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Connecting - September 12, 2018

1 message

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Connecting

September 12, 2018

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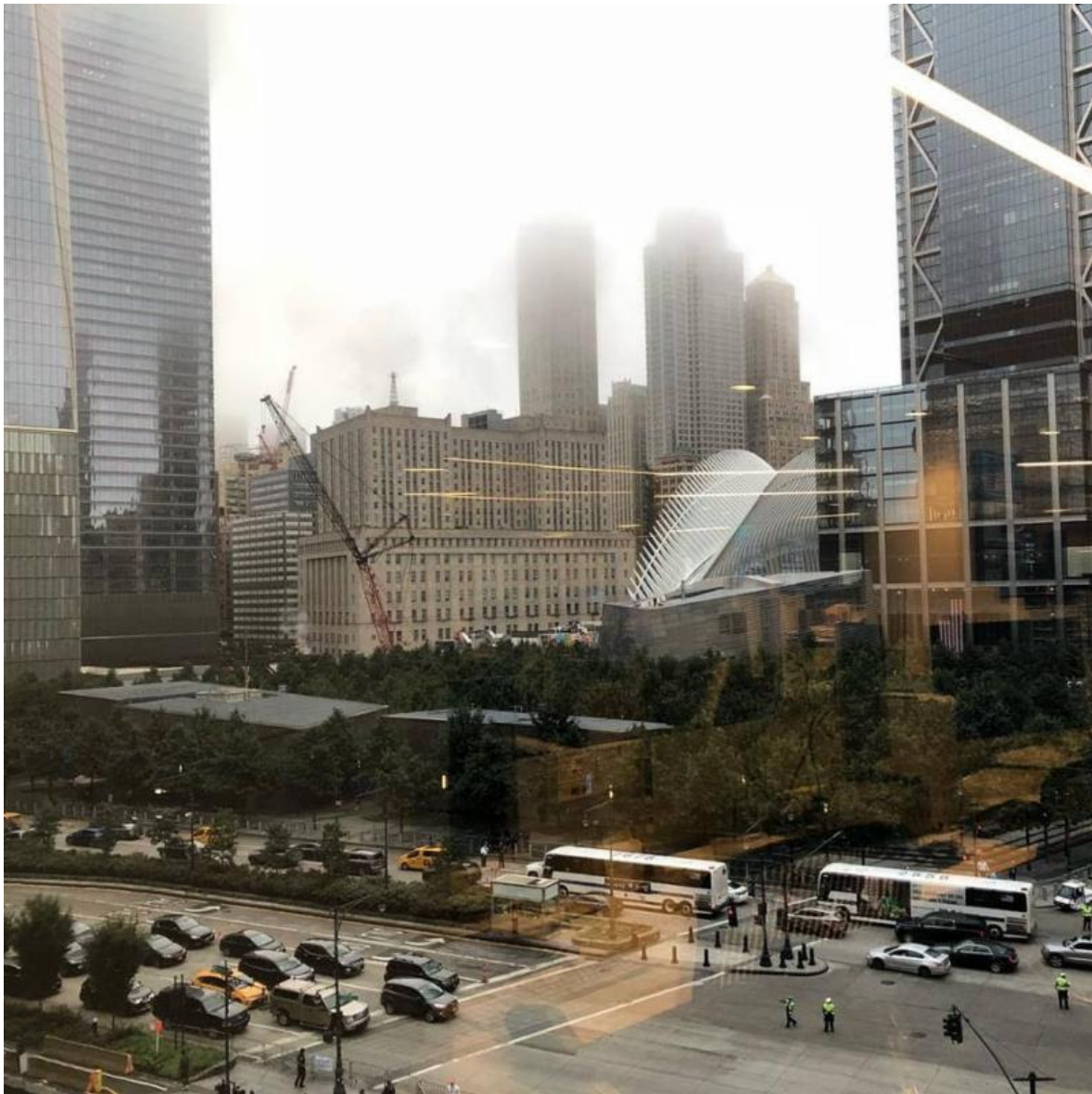


Photo of 9/11 Memorial from AP newsroom, by Eric Carvin.

Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning!

The 17th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks Tuesday stirred memories for many - including AP's social media editor, **Eric Carvin (Email)**, just a year into his AP career at the time and leaving headquarters at 50 Rock that morning after working the overnight on the General Desk.

Tuesday morning, looking out the fifth-floor window from AP's newsroom, next door to where the Twin Towers once stood and where they are now memorialized, he took the photo above and wrote:

"I can see the 9/11 Memorial from the window next to my desk. But memories of this day take me two miles north, where I stood on my East Village roof and witnessed the unthinkable. And two miles north of that, to the newsroom where I speed-walked after getting home from an overnight shift, hoping I could somehow help. And the smell -- the burning smell -- that lingered for days. And the signs of the missing that covered every available surface on Union Square. And now I spend my days here, across West Street from where it all happened. Even if I wanted to, I could never forget."

After his shift that day, Eric stopped in to cast a vote in the mayoral primary (which ended up being postponed). When he came out, he saw people looking down 3rd Avenue and a security guard told him he thought something blew up at the World Trade Center. Eric raced home, turned on the TV, fired off an "I'm OK" email to his whole address book, and went to the roof of his apartment where he could clearly see the towers burning. After witnessing the first one collapse, he headed back to the AP offices to help out in any way he could.

"I don't think I was very helpful, honestly," he recalled. "And someone finally told me I should go get some rest. They'd need me tonight. I went home, pretended to sleep for 45 minutes and eventually made my way back for the overnight. Compared to what a lot of my colleagues experienced that day, it was pretty mundane. But the details are just burned in my memory."

Just one of many memories seared into the minds of those who were there - and in all of us, for that matter.



Russell Meadows assists Rob Muller in boarding up his house Tuesday in Morehead City, North Carolina, in preparation for Hurricane Florence. David Goldman/AP Photo

Finally, we wish our colleagues in the Carolinas and neighboring states to be safe as Hurricane Florence barrels toward the area with maximum sustained winds of more than 130 miles per hour. By the time it makes landfall Friday, forecasters say the storm could cause "catastrophic" flash flooding and potentially knock out power for weeks.

[Click here](#) for the latest AP story.

You are welcome to share your experiences with Connecting colleagues if you are able.

Paul

Here's what you need to help you cover hurricanes

BY KRISTEN HARE & DAVID BEARD, Poynter

With three hurricanes currently swirling in the Atlantic and one of them headed for the east coast, it's time again to prepare for how to cover deadly and dangerous weather.

Last hurricane season, we pulled together a page of resources on covering hurricanes. Now we've got lessons from covering Maria in Puerto Rico and Harvey in Houston, as well as valuable (and occasionally humorous) contributions from colleagues. Here's a roundup:

Get your stuff ready

Here's some of what Martin Merzer, who worked for the Miami Herald, told his staff before big storms hit:

Don't use your own car. Rent a car. Despite company policy, take every form of insurance offered by the rental company. Don't park the car under a lovely old tree or in a low spot near the motel.

Also try to keep an eye on your car. After Andrew and other storms, some of us had our gasoline siphoned as we were out and about reporting. (The joke was on the siphoners - they got low-test Herald gasoline.)

Plug in and charge everything you have - laptop, cellphone, sat phone, everything - and keep them charged.

Carry cash, a lot of it. When electricity fails, credit cards become nothing much more than toothpicks.

Read more [here](#).

Your memories of the Vietnam War draft

Bill Schiffmann ([Email](#)) - I graduated from high school in 1963 and spent a year in college. When they suggested I grow up before returning, I got a job.

While the war seemed a tragic mistake, I had a desire to serve my country and in late summer of 1965 I visited my Air Force recruiter in Morristown, NJ. He told me they were booked through the end of the year and to make other plans. I had my physical and was told it was likely I'd be in the Army by the end of the year.

In early December, as I awaited the summons to report, the Air Force recruiter called and said somebody on their list had dropped off. Did I want the slot? Christmas week, I was on a Boeing 707 -- my first airplane ride -- to Lackland AFB near San Antonio, TX, for basic training.

When we finished, they asked if anybody in my group had been to college. I raised my hand, along with a few others. We were offered a chance to spend eight months in Monterey, CA, at the Defense Language Institute, learning Chinese. The elder Schiffmanns not having raised a total dope, I accepted.

I enjoyed every minute in Monterey. I learned to ride a motorcycle, which became a lifelong passion. My roommates and I had an illegal apartment off-base and much beer was consumed. I met my first wife the night we graduated in 1966.

In typical military fashion, the AF found they had far more linguists than needed, and I was sent to Dover AFB. From there it was off to 18 months at Howard AFB in Panama. My commander took a liking to me and I became the only non-NCO at the time allowed to live on the economy. I brought my wife down and we found an apartment in Panama City. The people were warm and friendly and it was the experience of a lifetime.

I did grow up, in the military. I was released a month early, in November 1969, to return to college at a JC in Monterey, where I got my first taste of journalism, editing the school paper in my second semester. I got my degree in journalism at Fresno State, working as News Editor for The Daily Collegian. I also worked, editing two weeklies in the Fresno area before hearing about an AP opening in Fresno. I was hired a few weeks before I graduated, and moved to the San Francisco bureau in 1976.

I lost a high school friend early in the war, my cousin's husband died in his 50s from a variety of diseases his doctors told him were likely caused by Agent Orange, and my best friend in high school survived a year in the Vietnamese jungle, unmarked but not unscathed. I've never regretted a day of those four years.

Connecting mailbox

Colorado Sun is new digital member of the AP

Tuesday's Poynter Morning Media Wire: reported that the Denver-based Colorado Sun has become the first digital-only member of The Associated Press, according to its editor, Larry Ryckman.



"It's an honor to receive this vote of confidence and trust from our colleagues at the world's largest news organization," Ryckman, a former AP reporter, foreign correspondent and editor, told our colleague David Beard, editor of Media Wire.

That was corrected in Media Wire today to say that the Sun has become the first digital-only associate AP member in Colorado, not overall.

Here is a statement of correction and clarification provided to Connecting by the AP:

The Colorado Sun, the first general news organization on the Civil platform, is participating in a limited experiment AP is conducting to allow certain local-facing, nonprint news organizations into associate membership on a limited, experimental basis. This reflects the spread of online publishers that produce good journalism and can contribute to our state reports, supporting our print and broadcast members. The Colorado Sun is not the first digital-only AP member. AP has had members that previously published in print continue as digital-only members after dropping their print publications. The first was the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, who has been a digital-only associate member since 2009.

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Reporting grants to three members of AP investigative team

Poynter Morning Media Wire: REPORTING GRANTS: Three members of the AP's Pulitzer-winning investigation into seafood from slaves have won McGraw Fellowships for Business Journalism. Margie Mason, Robin McDowell and Martha Mendoza will research labor abuses and international supply chains. Freelance journalist Gary Putka will explore aspects of income inequality in the U.S. economy and workplace, and USA Today's Nick Penzenstadler and Grand Valley State University professor Jeff Kelly Lowenstein will examine the racial impact of

foreclosure within federally backed mortgage programs designed to keep seniors in their homes. Roughly 100 journalists applied for the semi-annual fellowships.

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And more of your memories of using a typewriter

1990 - Michigan

Colleen Newvine ([Email](#)) - I wrote on a manual typewriter for my first internship the summer of 1990 at a family-owned weekly, the Clare (Michigan) Sentinel. When I got back to campus that fall, no one wanted to sit next to me in the college newspaper computer room -- I pounded the keys like a gorilla.

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1950 - Korea

Gene Herrick ([Email](#)) - Back in 1950, at the beginning of the Korean Conflict (War), some of us AP correspondents and photographers carried little, light-weight Swedish Hermes portable typewriters. They had a metal cover and were very durable.

My first day at the front, I was introduced to AP's famous Stan Swinton, who was calmly sitting in the dirt, leaning against a tiny bridge wall, combat boots removed, and pecking away on his little portable. A few hundred feet away, the war raged on the side of a ridge.

I carried, and used, a tiny Hermes to write my picture captions and stories from the front. I also used that baby to write copy on the battleship U.S.S. Missouri, about their big bombing in far North Korea, right near the Russian city of Vladivostok.

Later, AP correspondent Tom Stone used his Hermes to write copy on our way to the Yalu River, a northern-most point in North Korea. The night before, and the temperature was 25-below-zero, I was building a fire in a little cement floor that also held two big pots of water, in a tiny house just two miles from the river, and Manchuria on the other side. Tom started shouting for me to stop making steam, the typewriter paper was getting wet and he couldn't get his copy through the typewriter.

Ah, the vagaries of war!



A Hermes portable

The Indian artist drawing portraits with a typewriter



In this photograph taken on July 17, 2018, Indian artist Chandrakant Bhide poses with artwork showing various portraits of public figures and deities which he created using a typewriter, during an interview with AFP in Mumbai. Clickety-clack, clickety-clack, ding rings out from a home in India's Mumbai where Chandrakant Bhide is creating his latest artwork -- on a typewriter. From politicians and film stars to cricketers, animation characters and religious symbols, Bhide has produced around 150 pieces of typewriter art over the past half century. Indranil MUKHERJEE / AFP.

By Peter Hutchison

MUMBAI (AFP) - Clickety-clack, clickety-clack, ding rings out from a home in India's Mumbai where Chandrakant Bhide is creating his latest artwork -- on a typewriter.

The 72-year-old thumps the keys of the bulky, manual machine to draw portraits of famous people, all bearing an unmistakable resemblance to their subject.

From politicians and film stars to cricketers, animation characters and religious symbols, Bhide has produced around 150 pieces of typewriter art over the past half century.

"I have done many personalities like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Charlie Chaplin, Laurel and Hardy. This is my hobby, my passion," he tells AFP.

Bhide has held 12 exhibitions of his work and become something of a local celebrity since discovering his unique talent in the late 1960s while employed as a bank clerk.

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

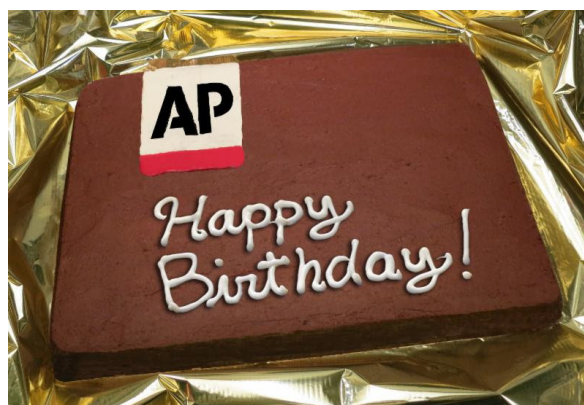
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The KGB - yep, but not the Russian version



Neal Ulevich (Email) - Maybe Sarah Palin could see Russia from her home. If not she could take the bus. Actually, KGB in this image stands for Ketchikan Gateway Borough.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

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Stories of interest

Who Is 'Anonymous'? An Extraordinary Writer

(Chronicle of Higher Education)

By ALLAN METCALF

Washington politicians left and right were fascinated and frustrated last week by the publication of an unsigned op-ed column in The New York Times that told of collusion among White House staff to prevent President Trump from running off the rails.

Trump himself, of course, was frustrated most. Who was the Judas among his aides?

Anonymity made the inside story all the more intriguing. Who had written it? Amateurs and experts tried to figure that out. Some guessed about people: Who might be best positioned to know the story? Others looked for clues in the writing itself.

I thought about this when I got a phone call last Thursday from the reporter Tristin Hopper of the National Post in Canada. He wanted to know what help forensic linguistics could offer. I have advised lawyers often enough in cases seeking the authorship of anonymous documents - sometimes attempts to make it appear that someone else wrote them, sometimes just attempts to remain anonymous.

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

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A note from the editor of the Houston Chronicle

Nancy Barnes, Executive Editor

In these challenging times for our country, with journalism and journalists often under attack, trust between a newspaper and its readers is absolutely essential.

We spend our days trying to ferret out the truth on school quality, taxes, development, the root causes of flooding, or why, as we reported Sunday, Houston is the deadliest city in America for driving.

We ask that you trust us that we've done everything we can to ensure what we've told you is fair and accurate. For that reason, I want to be completely transparent with readers and tell you that we have launched an investigation into the work of one of our own reporters.



Nancy Barnes

Recently, another Houston Chronicle journalist flagged me with questions about the accuracy of a story written by veteran Austin reporter Mike Ward. Ward joined the Chronicle in 2014 after a long career with the Austin American-Statesman. Specifically, questions were raised about whether individuals quoted in one of his stories were real people.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - September 12, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 12, the 255th day of 2018. There are 110 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 12, 1942, during World War II, a German U-boat off West Africa torpedoed the RMS Laconia, which was carrying Italian prisoners of war, British soldiers and civilians; it's estimated more than 1,600 people died while some 1,100 survived after the ship sank. The German crew, joined by other U-boats, began rescue operations. (On September 16, the rescue effort came to an abrupt halt when the Germans were attacked by a U.S. Army bomber; as a result, U-boat commanders were ordered to no longer rescue civilian survivors of submarine attacks.)

On this date:

In 1846, Elizabeth Barrett secretly married Robert Browning at St. Marylebone Church in London.

In 1914, during World War I, the First Battle of the Marne ended in an Allied victory against Germany.

In 1953, Massachusetts Sen. John F. Kennedy married Jacqueline Lee Bouvier (boo-vee-AY') in Newport, Rhode Island.

In 1958, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Cooper v. Aaron*, unanimously ruled that Arkansas officials who were resisting public school desegregation orders could not disregard the high court's rulings.

In 1959, the Soviet Union launched its Luna 2 space probe, which made a crash landing on the moon. The TV Western series "Bonanza" premiered on NBC.

In 1960, Democratic presidential candidate John F. Kennedy addressed questions about his Roman Catholic faith, telling the Greater Houston Ministerial Association, "I do not speak for my church on public matters, and the church does not speak for me."

In 1977, South African black student leader and anti-apartheid activist Steve Biko (BEE'-koh), 30, died while in police custody, triggering an international outcry.

In 1986, Joseph Cicippio (sih-SIH'-pee-oh), the acting comptroller at the American University in Beirut, was kidnapped (he was released in December 1991).

In 1987, reports surfaced that Democratic presidential candidate Joseph Biden had borrowed, without attribution, passages of a speech by British Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock (KIHN'-ik) for one of his own campaign speeches. (The Kinnock report, along with other damaging revelations, prompted Biden to drop his White House bid.)

In 1992, the space shuttle Endeavour blasted off, carrying with it Mark Lee and Jan Davis, the first married couple in space; Mae Jemison, the first black woman in space; and Mamoru Mohri, the first Japanese national to fly on a U.S. spaceship. Police in Peru captured Shining Path founder Abimael Guzman. Actor Anthony Perkins died in Hollywood at age 60.

In 1994, a stolen, single-engine Cessna crashed into the South Lawn of the White House, coming to rest against the executive mansion; the pilot, Frank Corder, was killed.

In 2012, the U.S. dispatched an elite group of Marines to Tripoli, Libya, after the mob attack in Benghazi that killed the U.S. ambassador and three other Americans. President Barack Obama strongly condemned the violence, and vowed to bring the killers to justice; Republican challenger Mitt Romney accused the administration of showing weakness in the face of tumultuous events in the Middle East.

Ten years ago: A Metrolink commuter train struck a freight train head-on in Los Angeles, killing 25 people. (Federal investigators said the Metrolink engineer, Robert Sanchez, who was among those who died, had been text-messaging on his cell phone and ran a red light shortly before the crash.) Hurricane Ike began battering the Texas coast. Grand Ole Opry star Charlie Walker died in Hendersonville, Tenn. at age 81.

Five years ago: Omar Hammami, an American who became one of Somalia's most visible Islamic rebels, was killed by rivals in the al-Qaida-linked extremist group al-Shabab. The U.S. space agency NASA announced that Voyager 1, launched 36 years earlier, had crossed a new frontier, becoming the first man-made spacecraft ever to leave the solar system. American inventor Ray Dolby, 80, founder of Dolby Laboratories, died in San Francisco.

One year ago: Crews worked to repair the lone highway connecting the Florida Keys, where 25 percent of the homes were feared to have been destroyed by Hurricane Irma; more than 9 million Floridians, or nearly half the state's population, were still without power in the late-summer heat. Seattle Mayor Ed Murray announced that he was resigning amid sex abuse allegations. Gay rights pioneer Edith Windsor, whose landmark Supreme Court case struck down parts of a federal anti-gay-marriage law, died in New York at the age of 88.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Freddie Jones is 91. Actor Ian Holm is 87. Former U.S. Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., is 79. Actress Linda Gray is 78. Singer Maria Muldaur is 76. Actor Joe Pantoliano is 67. Singer-musician Gerry Beckley (America) is 66. Original MTV VJ Nina Blackwood is 66. Rock musician Neil Peart (Rush) is 66. Actor Peter Scolari is 63. Former Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback is 62. Actress Rachel Ward is 61. Actress Amy Yasbeck is 56. Rock musician Norwood Fisher (Fishbone) is 53. Actor Darren E. Burrows is 52. Rock singer-musician Ben Folds (Ben Folds Five) is 52. Actor-comedian Louis (loo-ee) C.K. is 51. Rock musician Larry LaLonde (Primus) is 50. Golfer Angel Cabrera is 49. Actor-singer Will Chase is 48. Actor Josh Hopkins is 48. Country singer Jennifer Nettles is 44. Actress Lauren Stamile (stuh'-MEE'-lay) is 42. Rapper 2 Chainz is 41. Actor Ben McKenzie is 40. Singer Ruben Studdard is 40. Basketball Hall of Fame player Yao Ming is 38. Singer-actress Jennifer Hudson is 37. Actor Alfie Allen is 32. Actress Emmy Rossum is 32. Country singer Kelsea Ballerini is 25. Actor Colin Ford is 22.

Thought for Today: "We must be willing to pay a price for freedom, for no price that is ever asked for it is half the cost of doing without it." - H.L. Mencken, American author and journalist (1880-1956).

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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