is 68. Actress Morgan Brittany is 66. Actor Brian Backer is 61. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Art Monk is 60. Country singer Ty England is 54. Rock singer-musician John Rzeznik (REZ'-nihk) (The Goo Goo Dolls) is 52. Country singer Gary Allan is 50. Comedian-actress Margaret Cho is 49. Writer-director Morgan J. Freeman is 48. Actress Alex Kapp Horner is 48. Rock musician Regina Zernay (Cowboy Mouth) is 45. Actress Paula Patton is 42. Actress Amy Acker is 41. Actor Nick Stahl is 38. Actor Adan Canto is 36. Rhythm-and-blues singer Keri Hilson is 35. Actor Gabriel Luna is 35. Actor Frankie Muniz is 32. Actor Ross Bagley is 29.

Thought for Today: "All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them." - Walt Disney, American movie producer (born this date in 1901, died 1966).

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.

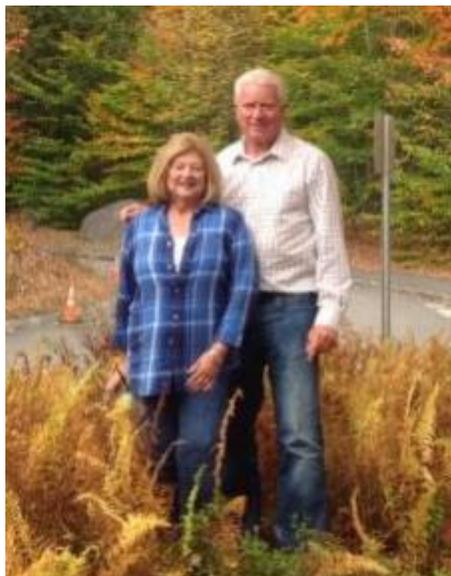
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

- **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.



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