



# Overseas Press Club of America

## BULLETIN

### Dan Eldon Biopic Offers Key Lessons on Inspiration and Risk

BY CHAD BOUCHARD

A FEATURE FILM celebrating the life of photojournalist Dan Eldon and shining light on his tragic death in 1993 also serves as a sobering reminder of persistent threats against journalists today. That was a key takeaway from the Q&A following a special screening of *The Journey is the Destination* on Oct. 30.

The film's New York premiere, co-sponsored by the OPC, Creative Visions and Extraordinary Journeys Inc, was an emotionally charged gathering for many who knew Dan or his family personally.

Dan was killed by an angry mob in Mogadishu while he and other journalists were covering the aftermath of a United Nations bombing raid against a clan leader. Eldon and three of his colleagues were beaten to death.

Before his death Dan, who was the youngest photo journalist ever



Left to right: Dan Thomas, John Daniszewski and Kathy Eldon.

to work on the frontlines for Reuters, had embarked with a group of friends on an epic aid mission and road trip across Africa. Much of the film centers on this journey as well as his romantic struggle along the way.

After the screening, Kathy Eldon, Dan's mother and the film's producer as well as the founder of Creative Visions, made an appeal to attendees to use the film and Dan's story as a springboard for change.

"I look at you people, and I think about how you are the ones, you are the power of media, you are the power of storytelling, the ones who can guide us to the light," she said. "You can choose stories that are solutions-oriented. You can choose heroes that are positive figures. You can tell us things that will make us believe that there is the possibility of light some-

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## 'Dan Eldon' Continued From Page 1

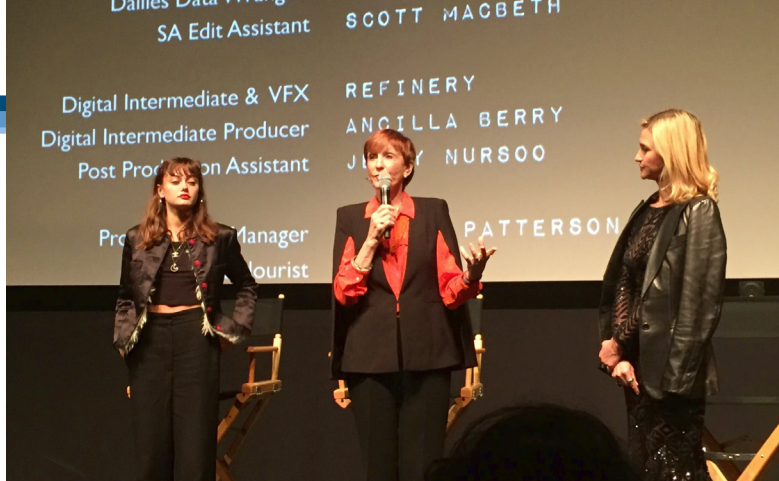
where out there at the end of this tortuous tunnel.”

The Q&A included OPC member John Daniszewski, who serves as editor-at-large for standards for The Associated Press. He directed AP news coverage of 11 countries in southern Africa when Dan Eldon was there, and his friend Hansi Krauss was killed in the same incident as Dan.

Daniszewski said there had been a slow shift in the culture of journalism since Dan's death, in part spurred by the incident in Mogadishu as well as other violent deaths of journalists in Bosnia in the early 90s, toward improving safety and reducing risk in reporting on conflict.

“It's much more safety oriented now, for better or worse,” he said. “News organizations tend to invest a lot more trying to protect journalists, and there's also a movement afoot to create safer conditions for freelancers who often don't have the financial resources for things like hostile environment training and armored cars and insurance for them.”

Also speaking at the Q&A was Dan Thomas, special adviser for advocacy and communications at UNICEF, who worked at the Reuters Bureau in Nairobi in the 90's. Thomas underscored the importance of showing audiences the real threats that journalist face, and not romanticizing the role of conflict reporters.



Left to right: Ella Purnell, the actor who played Dan's sister in the film; Kathy Eldon; and Amy Eldon, Dan's sister.

“I feel that so many of these films about journalism are a bit hokey and a bit Hollywood-y, this is to my mind was a very realistic portrayal of what the trade is,” he said.

Kathy Eldon added that journalists also face other more recent threats, such as being discredited and falsely accused of being “fake news.”

Daniszewski said there needs to be a change in consumer attitudes about journalism and what it's worth to readers. “Independent journalism needs to be supported,” he said. “If you value the information, if you value the reporting that we do, then you need to support that by contributing, by paying for it, in the internet age, increasingly people are going to have to pay for what they value.” ♦

## Ripples from Dan Eldon's Footsteps

BY CHAD BOUCHARD

On Christmas Day, 1997, my mother gave me a copy of Dan Eldon's recently published journal. The book had a profound effect on my life path.

A few years before that, in 1993, I had wrapped up a year abroad with some hard travel in Algeria. At the time, the country was still embroiled in a civil war. It was my first experience in a developing country, and certainly the closest I'd been to a conflict zone. I hitchhiked into and out of the Sahara, avoiding Algiers, where there had been bombings of tourist buses and gunfire in the streets. I had no idea what I was doing. But people in the desert were very kind to me. I passed through many armed checkpoints on both sides of the conflict and never experienced a word of harassment – just genuine human curiosity and even warmth. I wanted other people to know what a surprise it was to see humanity in places where headlines seem so hostile.

When I came home, I had so many stories to tell. But I struggled to tell them. Some people were unnerved. Some did not know how to react. Now I know how common it is for returning correspondents and expats to feel a mix of familiar and alien at the same time. Dan's journal, with its psychedelic collage of photographs and scraps and strange materials, looked like the inside of a restless mind. And

it spoke to me. It encouraged me to look for new ways to tell the story. I would ultimately find the right balance in journalism; permission to focus on someone else's story was freeing.

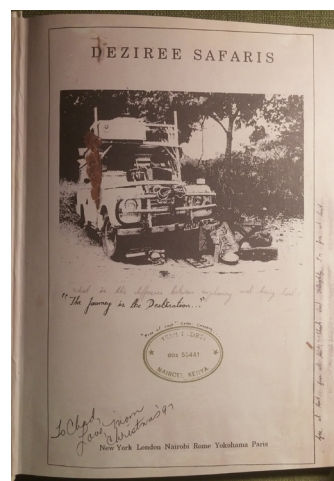
My mother's present contained a very important two-pronged message. It was indeed a welcome nod of approval for restless curiosity. But it also served as a cautionary tale. Dan Eldon's death tinged his work with tragedy. Even in my more risk-thirsty days, this gentle warning followed me: The people who care most – they want to hear what you saw out there in the world. But to do that, you have to come back safely. Got it?

I met Kathy Eldon the year after I got the book. I was working as a volunteer at the Double Take Film Festival in Durham, North Carolina (for legal reasons the name has since been changed to Full Frame). The festival happened to be hosting an early screening of a documentary about Dan's life, *Dying to Tell the Story*, with Kathy Eldon presenting. I approached Kathy afterward and thanked her for publishing the journal. I don't remember what I said, but I'm sure it was awkward and I know she was gracious.

Curiosity took me to interesting places. Jakarta, Myanmar, China, and most recently in 2013 Sinjar, Iraq. Dan's journal helped me to create my own risk governor. I found I prefer to show up in places that are recover-

ing from disaster or war. The stories are rich in that territory. Those dual messages stayed with me the whole time. Calculated risk. Wild expression and vigilance. Trust, but verify. It's a razor's edge. Still looking for a way across it, Dan. But you were so right. It does seem worth the journey.

*Dan Eldon's journal inspired a generation of journalists and creators when it was published in 1997 and has sold more than 120,000 copies. Two other books of his journals have since been published, Dan Eldon: Safari as a Way of Life and Dan Eldon: The Art of Life.* ♦





# Unions Make Inroads in Digital Media, Sparking a Backlash

BY AMY RUSSO

**W**HEN BILLIONAIRE TD Ameritrade founder Joe Ricketts on Nov. 1 shut down DNAinfo and Gothamist, two digital news operations for hyperlocal New York reporting, many in the media industry were dismayed. Claiming the motives were financial and that he was unable to turn a profit, Ricketts abruptly closed the two companies – which had been set to merge – just a week after employees had voted to join a union.

While salaries at many digital news organizations are low and benefits minimal, unionization has been seen as a potential remedy. In September, a number of Vice employees successfully unionized without any reports of retaliation, presenting a stark contrast to the apparent backlash faced by members of DNAinfo and Gothamist.

About 300 of Vice's content creators and post-production specialists joined the Motion Picture Editors Guild (MPEG) and the Writers Guild of America East (WGAE), which already had roughly 100 members who are Vice employees.

"Unionization will give these content creators a real voice in decisions that affect their work lives," said Lowell Peterson, WGAE's executive director, speaking about the movement at Vice. "Instead of being set unilaterally, wages and benefits will be negotiated, and will be protected by an enforceable collective bargaining agreement." He added that "freelance employees are included in the bargaining unit."

While unionizing gave Vice's workers a voice, the same action cost 115 employees their jobs at DNAinfo and Gothamist.

"We were subjected to a union-busting meeting before we even announced," said Katie Honan, a former DNAinfo reporter. "We were warned that our owner Joe Ricketts could just shut the whole thing down if we joined a union. But we stuck with it because we believed it was what digital media needs. So much of it is built from low-paid workers who are subjected to the whims of management, who change their minds on what they think might work. There are few protections in place for us. And so many people leave



Letitia 'Tish' James, Public Advocate for the City of New York, speaks to dozens of journalists and DNAinfo and Gothamist employees during an afternoon rally on Nov. 6 at City Hall Park to support the journalists and other staff members who lost their jobs at the publications after they voted to form a union.

the business because they can't grow or prosper."

The same lack of protections was felt at Vice, where attention was drawn to a lack of labor rights following a *Columbia Journalism Review* exposé in 2016.

"There's been countless labor violations with freelancers...from awful pay to sexism and terrible exploitative labor practices," said Anna Therese Day, a board member of the Frontline Freelance Register who said she and her colleagues have been mistreated by Vice. "Consistently, there's issues with not just fair pay but timely pay."

Vice did not respond to requests for comment for this story.

Noah Kulwin, Vice's technology editor, helped to organize workers and said his salary has already jumped five percent. He noted that while contracts from Vice's most recent unionization push are far from being finalized, previously unionized employees have benefited. According to Kulwin, "there are mandated salary increases every year and there are some provisions about...what rights workers have

and how they're supposed to be treated, and, you know, in the event that things go south...if there are layoffs and things like that, the union can negotiate on our behalf for better payouts and things like that."

Honan, who wasn't subject to a non-disparagement agreement, was able to speak in detail about her experience with DNAinfo. Months after the merger of the two sites, a joint meeting was held where Honan felt adequate answers on how the sites would collaborate were not provided by management. "The reporters and editors had ideas on how things could work, like collaborating on projects, but management's focus was on trying to break the union," Honan said. It was after this that workers voted to unionize with WGAE, the same operation that Vice's employees had successfully joined.

Scott Heins, a photojournalist formerly employed by Gothamist, also cited the merger as one of the causes for unionization because the companies would need to hammer out the details of their joint operations. Heins contended that financial

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Associated Press writer Hal Boyle (left) with Ernie Pyle, at the Grand Hotel in Paris in September 1944.

## Remembering OPC Award Namesakes: Hal Boyle

BY AMY RUSSO

**A**S THE OPC's award submission season kicks off, we are taking a moment to consider the careers and legacies of namesakes behind some of the 22 awards. Each year since 1978, the OPC has honored journalists with the Hal Boyle Award to recognize the best newspaper, news service or digital reporting from abroad. [The wording of the description has changed over the years along with the evolution of the industry.]

Hal Boyle himself was a legendary war correspondent who won a Pulitzer Prize in 1945 for his coverage of World War II for The Associated Press. Boyle was only 17 years old when he joined the AP in 1928 as a copy boy at the organization's Kansas City bureau. He graduated from the University of Missouri in 1932.

He was known for taking risks and worked on the front lines of both the European and Pacific theaters. He wrote more than 7,600 columns over the course of his career, which were published in 700 newspapers across the U.S.

In 1951, the Veterans of Foreign Wars awarded him the Omar Bradley Award for his coverage of the Korean War.

Early in his career, Boyle nicknamed himself "the poor man's Ernie Pyle," a joke he'd made while working with Pyle, who had already received accolades for his work, including a Pulitzer Prize, at a time when Boyle was a relative unknown. Boyle went on to win a Pulitzer in 1944. A book of Boyle's columns was published in 1969, entitled *Help, Help! Another Day!: The World of Hal Boyle*.

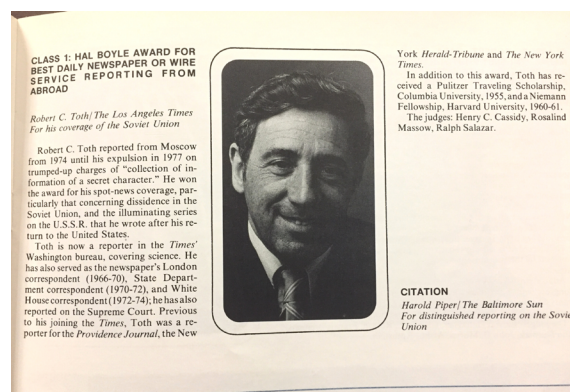
According to a remembrance by George E. Burns in the October 1995 issue of the *Bulletin*, Boyle was "a delight in conversation, a raconteur, unpredictable, thoughtful, witty, and loved listening to stories."

Boyle died of a heart attack in 1974 at age 63 in New York City. He had been diagnosed with "Lou Gehrig's Disease" just months before his death, and wrote his own obituary, which was published on the front page of the *Bulletin* before his death. He wrote lightheartedly of his diagnosis, saying he was the "first kid on my block to get amyotrophic lateral sclerosis." A memorial service drew a crowd of nearly 300 people.

In 1978, the OPC gave the first Hal Boyle Award to Robert C. Toth of the *Los Angeles Times* for his coverage of the Soviet Union. Toth had reported from Moscow from 1974 until he was expelled in 1977 on charges of "collection of information of a secret character," according to the 1978 *Dateline*. Judges said Toth was honored in particular for his coverage of "dissidence in the Soviet Union and the illuminating series he wrote on the U.S.S.R. after his return to the United States."

Over the years since its inauguration, the Hal Boyle Award has honored reporters working at a range of media companies, including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, United Press International and most recently the news organization where Boyle himself carved out his legacy, the AP.

*This is the first in a periodic series of stories about the journalists who have had OPC awards named in their honor.* ♦



A page from the 1978 issue of *Dateline* with details of the first Hal Boyle Award recipient, Robert C. Toth.

## Call For Entries



Eligibility Period:  
January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017

**OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA  
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**11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on January 31, 2018**

### AWARDS DINNER

**April 26, 2018 at Cipriani 25 Broadway**

### CORNELIUS RYAN AWARD DEADLINE

**January 10, 2018**



# PEOPLE

By Amy Russo

## OPC SCHOLARS

2015 H.L. Stevenson winner **J.p. Lawrence** is joining *Stars and Stripes* as a downrange reporter covering Afghanistan. Most recently, he was a reporter for *The San Antonio Express-News* focusing on defense, the trauma of war and veteran stories. Lawrence previously worked at *The Albany Times Union* covering the crime beat and received an OPC Foundation fellowship with The Associated Press in Uganda.

Congratulations to **Michael E. Miller**, 2009 Swinton winner, and his colleagues at *The Washington Post* for winning the 2017 Freddie Award from the National Press Foundation for their reporting on MS-13. The award recognizes outstanding reporting on the impact of federal laws and regulations on local communities. The *Post*'s story documented the lapses in the federal program that tracks young immigrants detained at the border. The reporting also revealed the complexity of immigration issues, illustrating how some youth arrive with gang ties, while others who are trying to escape poverty and violence find themselves vulnerable to gang recruitment. Miller had an OPC Foundation fellowship with the AP bureau in Mexico City.

## WINNERS

OPC Treasurer **Abigail Pesta** won two Front Page Awards this month, garnering the essay writing category along with Sandy Phillips for a *Mother Jones* piece on Sandy's battle with a gun dealer who sold 4,000 rounds of ammunition to the man who killed her daughter in the "Batman" shooting in Colorado. Pesta also won in the feature writing category along with Carrie Arnold for a series on sexual assault in *Women's Health* magazine. Her story was about doctors who sexually abuse their patients. Pesta and Arnold also won a Folio: Eddie Award for the same series.

Robert Capa Gold Medal award-ees **Bryan Denton** and **Sergey Ponomarev** had their photos featured in several recent international stories for *The New York Times*.



Denton



Ponomarev

Denton's work told the story of Taiwan's diminishing military might, which has continued to pale in comparison to China's modernizing forces backed by big budgets. His shots of the massive Hai Pao, a WWII submarine, and Chiayi Air Force Base appeared in a Nov. 4 article. Denton also contributed photography to another Nov. 4 piece by East Africa reporter Jeffrey Gettleman on the global ape trade, in which his photos of bonobos were featured. Ponomarev's work continues to appear in reports on the ongoing Rohingya refugee crisis. His images have portrayed families traveling into Bangladesh as well as conditions of refugee camps in which those fleeing their homes are forced to stay and work.

An OPC award-winning photo by **Chris Hondros** of Getty Images was featured in a *New York Times* article in October about former fighter Joseph Duo's political campaign in Liberia. Hondros won the OPC's 2003 John Faber Award for an iconic picture of Duo as a fierce armed fighter storming a bridge. That picture is in the *Times* article. Hondros died from wounds in an attack in Misurata, Libya, in 2011 along with photojournalist Tim Hetherington. Hondros met with Duo a few years after the bridge photo was published, and Hondros helped to pay for Duo's high school tuition. The article is titled "He Was the Face of Liberia's Endless War. Now He Wants to Govern."

**Malia Politzer**, the current winner of Best Digital Reporting on International Affairs, spoke in October at two events, sharing her experience

and reporting advice with young and emerging journalists. During the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting's annual Washington Weekend for its student fellowship winners, Politzer was featured in an Oct. 21 panel discussion on pitching global stories. She shared tips on ways for freelancers

to network, form key relationships in the media industry and select the right moment to pitch their ideas. On Oct. 30, Politzer appeared at the College of William & Mary to speak about the international economic ramifications of the refugee crisis, drawing from her own experience as a migration reporter.

This year's Thomas Nast awardee **Steve Sack** was featured in a Nov. 8 *Washington Post* article showcasing the response of cartoonists to the recent Sutherland Springs church shooting in Texas. Sack, who contributes to *The Minneapolis Star Tribune*, drew a cartoon depicting a Capitol Hill lawmaker responding to a group of reporters asking about gun reform with the words, "Too soon! We still haven't finished not doing anything after the last massacre!"

This year's Olivier Rebbot winner **Daniel Berehulak** had his work shown in the 2017 World Press Photo Exhibition in Bangkok in early November. Berehulak's photo series, which earned him first place in the general news category of the World Press Photo competition, showed the ravages of Duterte's drug war in the Philippines. His images reveal the death and incarceration brought to the country by the president's so-called anti-drug campaign which has led to thousands of killings.

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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

### Louise Boyle

Senior Reporter  
Daily Mail  
New York  
Active Resident, Young  
(29 and under)

### Nazish Dholakia

Media Desk Officer  
Human Rights Watch  
Hong Kong  
Associate Overseas, Young  
(29 and under)

### Roopa Gogineni

Freelance  
Nairobi, Kenya  
Active Overseas, Young  
(29 and under)

### Jacob Kushner

Freelance  
Berlin  
Active Overseas, Young  
(29 and under)

### Myra Lu

Director of Press Division  
Taipei Economic and  
Cultural Office  
New York  
Associate Resident

### Sharma Meara

Freelance  
Oxford, England  
Active Overseas, Young  
(29 and under)

### Neeta Satam

University of Missouri -  
Columbia  
University City, MO  
Student

### Lisa Thomson

Associate Producer  
Al Jazeera English  
Washington, DC  
Active Resident, Young  
(29 and under)

### Nadia Tronick

USAID  
New York  
Associate Resident, Young  
(29 and under)

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The OPC thanks Calvin Sims, OPC second vice president and president of International House, for sponsoring the membership of these International House residents:

**Madeleine Ayer**  
**Martin Cassidy**  
**Hope Claydon**  
**Keith Cousins**  
**Marie Gentric**  
**Eileen Grench**  
**Haneya Hasan**  
**Aisha Hassan**  
**Christopher Hickey**  
**Bridget Hickey**  
**Angelica Hill**  
**Noor Ibrahim**  
**Katherine Irwin**  
**Soo Min Kang**  
**Fatoumata Keita**  
**Shiyun Lin**  
**Husain Marhoon**  
**David Mutua**  
**Taryana Odayar**  
**Edwin Okoth**  
**Kavya Ram Mohan**  
**Isabella Rolz**  
**Lara Nina Shabb**  
**Kaylah Simmons**  
**Ali Tehrani**  
**Tsering Wangmo**  
**Faith Woodard**

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**Masha Gessen**, the OPC's winner of the Best Commentary award in any medium on international news, has been recognized as a National Book Award finalist in the nonfiction category for her book, *The Future Is History: How Totalitarianism Reclaimed Russia*. Gessen's book, which has received widespread praise, explores how old Soviet attitudes continue in Putin's Russia. Gessen's work focuses heavily on Russian history and politics, and her writing has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *The New York Review of Books*, *Vanity Fair* and other publications.

### UPDATES

**NEW YORK:** The OPC is honoring member **Kim Wall** with an award in her name. **The Kim Wall Best Digital Reporting Award** is for the best story or series of stories on international affairs using creative and dynamic digital storytelling techniques. Previously it was called the Best Digital Reporting Award. Wall had worked around the globe covering issues including politics, human rights and the environment and appearing in *The New York Times*, *Harpers*, *The Atlantic*, *TIME* and many other publications. She was murdered on assignment in Denmark while after boarding a submarine to interview Peter Madsen, its engineer, who has been charged with her killing.

OPC Governor **Azmat Khan** and members **Christiane Amanpour** and **Judith Matloff** were featured in a short film by The Dart Center on the treatment of women in the media industry. Amid a flurry of accounts of sexual harassment and assault within newsrooms, women spoke on camera for The Dart Center on their experiences in the workplace and the field where they've been faced with sexist and threatening behaviors. "We just have to remind ourselves that we have a right to be really, really assertive," Matloff said.

PBS has decided to feature longtime OPC member **Christiane Amanpour** to fill a blank in the schedule as Charlie Rose goes off the air. Amanpour's eponymous show on CNN International will broadcast on PBS on an interim basis while the network sorts out the next phase for that time slot. At least eight women, all employees or those who wanted to work for him, allege that Rose sexually harassed them. Amanpour's on-hour show features "conversations with global leaders and decision makers." CBS This Morning is also seeking someone to replace Rose as host.

OPC member **Deborah Amos** was honored in October by the International Women's Media Foundation (IWMF) at their Courage in Journalism Awards ceremony. Amos has long been covering the Middle East for NPR, working in Syria reporting on the country's decline as well as visiting Lebanon, Iraq and Pakistan throughout her career. She also survived a kidnapping during her time in Somalia. Speaking to IWMF, Amos recalled her experience starting out and learning how to stay safe while also reaching the heart of the story.

*The following is a first-person account from longtime OPC member **Jonathan Kapstein**, who sent this dispatch to the Bulletin about his interview with Robert Mugabe shortly after he took power in Zimbabwe almost four decades ago.*

"*Business Week* headed the interview as "A Marxist who encourages private business." It was early 1980, and I was *BW*'s regional bureau chief when I interviewed Robert Mugabe. He had just emerged from years of imprisonment to lead Rhodesia into independence as Zimbabwe. With the aid of Andrew Meldrum, then a freelancer and now with the AP, I had one of the few interviews he ever gave. He insisted he was trying to strike a balance of redirecting national income, redressing land ownership issues while at the same time encouraging private enterprise and the entirely white business establishment to remain in a now multi-racial society. An impressive personality, he jolted me with the opening observation that the magazine had too many ads for the size of the news hole. I decided then and there not to underestimate him, and indeed for most of the 37 years that he held Zimbabwe in an iron grip he outfoxed any opposition at the cost of oppressing the country and destroying the economy. — Jonathan Kapstein"



Robert Mugabe, left, with Jonathan Kapstein.





Lluberes

MICHAEL DAVIES

**Andrew Lluberes** sent a pointed letter to *The New York Times* in October taking exception to an article by reporter Rapahel Minder about the conflict over Catalonia's independence. Lluberes, a longtime member who retired and spends much of his time in Barcelona, defended the actions of Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy for invoking an article of the constitution and initiating direct rule of the region from Madrid. Minder called the move "unexpectedly forceful" and said the government had "stripped the autonomy" of the Catalan region. Lluberes called the report "inaccurate" and "biased," and told the times that Minder "went to grave lengths to quote secessionist and opposition politicians and pundits, but none of Rajoy's coalition partners or the many political analysts and spokesmen who said Rajoy took the actions needed to preserve Spain's hard-won democracy and the rule of law."

**Abigail Pesta**'s work was featured in the November issue of the *Texas Monthly* for which she covered the story of one woman's marriage to a jihadist. Tania Joya, a Muslim and a daughter of Bangladeshi parents, grew up in a suburb of London, and eventually met a Texan convert to Islam named John, whom she encountered online. As Joya became more distant from her family, she and John eventually married, relocating to Syria where John showed signs of radicalization and Joya's concerns grew. After discovering he had joined

ISIS, Joya took her four sons and escaped the marriage, as told by Pesta in her story.

Club member and former OPC Governor **Daniel Sieberg** is leaving his post at Google News Lab to embrace a new project, Civil, an online news-making platform which he co-founded. The site will launch in 2018 and has branded itself as a place for decentralized journalism, where writers, editors and photographers can join forces to create stories of their choosing, being paid in bitcoin-style currency called CVL tokens, which will be backed by blockchain technology. The initiative aims to create a space for media professionals and news consumers to develop and promote their reporting in an uncensored environment where accuracy and accountability are key. Civil has already received \$5 million in funding from decentralized app builder Consensys, and Sieberg says he's excited to begin the new project.

**PARIS:** OPC Governor **Vivienne Walt**'s exclusive interview with French President Emmanuel Macron was featured on the Nov. 13 cover of *TIME*. In this inside look at the 39-year-old president's plans, Macron expresses how he sees his place within French politics and the world, touching on views about climate change, foreign relations and relations with President Trump. As 100 leaders are invited to the Dec. 12 Paris climate change summit, Trump has been left off the list unless he agrees to support the Paris Agreement from which he has removed the U.S. Macron maintained during the interview that this decision would remain until Trump decides to get back on board. Only six months ago, Macron won the French election earlier this year on a platform to overhaul the country's economy and its labor laws.

#### PEOPLE REMEMBERED

A memorial gathering was held on Dec. 7 at the American Cathedral in Paris to honor the 101st birthday of **John G. Morris** who died on July 28. Morris, a legendary picture editor, joined the OPC in 1954 and had a storied career spanning

decades, during which he worked with photographers covering some of history's most critical moments from WWII to the Vietnam War. Morris was famously responsible for ensuring the front-page publication of Eddie Adams' photo of the execution of an alleged Vietcong insurgent during Morris' work with *The Times*. He also pushed for front-page placement of Huynh Cong Ut's (also known as Nick Ut) image of a Vietnamese child fleeing a Napalm attack. He was additionally responsible for editing the work of Robert Capa, who captured stills of the D-Day invasion in Normandy. Morris died at age 100 in a hospital near his Paris residence. ❖

#### 'Unions' Continued From Page 3

matters were not behind the Ricketts' decision to close the doors. "Reporters who took other jobs were replaced by new hires," Heins said. "An entirely new position – City Editor – was created for Chris Robbins when he was hired on in June. If our profitless site really is teetering on the edge of financial oblivion, then why the staffing up?" Heins believes that even if news operations "had been in the black, we still would have been hit with a shutdown."

For Heins, the difference between the reactions of Vice's management and Ricketts was based on ideology and pressure. "Other union campaigns like Vice and Thrillist were able to apply public pressure on ostensibly progressive executives who, in the end, had no choice but to voluntarily recognize those unions," he said. "But when it came to Ricketts, his conservatism made any kind of public shaming campaign, even one co-signed by elected officials like Mayor de Blasio, pretty much moot."

As the place of unions within the newsroom still remains uncertain, Day claims labor violations are pervasive throughout many media organizations. "We have huge labor issues that we all face right now and it's not just Vice; there are countless newsrooms that have similarly created really difficult working environments for professional journalists so any organizing by journalists right now I think is tremendously important," she said.

To be sure, layoffs at digital media organizations are becoming depressingly frequent. BuzzFeed has indicated it will let go about 100 people on its business team after missing revenue targets, and *The New York Post* reported that Mashable is laying off 50 people after selling itself to Ziff Davis on December 5 for a fraction of its valuation in 2016. ❖

# PRESS FREEDOM UPDATE...

Houthi rebels attacked the **Yemen Al Youm TV** channel in Sanaa on Dec. 2 and held more than 40 journalists hostage. They remain captive as the Bulletin goes to press. The station is affiliated with the party of former President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who was killed on Dec. 4. The rebels demanded that the journalists give them access codes so they could broadcast messages including a speech by their leader. At least 13 other media workers are being held in Yemen by armed groups.

Russian's Justice Ministry announced on Dec. 5 that nine media outlets funded by the U.S. government would

The CPJ honored imprisoned journalists from Cameroon, Mexico, Thailand, and Yemen during its annual **International Press Freedom Awards** on Nov. 16. The evening was hosted by Christiane Amanpour, chief international correspondent for CNN who is also an OPC member. She told attendees that the U.S. should stand as an example for those fighting for press freedom around the world. "We need the U.S. to be a beacon – a defender, not a destroyer, of First Amendment values everywhere. The brave journalists we honor tonight certainly think so. They have paid dearly, some with their lives or liberty, to

Ugandan police on Nov. 22 arrested three editors, the chief executive officer, and four senior managers from the newspaper **Red Pepper** after a raid and accusations that the paper published a story that would "likely disrupt public order and security." A story in the paper had reported that Uganda's president, Yoweri Museveni, was planning to overthrow Rwanda's president, Paul Kagame. There have been no formal charges. The arrested are editors Ben Byarabaha, Richard Kintu, and Tumusiime Francis Tinywana. Employees phones and computers were confiscated, according to the *Daily Monitor* newspaper. Reuters reported that police also searched newspaper staff members' private homes.

Guatemalan police arrested **Xitumul**, a reporter with the independent digital media outlet Prensa Comunitaria, on Nov. 11. The journalist had been covering the protests of a group of fishermen against the Guatemalan Nickel Company since early this year. A court charged Xitumul with incitement to commit crimes, threats, and illegal detention related to his alleged participation in protests on May 4, the CPJ cited online news site El Periodico as reporting.

**Dilshan Ibash**, a Kurdish reporter working for the Hawar News Agency, was killed in Syria in the eastern village of Abu Fas on Oct. 12 in a suicide car bomb attack. According to the Syrian Journalist Association and Hawar News, Ibash died at the scene from her injuries. The attack occurred on a road between the cities of Al-Hasaka and Deir Ezzo. Two of Ibash's colleagues, Rizgar Deniz and Hawker Faisal Mohammed, also suffered injuries. Mohammed later died in a hospital from serious head trauma. He was covering the ongoing conflict between the Syrian Democratic Forces and ISIS troops and had only worked for Hawar News for two months. The suicide bomber was targeting a large gathering, reported Hassan Ramo, the editor-in-chief of the news organization.

An Ecuadorian journalist has been the target of death threats, most recently via social media on Oct. 15. A



Left to right: Meryl Streep, Christiane Amanpour and Joel Simon.

be designated as "foreign agents." The outlets include U.S. Congress-funded **Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty** and seven of its affiliates, as well as **Voice of America**. The move follows a newly expanded law that requires designated media to disclose to Russian authorities details of their funding, editorial policy, financial activities and management. The new designation comes after the U.S. Department of Justice demanded that Russian government-funded RT, formerly Russia Today, register under the U.S. Foreign Agents Registration Act, a move that the Committee to Protect Journalists condemned as "ill-advised."

report the news," she said. Honorees included Pravitt Rojanaphruk, a Thai reporter faces sedition charges for his work; Ahmed Abba, a Cameroon correspondent for Radio France Internationale; Patricia Mayorga, a correspondent for Mexico's Proseco and founder of the Free Journalism Network; and Afrah Nasser, an independent Yemeni blogger living in exile in Sweden. Academy Award-winning actor Meryl Streep presented the award to Mayorga. Judy Woodruff, managing editor of "PBS NewsHour," received the inaugural Gwen Ifill Press Freedom Award for her work in advancing press freedom.



Twitter user under the handle @alerta\_911 wrote that he wanted to shoot TV reporter **Janet Hinostroza**, to “clean up the dirty and corrupt press.” The tweet was sent in response to an exchange between the reporter and Roberto Wohlegemuth, a former employee of CORDICOM, a media regulatory organization run by the state. Hinostroza works with the news station Teleamazonas and has been targeted for years, even receiving an explosive in the mail earlier this year. The CPJ has called for the country to protect Hinostroza.

Maltese journalist **Caruana Galizia** was murdered on Oct. 16 after her car exploded while she was driving in Bidnija near her home. She had reported on human rights, crime, politics and government corruption. She was part of the team that worked on the Panama Papers, which won the OPC’s Malcolm Forbes Award this year. In the days leading up to her killing, she warned police she had been getting death threats. Galizia’s personal blog featured her reporting and political commentary, and was one of the most popular websites among Maltese news readers. A forensic expert reported that initial investigation of her death suggested that a remote control device may have been used to detonate the bomb, and that it was unlikely the explosive was located in the car’s interior. The FBI plans to assist local police with the investigation.

Chadian police arrested publisher **Juda Allahondoum** on Oct. 17 after he ran a controversial article in *Le Visionnaire*, a weekly paper. Allahondoum’s lawyer, Francis Lokouldé, said the piece accused local airline Air Inter 1 of illegally flying arms to Syria. The CPJ made repeated attempts to contact the airline, but the calls went unanswered. On Oct. 23, Allahondoum was taken to a jail in N’Djamena and charged with “usurping the title and function” of a reporter, CPJ said, after speaking with Lokouldé. CPJ is demanding Allahondoum’s release, calling the arrest “an unacceptable abuse of power, and a blatant effort to intimidate the press.”

Russian radio journalist **Tatiana Felgenhauer** was attacked in Moscow when a man broke into her radio station office and stabbed her in the throat. According to investigators, the alleged assailant, Boris Grits, 48, may have been mentally ill, but speculation of political motivations has arisen, BBC reported. Felgenhauer is the deputy editor-in-chief at *Ekho Moskvy*, as well as an anchor at the station. She was hospitalized after the attack but has since returned to reporting on the air. Felgenhauer has increased her personal security and said she will not be leaving Russia. One of *Ekho Moskvy*’s reporters, Yulia Latynina, previously fled the country after being threatened and attacked.

Chinese authorities barred five news outlets from an Oct. 25 press conference during which new leaders of the country’s Communist party were introduced, according to a tweet from the Foreign Correspondents Club of China and other reports. Among the excluded organizations were **The Financial Times**, **The Economist**, **The New York Times**, the **BBC** and **The Guardian**. The ban was likely a government’s retaliatory response to reporting by the outlets, the FCCC said. While certain journalists were shut out of the conference, President Xi Jinping said he encouraged reporters to continue their work in China. Steven Butler of the CPJ said in a statement that “it’s patently absurd for the Chinese president to call for more coverage of the country by foreign correspondents while excluding them from his press conference. We call on the authorities to allow all journalists, foreign and domestic, to report freely on China.”

Several attacks were made on journalists in Pakistan over the last two months. The CPJ said with constant threats from militant groups, the country has no safe havens left for the media. Reporter **Ahmed Noorani** was attacked on Oct. 27 by six motorcyclists in Islamabad. The attackers dragged him and his driver, Mumtaz, from their car before assaulting them with iron bars and knives. Both victims were brought

to a hospital and treated for head injuries. Noorani is a journalist for *The News*, a widely-read Pakistani paper, and has openly criticized the country’s intelligence agency and its military, *The New York Times* said. This is only one of several October attacks against media organizations and their employees, with additional cases occurring in the province of Balochistan.

According to an Oct. 31 CPJ report on the group’s 2017 Global Impunity Index, **Somalia** remains the worst nation in the world for unsolved murders of journalists. The index tracks the murder of reporters around the world and keeps statistics on whether the culprits are arrested and prosecuted. This is the third year in a row that Somalia has topped the list. Syria came in second, having worsened since its third-place ranking last year. Following behind is Iraq, where ISIS and other violent groups continue to attack journalists. CPJ stressed that impunity thrives in places where leaders use intimidation to stifle the media and where rule of law is weak. While targeted attacks have worsened in some areas, Afghanistan did not make the list for the first time since 2008 when the index began. However, targeted attacks on larger groups have been responsible for scores of casualties. ❖

# NEW BOOKS

By Amy Russo

## JAPAN

ON MARCH 11, 2011, a 9.1 magnitude earthquake struck Japan – the largest in its history – and triggered a tsunami that tossed waves 30 feet high onto the country's shores. Nearly 20,000 people lost their lives and hundreds of thousands of buildings were damaged, including the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, where damage caused a cooling system to fail. Now, six years later, Richard Lloyd Parry, who reported from the country as Tokyo bureau chief for *The Times of London*, returned to the Tohoku region to explore the aftermath in *Ghosts of the Tsunami* [MCD/Farrar, Straus and Giroux, August 2017].

Parry's book explores lasting wounds of the tsunami in Tohoku, delving under surface narratives of resilience and reconstruction to the psychological scars of a community reeling from a death toll not seen since the bombing of Nagasaki.

Soon after the disaster, Tohoku developed a rash of ghost sightings from residents claiming to see apparitions of deceased loved ones. Spiritual leaders of all denominations faced constant requests for help from people suffering from disturbances. Altars and photographs honoring ancestors were destroyed, erasing an important cultural tool used for grounding and coping with grief and stability. Academics began to record accounts of these ghosts, a phenomenon that inspired the book's title.

Parry also writes about failures in the delivery of local and central government relief. In one example, he investigates a high death toll at a primary school in Okawa, where 74 children and 10 teachers died inside the building despite many evacuation warnings before the tsunami struck land. He reports that the lack of significant investigation into failures in the disaster response system has left parents angry and prolonged their grief.

Michael Schaub of NPR noted that "any writer could compile a laundry list of the horrors that come in the wake of a disaster; Lloyd Parry's book is not that." *Ghosts of the Tsunami* not only chronicles ongoing effects of disaster and mass grief, it takes an intimate and empathic look at the indelible mark of Japan's worst natural disaster in living memory. ♦

## THE NINETIES

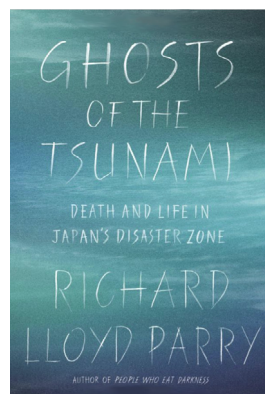
WHILE PRESIDENT Donald Trump's election might have caught many in the media by surprise, conditions that led to his rise to power have been brewing for quite some time, according to OPC member and *Vanity Fair* editor David Friend. Friend's latest book, *The Naughty Nineties* [Twelve, September 2017], takes a close look at a decade marked by sex scandals in Bill Clinton's presidency, the launch of Viagra, and growing

access to pornography via the world wide web.

Friend proposes that the "Trump Teens," what he calls the current presidency and its accompanying issues, is rooted in attitudes that emerged during the nineties. Growing exposure to open sexuality and scandal had a normalizing effect that made Trump's own scandals easier to accept by the time he made his play for the White House. In a different era, Trump's behavior might have ended his campaign and tarnished his image as a leader.

Friend argues that changing attitudes during the nineties blurred the distinction between public and private life, with the rise of reality television and a growing hunger for tabloid journalism. He notes that on the cusp of the nineties Rush Limbaugh's popularity began to grow and Roger Ailes became a prominent TV personality following the launch of Fox News in 1996. During the same era, the U.S. watched extensive coverage of the O.J. Simpson trial, adding to America's desensitization to crime and scandal.

*The Naughty Nineties* examines how a decade of excess and sensationalism built a foundation for a Trump presidency and an accepting public. He covers a broad range of events and phenomena including the rise of fertility drugs, third-wave feminism, gay marriage equality, plastic surgery and shock-jockey entertainment like the Howard Stern Show. With scandal and sexuality dominating headlines and becoming part of the background noise, Friend believes the current political climate was inevitable. ♦



David Friend





## Meet the OPC Members: Q&A With *Borzou Daragahi*

BY AMY RUSSO

**B**ORZOU DARAGAHİ covers the Middle East, including Turkey and Iran, for BuzzFeed News. He formerly served as correspondent for the Financial Times in Cairo and as Baghdad bureau chief for the Los Angeles Times. He is a graduate of the Eugene Lang College of the New School for Social Research and the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. Daragahi was a 2005 Pulitzer Prize finalist for his coverage of Iraq and was a part of a Los Angeles Times team that 2007 Pulitzer Prize finalists. He was also named a 2010 Pulitzer Prize finalist for coverage of the election in Iran.

**Hometown:** I don't have a hometown. I was born in Tehran but my family quickly left. I grew up in the Chicago area and New York City. I consider myself a New Yorker.

**Education:** Eugene Lang College of the New School for Social Research and Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.

**Languages you speak:** English, fluent but flawed Persian, some German, practical Arabic and Spanish, and minimal French and Turkish.

**First job in journalism:** A small newspaper in the Boston area.

**Countries reported from:** Almost every country in the Middle East and North Africa, as well as Afghanistan, Turkey, India, Germany, The Netherlands and Sweden.

**Year you joined the OPC:** 2017.

**How did you become interested in reporting on the Middle East?**

As someone of Iranian descent, I have a personal connection to the region. After the events of Sept. 11, 2001, I decided that I would move to the Middle East and attempt to eke it out as a freelancer. It worked out pretty well.

**Major challenge as a journalist:** Right now, my greatest challenge seems to be obtaining visas and credentials in both a region and a world increasingly hostile to honest journalism. So much of my time now is spent wrestling with officials of various government or private-sector organs who are trying to impede or complicate my efforts to get access to a story. Outside of a few northern European countries, journalists are increasingly seen as a menace to be managed rather than a pillar of democracy and civil society.

**Best journalism advice received:**

For better or worse, I've never really had the benefit of a mentor who took me under his or her wing. I seem to have had to learn everything the hard way, making mistakes and learning in a rather improvised fashion. Stanley Meisler, my international journalism professor at Co-

lumbia and a veteran of the *Los Angeles Times*, once advised us to "stay the hell away from photographer and war freaks" in conflict zones. That's good advice.

**Worst experience as a journalist:**

At the time, I thought the many weeks I spent literally trapped in the Rixos Hotel in Libya's capital during the first weeks of the NATO-backed uprising against the regime of Muammar Gaddafi in 2011 were the worst and most frustrating of my career, but in retrospect they were kind of interesting. I think waiting for officials to speak at press conferences is intolerable, especially any kind of press event having to do with the Arab League.

**Hardest story:** I once did a story about abortion in the Arab world. As a male, that was a particular difficult story to do, and one no one else had really touched before. Serving as Baghdad bureau chief of the *Los Angeles Times* during the peak of Iraq's civil war was the hardest job I ever had and likely will have – being responsible for the lives of dozens of people employed by the newspaper.

**Journalism heroes:** Deborah Amos of NPR and Chris Chivers of *The New York Times*.

**Advice for journalists who want to work overseas:**

Master a language or a topical niche that you can develop and deepen and use to distinguish yourselves from others. Take language classes, teach English, volunteer for cultural activities. Make it about the work itself and living abroad not just a stepping stone to something bigger and better.

**Most common mistake you've seen:**

The denigration of editing as an art form by most print media is a tragedy. Editors need to love and believe in the written word, and have an ear for language.

**Country you most want to return to:**

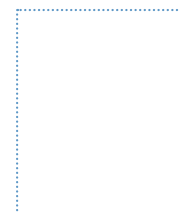
Algeria. It has such a rich culture and so much history that has yet to be covered by the English-language press, especially in recent years.

**Twitter handle:** @borzou ❖

Want to add to the OPC's collection of Q&As with members? Please contact [patricia@opcofamerica.org](mailto:patricia@opcofamerica.org).



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