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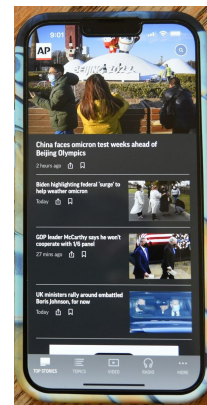
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# Connecting

Sept. 22, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this Sept. 22, 2023,

Today marks the retirement of one of Connecting's MVPs.

While I am happy for **Francesca Pitaro** and the new chapters ahead for her and her family, she will be missed greatly.

Francesca, archivist in AP Corporate Archives, has teamed with Archives director **Valerie Komor** to regularly contribute historical information for our newsletter since it began 10 years ago – sometimes in their off-work hours – nights and weekends.

A retirement party was held this week in New York headquarters – and we lead with a story contributed by Valerie. (Photo at right by Sean Thompson)

**Two of our Connecting colleagues in poor health would love to hear from you:**

**Hank Lowenkron**, longtime Indianapolis AP sports writer, has entered a senior citizens facility with health issues and wrote to see he'd appreciate hearing from friends and former colleagues. Hank's email - [hlofnyc@yahoo.com](mailto:hlofnyc@yahoo.com)

**Russ Percival**, former AP Technology staffer, is currently hospitalized for cancer of the esophagus and will be moved to hospice shortly. The cancer wasn't discovered until just this past August so it has progressed very quickly. You can drop a note to Russ through his friend and colleague Bud Weydert - [third\\_of\\_ten@hotmail.com](mailto:third_of_ten@hotmail.com)

Both are in our thoughts and our prayers.

Here's to a great weekend – be safe, stay healthy, live each day to your fullest.

Paul



## Francesca Pitaro retires – touched many during her 15 years in AP Corporate Archives



Archivist Francesca Pitaro, standing left, reflects on her AP career.



Valerie Komor, left, director of the AP Corporate Archives, honors retiring archivist Francesca Pitaro, seated at table with former colleague Sam Markham.



**Valerie Komor** - On Wednesday, Sept. 20, friends and colleagues of archivist Francesca Pitaro gathered for a pizza lunch in the Executive Dining room at AP headquarters to wish her well and send her on her way.

Francesca touched many people across AP during her 15-year tenure in the Corporate Archives. As so many said in their remarks, she has been a kind and generous spirit, as well as the embodiment of archival service here at AP.

Randy Herschaft spoke of her dedication and ingenious research skills. Lauren Easton recalled the warm welcome she first received from Francesca when she joined AP in 2015. John Daniszewski praised her availability and willingness to plumb collections at a moment's notice. And Valerie spoke of the wonderful working and personal relationship she has enjoyed with Francesca, making each day an adventure, as we discovered AP's history together.

Francesca, we know where you are! We will be calling you and asking you, "Where is that letter filed?" "Which collection did we decide that memorandum belonged to?" Your work lives on in all of the precise cataloging and foldering and spread-sheeting and organization--- but more importantly, so does your grace. We will miss you!

Francesca's email - [pitarof@gmail.com](mailto:pitarof@gmail.com)

## Women of AP Lifestyle



**Beth Harpaz** - Love these dear friends sooooo much! The Women of AP Lifestyle, going back to ... I don't know ... once upon a time. We sure had some good times -- then & now, at our all-too-infrequent reunions. A smarter, funnier, more caring bunch you will never find anywhere.

Pictured: Leanne Italie, far left bottom corner; Lisa Tolin, top left; Jocelyn Noveck; Beth Harpaz; Samantha Critchell; Diane Davis. Leanne and Jocelyn are still at AP. We try to get together in person about once a year but stay in touch via group chat.

## Letter shows so much of why we write, including inspiring others

**Sonya Zalubowski** - Chris Sullivan, editor on my book – **Eye on Solidarity: Reporting a Turning Point in Poland – and Finding My Roots** - for APBooks suggested I shared a letter I received, thinking it illustrates so much of why we write, including inspiring others.

Here are some excerpts from the letter I received from Joanna Marszalek. She is an immigrant from Poland, arriving in the U.S. at age 21 after college. Her father had fled here like so many Poles after the crackdown on the Solidarity movement. He returned to Poland after the end of communism but she wanted the adventure of coming here.

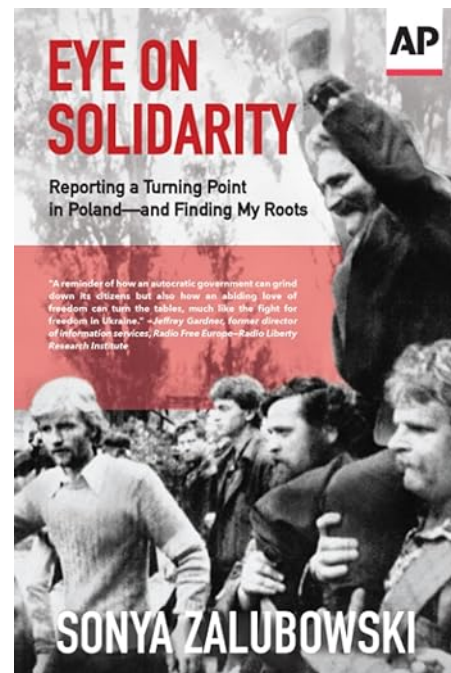
She stayed, now working with green card as a journalist, and wrote a nice piece for her Polish language newspaper Dziennik Zwiazkowy in Chicago about my APBooks “Eye on Solidarity” that covers the rise of the movement and the outside help Poland now extends to Ukraine.

I share her remarks in her letter to me, after the story was published, because i believe they reinforce for us all the role that our writing can play. She gave permission for their use.

Hello Sonya,

I've been wanting to let you know that your book was very moving to me and I strangely connected to it on a couple of different levels. Now that we have the article behind us, let me tell you a little bit about it – and about myself.

First of all, I totally understand the urge you felt to go to Poland in the 80s when you had seen what was going on. I had the exact same feeling in February 2022, when the war in Ukraine started. When all eyes suddenly turned to Poland helping Ukrainian refugees, I knew I could not just sit at the desk at my workplace. I had to go there and see it firsthand. I am so glad that I did – at least for a week!



This is also when my interest in Ukraine, its language and people started. I knew my grandmother was born in the Lviv area, when it was still Poland. Growing up, I didn't care much about my grandma's stories and now she is gone. I started learning Ukrainian and have a big wish to go to Ukraine... to visit places where my grandma grew up – and of course to write about it!

I have always wanted to be a journalist ... It was a long and slow process to convince myself that I can do it, overcome my insecurities and enter this uncharted territory. After all, I am a Polish immigrant and English is my second language!

But for the last three years I have been working very hard towards this goal.

I want to thank you for your book and especially for that last paragraph. It meant so much to me. I have so many dreams and I don't know what will happen and where life will take me but I am ready to "take the leap" .... Hopefully there will be the hands there to help!

Joanna Marszałek – [www.joannamarszalek.com](http://www.joannamarszalek.com)

## A unique typewriter – and some photo finds



**Jim Litke** - This typewriter belonged to someone in my apartment building, which used to be the Ludwig Drum Factory (find a pic of the Beatles and look closely at Ringo's bass drum, just above "The Beatles" logo).



It was sitting on the floor outside of a shed in the building storage room and I left a note offering to buy it. The owner, still unidentified, left his/her own note saying, "it's yours — no cost."

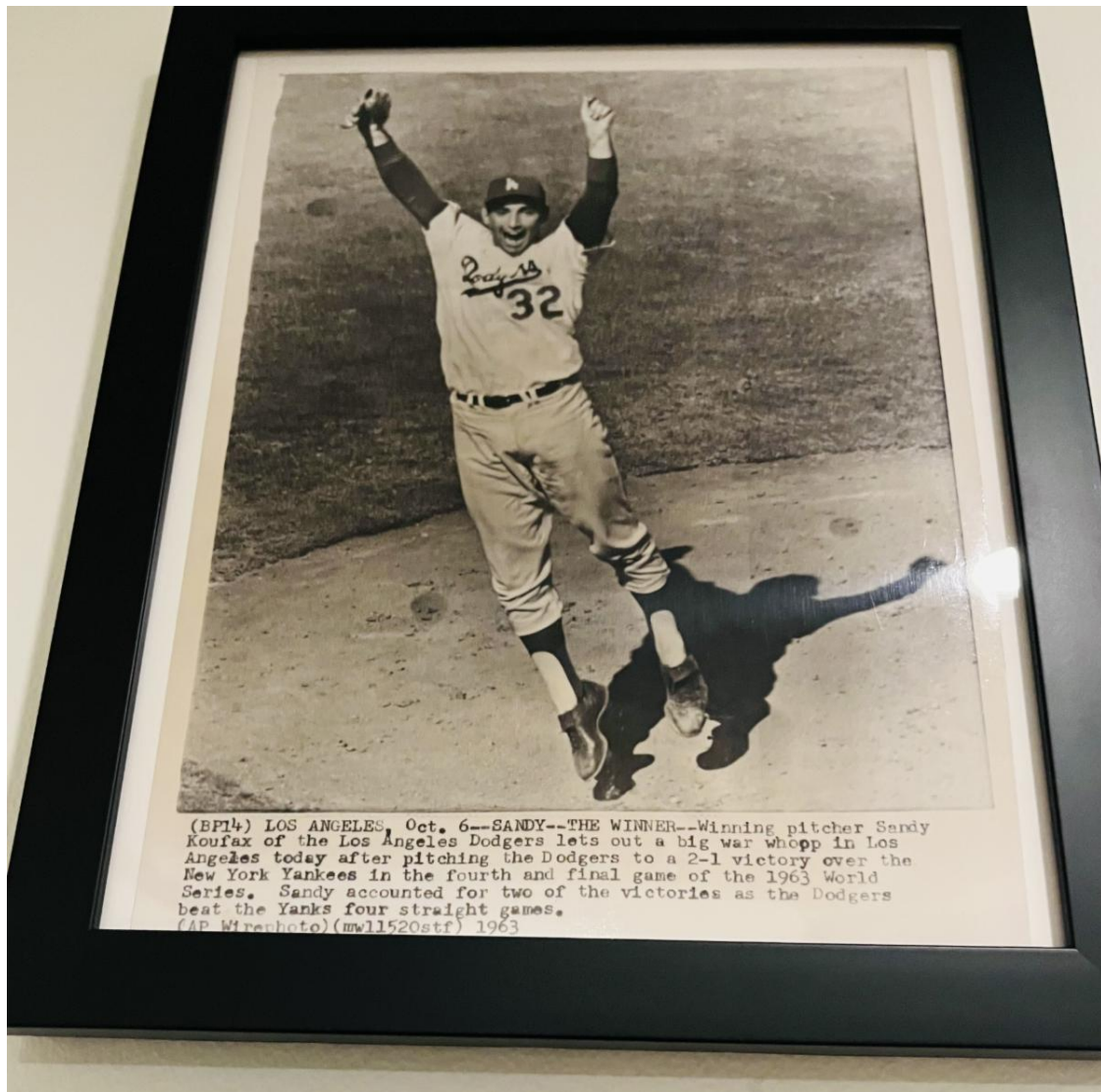
It actually works.

I took the AP plates off some old teletype machines when the bureau techs piled them up in the hallway.

Another great find: after Chicago's Wide World Photos office closed, they put hundreds of old pics in boxes and offered them to the staff.

Check these out:





*AP among them*

## Scripps Howard Fund announces finalists for 70th Scripps Howard Awards

Press Release | The E.W. Scripps Company

The 70th Scripps Howard Awards will recognize 2022 journalism that spurred action, exposed previously undisclosed information and led to changes in the public, private or business sector. The Scripps Howard Fund, a public charity that supports causes important to The E.W. Scripps Company (NASDAQ: SSP) and the communities it serves, has announced the finalists for the annual awards.

The Scripps Howard Awards, one of the nation's most prestigious journalism competitions, honor work from television stations and networks, radio and podcasts, visual media, online media outlets, independent producers, newspapers and print publications.



The Scripps Howard Awards judges — a panel of veteran journalists and media leaders — selected this year's finalists from 780 entries across 14 categories. The Fund will present \$170,000 in prize money to the winning news organizations and journalists.

The winners will be announced during a special program airing at 8 p.m. Eastern on Sunday, Oct. 22, on Scripps News, the national news network owned by Scripps. The awards show will also announce the winner of the coveted Impact Award, which is chosen from the winners of the other 14 categories and select finalists. The award honors the journalism that produced the most impact.

Read more [here](#).

### Finalists in Excellence in National/International Investigative Reporting, the Ursula and Gilbert Farfel Prize

FRONTLINE, The Associated Press – "Putin's Attack on Ukraine: Documenting War Crimes"

Reuters – "Nightmare in Nigeria"

The Washington Post – "Black Out"

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Deborah Mesce](#)

[Michelle Williams](#)

*On Saturday to...*

[Joni Beall](#)

[Trenton Daniel](#)

[Kristin Gazlay](#)

[Tom Leone](#)

[Jon Rust](#)

*On Sunday to*

[Linda Deutsch](#)

## Stories of interest

*Rupert Murdoch's surprise exit from Fox leaves son Lachlan in line of succession at media empire* (AP)



FILE - Lachlan Murdoch, left, and Rupert Murdoch attend the TIME 100 Gala in New York on April 21, 2015. Media magnate Rupert Murdoch is stepping down as chairman of News Corp. and Fox Corp., the companies that he built into forces over the last 50 years. He will become chairman emeritus of both corporations, the company announced on Thursday. His son, Lachlan, will control both companies. (Photo by Evan Agostini/Invision/AP, File)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — Magnate Rupert Murdoch's surprise announcement Thursday that he's stepping down as leader of his two companies leaves his son Lachlan firmly in line of succession at Fox and the rest of the media empire.

The 92-year-old Australian billionaire's creation of Fox News Channel has made him an enduring force in American politics. He inherited a newspaper in Adelaide, Australia, from his father in 1952 and eventually built a news and entertainment enterprise dominant in the United States and Britain.

Fox said Murdoch would become chairman emeritus of both the news network's parent company, Fox Corp., and the News Corp. media holdings, effective in November. Lachlan will become News Corp. chairman and continue as chief executive officer of Fox Corp.

Lachlan Murdoch said that "we are grateful that he will serve as chairman emeritus and know he will continue to provide valued counsel."

Fox News Channel has profoundly influenced television and national politics since its start in 1996, making Murdoch a hero to some and pariah to others. The 24-hour network converted the power and energy of political talk radio to television. Within six years, it outrated CNN and MSNBC, and still does.

But it's been a rough year for Fox, which was forced to pay \$787 million to settle a defamation lawsuit related to its coverage of false claims following the 2020 presidential election. Fox also fired its most popular personality, Tucker Carlson.

Stock in Fox Corp., while positive this year, began to decline early in 2022, due in part to lawsuits and investor anxiety.

Read more [here](#).

Click [here](#) for Margaret Sullivan story - Rupert Murdoch's reign at Fox News is over. But the damage he did may last forever. (Shared by Paul Albright)

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## ***Outdated headline sparks vicious online hate campaign directed at Las Vegas newspaper*** (AP)

**BY DAVID BAUDER**

NEW YORK (AP) — A Las Vegas newspaper is being viciously attacked online for its coverage of an alleged murder of a retired police chief, either because of a misunderstanding or a deliberate attempt to mislead.

The "firehose of hatred" has led the Las Vegas Review-Journal to sift through email directed at one of its reporters to protect her from the worst of it, the paper's executive editor, Glenn Cook, said on Wednesday.

On Aug. 18, four days after a 64-year-old former California police chief, Andreas Probst, was killed when he was struck by a hit-and-run motorist while riding his bike in Las Vegas, Review-Journal reporter Sabrina Schnur interviewed his family for a story.



The headline: "Retired police chief killed in bike crash remembered for laugh, love of coffee."

Then the story took a sinister turn.

Video emerged, apparently taken by a teenage passenger in the car that hit Probst, showing that it was no accident. Charges against the 17-year-old driver were upgraded to murder on Aug. 29, and judges ruled on Wednesday that the two juveniles will be tried as adults.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Lucy Morgan, Pulitzer-winning force of Florida journalism, dies at 82*** (Poynter)

**By: Jay Cridlin**

*This article was first published by the Tampa Bay Times and is republished here with permission.*

Lucy Morgan, a pioneering Tampa Bay Times journalist whose relentless investigative reporting kept Florida legislators, lobbyists and lawmen on watch for nearly five decades, died Wednesday, according to family members.

The cause of death was complications from a fall in May. She was 82.

Morgan was renowned for her work from Tampa Bay to Tallahassee, where the press gallery of the Florida State Senate is named in her honor. In 1985, she won the Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting for exposing corruption within the Pasco County Sheriff's Office.

"She was as powerful as any politician in the state," said Richard Bockman, one of her editors at the Times. "She had the ear of anybody in the state who she wanted, from governors to prisoners, from drug dealers to prosecutors. She had anybody and everybody. And her goal was to tell stories that needed to be told."

Read more [here](#).

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## ***TV Station Calls Out Fake AI Images of Hurricane Idalia*** (PetaPixel)

**By MATT GROWCOOT**

A television station has called out a series of AI-generated images that were purportedly of Hurricane Idalia — but were fake.

The series of AI images were posted to a Facebook and Instagram account with the caption: “Idalia is here.” While those familiar with AI image generators like Midjourney can tell the images are artificial, others cannot, as demonstrated by the hundreds of comments praising the “photographer.”

“When Hurricane Idalia struck last month, amazing photographs surfaced, and they went viral. After being posted on Facebook, the images got 23 million views and 181,000 shares, that’s a lot,” says Fox Weather meteorologist Amy Freeze.

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

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## ***The Promise vs. Fear of AI*** (Local News Initiative)

by MARK CARO

Overseeing the Knight Lab at Northwestern University, Jeremy Gilbert has been exploring the intersection of technology and news media, a topic that has become urgent amid the rocket-like rise of artificial intelligence.

Gilbert has worked with AI since 2009, when he and fellow Northwestern professors and their students created StatsMonkey, a tool to tell automatic baseball stories. During a subsequent stint at the Washington Post, Gilbert devised Heliograf to cover sports, politics and more. Now back at Northwestern as the Knight Chair in Digital Media Strategy at the Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications, Gilbert is working with the next generation of AI technologies to tell stories in new and novel ways based on user needs.

In this conversation, which has been edited for length and clarity (and transcribed using AI but corrected via human ears), Gilbert makes the case for AI’s transformative potential while cautioning against lurking dangers.

Read more [here](#).

## **Today in History – Sept. 22, 2023**



### By The Associated Press

**Today is Friday, Sept. 22, the 265th day of 2023. There are 100 days left in the year.**

#### **Today's Highlight in History:**

On Sept. 22, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln issued the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, declaring all slaves in rebel states should be free as of January 1, 1863 if the states did not end the fighting and rejoin the union.

#### **On this date:**

In 1776, during the Revolutionary War, Capt. Nathan Hale, 21, was hanged as a spy by the British in New York.

In 1911, pitcher Cy Young, 44, gained his 511th and final career victory as he hurled a 1-0 shutout for the Boston Rustlers against the Pittsburgh Pirates at Forbes Field.

In 1949, the Soviet Union exploded its first atomic bomb.

In 1961, the Interstate Commerce Commission issued rules prohibiting racial discrimination on interstate buses.

In 1975, Sara Jane Moore attempted to shoot President Gerald R. Ford outside a San Francisco hotel, but missed.

In 1980, the Persian Gulf conflict between Iran and Iraq erupted into full-scale war.

In 1985, rock and country music artists participated in "Farm Aid," a concert staged in Champaign, Illinois, to help the nation's farmers.

In 1993, 47 people were killed when an Amtrak passenger train fell off a bridge and crashed into Big Bayou Canot near Mobile, Alabama.

In 1994, the situation comedy "Friends" debuted on NBC-TV.



In 1995, an AWACS plane carrying U.S. and Canadian military personnel crashed on takeoff from Elmendorf Air Force Base near Anchorage, Alaska, killing all 24 people aboard.

In 2014, the United States and five Arab nations launched airstrikes against the Islamic State group in Syria, sending waves of planes and Tomahawk cruise missiles against an array of targets.

In 2020, U.S. deaths from the coronavirus topped 200,000, by far the highest confirmed death toll from the virus in the world at that point, according to a count by Johns Hopkins University.

In 2017, as the scale of the damage from Hurricane Maria started to become clearer, Puerto Rican officials said they could not contact more than half of the communities in the U.S. territory, where all power had been knocked out to the island's 3.4 million people.

In 2018, Paul Simon ended what was billed as his final concert tour in a park in Queens, New York.

Today's Birthdays: Dancer/choreographer/singer Toni Basil is 80. Actor Paul Le Mat is 78. Musician King Sunny Adé (ah-DAY') is 77. Capt. Mark Phillips is 75. Rock singer David Coverdale (Deep Purple, Whitesnake) is 72. Actor Shari Belafonte is 69. Singer Debby Boone is 67. Country singer June Forester (The Forester Sisters) is 67. Singer Nick Cave is 66. Rock singer Johnette Napolitano is 66. Actor Lynn Herring is 66. Classical crossover singer Andrea Bocelli (an-DRAY'-ah boh-CHEL'-ee) is 65. Singer-musician Joan Jett is 65. Actor Scott Baio is 63. Actor Catherine Oxenberg is 62. Actor Bonnie Hunt is 62. Actor Rob Stone is 61. Actor Dan Bucatinsky (TV: "24: Legacy") is 58. Musician Matt Sharp is 54. Rock musician Dave Hernandez is 53. Rapper Mystikal is 53. R&B singer Big Rube (Society of Soul) is 52. Actor James Hillier (TV: "The Crown") is 50. Actor Mireille Enos is 48. Actor Daniella Alonso is 45. Actor Michael Graziadei (GRAHT'-zee-uh-day-ee) is 44. Actor Ashley Eckstein is 42. Actor Katie Lowes is 41. Rock musician Will Farquarson (Bastille) is 40. Actor Tatiana Maslany is 38. Actor Ukweli Roach (TV: "Blindspot") is 37. Actor Tom Felton is 36. Actor Teyonah Parris is 36. Actor Juliette Goglia is 28. Actor Dalya Knapp is 13.

## Got a story or photos to share?

Connecting is a daily newsletter published Monday through Friday that reaches more than 1,800 retired and former Associated Press employees, present-day employees, and news industry and journalism school colleagues. It began in 2013. Past issues can be found by clicking Connecting Archive in the masthead. Its author, Paul Stevens, retired from the AP in 2009 after a 36-year career as a newsman in Albany and St. Louis, correspondent in Wichita, chief of bureau in Albuquerque, Indianapolis and Kansas City, and Central Region vice president based in Kansas City.

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:

- **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.

- **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.

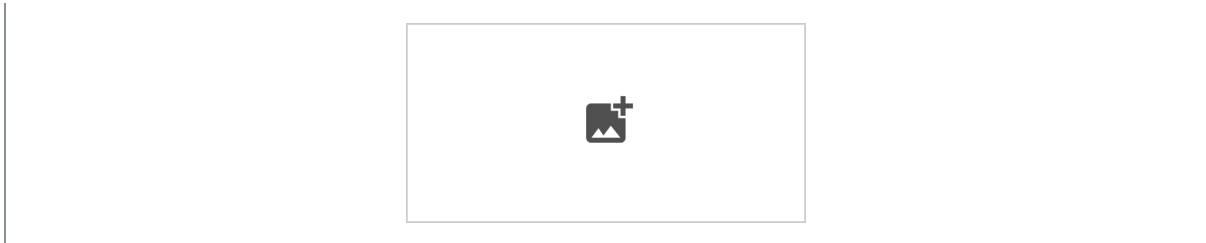
- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.

- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

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