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Connecting -- July 27, 2018

1 message

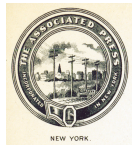
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Fri, Jul 27, 2018 at 8:57 AM

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Connecting

July 27, 2018

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Colleagues,

The media spray.

As AP Washington newswoman **Laurie Kellman** explains, it can be rowdy and it can be rude but it is a necessary part of holding presidents accountable.



Laurie Kellman

She explains the process and its history in an interesting wire story that moved Thursday and we lead today's issue with her account.

We also invite you to relay your own experiences if you took part in the media spray.

Ruth Gersh - director of AP Global Product Operations in New York headquarters - weighs in with more on her brief account earlier in the week on one of her jobs before journalism - working as a belly dancer. And she shares a photo.

The series certainly struck a chord as hers is among three more contributions that have been coming in all week and last. Have we heard from you? If not, send along your story over the weekend.

Have a great weekend.

Paul

·Mr. President!' The loud, rowdy, even rude job of reporting



CNN White House correspondent Kaitlan Collins talks during a live shot in front of the White House, Wednesday, July 25, 2018, in Washington. Collins says the White House denied her access to President Donald Trump's Rose Garden statement with the European Union Commission president because officials found her earlier questions "inappropriate." (AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

By LAURIE KELLMAN

WASHINGTON (AP) - It can be rowdy and even rude at times. But the media spray - shouted questions by the White House press corps to the president - is a necessary part of holding the nation's top public official to account.

On Wednesday, White House aides banned CNN reporter Kaitlan Collins for shouting questions Trump did not like, setting off a national debate about how the press does its job.

Here are five things to know about the presidential pool spray:

HOW IT WORKS

It is standard protocol for reporters to ask the president questions at sprays, and Trump, unlike some of his predecessors, often engages.

Typically, the White House announces that a closed presidential event will include a spray at the top, which means a small pool of journalists representing print, radio, broadcast and wire services will be invited into the room at the beginning. The images and video usually feature a dozen or more journalists clad in IDs, headphones and gear, crammed into a small space and hoisting long, furry microphones toward the president. Sprays happen in such places as the Oval Office, at Cabinet meetings and in other confabs the president wants in images or on audio.

THE GOAL

The president gets the publicity he wants - footage, say, of his handshake with another head of state or signing key legislation into law. His goal overlaps with the media's aim of broadcasting these events to the world.

Etiquette dictates that no questions are asked until the president makes any remarks. But that's where aligned interests, and sometimes the dignity of the occasion, end.

Reporters can then ask any question on any topic. Sometimes they shout to make sure the president can hear the question.

WHAT'S DIFFERENT NOW

What's new is Trump's engagement - he's answered questions during these brief media hits on such topics as porn actress Stormy Daniels and Russia's meddling in the 2016 presidential election

The former reality show star's habit stands in contrast to other presidents, many of whom saw more risk in answering questions off-the-cuff.

President Barack Obama, for example, disliked rowdy pool sprays and rarely answered shouted questions in the informal settings. The White House

Correspondents' Association often fought with his administration over the matter.

By Obama's second term, frustrated reporters crafted a list of what it considered best practices for a president. These included taking questions from the press no less than once a week.

WHAT HAPPENED WEDNESDAY

At an Oval Office pool spray early in the day, Collins - representing television networks - was one of the reporters peppering the president with questions. Some of her queries focused on an audio recording of Trump taken by his former lawyer, Michael Cohen, about a tabloid payment to a woman alleging an affair with Trump.

White House staff shouted at reporters to leave the room. Later that day, according to Collins and CNN, she was reprimanded by press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders and communications chief Bill Shine and barred from a Rose Garden event, which was open to all other members of the credentialed media.

The White House said that it found Collins' questions inappropriate and that she had refused to leave when asked. But footage shows that none of the assembled press heeded aides' calls to leave at first. Journalists sometimes ignore the shouts of White House aides in such settings if it seems like the president might answer a question.

Multiple media outlets, including Shine's former subordinate at Fox News, and the WHCA condemned the White House's move against Collins.

'THANKS,' NOW GET OUT

Wrangling the press at sprays can get complicated in the Trump era because the impulsive president will listen to the shouted questions - and sometimes answer the ones he likes.

After the president gets the images and audio he wants, White House press aides seeking to keep the president "on-message" will sometimes try to outshout the reporters, hollering, "THANK YOU!" which keeps Trump from hearing the questions. The result is a lot of yelling, which can look and sound chaotic on television.

[Click here](#) for a link to this story.

Connecting series:

My jobs before journalism



Ruth Gersh: This was at a wedding. Guess it's obvious which one is me. Bride and groom to the left; bride draped in my veil. Bouzouki player in lower left corner.

Ruth Gersh ([Email](#)) - I was lucky enough to have parents who could pay tuition and books and dorm fees at the University of Pennsylvania. Anything additional was my responsibility. Summers I spent working for the International Ladies Garment Union or the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union. (I come from good union stock).

But during the school year, I did indeed pay my way working as a belly dancer, which I had studied in New York in my high school years. Why? Because it was the

late 60s and that's the sort of thing you did. Worked shifts at Jimmy Tayoun's Middle East Restaurant and was available for weddings.

-0-

Jim Hood (Email) - I didn't have any jobs before journalism. First I delivered newspapers, then when I was 16 I got a job doing a local radio newscast. I ducked out of class each day to "go live" from the phone booth across from the boy's locker room.

Someday I may learn to do something else.

-0-

Jim Reindl (Email) - Hard to say I had a job before journalism, considering I started writing for my parochial school newsletter in the fourth grade but one of my most interesting jobs before my professional career was as a laborer in the electric furnaces at Great Lakes Steel in Ecorse, Michigan, near where I grew up. It was a job worthy of Sisyphus. My crew and I pushed brooms endlessly across the production floor in a vain attempt to keep the combination of lime dust, dirt and other assorted particulate matter from burying the place. In addition to enduring deafening noise, we ducked overhead cranes moving huge buckets of scrap steel, careening fork lifts and other vehicles and we breathed air you could taste and feel. I did this for four months after leaving college because I was tired of school. Needless to say, I quickly found my way back to college.

Further recollections of Air Force One and Nixon trip to China



President Richard Nixon, left, and Chinese Premier Chou En-Lai toast each other at the end of the banquet in the Great Hall of the People in Peking on Feb. 21, 1972. The dinner ended Nixon's first day on his visit to the People's Republic of China. (AP Photo/Bob Daugherty)

Henry Bradsher (Email) - To add to Bob Daugherty's recollection of being on Air Force One on Nixon's February 1972 trip to China, I joined the plane at its overnight refueling stop in Guam. In my post-AP career, I was then The Washington Star's Hong Kong-based China specialist (in days when no American journalists were allowed to live in China, and rarely given visas). The Star arranged for me to fly out to Guam to catch the plane.

As Bob says, we landed first in Shanghai. The ostensible reason was to pick up a navigator to direct us to Beijing (then called Peking). In fact, the Chinese wanted to be sure the plane did not overfly any sensitive areas at a time when satellite photography had not become good enough to possibly reveal secrets.

The practice on Air Force One is for the journalists to clamber out the rear of the plane as soon as it stops and rush around to watch the president disembark from the front. So I used to tell people that I arrived in China before Nixon. In Peking I got some photos of Nixon's being greeted by Prime Minister Zhou Enlai (then spelled Chou En-lai) that were used by the National Geographic Society when my wife later worked for them (not used in the main magazine).

Nixon was greeted in Shanghai by the local political hierarchy headed by Wang Hongwen, a 31-year-old product of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. After Mao Zedong (then spelled Tse-dung) died in September 1976, Wang was identified as one of "the gang of four" blamed for Cultural Revolution excesses. He was sentenced to life imprisonment.

At the end of Nixon's visit, several journalists from Washington and I stayed on in China for several days to exit via Hong Kong, instead of taking the press plane to Anchorage and Washington. I just barely recovered my passport from the Air Force One staff before that plane left. The Chinese treated us well, showing us around for an extension of the propaganda treatment given during Nixon's visit.

An AP and UPI sighting

Dick Lipsey (Email) - Here is an AP sighting I found Thursday in a fascinating book by Woodrow Wilson's ambassador to Germany in World War I. It was published in 1917 and was essentially a call to arms to Americans about the danger posed by Germany at a time when the US had just entered the war. I got this copy through inter-library loan from Mesa State College in Grand Junction after seeing a reference to it in a footnote in another book. (I find a lot of my reading through footnotes in other books.) This copy is a century old, but I may have been the first reader. Many of the pages were still uncut at the bottom.

AP (and UPI) Sighting

"Among the American correspondents in Berlin during the war great credit should be given to Carl W. Ackerman and Seymour B. Conger, correspondents of the United and Associated Presses respectively, who at all times and in spite of their surroundings and in the face of real difficulties preserved their Americanism unimpaired and refused to succumb to the alluring temptations held out to them. I do not mean to imply that the other correspondents were not loyal, but the pro-Germanism of many of them unfortunately gave the Imperial Foreign Office and the great general staff a wrong impression of Americans. It is the splendid patriotism under fire of Ackerman and Conger that deserves special mention."

--James W. Gerard, My Four Years in Germany

Gerard was US ambassador to Germany from 1913 until America entered the war in 1917. The book was published in 1917 when the war was still in progress.

Happy 92nd to Gene Herrick



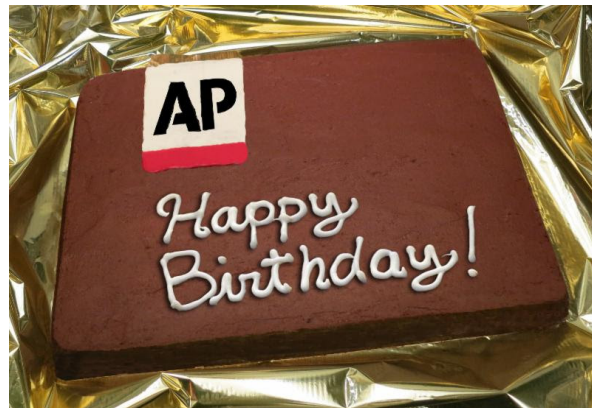
Gene Herrick ([Email](#)) - This picture captures me "Blowing" on my birthday dessert at a wonderful restaurant called Chateau Morrisette, on the Blue Ridge Parkway near Floyd, Virginia, on Thursday. (Gene, whose photographic resume includes the Korean War and the Civil Rights Movement, is Connecting's most prolific contributors.)

AP Photo of the Day



A U.N. honor guard transports what are thought to be U.S. service members' remains from North Korea at an air base in South Korea on Friday. | Ahn Young-joon/AP Photo

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

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On Saturday to...

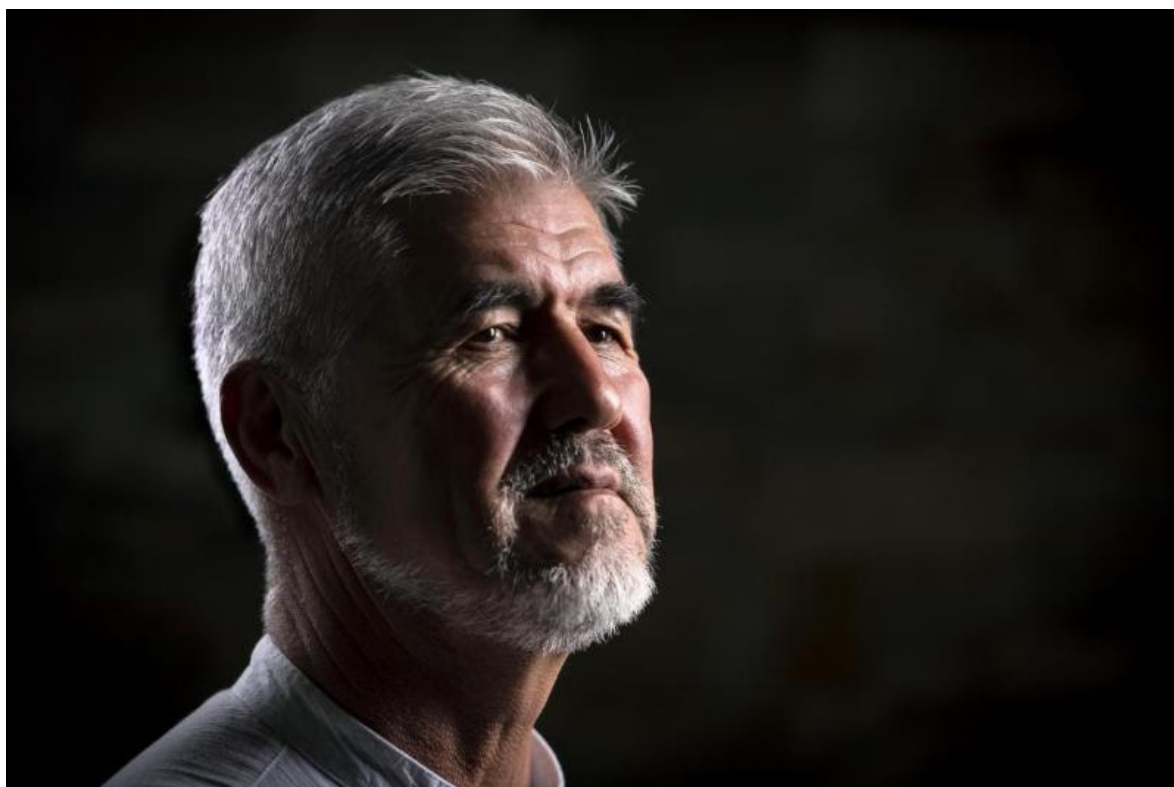
Jim Suhr - jim.suhr@yahoo.com

On Sunday to...

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Stories of interest

After 18 years' imprisonment, Uzbek journalist reunited with family in Spokane (Spokesman-Review)



Muhammad Bekjanov, a pro-democracy Uzbek newspaper editor who spent 18 years as a political prisoner, was reunited with his family in Spokane last week. (Colin Mulvany / The Spokesman-Review)

By Rachel Alexander

When Uzbek president Islam Karimov died in 2016, Muhammad Bekjanov was the only person in his prison celebrating.

"Everybody else was scared," he said, speaking in Russian through his daughter, Aygul.

Bekjanov, a pro-democracy journalist imprisoned in the Central Asian country since 1999, thought the death of the country's longtime autocrat might be a turning point in his case.

"I started thinking about freedom that moment," he said.

After serving 18 years behind bars, enduring beatings, starvation, solitary confinement and almost no contact with the outside world, Bekjanov was reunited with his family on Sunday, July 15.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Paul Albright.

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National Press Club announces Emilio Gutiérrez's release in victory for press freedom



Mexican reporter Emilio Gutiérrez-Soto embraces his son Oscar after being released, July 26, 2018. Photo/Image: Julian Aguilar, Texas Tribune

By Kathy Kiely

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) on July 26 agreed to free journalist Emilio Gutiérrez-Soto, ending a nearly eight-month ordeal for the National Press Club Press Freedom award winner.

Gutiérrez's release from a detention facility in El Paso, Texas, will allow him to embark on a Knight-Wallace journalism fellowship at the University of Michigan as he continues to press his case for asylum in the United States.

The legal battle to secure his release galvanized 19 professional-journalism organizations and human-rights groups on behalf of the Mexican reporter, who sought asylum in the United States after his work made him the target of death threats in his home country. He and his son, Oscar, had been held in detention since Dec. 7, 2017.

Read more [here](#)

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'We are fighting for information about war': Pentagon curbs media access (Politico)



Secretary of Defense James Mattis used to regularly pass through the Pentagon press area to conduct gaggles with reporters, but reporters say those have all but dried up in recent weeks. | Jim Watson/AFP/Getty Images

By JASON SCHWARTZ

At a mid-July news conference at the Pentagon, AP reporter Lolita Baldor asked Gen. Mark Milley, the Army chief of staff, about an attack in Afghanistan that had led to the death of an American soldier. But before he could reply, a Defense Department press officer cut in to say that Milley and the three officials flanking him would be answering questions only about the intended topic for the news conference: the announcement of the location of a new command.

The next question went to Jennifer Griffin from Fox News. Over the previous two days, President Donald Trump had roiled the NATO summit in Brussels with verbal shots at the alliance's members, so Griffin, after opening with a question about the new command, added, "I'm afraid I'm going to have to agree with Lita, we don't have an opportunity to see you enough. Gen. Milley, have you reached out to your counterparts in Europe after the NATO summit to reassure them that the U.S. forces are staying?"

Again, the press officer cut off the question before Milley could answer.

The incident, which left Pentagon reporters furious, was the latest flash point in what has become an increasingly adversarial relationship between Defense Secretary James Mattis' Cabinet department and the reporters who cover it. Chief among the complaints, according to defense reporters who spoke to POLITICO, are declining access to Mattis and other military officials, as well as a sense that reporters are not receiving the information they need to keep the public informed about America's military activities.

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word

'We are not the enemy of the American people; we are the champion of the American people'



Doug Anstaett's 15-year run as executive director of the Kansas Press Association ends on July 30 - and last week, our Connecting colleague was lauded by family, friends and colleagues at a retirement reception in Topeka. That's Doug in the

center with the (K-State) purple tie and his wife Lucinda next to him. He was a good friend to the AP in Kansas during his KPA tenure and earlier as a newspaperman.

In his final message as executive director, Anstaett ([Email](#)) said:

I've enjoyed so much these almost 15 years as your executive director.

As I said at the reception Friday, I'm proud to be a member of the mainstream media. We are not the enemy of the American people; we are the champion of the American people.

While I'll still be doing some consulting and then lobbying for KPA next January, Emily Bradbury is now your leader.

She brings enthusiasm, youth, tremendous organizational skills, passion for newspapers, willingness to go the extra mile and many other gifts to her new position.

She will work hard to make sure KPA members have the tools necessary to fight the good fight for journalism and freedom of the press.

Her more than 16 years at KPA have prepared her well for what lies ahead. Please welcome her warmly and grant her the same level of respect you did to me all these years.

Best wishes to all of you. It's been a wild ride, but a good one. Lucinda and I look forward with excitement to the next stage in our lives.

Today in History - July 27, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, July 27, the 208th day of 2018. There are 157 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 27, 1974, the House Judiciary Committee voted 27-11 to adopt the first of three articles of impeachment against President Richard Nixon, charging he had personally engaged in a course of conduct designed to obstruct justice in the Watergate case.

On this date:

In 1789, President George Washington signed a measure establishing the Department of Foreign Affairs, forerunner of the Department of State.

In 1866, Cyrus W. Field finished laying out the first successful underwater telegraph cable between North America and Europe (a previous cable in 1858 burned out after only a few weeks' use).

In 1909, during the first official test of the U.S. Army's first airplane, Orville Wright flew himself and a passenger, Lt. Frank Lahm, above Fort Myer, Va., for one hour and 12 minutes.

In 1921, Canadian researcher Frederick Banting and his assistant, Charles Best, succeeded in isolating the hormone insulin at the University of Toronto.

In 1942, during World War II, the First Battle of El Alamein in Egypt ended in a draw as Allied forces stalled the progress of Axis invaders. (The Allies went on to win a clear victory over the Axis in the Second Battle of El Alamein later that year.)

In 1953, the Korean War armistice was signed at Panmunjom, ending three years of fighting.

In 1960, Vice President Richard M. Nixon was nominated for president on the first ballot at the Republican national convention in Chicago.

In 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed the Kerner Commission to assess the causes of urban rioting, the same day black militant H. Rap Brown told a press conference in Washington that violence was "as American as cherry pie."

In 1980, on day 267 of the Iranian hostage crisis, the deposed Shah of Iran died at a military hospital outside Cairo, Egypt, at age 60.

In 1981, 6-year-old Adam Walsh was abducted from a department store in Hollywood, Fla., and was later murdered. (His father, John Walsh, became a well-known crime victims' advocate.)

In 1996, terror struck the Atlanta Olympics as a pipe bomb exploded at Centennial Olympic Park, directly killing one person and injuring 111. (Anti-government extremist Eric Rudolph later pleaded guilty to the bombing, exonerating security guard Richard Jewell, who had been wrongly suspected.)

In 2003, comedian Bob Hope died in Toluca Lake, California, at age 100.

Ten years ago: A gunman went on a rampage at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church in Knoxville, killing two people and wounding six others. (Jim D. Adkisson later pleaded guilty to murder and attempted murder and was sentenced to life in prison without parole.) Two bombs targeting civilians at a packed square in Istanbul, Turkey, killed 17 people. Iran hanged 29 people convicted of murder, drug trafficking and other crimes. Carlos Sastre (SAHS'-treh) of Spain won the Tour de France in one of the closest finishes in the 105-year-old race.

Five years ago: Security forces and armed men clashed with supporters of Egypt's ousted president, Mohammed Morsi, killing at least 80 people. More than a thousand inmates escaped a prison in Libya as protesters stormed political party

offices across the country. Former Louisiana congresswoman Lindy Boggs, 97, died in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

One year ago: New White House communications director Anthony Scaramucci, in an interview published by The New Yorker, attacked chief of staff Reince Priebus and other White House officials in sometimes profane terms. (A day later, President Donald Trump announced that Priebus was being replaced by John Kelly. Scaramucci himself was ousted on July 31.) The Boy Scouts' chief executive apologized to those offended by the aggressive political rhetoric in President Donald Trump's recent speech to the Scouts' national jamboree. As stock in Amazon hit an all-time high, CEO Jeff Bezos briefly became the world's richest man; Microsoft founder Bill Gates reclaimed the lead by afternoon as Amazon stock fell nearly 1 percent for the day.

Today's Birthdays: TV producer Norman Lear is 96. Sportscaster Irv Cross is 79. Actor John Pleshette is 76. Actress-director Betty Thomas is 71. Olympic gold medal figure skater Peggy Fleming is 70. Singer Maureen McGovern is 69. Actress Janet Eilber is 67. Rock musician Tris Imboden (Chicago) is 67. Actress Roxanne Hart is 64. Country musician Duncan Cameron is 62. Comedian-actress-writer Carol Leifer is 62. Comedian Bill Engvall is 61. Jazz singer Karrin Allyson is 56. Country singer Stacy Dean Campbell is 51. Rock singer Juliana Hatfield is 51. Actor Julian McMahon is 50. Actor Nikolaj Coster-Waldau (NIH'-koh-lye KAH'-stur WAHL'-dah) is 48. Comedian Maya Rudolph is 46. Rock musician Abe Cunningham is 45. Singer-songwriter Pete Yorn is 44. Former MLB All-Star Alex Rodriguez is 43. Actor Seamus Dever is 42. Actor Jonathan Rhys (rees) Meyers is 41. Actress/comedian Heidi Gardner is 35. Actor Blair Redford is 35. Actress Taylor Schilling is 34. Singer Cheyenne Kimball is 28. Golfer Jordan Spieth is 25. Actress Alyvia Alyn Lind is 11.

Thought for Today: "We usually know what we can do, but temptation shows us who we are." - Thomas a Kempis, German theologian (1380-1471).

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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