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Connecting - February 14, 2020

1 message

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Fri, Feb 14, 2020 at 8:50 AM

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Connecting

February 14, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this the 14th day of February 2020 - and...

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

The two images above are among my favorites that turn up when you Google "Happy Valentine's Day, journalists."

The news that broke Thursday that McClatchy filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy hit home for me, a 36-year reader of one of the group's finest newspapers, **The Kansas City Star** - both on a personal and professional basis.

On the personal side, it has chronicled our lives over those years with news that touches our everyday living. On the professional side, it was one of my key members - one of the most cooperative I ever worked with - during my days as Kansas City chief of bureau and then regional vice president. Many who worked there - and some who still do - are counted among my good friends. Some are Connecting colleagues.

I can only hope and pray The Star and the fine people who work for it can come out of this still able to produce strong journalism that is needed more than ever today.

25-Year Club Celebration: Mark your calendars for this year's 25-Year Club celebration for eligible AP staffers and retirees. It will be held Friday, June 12, at AP Headquarters in New York.

Have a great weekend!

Paul

Falling Man - 'The most telling photograph to emerge from that dreadful day'



Hal Buell ([Email](#)) - I noted Richard Drew's comment about his photo Falling Man:

"It's a quiet photo. No blood, not violence, no dead bodies. Nobody on fire or getting shot. Go figure."

In so many ways Falling Man reached deeper into the human psyche than any of the thousands of other photos from 9-11. Its power comes from the fact that we have seen violent images with bloodletting, injuries and other specifics. We see none of that in Falling Man. That magnifies its impact, that of sheer horror.

Here is a person who was forced to decide his form of unwanted death - an inferno or the streets some 80 stories below. Many others confronted the same choice. Television footage enters in one eye and out the other with no time for the viewer to consider what is shown, there is only time to catch up with the next clip.

Given all that, there is a neatness to Richard's picture that emphasizes the terror; straight lines of the building enforce the speed of the man's fall. His body seems in a pose, so well balanced, head down, one leg slightly askew, his fall gaining speed, the ground coming ever closer.

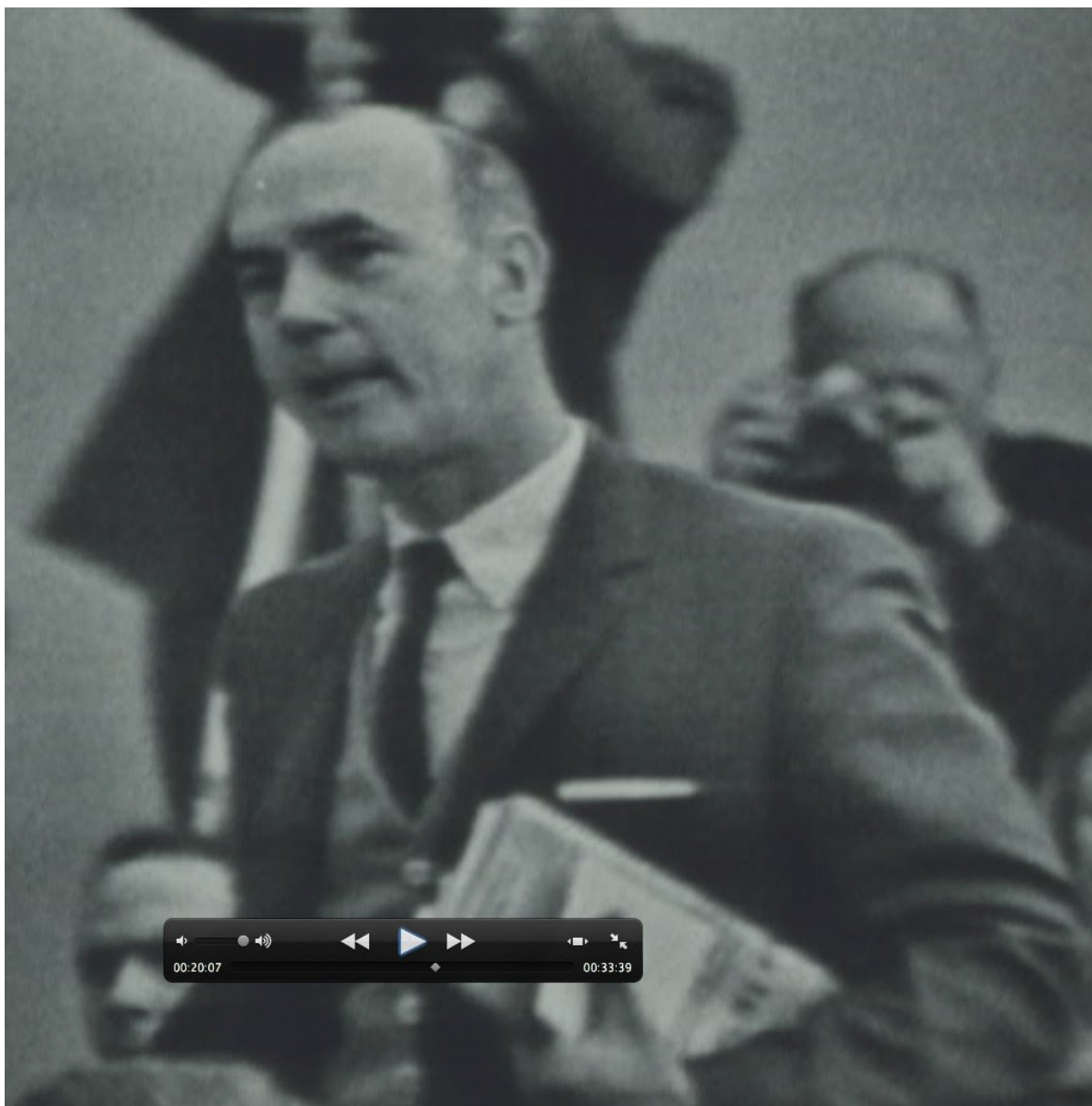
There are no image distractions to blur communication. Graphic simplicity of the image focuses a viewer's thoughts leaving the viewer with no choice but to wonder what flashes through the Falling Man's mind.

It is a picture of total terror, the worse because there is no blood, no apparent violence, no dead bodies, no other distractions. Only inevitable death on the sidewalk. Just unvarnished, total horror. Emotions grip the mind. One can feel the horror in the belly. There is nothing to ease the Ultimate Horror. It is the most telling photograph to emerge from that dreadful day. Terror is made the worse because the man speaks for the 3,000.

(Hal Buell retired as director of AP Photos, a position he held for 25 of his more than 40 years with AP. He retired five years before the 9/11 attacks.)

Can you identify this reporter from JFK era?

Cheryl Arvidson ([Email](#)) - I was hoping you might be able to post this on Connecting in case anyone recognizes this Kennedy-era report. I'd appreciate your help!



My name is Charlie Borsos. I work as an intern at the JFK Library, in the AV archives, and we are trying to get an ID on a reporter. I was referred to you by the Newseum and the Freedom Forum, who said you might be able to ID this reporter from the Kennedy Era. I also tried the White House Correspondents Association-- who said he looked familiar but couldn't place a name. He shows up in a number of press conferences, and seems to have some rapport with the President. He was, in fact, the reporter who asked the question regarding the Vaughn Meader record to which Kennedy responded he thought it sounded more like Ted. I've attached a few stills from a couple press conferences. He seems to like striped ties and vests. Thank you very much for your time. And no worries if our mystery man isn't familiar - but someone asked our office and I'm trying one last time to see if we can get an answer to him. Please let me know if there is any additional information or places you might think of where I can continue to search. Boros' email - charles.borsos@nara.gov

Vietnam War 'extracted a terrible tuition in sorrow and grief over those who fell beside us'

Joe Galloway ([Email](#)) - My boss at UPI, Asia News Manager Arnold Dibble, was on the phone to me at home in Jakarta, Indonesia. He had terrible news: Four good friends had died in the crash of a Huey helicopter just inside Laos. They were friends and colleagues whom I had marched alongside and learned from earlier in the war in Vietnam and later on other stories like the visit to Indonesia of the Pope. Now they were gone. Dibble told me the whole crew covering the beginning of Operation Lam Son 719, the South Vietnamese invasion of Laos, was shocked and stunned. He needed me to get on a plane and get up there to help cover the operation. My wife was shaking her head NO: If you go I may not be here when you come back! I shook my head: I don't think I will be coming back; I think we are all meant to die in that place. I packed my kit and headed off for Saigon and then Quang Tri and then Khe Sanh Base newly reopened for this poorly planned invasion meant as a graduation exercise for the Vietnamization of the war. I made it home alive a few months later and, yes, my wife was waiting. The next year I turned 30 years old and did a mental inventory of my best friends. Fully half were dead and gone in Vietnam, in Laos, in Cambodia. None of us were ever quite the same person who had first arrived to cover that war. It marked and scarred us just as it did the young men who fought that war. The war gave us experience and learning and, yes, hard and searching eyes. But it extracted a terrible tuition in sorrow and grief over those who fell beside us.

Kobe Bryant 'trial'

Brian Bland ([Email](#)) - Regarding your references in Connecting to Kobe Bryant's "trial," I only went to Colorado once or twice for AP Radio to cover the events after he was charged with rape, so perhaps my memory is fuzzy, but I don't believe there was ever "a trial." There were hearings that, at the time, were regarded as pretrial hearings, but I don't think there was ever a trial, criminal or civil.

AP hires 2 reporters to cover race, join national team



This combination of 2020 and 2017 photos shows Katrease Stafford, left, and Aaron Morrison. (AP Photo/Carlos Osorio, Courtesy of Quincy G. Ledbetter via AP)

NEW YORK (AP) - The Associated Press has hired two veteran journalists to join its national reporting team that covers race and ethnicity.

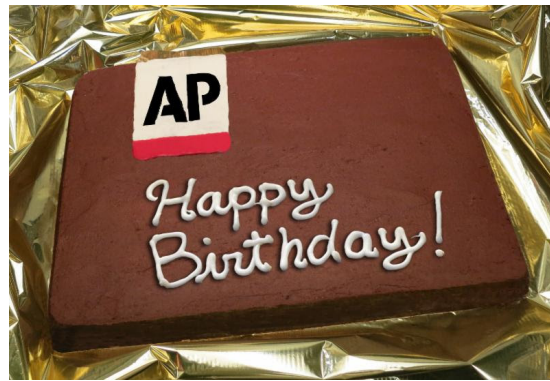
Katrease Stafford and Aaron Morrison will join the AP's Race and Ethnicity team and write about how race intersects with topics such as politics, criminal justice, government federal policies, climate change, religion, entertainment and sports. They will work closely with AP journalists around the country and world to deliver smart and impactful journalism on the issues of race and inequality, with a sharp focus on the 2020 campaign.

Stafford is currently an enterprise and investigative reporter at the Detroit Free Press, and Morrison is a senior reporter at The Appeal, a national nonprofit criminal justice outlet where he covers policing, incarceration and criminal justice reform.

"These two hires are significant and exciting steps that are central to the AP's goal of expanding coverage of race and themes of inequality, especially as we get deeper into the 2020 campaign season," said Noreen Gillespie, the AP's deputy managing editor for U.S. news. "Kat and Aaron are outstanding reporters who from day one will help the AP broaden our coverage in this area."

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Jim Bagby - jbagby3@kc.rr.com

On Saturday...

Tim Harmon - timharmon11@icloud.com

Welcome to Connecting



Jatinder Marwaha - jatinder@jmarwaha.com

Stories of interest

McClatchy family empire is ending. Legacy lasted from Gold Rush, to fortune, to bankruptcy (Sacramento Bee)



James McClatchy helped launch The Daily Bee in Sacramento in 1857, and he and his family led the company for 163 years. SACRAMENTO BEE FILE

BY DALE KASLER

The McClatchy family dominated the Sacramento landscape for decades, publishing its leading newspaper while shaping the history and culture of the city.

Starting with the first edition of The Daily Bee during the Gold Rush, the McClatchys built one of the titans in American media. They controlled dailies from coast to coast and a nationally respected news bureau bearing the family's name in Washington, D.C. They mingled with presidents and governors, crusaded for civic improvement and stood alongside California's other great newspaper families: the Chandlers in Los Angeles, the Hearsts and de Youngs in San Francisco.

But the 21st century has been hard on the McClatchys. An ill-timed \$4.4 billion acquisition of the Knight Ridder chain in 2006 left The McClatchy Co. deeply in debt just as the newspaper industry's fortunes started crumbling in the digital era.

Early Thursday, McClatchy filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. The move will erase about 55 percent of the debt but transfer control to a group of hedge funds led by Chatham Asset Management of New Jersey.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Susana Hayward.

And...

McClatchy files for bankruptcy protection to shed debt and reorganize. Key details remain to be negotiated. (Poynter)

By RICK EDMONDS

McClatchy filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy Thursday, seeking relief from an unmanageable debt burden. Its proposed reorganization plan allows all 30 of its regional papers to continue operating as proceedings unfold.

The plan anticipates that control of the company will pass to Chatham Asset Management, a hedge fund that holds nearly all McClatchy's debt.

The McClatchy family and other holders of the company's stock lose the entire value of their holdings - and board control. Chatham is expected to operate the chain as a private company. Its stock, battered down to 75 cents a share last week from a high of more than \$700 in 2004, has stopped trading.

The action ends family control of the company, which dates back to the 19th century.

McClatchy was never able to work out from under a huge debt (\$6.5 billion) that it assumed in buying the larger Knight-Ridder chain in 2006. The debt problems passed into a crisis stage last fall when the company announced it would not have the cash to make a legally required contribution to its pension plan in 2020.

In announcing the bankruptcy decision, the company also revealed that a last-ditch effort in December to get Congress to defer the pension payment came close but failed. As part of a federal budget agreement, a group of locally owned papers including The Seattle Times, Tampa Bay Times, (Minneapolis) Star Tribune and several smaller locally owned titles got that relief. But McClatchy, which had hoped to be included, was not.

Read more [here](#).

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OU professor apologizes for using racial slur (Oklahoman)

A University of Oklahoma professor has apologized for using the N-word in class.

Professor Peter Gade sent an email to students in his journalism class to apologize for saying the full racial slur. The university student newspaper, the OU Daily, obtained the email from students in class, some of whom work for the student publication.

Gade called his use of the word "inexcusable," according to the OU Daily report.

"I realize the word was hurtful and infuses the racial divisions of our country, past and present," Gade said in the email. "Use of the word is inappropriate in any - especially educational - settings. I offer my deepest and most sincere apologies. In the coming weeks, I will strive to show you that I am an instructor and teacher who is trustworthy and respectful of all. Please give me that opportunity."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Lindel Hutson.

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Playing on Kansas City Radio: Russian Propaganda (New York Times)

By Neil MacFarquhar

When commuters spin the radio dial as they drive through Kansas City, Mo., these days, between the strains of classic rock and country hits they can tune in to something unexpected: Russian agitprop.

In January, Radio Sputnik, a propaganda arm of the Russian government, started broadcasting on three Kansas City-area radio stations during prime drive times, even sharing one frequency with a station rooted in the city's historic jazz district.

"Who needs a ridiculous Red Dawn invasion," a participant in one online forum wrote about the new broadcasts. "Your overlord, Mr. Putin, will be addressing you soon, so it's best to prepare now," another commenter wrote, referring to President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia.

Read more [here](#). Shared by John Willis, Lindel Hutson.

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How Independent Journalists in Latin America are Finding New Ways to Hold Power to Account (Nieman Reports)

By **TIM ROGERS**

On a hot, tropical morning last November, Carlos Fernando Chamorro peered out the airplane window and looked down on the familiar landscape of Nicaragua's lakes and volcanoes. It had been nearly 11 months since the veteran news director had fled into exile in neighboring Costa Rica, along with eight reporters from his news organization, Confidencial. Now, all but one were returning to Nicaragua to face Daniel Ortega's enduring dictatorship and "to reclaim the right to practice journalism in Nicaragua."

It's a daunting challenge. During Chamorro's year in exile, Nicaragua went full-blown police state. Confidencial's offices, which were raided by Ortega's Sandinista security forces in December 2018, remain occupied along with all the newsroom computers and broadcast equipment. The Sandinistas' surveillance, harassment, and physical assault of journalists have become standard occupational hazards for reporters. State-backed paramilitaries handle the dirtier work of targeting journalists' family members and spray-painting homes with death threats.

Read more [here](#).

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Washington Examiner Editor Out After Colleague Secretly Recorded 'Sexist and Hateful' Comments (MEDIAite)

By Aidan McLaughlin

The high-level bloodletting at the Washington Examiner continued this week with the dramatic ouster of its managing editor on Monday, days after the conservative magazine fired its breaking news editor for sharing a lewd video.

Toby Harnden, a British journalist who joined the Examiner as managing editor in 2018, parted ways with the outlet on Monday morning.

Here's where things get messy: Harnden was out after the aforementioned breaking news editor accused him of misconduct in a lengthy email, obtained by Mediaite, which included recordings of conversations.

"Toby is no longer with the Washington Examiner, but we do not comment on personnel matters," Examiner editor-in-chief Hugo Gurdon wrote to Mediaite when reached for comment. He declined to say whether Harnden was fired. Harnden, when reached for comment, directed Mediaite to his lawyer, who did not respond to multiple emails and calls.

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

The Final Word



Today in History - Feb. 14, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Feb. 14, the 45th day of 2020. There are 321 days left in the year.
This is Valentine's Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 14, 2018, a gunman identified as a former student opened fire with a semi-automatic rifle at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School near Fort Lauderdale, Florida, killing 17 people in the nation's deadliest school shooting since the attack in Newtown, Connecticut, more than five years earlier.

On this date:

In 1859, Oregon was admitted to the Union as the 33rd state.

In 1876, inventors Alexander Graham Bell and Elisha Gray applied separately for patents related to the telephone. (The U.S. Supreme Court eventually ruled Bell the rightful inventor.)

In 1912, Arizona became the 48th state of the Union as President William Howard Taft signed a proclamation.

In 1913, labor leader Jimmy Hoffa was born in Brazil, Ind.; college football coach Woody Hayes was born in Clifton, Ohio; sports broadcaster Mel Allen was born in Birmingham, Ala.

In 1929, the "St. Valentine's Day Massacre" took place in a Chicago garage as seven rivals of Al Capone's gang were gunned down.

In 1945, during World War II, British and Canadian forces reached the Rhine River in Germany.

In 1949, Israel's Knesset convened for the first time.

In 1967, Aretha Franklin recorded her cover of Otis Redding's "Respect" at Atlantic Records in New York.

In 1979, Adolph Dubs, the U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan, was kidnapped in Kabul by Muslim extremists and killed in a shootout between his abductors and police.

In 1984, 6-year-old Stormie Jones became the world's first heart-liver transplant recipient when the surgery was performed at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh (she lived until November, 1990).

In 1985, Cable News Network reporter Jeremy Levin, held hostage by extremists in Lebanon, escaped from his captors.

In 2013, double-amputee and Olympic sprinter Oscar Pistorius shot and killed his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp, at his home in Pretoria, South Africa; he was later convicted of murder and is serving a 13-year prison term. American Airlines and US Airways announced an \$11 billion merger that turned American into the world's biggest airline.

Ten years ago: The Americans broke through the Nordic combined barrier at Vancouver as Johnny Spillane won the silver, the first U.S. Olympic medal in the sport dominated since its inception by the Europeans (Jason Lamy Chappuis of France won the gold). Jamie McMurray won the Daytona 500. The Eastern Conference edged the West 141-139 in the NBA All-Star game in Arlington, Texas. Larry Ellison's space-age trimaran completed a two-race sweep in the 33rd America's Cup. Death claimed best-selling British author Dick Francis at age 89 and Doug Fieger, leader of the power pop band The Knack, at age 57.

Five years ago: A Danish gunman attacked a free-speech seminar and a synagogue in Copenhagen, killing two people; the shooter was later slain by a special police team. Actor Louis Jourdan (LOO'-wee zhor-DAN'), 93, died in Beverly Hills, California. Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Philip Levine, 87, died in Fresno, California.

One year ago: William Barr was sworn in for his second stint as the nation's attorney general; he succeeded Jeff Sessions, who'd been pushed out of office by President Donald Trump after Trump denounced Sessions' decision to recuse himself from the Russia investigation. Amazon abruptly dropped plans for a big new headquarters in New York after politicians and activists objected to the nearly \$3 billion in incentives that had been promised to the company. European aviation giant Airbus said it would stop making its superjumbo A380 in 2021 after struggling to sell the plane, the world's biggest passenger jet.

Today's Birthdays: TV personality Hugh Downs is 99. Actor Andrew Prine is 84. Country singer Razy Bailey is 81. Former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg is 78. Jazz musician Maceo Parker is 77. Movie director Alan Parker is 76. Journalist Carl Bernstein is 76. Former Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H., is 73. TV personality Pat O'Brien is 72. Magician Teller (Penn and Teller) is 72. Cajun singer-musician Michael Doucet (doo-SAY') (Beausoleil) is 69. Actor Ken Wahl is 63. Opera singer Renee Fleming is 61. Actress Meg Tilly is 60. Pro Football Hall of Famer Jim Kelly is 60.

Singer-producer Dwayne Wiggins is 59. Actress Sakina Jaffey is 58. Actor Enrico Colantoni is 57. Actor Zach Galligan is 56. Actor Valente Rodriguez is 56. Rock musician Ricky Wolking (The Nixons) is 54. Former tennis player Manuela Maleeva is 53. Actor Simon Pegg is 50. Rock musician Kevin Baldes (Lit) is 48. Rock singer Rob Thomas (Matchbox Twenty) is 48. Former NFL quarterback Drew Bledsoe is 48. Actress Danai Gurira is 42. Actor Matt Barr is 36. Actress Stephanie Leonidas is 36. Actor Jake Lacy is 34. Actress Tiffany Thornton is 34. Actor Brett Dier is 30. Actor Freddie Highmore is 28.

Thought for Today: "We are effectively destroying ourselves by violence masquerading as love." [-] R.D. Laing, Scottish psychiatrist (1927-1989).

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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