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In the 21st century, in a world where girls are encouraged to think and dream big, less than a third of world news publications are overseen by women. According to a 2020 Reuters Institute survey, only 23% of major U.S news sources editor positions were held by women, and only 40% of journalism jobs were held by women. This statistic is shameful and staggering to me, because I aspire to be a leading woman in the journalism industry. I want to serve as Editor in Chief of a major newspaper, and lead the way for women in the news business. I not only want to see a world where a major newspaper is headed by an all-female editorial staff, I want to be at the forefront of that change.

I've been a reader for as long as I can remember, and a writer just shortly less. When I was six, I was given an American Girl doll, Kit, a girl from the Great Depression, who created a newspaper for family on her typewriter. I became enamored with the idea of writing a family newspaper on a typewriter, and my grandma still had an old typewriter she held onto that I was welcome to use as often as I liked during our family trips.

At first, all I wanted to do was hear the sound of the clacking keys and the *ding* of the indent roll without actually taking the time to write anything. When my typing and writing skills were strong enough, I began writing a daily paper for my family, which I dubbed The Daily Post. Always composed of three articles, a leading story, smaller supplement, and the always-improvised weather, I typed a paper almost every day of each trip for ten years.

Throughout the years, while my family made dinner, I would smack away at those keys. Nothing was too insignificant to be covered, and as a result, nothing in the paper was of any *real*

significance, which is what made it so wonderful. Full of childhood imagination and delight, those page-long newspapers chronicle my childhood better than any photographs ever could. I didn't know it, but my newspaper was fostering a love for writing I wouldn't appreciate until years later. Now, as an aspiring journalist, Editor in Chief of my high school yearbook, the founder and Editor in Chief of a new online newspaper, and the President of Quill and Scroll International Journalism Honor Society, I realize that those days spent looking for what would be featured in *The Daily Post* taught me to see the world through a storyteller's lens from an early age.

I have a restless drive to know *why*, to know *what is going on*. The phrase 'passionately curious' describes me, a woman who is about creating a more inclusive, diverse, accepting journalism workforce, a place where women's voices can be heard. My drive is simple— I want to be at the forefront of a better tomorrow for women in journalism.