London Freelance Branch
Seasonal Quiz
You couldn’t make it up!
Fictional journos on page and screen
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Fictional journos on page and screen

ROUND 5
ROUND 4
ROUND 3
ROUND 2
ROUND 1
The Day the Earth Caught Fire was a 1961 British science fiction disaster movie that featured real journalists. It was partly filmed in an actual national newspaper office. The paper’s editor appeared in an acting role. It’s an iconic office building in Fleet Street, now the UK headquarters of the investment bank Goldman Sachs.

The paper does still exist. Which one is it?
The Front Page is a rough and ready movie farce from 1931, based on the stage play by Ben Hecht. It satirises the shenanigans of hack reporters covering a murder trial, full of macabre slapstick humour. In 1940 there was a remake, directed by Howard Hawks, a Hollywood screwball comedy classic — polished and fast-talking, starring Cary Grant and Rosalind Russell — and with a different title.

What was new film called?
This film was a 1952 crime thriller starring Humphrey Bogart at his sardonic best as the editor of a New York daily paper standing up to the mob to defend honest journalism. We like that sort of film.

What was it called?
Canadian actor John Ireland starred as an unscrupulous and racist PR adviser in a 1949 political thriller that won three Oscars. It was based on a novel by Robert Penn Warren that chronicled the career of a racist demagogue in the US Deep South resembling the notorious Huey Long. The title is a phrase from a nursery rhyme that was also taken by the famous 1976 film on the Watergate scandal, but with one crucial word’s difference.

**Name the film.**
Jane Fonda is a TV news reporter with her cameraman, played by Michael Douglas, on a routine assignment at a California nuclear power station. There is a sudden crisis at the plant leading to an emergency shutdown that they secretly film — and want to broadcast. The story is about the cover-up that follows.

**The title?**
A Hollywood tough guy, who died last year aged 103, took the lead role in *Ace in the Hole*, directed by Billy Wilder in 1951. A savage dramatisation of unprincipled journalistic cynicism, it features a former top national reporter down on his luck on a local paper in New Mexico who happens on the story of a man trapped in a collapsed cave. In a bid to revive his career, he sets up and then sabotages a rescue mission to drag out the story, and the man dies.

**So who played that Code-Of-Conduct-busting role?**
This movie from 2014, and Netflix satirical series 2017-2021 and counting, is set in a fictitious Ivy League journalism school in the US, with the action seen through the eyes of its African-American students. One of its more notable lines is: “The minimum requirement of black friends needed to not seem racist has just been raised to two. Sorry, but your weedman, Tyrone, does not count.”

What title do movie and series share?
Citizen Kane is the great newspaper classic directed and co-written by and starring Orson Welles as the fantastic press baron Charles Foster Kane — maybe a character inspired by real US press baron Randolph Hearst. Kane, like Hearst, spreads havoc, even starting a war, before dying alone in a mansion. On his deathbed he mutters a name from his childhood innocence, the name on a child’s toboggan.

What is this last word muttered by Charles Foster Kane?
Federico Fellini’s high-society extravaganza *La Dolce Vita* — *Life Is Sweet* — was a great hit in 1960 and introduced a new word into the media vocabulary. The family name of a hyperactive showbiz photographer in the film has become a universal descriptor for all his successors.

**What is the name for them?**
The American actor Ed Asner who died earlier this year was a strong trade unionist — president of the Screen Actors Guild 1981-5 — and a noted activist in left-wing political campaigns on Latin America. His best-known role was in an award-winning TV drama series as the city editor of the (fictional) *Los Angeles Tribune*, where he ensured that young reporters stuck to high standards of journalism.

**What was the name of this city editor, and the series?**
You couldn’t make it up!

Fictional journos on page and screen
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**Q1**

Daily Express

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What was the new film called?

His Girl Friday

1. Daily Express
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**Q3 Answer:** Deadline USA (or just Deadline)

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**Answer:** All The King’s Men
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Kirk Douglas
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Dear White People

1. Daily Express
2. His Girl Friday
3. Deadline USA / (or just Deadline)
4. All The King’s Men
5. The China Syndrome
6. Kirk Douglas
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7. Dear White People
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Federico Fellini’s high-society extravaganza — Life Is Sweet — was a great hit in 1960 and introduced a new word into the media vocabulary. The family name of a hyperactive showbusiness photographer in the film has become a universal descriptor for all his successors. What is the name for them?

1. Daily Express
2. His Girl Friday
3. Deadline USA / (or just Deadline)
4. All The King’s Men
5. The China Syndrome
6. Kirk Douglas
7. Dear White People
8. Rosebud

Answer: Paparazzi
The American actor Ed Asner who died earlier this year was a strong trade unionist — president of the Screen Actors Guild 1981-5 — and a noted activist in left-wing political campaigns on Latin America. His best-known role was in an award-winning TV drama series as the city editor of the (fictional) Los Angeles Tribune, where he ensured that young reporters stuck to high standards of journalism.

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Lou Grant
Smudges and smudgers who changed the world

...well, at least a bit?
Smudges and smudgers who changed the world
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The opening titles of which American TV series, which ran from 2007-15, were interpreted as taking their inspiration from Associated Press photographer Richard Drew’s *Falling Man* shot of one of the people who fell or jumped from the north tower of the World Trade Center on 9/11?
Neil Armstrong’s famous *Man On The Moon* pic from the first landing in 1969 showed **which one of his fellow astronauts?**
We can’t find any free pix of or by Neil Kenlock to show you — he’s still working after all — but he was the official photographer of the British Black Panther Movement in the 1970s. Now aged 70, he made the news in November by going missing for some hours — he’s back home safe with his family now we gather.

In 1990 he co-founded the first licensed radio station to play music of black origin 24 hours a day.

**What was it called back then?**
Smudges and smudgers who changed the world...
...well, at least a bit?

Who shot *Migrant Mother* from the US Dust Bowl in 1936?
Leap Into Freedom — from where to where?
It’s 1945.

What’s this?
This is Vanley Burke, now aged 70, who earned the tag The Godfather Of Black British Photography.

His first major exhibition in 1983 was named for an area of Birmingham which also featured in the title of reggae band Steel Pulse’s first hit album. Namely?
Humanity Washed Ashore. The drowned boy is Alan Kurdi, washed up on the beach at Bodrum, Turkey, in September, 2015. The shot was taken by local photographer Nilüfer Demir and the first title she gave it on Twitter was #KiyiyaVuranInsanlik — literally “humanity shocked” says a web translation.

Which country’s delay or refusal of asylum to the Kurdi family led to their boarding an inflatable boat at Bodrum with many others to head for the island of Kos, 24km southwest? Was it **Canada, Sweden or UK?**
Frank Tingle, Bud Fields, and Floyd Burroughs, cotton sharecroppers, Hale County, Alabama... is the workaday title of this 1936 picture from the book Let Us Now Praise Famous Men. A collaboration between a writer and a photographer, it was a 1941 chronicle of the ’30s Dust Bowl in the US mid-West.

**Name the writer and photographer.**
(one point for each)
Boston, 1967.

What are those men trying to stop Kathrine Switzer doing?
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**Answer:** Mad Men
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**Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin**

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Choice FM
(now Capital Xtra)
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Q4 answer

Dorothea Lange

1. Mad Men
2. Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin
3. Choice FM (Now Capital Xtra)
Leap Into Freedom — from where to where?
Smudges and smudgers who changed the world...well, at least a bit?

Russian to French Sector, Berlin 1961
(accept ‘East to West Berlin)
Smudges and smudgers who changed the world
...well, at least a bit?

It’s 1945.

What’s this?
The first atomic bomb

1. Mad Men
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**Name the writer and photographer.**
*(one point for each)*
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Name the writer and photographer. (one point for each)

**answer**

James Agee & Walker Evans

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7. Handsworth
8. Canada
Boston, 1967.

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9. James Agee and Walker Evans
Don’t believe a word!

Journalists who also (?) wrote fiction
Last year his debut novel, *The Burning Land*, was shortlisted for a Society Of Authors award.

**Name this Sri Lanka-born, mainly TV reporter, newsreader and presenter.**
There’s a well-known Scottish crime novelist who used to be an NUJ rep when she worked for the Sunday Mirror in Manchester. Her first few novels were about a young woman journalist super-sleuth, Lindsay Gordon, who solved murders she was reporting on — including one that took place at an NUJ Delegate Meeting in which the General Secretary was stabbed to death.

The book was called Union Jack, and the writer...?
Jill Sallis, formerly a reporter on the *Richmond and Twickenham Times*, turned to writing books and became a best-selling, slightly risqué romance novelist under a different name, but she kept her loyalty to the NUJ and for many years wrote a column in *The Sunday Times*.

**What is her name?**
On Saturday nights, BBC4 is currently rerunning a Swedish TV’s thriller series adapted from a trilogy of novels written by Stieg Larsson. A real investigative journalist, he fictionalised himself and built the story around his character’s strange working collaboration with a girl who has a dragon tattoo.

The **fictional magazine** that Larsson’s alter ego works for is also the title of the trilogy. **Which is...?**
A former *Guardian* columnist’s early novels included a hilarious satire on newspaper journalists based on his *Guardian* experience called *Towards the End of the Morning*. He’s since become even better known as a playwright.

**What’s his name?**
The best-known 20th century English-language novel on journalism is *Scoop*, by Evelyn Waugh — the story of a naive nature writer, William Boot, who gets to report an African civil war by mistake. He works for *The Daily Beast*, which has a grotesquely brutal proprietor that no-one dares question — the boldest form of disagreement with him anyone can ever muster is “Up to a point…”

**Who was that noble, monstrous newspaper owner?**
This former BBC radio and TV documentary maker describes herself as Scottish and Sierra Leonian. Since switching to fiction in the Noughties, she has written several award-winning novels, but one of her most striking books combined her journalistic and authorial skills to investigate the 1975 execution of her medical-doctor father for alleged treason against the Sierra Leonian state.

It’s called *The Devil That Danced On The Water* – and she is...?
There was a popular 19th-century novel by George Gissing about young journalists struggling to make a living as hackneyed freelance writers. The title refers to a short street in the city of London described in Samuel Johnson’s famous dictionary as “much inhabited by writers of small histories.”

The title of the book?
Another trenchant book on journalism was written by *Guardian* reporter Nick Davies in 2008 — an even more savage critique of lazy journalism that allows PR and advertising interests to dominate our craft. It introduced the concept of CHURNALISM to describe this routine stuff.

**What was the book called?**
This much garlanded author began his literary life as a staffer at the Village Voice in Greenwich Village, New York, in the ’90s. His best-known novels, The Underground Railroad and The Nickel Boys, each won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction (2017 and 2020) and his NYC Covid quarantine novel, The Harlem Shuffle, apparently named after the 1963 soul hit by Bob & Earl, just came out.

Who is he?
Don’t believe a word!

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answer

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**Michael Frayn**

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**Lord Copper**
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- New Grub Street

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This much garlanded author began his literary life as a staffer at the Village Voice in Greenwich Village, New York, in the ’90s. His best-known novels, The Underground Railroad and The Nickel Boys, each won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction (2017 and 2020) and his NYC Covid quarantine novel, The Harlem Shuffle, apparently named after the 1963 soul hit by Bob & Earl, just came out.

Who is he?
Don't believe a word!
Journalists who also (?) wrote fiction

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Who is he?

1. George Alagiah
2. Val McDermid
3. Jilly Cooper
4. Millennium
5. Michael Frayn
6. Lord Copper
7. Aminatta Forna
8. New Grub Street
9. Flat Earth News

Colson Whitehead
They couldn’t possibly comment!

Journalists in politics
Two top-level members of the current government were journalists before entering Parliament. One is at the very top, unfortunately, if you count the stuff he did in *The Telegraph* as journalism. **The other** worked for *The Times* — but as a trainee journalist and NUJ member on the *Aberdeen Press and Journal* in 1989, he had taken an enthusiastic part in a long-running NUJ strike.

**What is his name?**
The leader of the Conservative Party in Scotland from 2011-19 had been a reporter on *The Glenrothes Gazette*, and a radio journalist for the BBC and commercial stations. She quit soon after Boris Johnson was elected as party leader.

**Name her.**
This former economics editor of *The Financial Times* and *Sunday Telegraph*, and editor of *The Spectator* from 1966-70, became Chancellor of the Exchequer from 1983-89. In recent years he’s renewed his notoriety by denying climate change. His son has also edited *The Spectator* and *The Sunday Telegraph*! His daughter worked for *The Sunday Times*, but is now a celebrity chef.

**Who is he?**
An ambitious married couple became Labour MPs after working in the 1990s as political and economic commentators, the husband for the *Financial Times*, the wife for *The Independent*. Both were ministers in the last Labour government. The husband lost his seat and enjoyed a surprise triumph in *Strictly Come Dancing*, surviving until week 10.

**The wife** has recently been restored to political prominence.

**What’s her name?**
The Labour MP for Exeter is a former BBC regional reporter in the south west. For a short time he was the media and culture secretary in the last Labour government — though it’s hard to remember him bringing any great benefit to media workers.

Who is he?
Among the MPs jailed in the wake of the great expenses scandal of 2009 was a Labour member and former journalist, indeed a former President of the NUJ. He had been a regional radio broadcaster for the BBC, where he regularly got into trouble, mainly for his union activities. He was sacked in 1977 after making a defamatory fake call to a phone-in. The BBC had required him to change his name, since he was of Polish descent and his family name — Matyjascek — was considered unpronounceable.

**What pronounceable name did he take up instead?**
The Leader of the Labour Party from 1979-83 was Michael Foot — a political journalist, former editor of the *London Evening Standard* and outspoken left-winger — too left-wing for the party establishment, rather like Jeremy Corbyn, and like Corbyn he was kicked out after losing an election badly.

**Who took over from him in 1983?**
This American politician and former sports journalist got close to the White House — perhaps alarmingly close. After starting out on local papers and TV stations in Alaska she became a Republican Congresswoman and Senator and was picked by John McCain as his Vice-Presidential running mate for his second-term bid in 2008 — but they lost.

Namely?
‘The Man in the White Suit’ was a BBC television foreign correspondent who surprisingly, and briefly, became an MP in 1997 when he stood as an independent on an anti-sleaze platform to defeat — humiliatingly — the far-right Tory MP Neil Hamilton who was embroiled in a flood of accusations including cash for questions and Nazi sympathies.

Who is he?
And one about a journo who has not entered politics — not yet, anyway — but won Political Reporter Of The Year at the Press Awards 2020 for her exposé of Dominic Cummins’s Barnard Castle trip and on November 30 broke the story of last year’s Number 10 staff Christmas not-party. She is Pippa Crerar and she’s political editor of which national paper?
They couldn’t possibly comment!

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**Michael Gove**
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Name her.
They couldn’t possibly comment!

Journalists in politics

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Ruth Davidson

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1. Michael Gove
2. Ruth Davidson
3. Nigel Lawson

Yvette Cooper
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Who is he?
They couldn’t possibly comment!

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3. Nigel Lawson
4. Yvette Cooper

Ben Bradshaw
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Answer: Denis MacShane

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3. Nigel Lawson
4. Yvette Cooper
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Neil Kinnock
This American politician and former sports journalist got close to the White House — perhaps alarmingly close. After starting out on local papers and TV stations in Alaska she became a Republican Congresswoman and Senator and was picked by John McCain as his Vice-Presidential running mate for his second-term bid in 2008 — but they lost.

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Namely?

Sarah Palin

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2. Ruth Davidson
3. Nigel Lawson
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Who is he?
They couldn’t possibly comment!

Journalists in politics

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Who is he?

**Martin Bell**

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3. Nigel Lawson
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6. Denis MacShane
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6. Denis MacShane
7. Neil Kinnock
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9. Martin Bell

The Daily Mirror
Reely real?

Actual journalists portrayed in or otherwise involved in docudramas
Veronica Guerin is an NUJ hero — the courageous crime reporter on the Irish Independent who was murdered in 1996 — gunned down in her car by drug-trade gangsters she was investigating. Her name was the title of a biopic directed by Joel Schumacher in 2003. The actor who played Guerin astonished Dublin journalists by accurately catching her manner and even her voice, although she’d never seen or heard her — and wasn’t even Irish.

Who played Guerin in the film?
All the President’s Men is among the most complimentary movies about journalism ever made, even in the USA where they can’t get enough of heroic reporters. It tells the story of Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, whose dogged investigations into the Watergate scandal led to the downfall of disgraced US President Richard Nixon in 1974. The pair were played by Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman.

**Which paper did Woodward and Bernstein work for?**
Covering the civil war and communist takeover of his country in 1975, Dith Pran worked as photographer and fixer for Sydney Schanberg of *The New York Times*. When foreign journalists were driven out, Pran was sent to a forced-labour camp by the insurgent regime while Schanberg went home — and, the following year, won the Pulitzer Prize for his coverage. Meanwhile, Pran survived and is said to have coined the phrase which became the title of the 1984 Hollywood movie about their experiences.

**For one point each, in which country did all this happen and what was the movie called?**
Mark Ruffalo and Michael Keaton head the investigative reporting unit at *The Boston Globe* that uncovered child abuse in the Catholic Church, despite being diverted to cover the aftermath of 9/11. The name of their investigative unit, the oldest such team in the USA — founded 1970 and still going — is the title of the 2015 film.

**Name the film.**
Meryl Streep plays a media owner struggling with the shareholders while Tom Hanks plays her editor facing jail time for publishing the Pentagon Papers detailing murky goings on around the Vietnam War, in this press freedom classic from 2017.

What is it called?
Official Secrets is the 2019 British film about the whistleblower Katharine Gun — a translator at GCHQ who leaked to the Observer documents proving UK complicity in a plot to rig the vote at the UN Security Council in favour of the invasion of Iraq in 2003. She was charged under the Official Secrets Act but charges were dropped just before she stood trial. The film stars Keira Knightley, with a former Doctor Who, Matt Smith, playing the Observer reporter who did the story — and was himself later prosecuted for refusing to identify a source in a different official secrecy case. He was acquitted.

What is the reporter’s name?
In this biopic, George Clooney directed David Strathairn as Edward R Murrow, the great CBS TV news host who reported dramatically from Britain during World War 2. In the 1950s, he defied the network’s advertisers to take on Senator Joseph McCarthy and his cold war witchhunt against US socialists.

**The 2005 film’s title** is Murrow’s catchphrase intoned at the end of every programme. **What is it?**
Who was the first Gonzo Journalist? A wild American writer who launched a whole new style of drug-inspired, first-person, social journalism. In the 1980 film *Where the Buffalo Roam*, he covers Richard Nixon’s 1972 presidential election campaign. After getting thrown off the Press plane he gives a *Washington Post* journalist hallucinogenic drugs to steal his accreditation and get back on.

If you weren’t there, you may recall *his name*?
A journalist recently portrayed in Steve McQueen’s *Small Axe* TV docudrama also served as chair of the Notting Hill Carnival, edited the Brixton-based *Race Today* magazine (1973-88) and fronted hardline interview show *The Devil’s Advocate* on Channel 4 (1992-96).

**Name him.**
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a) Cambodia
b) The Killing Fields

1. Cate Blanchett
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2. Washington Post
3. a) Cambodia
   b) The Killing Fields

**Answer:** Spotlight
Meryl Streep plays a media owner struggling with the shareholders while Tom Hanks plays her editor facing jail time for publishing the Pentagon Papers detailing murky goings on around the Vietnam War, in this press freedom classic from 2017.

**What is it called?**
Actual journalists portrayed in or otherwise involved in docudramas

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What is it called?

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4. Spotlight

The Post
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What is the reporter’s name?

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Answer: Martin Bright
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4. Spotlight
5. The Post
6. Martin Bright

Good night, and good luck.
Who was the first Gonzo Journalist? A wild American writer who launched a whole new style of drug-inspired, first-person, social journalism. In the 1980 film *Where the Buffalo Roam*, he covers Richard Nixon’s 1972 presidential election campaign. After getting thrown off the Press plane he gives a *Washington Post* journalist hallucinogenic drugs to steal his accreditation and get back on.

If you weren’t there, you may recall his name?
Actual journalists portrayed in or otherwise involved in docudramas

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Hunter S Thompson

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Darcus Howe

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7. Good night, and good luck
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4. Spotlight
5. The Post
6. Martin Bright
7. Good night, and good luck
8. Hunter S Thompson
9. Darcus Howe

**Answer:** John Reed
Tie-breaker
Viz magazine is the monthly “adult” comic for men who don’t grow up. There’s a regular strip featuring a hapless and foul-mouthed TV presenter whose catchphrase is: “Hello, good evening, and bollocks”. He did become an animated TV series on Channel 4 in 1991.

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Roger Mellie

TIE-BREAKER

answer

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There was a popular Channel 4 sitcom in the 1990s — at least among journalists — set in the newsroom of the fictitious Globelink TV, where a bunch of poseurs and chancers somehow managed to produce bulletins under the ineffectual leadership of the dithering news editor George, who always wore a grey cardigan. The title referred to a stereotypical last item in a bulletin.

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What was the just-like-life (?) comedy called?

**Answer:** Drop The Dead Donkey