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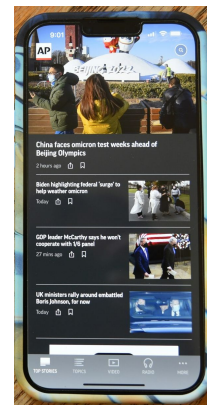
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Connecting

Nov. 8, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good morning on this Nov. 8, 2023.

As we approach Veterans Day this Saturday, Nov. 11, Connecting colleague **Susan Spaulding** shares an incredible story of her father, an Air Force fighter pilot, losing consciousness on a bombing mission 70 years ago and his jet flying uncontrolled over North Korea for an hour. He eventually was talked down by a ground controller and managed to land safely though not without some anxious moments.

"He was coached back to base by Capt. Clarence Bell. It was an unbelievable story that he lived to talk about. And, it made the AP wire!," Susan said.

Lt. Richard Spaulding's amazing tale leads today's Connecting.

Are you a military veteran? What branch and years of service? What do you recall about it? Were you proud? Send your responses to paulstevens46@gmail.com.

Earlier this week Connecting asked how you are using artificial intelligence, a growing piece of American technology and life. **Dave Tomlin** weighs in on his own use, saying Anthropic's chatbot Claude is helpful generating first texts for civic organizations he serves.

Doug Pizac shares two troubling stories about artificial intelligence companies using others' photos for free, including Adobe Stock selling images of the Israel-Hamas conflict that are AI generated.

"So let's get this straight," Doug wrote. "Companies are using images they didn't pay for and then selling AI composites of them. Sounds like a good revenue-generating model -- for the companies -- but zippo for the photographers who are risking their lives and whose work is being used without compensation.

"This sounds like a huge AI ethics project/stance to address. I would like to start a thread on this and read comments from other Connecting members on this disturbing trend."

What do other Connecting readers think?

Paul Stevens returns to the editor's chair tomorrow. Send your contributions to him at paulstevens46@gmail.com.

Have a great day!

- *Mark Mittelstadt*



At a landing strip in Taegu, Korea, 1st Lieutenant Dick Spaulding of the 49th Fighter Group, gets ready to enter his jet for a mission.

Grateful daughter: "Someone was definitely looking over his shoulder"

[Susan Spaulding](#) shared the amazing story of her Air Force father passing out while on a bombing mission over North Korea during the Korean War in 1953. "He flew many missions in Korea as a member of the 49th Fighter Bomber Group, flying F-84 Thunderjets in combat," she said. "During one flight, he lost all oxygen and was in-and-out of consciousness for more than 60 minutes while his plane flew erratically over North Korea."

Lt. Richard Spaulding was coached back to base by a far away ground controller whose radar spotted the jet flying erratically. The pilot came to enough to hear instructions being radioed to him. He was told to drop his two large bombs over a Korean target before he could return to base but he couldn't recall whether he did. At one point in his return he didn't think an air base's runway was long enough to land. Eventually he made it back, but recalled virtually nothing of the entire episode or his flight.

"My Dad passed away in 2016 at the age of 87," Susan recalls. "We talked about it over the years and we would all occasionally re-read the article. Truly amazing. Someone was definitely looking over his shoulder."

Susan, who retired from The Associated Press in 2020 after 35 years, grew up in an Air Force family. Her mother, Marie Spaulding, was a First Lieutenant and a flight nurse. She died in June at age 93 and was buried at Arlington National Cemetery last week.

The April 1953 AP story of Richard Spaulding's flight:



SEOUL, April 25 -- (AP) -- The Air Force tonight told the bizarre story of a Thunderjet that rocketed virtually uncontrolled through North Korean skies for nearly an hour before its semi-conscious pilot was talked to safety by a far-away ground controller.

Lt. Richard L. Spaulding of Ionia, Mich., was on a bombing mission over North Korea March 26 when his oxygen equipment went haywire.

Spaulding slipped into semi-consciousness and for an hour his speedy jet plane, virtually flying itself, swooped, dipped, twisted and turned crazily.

Back at a mountain top ground control station, Capt. Clarence Bell, of Van Horn, Tex., picked up the erratic action on his radar scope.

Suspecting a pilot blackout, Bell took over.

In a cool, calm voice he repeated instructions to Spaulding over and over again.

First he directed Spaulding to a target area in North Korea and instructed him to drop his bombs. Those bombs had to be jettisoned before the plane could be landed safely.

Then he started talking Spaulding home, hoping to bring him down safely now that the Thunderjet's deadly bombs were dropped.

After minutes of patient instructions -- "it seemed like hours," Bell said afterward -- he got Spaulding lined up for a landing at an Allied Airbase, only to have the semi-conscious pilot suddenly refuse because "the runway isn't long enough."

Eventually Bell talked Spaulding to a second airfield and there completed the tricky let down and landing procedures.

Spaulding said later he did not recall dropping the bombs, nor refusing to land at the first airfield, nor the successful landing at the second.

"It was like a dream," Spaulding said. "I remember the plane shaking and vibrating with an awful violence. I was sure it was exploding. Somewhere along the line, I dropped my bombs. Where or when, I don't know. All I know is that when I got back they were no longer with me."

Bell told of one particularly anxious moment.

"I had him just north of our nearest airbase, when he suddenly asked me if he had released his bombs yet. Not knowing if he had or had not, I almost jumped off the mountain. I could just see that airbase after a couple of thousand pounders exploded in the center of it."

Another time, Bell related, Spaulding suddenly yelled into his radio mic, "My God, I've been clobbered. I've had it."

"He was over a heavy anti-aircraft area and I thought he had been hit," Bell said. "But his plane continued to show up on my scope so I knew he was all right."

Two years later, SAGA, a magazine of "TRUE ADVENTURES FOR MEN," wrote an extensive piece on the episode. A .PDF of the May 1955 magazine is linked here.



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Artificial intelligence

Claude: handy chatbot for civic organization work

[Dave Tomlin](#) _ I've used Anthropic's chatbot Claude several times to generate first drafts of text I'm asked now and then to compose for one or another of the civic organizations I serve as a volunteer or board member.

Most recently I asked Claude to "compose an investment policy that complies with New Mexico non-profit corporation law." I've also asked him (them/it) for drafts of text blocks to fill in answer blanks on grant application forms in response to such

questions as “what benefits does a youth gymnastics program bring to your community?”

The results for narrowly defined assignments like these aren't ever perfect, but they are always quite comprehensive, serviceably written, and of course blazingly fast.

Here's why AI companies think they can use photographers' work without compensation

(PetaPixel)

By Matt Growcoot

After the U.S. Copyright Office put out a call for opinions on how copyright should work with AI-generated material, the world's biggest AI companies had a lot to say.

Unsurprisingly, Google, Meta, OpenAI, and Stability AI do not believe that they should be compensating photographers and artists whose work they used to train their generative AI tools.

The close date for the public consultation has now passed (October 18) and the nearly 10,000 comments are available to view online. As noted by The Verge, there is some difference in the companies' opinions as to why they shouldn't have to pay to train their AI models but ultimately it's just that: They don't think they should pay.

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

Adobe Stock is selling AI-generated images of the Israel-Hamas conflict

(PetaPixel)

By Matt Growcoot

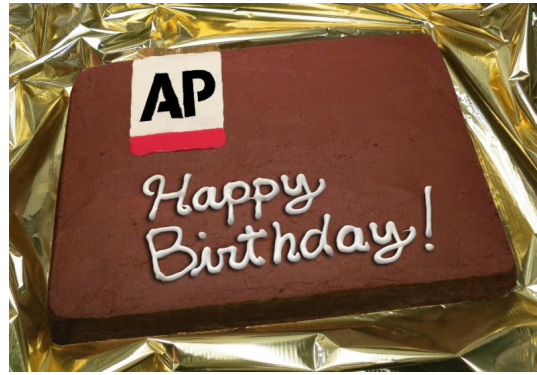
As fears rise over fake imagery generated by artificial intelligence flooding the internet, one of the world's leading stock photo websites is openly selling AI images of the Israel-Hamas war.

A quick search on Adobe Stock for “Israel-Palestine conflict” brings up dozens of AI-generated images purporting to show the Middle East conflict; in fact, the overwhelming majority of results are AI.

Some pictures appear more real than others but at first glance more than a few could be perceived as real. Futurism notes that a handful of small publications have ran these images without labeling them as AI.

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

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Mike Gugliotto

Stories of interest



Journalists carry mock coffins of Palestinian journalists killed during the Israel-Gaza war in a procession toward a United Nations office in the West Bank on November 7. (Photo: AP/Nasser Nasser)

Journalist casualties in the Israel-Gaza war

(Committee to Protect Journalists)

The Israel-Gaza war has taken a severe toll on journalists since Hamas launched its unprecedented attack against Israel on October 7 and Israel declared war on the militant Palestinian group, launching strikes on the blockaded Gaza Strip.

CPJ is investigating all reports of journalists and media workers killed, injured, or missing in the war, which has led to the deadliest month for journalists since CPJ began gathering data in 1992.

As of November 7, CPJ's preliminary investigations showed at least 39 journalists and media workers were among an estimated 11,000 killed since the war began on October 7—with more than 9,900 Palestinian deaths in Gaza and the West Bank, and 1,400 deaths in Israel.

Read more [here](#).

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Press Club leaders condemn violent threats against Jewish, Muslim journalists

(The National Press Club)

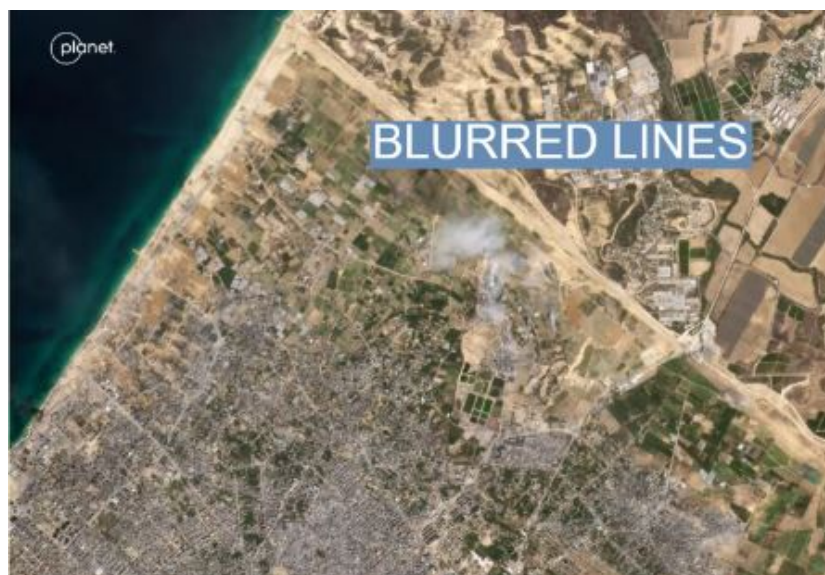
WASHINGTON, Nov. 6 – Following is a statement from Eileen O'Reilly, president of the National Press Club, and Gil Klein, president of the National Press Club Journalism Institute, on the disturbing rise of violent rhetoric and other threats against journalists involved in coverage of the Israel-Hamas war.

“We strongly condemn the rise in hateful rhetoric, threats and calls for violence against journalists.

“Since the start of the Israel-Hamas war, there have been numerous journalists, both Israeli and Palestinian, Jewish and Muslim, who have received threats. Some of these have been specific to reporters, such as Youmna ElSayed, an Al Jazeera correspondent in Gaza who says she received a threatening phone call warning her and her family to leave their home, and Muslim Canadian reporter Saba Eitizaz, who has received numerous attacks including threats of physical violence.

Read more [here](#).

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A blurred satellite image given to news organizations.

Satellite companies are restricting Gaza images to news organizations

(Semafor)

By Max Tani

Key providers of satellite photographs to news organizations and other researchers have begun to restrict imagery of Gaza after a New York Times report on Israeli tank positions based on the images.

The satellite image provider Planet Labs, and a handful of competitors, have revolutionized coverage of wars and disasters by giving the public access to high-resolution images that were until recently available only to government intelligence agencies.

In the early days of the invasion of Ukraine in 2021, commercial satellite companies provided some of the most compelling images and insights into how the conflict was developing on the ground, making that war the first modern conflict in which journalists, researchers, and passionate amateurs could monitor developments in the conflict in such detail.

But as Israel begins its ground invasion of Gaza, the same satellite imagery providers aren't being as forthcoming.

Read more [here](#)

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Content creators surge past legacy media as news hits a tipping point

(The Washington Post)

By Taylor Lorenz

Ameer Al-Khatahtbeh graduated in 2020 with a degree in journalism from Rutgers University. But instead of going to work in a traditional newsroom, he decided to build his own digital news brand catering to the Muslim community.

Four years later, Al-Khatahtbeh, 25, has amassed more than 2 million followers on TikTok and more than 5.3 million on Instagram, where posts to his account, @Muslim, range from features on halal dating apps to the latest news from the Israel-Gaza war.

The young Palestinian-Jordanian entrepreneur is one of millions of independent creators reshaping how people get their news, especially the youngest viewers. News consumption hit a tipping point around the globe during the early days of the coronavirus pandemic, with more people turning to social media platforms such as TikTok, YouTube and Instagram than to websites maintained by traditional news outlets, according to the latest Digital News Report by the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism. One in 5 adults under 24 use TikTok as a source for news, the report said, up five percentage points from last year. According to Britain's Office of

Communications, young adults in the United Kingdom now spend more time watching TikTok than broadcast television.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Michael Rubin

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Inside The Washington Post newsroom unveiling of new CEO Will Lewis

(Daily Beast)

The Washington Post's incoming CEO Will Lewis made his first public appearance before Post staffers in an all-hands meeting on Monday just days after he was announced as Fred Ryan's successor. Speaking from the center of the newsroom, internally dubbed "the Hub," alongside interim CEO Patty Stonesifer, executive editor Sally Buzbee, and editorial page editor David Shipley, Lewis introduced himself to the editorial and business teams and laid out his journalistic bonafides, including how he missed working in news ("I so wish I was a journalist," he said). One thing he promised not to do was lay out a strategic plan for the paper until he better learned the business, so as to avoid ending up in the foot-in-mouth situation Stonesifer found herself in when she announced company-wide buyouts last month.

Read more [here](https://www.thedailybeast.com/inside-the-newsroom-unveiling-of-the-new-wapo-ceo-will-lewis). <https://www.thedailybeast.com/inside-the-newsroom-unveiling-of-the-new-wapo-ceo-will-lewis>

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Indy film "Bad Press" examines tribal oppression when citizens try to start own free press

(Deadline)

By Matthew Carey

Now on tour of independent movie houses nationwide -- "Bad Press," an award-winner at the 2023 Sundance Film Festival. It examines what happens when citizens of the Muscogee Nation established their own free press, only to find oppression from the tribes's legislative branch. This documentary tells an alarming (but all too familiar) story, and hopefully the film will be picked up by one of the streaming services.

Read more [here](#). Shared by John Brewer.

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A Billion-Dollar Bet on Local News

(The Atlantic)

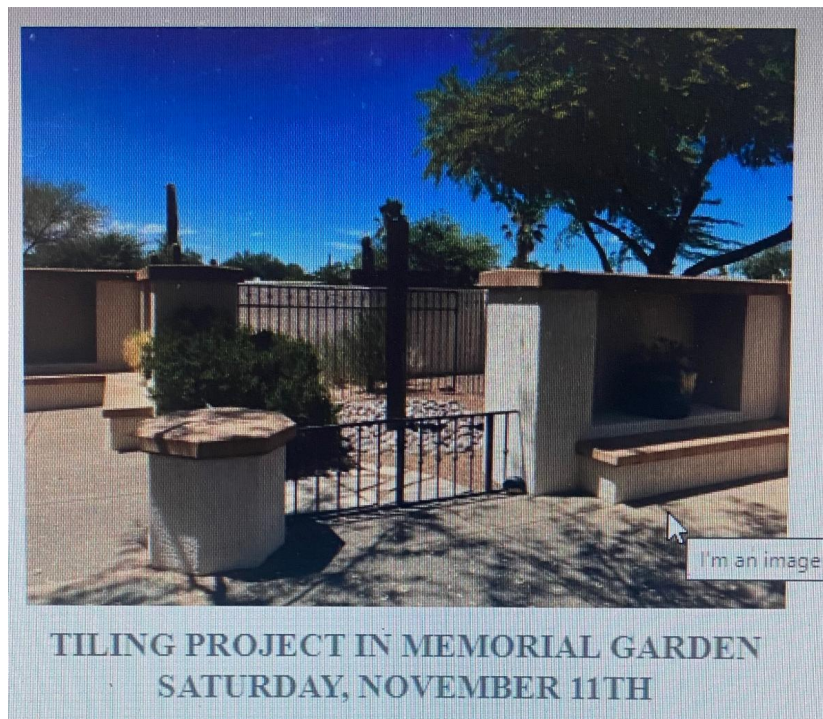
By John Palfrey

In 2012, I began as the new head of a school in Massachusetts. For many people from outside the region, the town and the school, both named Andover, are synonymous.

Although the town had many other important institutions, the school was among its biggest employers and landowners, and has been central to its layout, history, and economy. When I arrived, the town’s weekly newspaper, The Andover Townsman, was produced in a bustling downtown newsroom. I read every article, got to know a few of the journeyman reporters, and occasionally heard from the editor, who would walk up the hill to sit in my office and chat about what was going on. The paper covered local politics, the school board, and the vibrant Little League program in town with energy. It wasn’t perfect, but it was important.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dorothy Abernathy

The Final Word



At least its not an Alt Text.

Today in History - Nov. 8, 2023



Today is Wednesday, Nov. 8, the 312th day of 2023. There are 53 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 8, 1923, Adolf Hitler launched his first attempt at seizing power in Germany with a failed coup in Munich that came to be known as the "Beer-Hall Putsch."

On this date:

In 1793, the Louvre began admitting the public, even though the French museum had been officially open since August.

In 1864, President Abraham Lincoln won reelection as he defeated Democratic challenger George B. McClellan.

In 1889, Montana became the 41st state.

In 1935, the movies "Mutiny on the Bounty," starring Clark Gable and Charles Laughton, and "A Night at the Opera," starring the Marx Brothers, premiered in New York.

In 1942, Operation Torch, resulting in an Allied victory, began during World War II as U.S. and British forces landed in French North Africa.

In 1950, during the Korean War, the first jet-plane battle took place as U.S. Air Force Lt. Russell J. Brown shot down a North Korean MiG-15.

In 1966, Republican Ronald Reagan was elected governor of California, defeating Democratic incumbent Pat Brown.

In 1974, a federal judge in Cleveland dismissed charges against eight Ohio National Guardsmen accused of violating the civil rights of students who were killed or wounded in the 1970 Kent State shootings.

In 2000, a statewide recount began in Florida, which emerged as critical in deciding the winner of the 2000 presidential election. Earlier that day, Vice President Al Gore had telephoned Texas Gov. George W. Bush to concede, but called back about an hour later to retract his concession.

In 2002, the U.N. Security Council unanimously approved Resolution 1441, aimed at forcing Saddam Hussein to disarm or face "serious consequences." President George W. Bush said the new resolution presented the Iraqi regime "with a final test."

In 2011, an asteroid as big as an aircraft carrier zipped by Earth in the closest encounter by such a massive space rock in more than three decades.

In 2012, Jared Lee Loughner was sentenced to life in prison without parole for the January 2011 shootings in Tucson, Arizona, that killed six people and wounded 13 others, including Rep. Gabrielle Giffords.

In 2013, Typhoon Haiyan, one of the most powerful storms ever recorded, slammed into the central Philippines, leaving more than 7,300 people dead or missing,

flattening villages and displacing more than 5 million.

In 2016, Republican Donald Trump was elected America's 45th president, defeating Democrat Hillary Clinton in an astonishing victory for a celebrity businessman and political novice.

In 2017, director Ridley Scott decided to cut Kevin Spacey out of the already-completed movie "All the Money in the World" because of the sexual misconduct allegations against Spacey and reshoot his many scenes using Christopher Plummer, just six weeks ahead of the film's release date.

In 2018, tens of thousands of people fled a fast-moving wildfire in Northern California that would become the state's deadliest ever, killing 86 people and nearly destroying the community of Paradise.

In 2022, in the midterm elections, Republicans gained a narrow majority in the House, while Democrats managed to maintain control of the Senate.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Alain Delon is 88. Singer-actor Bonnie Bramlett is 79. Singer Bonnie Raitt is 74. TV personality Mary Hart is 73. Former Playboy Enterprises chairman and chief executive Christie Hefner is 71. Actor Alfre Woodard is 71. Singer-songwriter Rickie Lee Jones is 69. Nobel Prize-winning author Kazuo Ishiguro is 69. Rock musician Pearl Thompson (The Cure) is 66. Singer-actor Leif Garrett is 62. Chef and TV personality Gordon Ramsay is 57. Actor Courtney Thorne-Smith is 56. Actor Parker Posey is 55. Actor Roxana Zal is 54. Singer Diana King is 53. Actor Gonzalo Menendez is 52. Rock musician Scott Devendorf (The National) is 51. Actor Gretchen Mol is 51. ABC News anchor David Muir is 50. Actor Matthew Rhys is 49. Actor Tara Reid is 48. Country singer Bucky Covington is 46. Actor Dania Ramirez is 44. Actor Azura Skye is 42. Actor Chris Rankin is 40. TV personality Jack Osbourne is 38. Actor Jessica Lowndes is 35. R&B singer SZA is 34. New York Yankees outfielder and designated hitter Giancarlo Stanton is 34. Singer-actor Riker Lynch is 32. Country singer Lauren Alaina is 29. Actor Van Crosby (TV: "Splitting Up Together") is 21.

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.

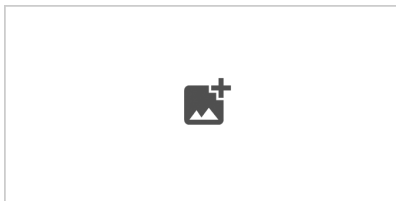
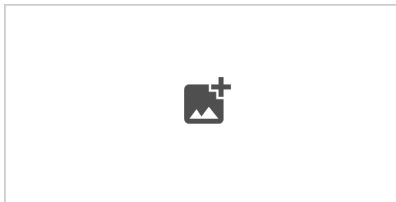
- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.

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

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



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