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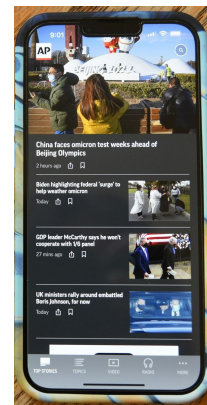
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Connecting

Jan. 8, 2024

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this Jan. 8, 2024,

Our colleague **Jacqui Cook** has your first Connecting homework assignment of the new year.

On a visit last month to Oklahoma City, she toured the National Museum and Memorial - the site of the domestic terrorist bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building on April 19, 1995, in which 168 were killed. At the time, Jacqui was a young editor on the AP General Desk in New York and worked closely with those on scene.

It left an impact that was rekindled with the visit – and sparked the idea of asking her colleagues: **What story did you cover during your career that has stayed with you through this day?**

Connecting would welcome what you have to say, yours(and others) role in coverage, and why you believe the story has stayed with you.

A TOAST...by [Larry Margasak](#) - "I am proposing a toast with mixed feelings. First, to colleagues I worked with in Washington who we lost in 2023: Karen Ball, George Gedda, Fred Hoffman, Larry Knutson, Clarice Maue, Rose Ann Robertson. May their memories be a blessing. On the other hand, let me toast the growing list of colleagues who join me on Connecting's 80s list and those who honor us by reaching the 90s."

NITA LELYVELD - In today's Stories of Interest is the obituary of Joseph Lelyveld, storied New York Times foreign correspondent and executive editor, who died at 86. One of his daughters is Nita Lelyveld, managing editor of the Portland (Maine) Press Herald whose earlier career included work for the AP in Hartford and Washington. Colleague Chris Connell said she "had a great run at AP before even greater things at the LA Times."

MORE ON VAL CORLEY: From colleague [Mike Holmes](#) – "I'd have to echo the comments of Mark Mittelstadt on the passing of longtime Des Moines newsman Val Corley. When I joined the AP in Iowa in the late 1970s, it was Val who taught me the ropes - first on the desk and later around the state Capitol. If I had to describe Val in one word, it would be "unflappable." No matter how big the story or how much was going on at the same time, he took everything in stride."

Here's to a great week ahead – be safe, stay healthy, live each day you're given to your fullest.

Paul

A visit to Oklahoma City bombing scene rekindles memories for then-young GEN Desk editor



Jacqui Cook - My son graduated in December with a master's from the University of Oklahoma, so we decided to take the opportunity to also visit the nearby Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum.

It's not in the title, but it is the museum and monument in memory of the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building that killed 168 people. I felt compelled to see the museum because I so vividly remember being a very young 25-year-old editor on the overnight GEN Desk when that story was top of the news. I spent many nights on the phone from NYC, working with the writers and desk editors in OKC to get the latest information to the national wire.



There were so many stories to tell - of the victims, of the survivors, of the city, of the rescuers and, as it unfolded later, of the horrible people who built and detonated the bomb. It was the first around-the-clock story I had worked on for the GEN Desk and I went home every morning exhausted and yet in awe of the people AP had on the ground (and late National Supervisor Bruce Hodgman, who was the steady hand a youngster like me needed).

I've been away from the AP for a long time, but being inside the museum brought all those thoughts back and made me realize just how deeply the story was in my bones.

As I walked through, I was reminded of little snippets from that time -- a lede from the late Sharon Cohen about a church service the Sunday after the bombing, with a minister asking a parent not to take their crying baby out of the service but instead let the baby's cries be a reminder of new life at a dark time; an AP newsletter piece from longtime OKC COB Lindel Hutson in which he talked about his pride in the work his bureau did covering the story, but if he had his way, he would much rather still drive by the Murrah Building every morning instead of the rubble; and, of course, the famous photo of little Baylee Almon being carried out by a firefighter - a photo that brought its own story as time went on. There was also the memory of when Timothy McVeigh was finally captured, though I didn't care to give much thought to him and his brand of evil except that it still lurks all these decades later. Outside the museum, there is a chair in honor of each victim, each decorated during our December visit with a wreath, and two enormous archways with times inscribed - one says 9:01 (the moment before the bombing) and the other 9:03 (the moment healing began). Across the street, a statue of Jesus weeps. I did a little of that myself as we walked around.

If you're in or near Oklahoma City, the museum is well worth the two hours or so to visit. Be prepared for profound sadness, especially perusing the room where a photo of each victim is displayed along with a memento of their lives. Time stopped for those 168 people that day, and the farther away we get, the more their pictures look like another lifetime. I kept thinking that those sweet babies at the daycare would be about 30 by now, with their own lives and careers and maybe their own families.

The visit also got me thinking about other stories that get in your bones. Aside from 9/11, which I think we would all agree changed every one of us forever, what stories do you remember from your AP time that have stayed with you?

In AP poll's earliest days, some Black schools weren't on the radar and many teams missed out

BY TIM REYNOLDS
The Associated Press

The men's basketball teams at Tennessee State in a three-season span from 1956 through 1959 were nearly unbeatable and somehow largely unnoticed.

They had a coach in John McLendon who would be enshrined in the Basketball Hall of Fame as a coach and contributor. They had five players who would play in the NBA, one of them a future All-Star. They won three consecutive national titles in the NAIA, the governing body for small colleges. TSU won 94 of 102 games during that stretch.

And they never spent a day in The Associated Press men's basketball poll.

The AP poll has had a simple mandate over its 75 years of existence: pick the best teams in the country each week. Those teams now all come from the NCAA's Division I membership. But in the poll's earliest days — especially before most historically Black colleges and universities were considered NCAA members — the lines were a bit more blurred. Schools like Tennessee State were considered part of the “college division,” which was different than the likes of North Carolina and Kentucky. College division teams were not part of the polling.

“We only needed the chance,” Dick Barnett, the player who became an NBA All-Star and two-time NBA champion out of Tennessee State, said when he entered the Small College Hall of Fame in 2016. “We could have competed with any NCAA team at that time.”

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

Would you turn the clock back if you could?

[Mark Hamrick](#) - Here's a concept that seems to be trending...

"pre-internet"

What? Was there such a time?

Focusing on the past, even nostalgia, a good deep dive was put together by [Axios](#) on interest among members of Gen Z and others about what life was like before the Internet. And associated with that, what was it like before the ubiquity of cell phones with good cameras, constant connections, and social media (you know, what you're reading right now).

At the heart of this, we're talking about a different kind of generation gap with the analog era on one side and the digital era on the other.

There's no doubt in my mind that while we have gained a great deal, we've also lost some, or perhaps many, things in the would-be "evolution" of technology and our society. I say that as someone who has eagerly dived into digital media having been baptized in the analog media, as the son of a newspaperman and one who began working at a Kansas radio station when in high school many decades ago.

One slice of the piece:

"According to a Harris Poll published by Fast Company, "most Americans would prefer to live in a simpler era before everyone was obsessed with screens and social media."

That sentiment is strongest among Gen Xers and older millennials, the poll found. Yes, but: Those same poll respondents might be in for a rude shock if they had to get through their day without a smartphone."

Back to my thoughts here: I've often pondered what it might be like to get transported back to the past, knowing what we know now having to fend for one's self without instant access to information. We seemed to get by reasonably well, if not better before, but unless we're sent back to the digital stone age, there's no turning back, right? Could it be a question of seeking better balance?

As a former leader of two journalism associations, I'd note that the sharp decline in local news coverage and disruption of legacy media business models has led to less scrutiny of government and important policy questions at all levels. That's a problem for our democracy.

Would you turn the clock back if you could? Or are you relatively content to keep your digital connections and tools? Please share your thoughts!

Harrison reacquires San Diego Jewish World

[Don Harrison](#) - Don't know if this will be of interest to you, but it is a story about me reacquiring San Diego Jewish World. I was with the AP from 1967 to 1972 serving in the Los Angeles, Sacramento and New York bureaus (world desk).

Lead from the Times of San Diego:

On New Year's Day 2022, longtime San Diego journalist Don Harrison started the new year with one less job responsibility at San Diego Jewish World, an online daily news website he founded in 2007.

In 2022, for the grand total of \$1, Harrison sold ownership to Jacob Kamaras, who had the title of managing editor. Kamaras, who also was working at the time as a public relations executive, became publisher and editor, while Harrison became editor emeritus.

Now, effective New Year's Day 2024, Harrison has reacquired ownership of the website and resume his role as publisher and editor. He said the sales price of the reacquisition is \$2.

"I think it is only fair that Jacob should make a 100 percent profit," quipped Harrison to Times of San Diego. "Jacob gave me a one-dollar bill with George Washington's face. I'm giving Jacob a two-dollar bill with Thomas Jefferson's face."

Read more [here](#). Don Harrison is a Connecting colleague.

Judge orders Patrick Reed to pay attorney fees and cost to defendants after his \$750,000,000 lawsuit was dismissed

Story by Shobhit Kukreti
Sportskeeda

Patrick Reed has been asked to pay attorney fees and costs to the defendants after his \$750 million lawsuit against Brandel Chamblee and several other golf media members was dismissed twice.

The other defendants in the lawsuits were analyst Damon Hack, golf reporter Shane Ryan, Associated Press national golf writer Doug Ferguson, Golfweek, and its columnist Eamon Lynch.

Earlier, US District Judge Timothy Corrigan had dismissed the lawsuit in November 2022 and then once again in September. On Friday, January 5, Corrigan rejected Reed's motion, challenging him to reconsider his earlier decision.

Corrigan asked the law firms, who were representing the defendants, to file a motion for compensation for the fees and costs incurred in the lawsuit. Reed will have to respond before February 23, as per Jacksonville.com.

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

More dogs online



[Nancy Shulins](#) - Thanks to Marjorie Miller (see Friday's Connecting), I now know why my Dickens spends so much time online. Here he is, reading an email from her Ollie.

AP sighting



Dick Lipsey - An AP sighting: Wyoming fans at the Arizona Bowl.

BEST OF THE WEEK — FIRST WINNER

36 days at sea: How castaways survived hallucinations, thirst and desperation



In a partner story to “Adrift,” an AP team tracked down migrants who survived 36 days and told the story of their journey.

When video journalist Renata Brito saw the news of the rescue of several dozen men who survived 36 days at sea, she was shocked. Brito has been covering migrant crossings for years and had never heard of people on the route from West Africa to the Canary Islands surviving that long. She wondered what they might have endured during those 36 days, and so, she and photographer Felipe Dana set out to find out.

When the survivors were rescued, they were taken to Cape Verde and locked up in a school. A few days later, Brito and Dana were on a plane to Cape Verde’s Sal Island. Access to survivors, who were essentially detained, was restricted. When Brito and Dana finally managed to get inside and talk to survivors, authorities announced they would fly them back to Dakar in a few hours. It was the fastest repatriation local Red Cross workers had seen — and the AP team hadn’t even started in depth one-on-one interviews with survivors yet. The team needed to follow them back to Senegal to continue reporting.

They worked with AP Dakar colleague Ndeye Sene Mbengue to make contacts with survivors and their families in Fass Boye but found many of the survivors had gone into hiding after returning to Senegal. They feared police would want to investigate and prosecute those who had helped organize the voyage or parents who had helped their children pay for a spot on the deadly boat. It took days to find and convince survivors their story was important and needed to be told.

Together with Ndeye, they drove to more than five towns across different regions to meet with them. With Ndeye’s help they translated hours of on- and off-camera interviews. Brito kept in touch with survivors after leaving Senegal and obtained the contact of one of the rescuers who had made several cellphone videos the day they were found and brought on board.

Read more [here](#).

BEST OF THE WEEK — SECOND WINNER

Onerous enrollment policies are keeping missing students out of school, stunning AP reporting shows



Education accountability reporter Bianca Vázquez Tones chronicled a family whose four kids had been missing from school since March 2020 — due to paperwork — for a package that, along with an AP data analysis, was accessed by AP customers 1,400 times and shared by education policy and advocacy groups nationwide.

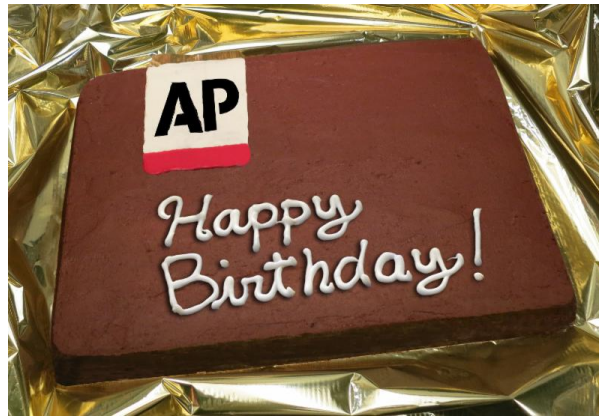
When Tones joined AP in 2022, she said, “I want to find missing kids.” By then, the national conversation had shifted away from students who left school during the pandemic, never to return. Schools had largely stopped looking for them. But Tones knew they were out there. And during a remarkable year of reporting, she found them — over and over again.

No story was more devastating than her latest. While reporting another project in Atlanta, Tones heard from a source at a housing project about four kids who essentially hadn’t been to school since March 2020. The family often lacked a working cell phone, so Tones mailed them letters, sent messages through her source and eventually took a chance and flew to Atlanta to try to meet them at a school-supply giveaway. They were the last family through the line.

Toness earned their trust, flying to Atlanta each time she needed to communicate. Their lives had been upended by the loss of the children's father, and with him the family's income, car and important documents. Toness discovered Atlanta requires at least eight documents to enroll, including a notarized affidavit of residency — part of a trend in some districts around the country. Without ID cards, a car or a working phone, the mother had spent months trying to collect the information for each document.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Mary Gordon Dubill](#) (belatedly, Jan. 5)

[Latrice Davis](#)

[Brian Skoloff](#)

Stories of interest

Joseph Lelyveld, Former Top Editor of The New York Times, Dies at 86 (New York Times)

By Robert D. McFadden

Joseph Lelyveld, a former executive editor and foreign correspondent for The New York Times, who won the 1986 Pulitzer Prize for nonfiction for his book "Move Your Shadow: South Africa, Black and White," died on Friday at his home in Manhattan. He was 86.

The cause was complications of Parkinson's disease, said Janny Scott, his partner of 19 years and a former Times reporter.

Cerebral and introspective, Mr. Lelyveld was for nearly four decades one of the most respected journalists in America, a globe-trotting adventurer who reported from Washington, Congo, India, Hong Kong, Johannesburg and London, winning acclaim for his prolific and perceptive articles.

Coming home, he rose up The Times's editorial pyramid to its pinnacle, the executive editorship, arguably the most powerful post in American journalism. In his seven years at the helm, from 1994 to 2001, The Times climbed to record levels of revenue and profits, expanded its national and international readerships, introduced color photographs to the front page, created new sections, and ushered in the digital age with a Times website and round-the-clock news operations.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad, Myron Belkind.

-0-

John Pilger, campaigning journalist, dies aged 84

(Guardian)

By JESSICA MURRAY

The renowned Australian journalist and documentary film-maker John Pilger has died aged 84, his family have announced.

A statement posted to his account on X said: "It is with great sadness the family of John Pilger announce he died yesterday 30 December 2023 in London aged 84.

"His journalism and documentaries were celebrated around the world, but to his family he was simply the most amazing and loved Dad, Grandad and partner. Rest In Peace."

Throughout his career, Pilger was a strong critic of western foreign policy and his native country's treatment of Indigenous Australians.

In his last column for the Guardian, in 2015, he condemned how "Aboriginal people are to be driven from homelands where their communities have lived for thousands of years".

Born in Bondi, New South Wales, Pilger relocated to the UK in the 1960s, where he went on to work for the Daily Mirror, ITV's former investigative programme World in Action and Reuters.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady.

-0-

A right-wing tale of Michigan election fraud had it all – except proof (Washington Post)

By Sarah Ellison

The story had all the elements of a blockbuster crime saga: burner phones, semiautomatic weapons, silencers and bags of prepaid cash cards. “NOW WE HAVE PROOF!” blared the headline on the right-wing website Gateway Pundit. “Massive 2020 Voter Fraud Uncovered in Michigan.”

The story referenced “thousands of fraudulent ballots” caught by Muskegon City Clerk Ann Meisch. Grateful readers deluged her office with hundreds of calls, hailing her as a hero.

But Meisch knew it wasn’t true.

According to police reports, the Michigan attorney general’s office and an interview with Meisch, an employee of a voter registration drive company had submitted to the Muskegon city clerk thousands of voter registration applications weeks before the 2020 election, some with faked signatures and faulty addresses.

Read more [here](#). Shared by John Willis, Mark Mittelstadt.

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Renowned archive of photojournalism the focus of major exhibition at The Image Centre (artdaily)

TORONTO.- The Image Centre (IMC) at Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU) has released the Facing Black Star, the sixth instalment in the IMC Book Series, as well as opened the major exhibition Stories from the Picture Press opening this fall—both focused on the IMC’s extensive Black Star Collection.

Gifted to TMU by an anonymous donor in 2005, along with \$7 million for its preservation, study and exhibition, the Black Star Collection was foundational to the establishment of what became the IMC. It was also the largest donation of cultural property ever made to a Canadian university.

“The Black Star Collection is one of the world’s most significant archives of photojournalism, with nearly 300,000 photographs by more than 6,000 image-makers,” says IMC Director and exhibition co-curator Paul Roth. “Our latest book, released today, serves as a scholarly companion to our upcoming fall exhibition. Together these two projects are the fruit of a decade of research in the archive.”

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

The Final Word

THE WIZARD OF ID By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



Shared by Adolphe Bernotas



Shared by Doug Pizac

Today in History - Jan. 8, 2024



Today is Monday, Jan. 8, the eighth day of 2024. There are 358 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 8, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson, in his State of the Union address, declared an “unconditional war on poverty in America.”

On this date:

In 1815, the last major engagement of the War of 1812 came to an end as U.S. forces defeated the British in the Battle of New Orleans, not having received word of the signing of a peace treaty.

In 1867, the U.S. House of Representatives joined the Senate in overriding President Andrew Johnson’s veto of the District of Columbia Suffrage Bill, giving Black men in the nation’s capital the right to vote.

In 1912, the African National Congress was founded in Bloemfontein, South Africa.

In 1918, President Woodrow Wilson outlined his Fourteen Points for lasting peace after World War I. Mississippi became the first state to ratify the 18th Amendment to the Constitution, which established Prohibition.

In 1935, rock-and-roll legend Elvis Presley was born in Tupelo, Mississippi.

In 1982, American Telephone and Telegraph settled the Justice Department’s antitrust lawsuit against it by agreeing to divest itself of the 22 Bell System companies.

In 1994, Tonya Harding won the ladies’ U.S. Figure Skating Championship in Detroit, a day after Nancy Kerrigan dropped out because of the clubbing attack that had injured her right knee. (The U.S. Figure Skating Association later stripped Harding of the title.)

In 1998, Ramzi Yousef (RAHM’-zee YOO’-sef), the mastermind of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, was sentenced in New York to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

In 2008, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton powered to victory in New Hampshire’s 2008 Democratic primary in a startling upset, defeating Sen. Barack Obama and resurrecting her bid for the White House; Sen. John McCain defeated his Republican rivals to move back into contention for the GOP nomination.

In 2011, U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, D-Ariz., was shot and critically wounded when a gunman opened fire as the congresswoman met with constituents in Tucson; six people were killed, 12 others were injured. (Gunman Jared Lee Loughner (LAWF’-nur) was sentenced in Nov. 2012 to seven consecutive life sentences, plus 140 years.)

In 2016, Joaquin “El Chapo” Guzman, the world’s most-wanted drug lord, was captured for a third time in a daring raid by Mexican marines, six months after walking through a tunnel to freedom from a maximum security prison.

In 2018, Alabama beat Georgia in overtime, 26-23, to claim the College Football Playoff national championship after freshman quarterback Tua Tagovailoa (tag-oh-vay-LOH’-ah) came off the bench to spark a comeback.

In 2020, Iran struck back at the United States for killing Iran's top military commander, firing missiles at two Iraqi military bases housing American troops; more than 100 U.S. service members were diagnosed with traumatic brain injuries after the attack. As Iran braced for a counterattack, the country's Revolutionary Guard shot down a Ukrainian jetliner after apparently mistaking it for a missile; all 176 people on board were killed, including 82 Iranians and more than 50 Canadians.

In 2022, NASA's new James Webb Space Telescope opened its huge mirror, the final step in the unfurling of the observatory, which had already traveled more than 660,000 miles since its Christmas Day launch.

In 2023, supporters of former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro who refused to accept his election defeat stormed Congress, the Supreme Court and presidential palace in the capital, a week after the inauguration of his leftist rival, President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

Today's birthdays: Former CBS newsman Charles Osgood is 91. Singer Shirley Bassey is 87. Game show host Bob Eubanks is 86. Country-gospel singer Cristy Lane is 84. R&B singer Jerome Anthony Gourdine (Little Anthony and the Imperials) is 83. Singer Juanita Cowart Motley (The Marvelettes) is 80. Actor Kathleen Noone is 79. Rock musician Robby Krieger (The Doors) is 78. Movie director John McTiernan is 73. Actor Harriet Sansom Harris is 69. Actor Ron Cephas Jones is 67. Former Education Secretary Betsy DeVos is 66. Singer-songwriter Ron Sexsmith is 60. Actor Michelle Forbes is 59. Actor Maria Pitillo (pih-TIHL'-loh) is 58. Actor/producer Ami Dolenz is 55. Reggae singer Sean Paul is 51. Actor Donnell Turner ("General Hospital") is 51. Country singer Tift Merritt is 49. Actor-rock singer Jenny Lewis is 48. Actor Amber Benson is 47. Actor Scott Whyte is 46. Singer-songwriter Erin McCarley is 45. Actor Sarah Polley is 45. Actor Gaby (GAB'-ee) Hoffman is 42. Rock musician Disashi Lumumba-Kasongo (dih-SAH'-shee LUHM'-uhm-boh kuh-SAHN'-goh) (Gym Class Heroes) is 41. Actor Cynthia Erivo is 37. Actor Freddie Stroma is 37.

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.

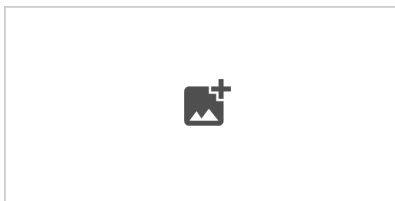
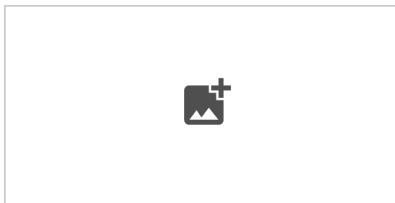
- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.

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

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



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