Thousands of news workers were laid off in the UK and North America in 2008/2009. While daily newspapers were particularly affected, labour cuts also hit broadcasters and news magazines. Popular commentary has often attempted to explain the cuts as a result of Internet competition, aging audiences for news and a slumping global economy. Optimists suggest the rise of new media practices such as blogging and citizen journalism have, despite the contraction of newsrooms, expanded the range of information and opinion available to citizens. This paper is an attempt to clarify what is an unquestionably chaotic moment in journalism. Our focus is the labour of reporting – the quotidian work of gathering information of public interest and packaging it into a story. How autonomous is the work of reporting likely to be in the wake of massive layoffs and corporate restructuring? Will the vaunted citizen journalist replace this lost labour? In what follows, we take up the challenge presented by a growing number of scholars who urge media researchers to engage with the research agenda of Pierre Bourdieu. In so doing we deploy Bourdieu’s related concepts of habitus and social fields of interaction as principal tools of investigation. The deployment of new-media technologies, such as cell phones, has created opportunities for autonomous citizen journalism; however, this typically takes the form of crisis or spot reporting, that in some ways is homologous with the dominant Post-Fordist mode of production. Importantly, we argue there is little empirical evidence to suggest that unpaid citizen journalists will replace the lost labour of reporting – the daily drudgery of collecting information, synthesizing it and presenting it for public consumption via storytelling.