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Connecting - February 28, 2018

1 message

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Wed, Feb 28, 2018 at 8:49 AM

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Connecting

February 28, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this the final day of February 2018.

There are dreamers among us - and we thank Connecting colleagues **Sibby Christensen** and **Hal Bock** for being first in with their responses to **Jim Hood's** call for your dreams of work. Hope we hear from you.

Have a great day!

Paul

Survey offers revealing look at news subscribers

By Lauren Easton

A new study by the Media Insight Project, a joint effort by the American Press Institute and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, reveals what motivates readers to pay for news, offering publishers insight into the new media landscape.

The survey of more than 4,100 recent newspaper subscribers shows that quality and accuracy matter to nearly all of them, especially after they subscribe. While the group does not necessarily represent all recent newspaper subscribers, the study includes subscribers to 90 different newspapers across the U.S.

It also identifies key differences between print and digital subscribers. Namely, the latter tend to be younger, male and more educated than print readers, and are more often attracted by good coverage of a particular topic and by especially useful or interesting content.

"The study makes clear that subscribers value quality and are often motivated by a desire to access local and topical news, which suggests that cutbacks in newsrooms might make it harder for newspapers to reach and retain subscribers in the future," said Emily Swanson, AP polling editor.

Key findings include:

Half of digital subscribers are triggered to subscribe by hitting a paywall and are more likely than print readers to be motivated by wanting to support local journalism.

Many who subscribe are triggered by discounts and promotions, when they are offered at the right time.

New subscribers to small papers are more likely than those at large metro papers to be heavy print users and to subscribe after moving to town. Subscribers to larger papers are more likely to pay for news after noticing a number of interesting articles.

Many subscribers began reading the publication before taking the plunge on a subscription, often for months or even a year or more.

The full report is available [online](#).

First responses to sharing your dreams of work

Sibby Christensen ([Email](#)) - "You should have stopped the car, opened the doors, and told them to get out and walk." That was Roy Steinfort - in reality, not a dream - after I told him that Keith Fuller and Dave Bowen had gotten into a seriously hot political argument in my car during the post-commute dropoff the previous evening.

Jim Hood's dream memory of the always blunt and no-nonsense Steinfort (in Tuesday's Connecting) sounds so true it could be true.

Picture Fuller in the front passenger seat and Bowen in the back, shaking their fists at each other right over my shoulder. This was one-armed combat because they were holding up the ends of their unbuckled seat belts to silence the alarm buzzer (in those days some thought that only sissies buckled up). My nightmare - no dream - was that I'd lose control of the car, crash, killing everyone, including me.

Background: During my first year at AP, Fuller noticed I commuted from the same stop on the New Haven line that he, Bowen and Steinfort used, and so "appointed" me to provide free station-to-house taxi service. These were AP bigshots - Fuller was then an AGM/personnel, Bowen headed the communications operation, and Steinfort headed the broadcast division. I called them the Larchmont AP Mafia. Since I was a fairly new hire, I wasn't about to argue.

I quickly learned the pecking order. First to Orsini Drive for Fuller, next to Thompson Place for Bowen, and finally, back to Palmer Avenue, near the station, for Steinfort, who thought the whole thing was silly.

So Jim captured Steinfort perfectly in his dream. Or otherwise.

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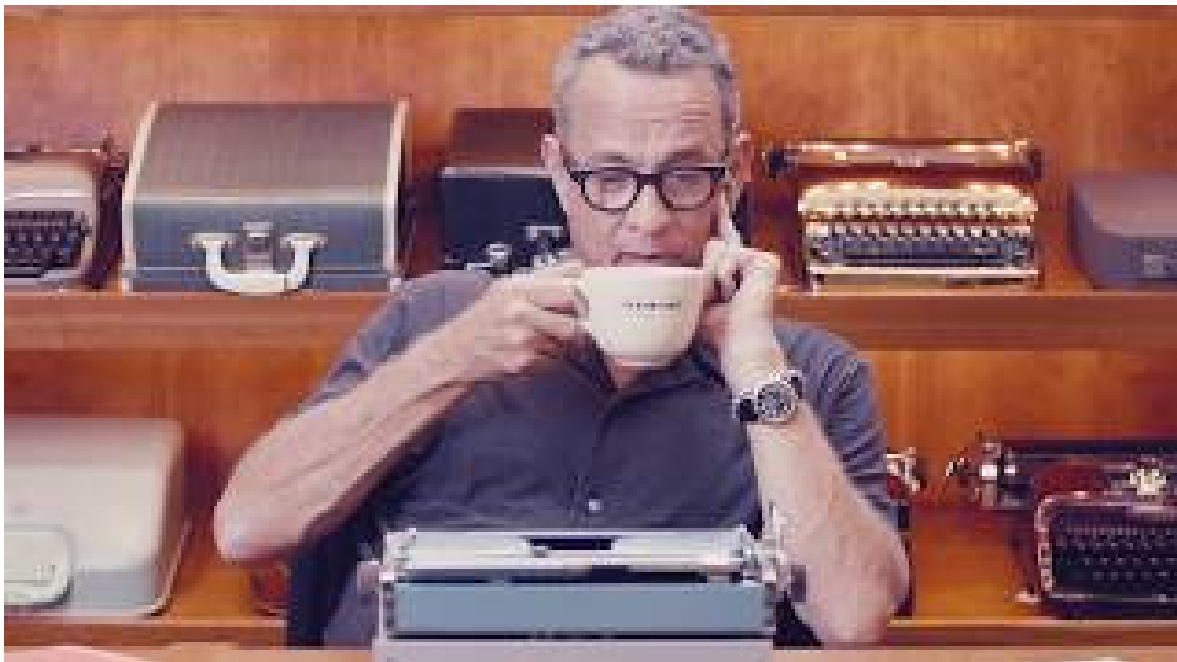
Hal Bock (Email) - I frequently dream that I am on the job, covering a World Series or a Super Bowl (I did 30 of each).

I am often in Toronto (a town I spent some time in but not an excessive amount). I am often flying to or from an assignment, but I am never on a plane. Rather, I am in the American Airlines terminal (my airline of choice) in JFK airport.

Sometimes, I am writing. Sometimes I am chasing down a story. My wife (a retired psychologist) refuses to place much meaning to all of this but it is exciting to relive those days, not that I would want to be doing it for real at this point in my life.

Connecting mailbox

Tom Hanks' account of old AP rewrite man had me doubled over laughing



Tom Hanks at the typewriter

Ann Blackman (Email) - You might call readers' attention to Tom Hanks' new book of short stories - *Uncommon Type: Some Stories* - and his delightful piece about an old AP rewrite man and "the chon-chonkka of his typewriter with the banding of the bell." The editor, a grumpy guy named Al Simmonds, regularly turned "choppy prose and the schoolkid syntax...into bona fide news copy."

Old Al passed away before he could even imagine reading news stories on a laptop- or more recently, "bent over our hand-held miracle machines." Then Hanks does a riff on the kind of auto-correcting that happens to my text messages every day. He captures the AP (and editors) we all knew and had me doubled over laughing.

[Click here](#) for a link to the book on Amazon.

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Amazing what you can find when you Google yourself

Steve Paulson (Email) - Amazing what you can find when you Google your name. I found this, and didn't even remember the details. I wonder what others have found out by googling their name.

Apollo 7 Coverage Orlando Sentinel Editors Note

To Cover Launch Boy, (Editors: note: The Sentinel sent its youngest reporter, Steve Paulson, 17, part-time sports writer in the Cocoa Bureau, to interview Dan Cheezem, who at 16 may be the youngest reporter on the press site for Apollo 9. Paulson, working as a Sentinel correspondent, covered the Apollo 7 flight photographically when he was 16.) Cheezem's father, a northeast Maryland farmer and poultry man was overwhelmed by the spaceport and was delighted his son is getting the opportunity to view the center and the Apollo 9. "At the present rate and from what we have seen here, we should come out on top in the race to the moon I'm sure of that," he said.

By STEVE PAULSON Sentinel Bureau

TITUSVILLE - Dan Cheezem will have a sharp pencil ready Monday. He will be covering the Apollo 9 flight from Kennedy Space Center and, at 16, will likely be the youngest reporter at the press site. Cheezem, who writes a science column for the Preston, Md., News and Farmer, has followed the space program almost 10 years.

[Click here](#) to read more.

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Father-in-law of AP's Adam Yeomans dies

The father of Lorraine Dempsey died Monday in Tallahassee. Lorraine is the wife of AP regional director Adam Yeomans of Nashville. Adam wrote in a Facebook post: "My father-in-law Bob Dempsey passed away Monday peacefully in Tallahassee. He was an amazing man, a devoted husband, wonderful father and father-in-law, and doting grandfather who gave selflessly and never asked for anything in return. He was born into poverty and worked his way up through hard work, grit, and a burning desire for a better life and loving family. He was the definition of a self-made man."

[Click here](#) for a link to his obituary. If you'd like to send a card to Lorraine and Adam, their home address is: [209 Chapelwood Drive, Franklin, TN 37069](#) (Shared by Eva Parziale)

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Perils of listening

Correction: School Shooting-Florida story

By Associated Press

February 26 at 11:12 AM

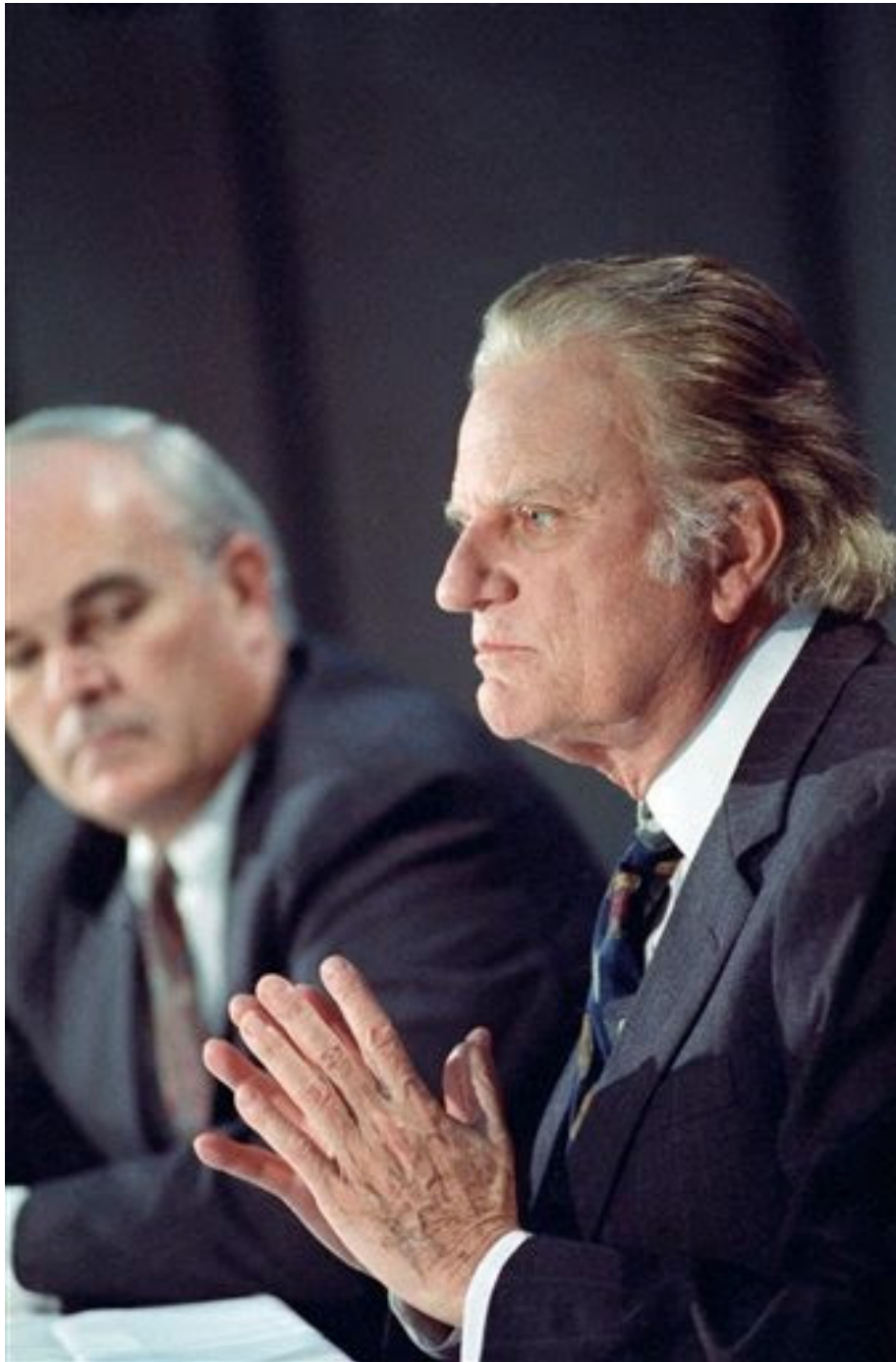
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FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — In a story Feb. 22 about the Florida school shooting, The Associated Press misquoted Broward County Sheriff Scott Israel in some versions of the story when he spoke about the families of the victims. He said, “I’ve been to their homes where they’re sitting shiva,” not “where they sit and shiver.”

Shared by Paul Albright.

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Billy Graham remembered as gentle person



Barry Sweet ([Email](#)) - I remember Billy Graham as a gentle person who I photographed two times in Tacoma, Washington. This is from 1981. I couldn't believe how many people showed up to hear his message. He was setting records everywhere. RIP

AP, HHMI expand collaboration to bolster health, science coverage

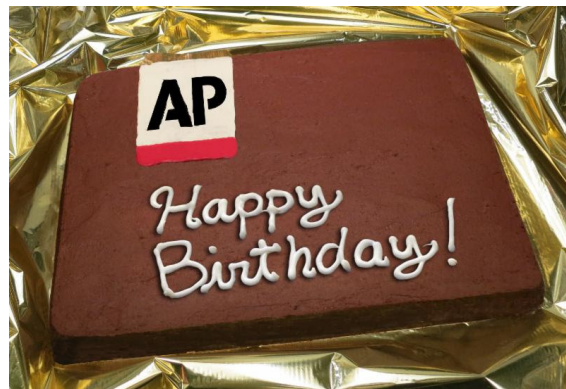
The Associated Press announced Tuesday an enhanced collaboration with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education that will further expand the news agency's reporting on health and science over the next three years.

AP will continue and broaden the "Science Says" and "Genetic Frontiers" series, grow its space reporting, and introduce new coverage areas around the environment, as well pursue data-driven projects about the environment and public health. AP retains all editorial control.

Designed to allow for deeper audience engagement and development, the multiformat health and science projects will also be used to establish best practices for science storytelling.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

George Hanna - geralhanna@comcast.net

Stories of interest

NBC's questioning of Ivanka Trump was more than appropriate. It should be just the start.

(Washington Post)

By Margaret Sullivan

In the Harry Potter books, there was the evil Lord Voldemort - "he who must not be named."

In Donald Trump's world, there are Ivanka Trump and John F. Kelly - they who must not be questioned.



Reuters image

The operative word in this latter world, we learn, is "inappropriate."

"I think it's a pretty inappropriate question to ask a daughter if she believes the accusers of her father when he's affirmatively stated that there's no truth to it," Ivanka Trump said, scolding the NBC News correspondent Peter Alexander in an interview on "Today."

Alexander wanted to know whether the women who have accused the president of sexual misconduct should be believed.

Ivanka Trump is in the unique position of being both the president's daughter and an official White House adviser. Here's how she's handled it so far. (Patrick Martin/The Washington Post)

After all, Ivanka Trump bills herself as a champion of women and is a close adviser to her father and a frequent representative of the United States abroad.

Uncomfortable, yes. Inappropriate, no. (And yes, I thought a similar question to Chelsea Clinton about her father's accusers during the 2016 presidential campaign was fair game, even though - unlike Ivanka Trump - she was not a government representative.)

Read more [here](#).

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New York Times reporter Emily Steel discusses journalism that toppled Fox News titans (The Chronicle, Duke University)



Photo by Sanjeev Dasgupta | The Chronicle

By Jamie Cohen

New York Times business reporter Emily Steel spoke Monday night about her role in the Times' exposure of sexual harassment at Fox News.

The talk, part of the James D. Ewing Lectures on Ethics in Journalism series, was moderated by Bill Adair, Knight professor of the practice of journalism and public policy. Steel detailed her efforts to secure sources and uncover stories helped lead to the firing of Fox News' two most prominent figures.

At the start of the lecture, Adair reminded the audience that the following conversation not only embodied the important #metoo moment but also represented the responsibility of journalists to hold others accountable.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady.

Today in History - February 28, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Feb. 28, the 59th day of 2018. There are 306 days left in the year. The Jewish holiday Purim begins at sunset.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 28, 1993, a gun battle erupted at a religious compound near Waco, Texas, when Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents tried to arrest Branch Davidian leader David Koresh on weapons charges; four agents and six Davidians were killed as a 51-day standoff began.

On this date:

In 1784, John Wesley, the co-founder of Methodism, chartered the first Methodist Church in the United States in Leesburg, Virginia.

In 1844, a 12-inch gun aboard the USS Princeton exploded as the ship was sailing on the Potomac River, killing Secretary of State Abel P. Upshur, Navy Secretary Thomas W. Gilmer and several others.

In 1861, the Territory of Colorado was organized.

In 1917, The Associated Press reported that the United States had obtained a diplomatic communication sent by German Foreign Minister Arthur Zimmermann to a German official in Mexico proposing a German alliance with Mexico and Japan should the U.S. enter World War I. (Outrage over the telegram helped propel America into the conflict.)

In 1942, the heavy cruiser USS Houston and the Australian light cruiser HMAS Perth were attacked by Japanese forces during the World War II Battle of Sunda Strait; both were sunk shortly after midnight on March 1 with a total loss of more than 1,000 men.

In 1953, scientists James D. Watson and Francis H.C. Crick announced they had discovered the double-helix structure of DNA.

In 1958, a school bus clipped a truck near Prestonburg, Kentucky, and plunged down an embankment into the Big Sandy River; 22 children managed to escape, but 26 other children and the bus driver drowned.

In 1960, a day after defeating the Soviets at the Winter Games in Squaw Valley, California, the United States won its first Olympic hockey gold medal by defeating Czechoslovakia, 9-4.

In 1968, "Soul on Ice" by Eldridge Cleaver was published by McGraw-Hill.

In 1975, 42 people were killed in London's Underground when a train smashed into the end of a tunnel.

In 1988, the 15th Olympic Winter Games held its closing ceremony in Calgary, Canada.

In 1996, Britain's Princess Diana agreed to divorce Prince Charles. (Their 15-year marriage officially ended in August 1996; Diana died in a car crash in Paris a year after that.)

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush told a White House news conference the country was not recession-bound; Democratic candidate Barack Obama said the economy was "on the brink of a recession" and blamed economic policies espoused by Bush and Republican presidential contender John McCain. Defense Secretary Robert Gates told his Turkish counterpart that Turkey should end its offensive against Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq as soon as possible. Mike Smith, lead singer for the British band the Dave Clark Five, died outside London at age 64.

Five years ago: Benedict XVI became the first pope in 600 years to resign, ending an eight-year pontificate. (Benedict was succeeded the following month by Pope Francis.) Bradley Manning, the Army private arrested in the biggest leak of classified information in U.S. history, pleaded guilty at Fort Meade, Maryland, to 10 charges involving illegal possession or distribution of classified material. (Manning, who later adopted the female identity Chelsea Manning, was sentenced to up to 35 years in prison after being convicted of additional charges in a court-martial, but had her sentence commuted in 2017 by President Barack Obama.)

One year ago: Heralding a "new chapter of American greatness," President Donald Trump issued a broad call for overhauling the nation's health care system and significantly boosting military spending in an hourlong speech to a joint session of Congress. Dozens of tornadoes began touching down in the upper Midwest and northern Arkansas, killing at least three people. Amazon's cloud-computing service, Amazon Web Services, experienced a five-hour outage in its eastern U.S. region, causing unprecedented and widespread problems for thousands of websites and apps.

(Stations: "Bobb'e J. Thompson" is correct)

Today's Birthdays: Architect Frank Gehry is 89. Actor Gavin MacLeod is 87. Singer Sam the Sham is 81. Actor-director-dancer Tommy Tune is 79. Hall of Fame auto racer Mario Andretti is 78. Actor Frank Bonner is 76. Actress Kelly Bishop is 74. Actress Stephanie Beacham is 71. Writer-director Mike Figgis is 70. Actress Mercedes Ruehl is 70. Actress Bernadette Peters is 70. Former Energy Secretary Steven Chu is 70. Actress Ilene Graff is 69. Nobel Prize-winning economist Paul Krugman is 65. Comedian Gilbert Gottfried is 63. Basketball Hall of Famer Adrian Dantley is 63. Actor John Turturro is 61. Rock singer Cindy Wilson is 61. Actress Rae Dawn Chong is 57. Actress Maxine Bahns is 49. Actor Robert Sean Leonard is 49. Rock singer Pat Monahan is 49. Author Daniel Handler (aka "Lemony Snicket") is 48. Actress Tasha Smith is 47. Actor Rory Cochrane is 46. Actress Ali Larter is 42. Country singer Jason Aldean is 41. Actor Geoffrey Arend is 40. Actress Melanie Chandra (TV: "Code Black") is 34. Actress Michelle Horn is 31. Actress True O'Brien is 24. Actress Madisen Beaty is 23. Actress Quinn Shephard is 23. Actor Bobb'e J. Thompson is 22.

Thought for Today: "In science, all facts, no matter how trivial or banal, enjoy democratic equality." - Mary McCarthy, American author and critic (1912-1989).

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.

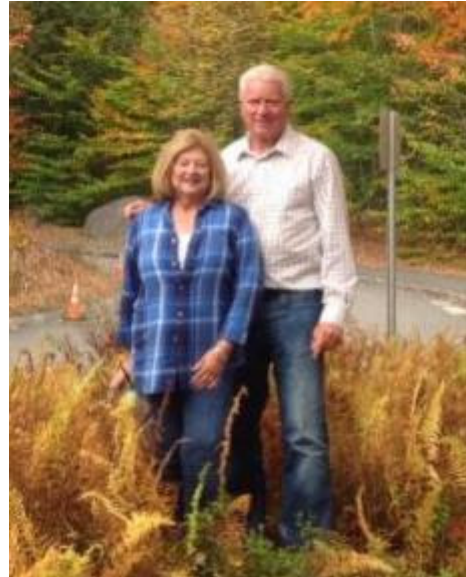
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

- **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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