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# Connecting

February 22, 2014



Colleagues,

Former Associated Press correspondent **Pat Milton**, now a senior producer at CBS News, posed as an investor interested in putting up money for a movie project during lunch meetings with supposed Hollywood producers for a major investigative piece about Hollywood movie scams and aired on CBS News' "This Morning" this week. In an [online interview](#), Milton explained that people



*Pat Milton*

across the country receive telephone calls from supposed movie producers seeking money for their projects. The callers throw out big names of Hollywood actors and promise their own names in lights. "I guess people get starry-eyed and decide to take the leap and send the money," she said. "Many of these films do not get made, or they are low-budget films where they don't even see the big screen and the investors do not make a return on their money." During the lunch meetings, filmed by hidden cameras, one group of producers asked for \$100,000 and another asked for \$35,000. "It's similar to telemarketers," Milton said. "Many people are falling for it... We wanted to get the alert out there that people should be aware." A clip of one lunch meetings can be viewed [here](#). On Thursday, the federal government [indicted six people](#) in another alleged movie investment scam. The six were not among those interviewed by CBS story.

At the Winter Games in Sochi, AP correspondent **Ted Anthony** is a little uneasy with his latest follower on Twitter, commenting "The situation is worse than I thought." He posted a photo [here](#).



Happy Birthday today to Connecting member and AP Chief of Bureau **Dorothy Abernathy**!

Connecting Editor-In-Chief **Paul Stevens** returns Monday. Send tips, stories, photos to him at [stevenspl@live.com](mailto:stevenspl@live.com)

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## **Items of Interest...**

[Justice Department issues new rules on pursuing media records; AP reviewing](#)

[AP's Carroll to address importance of press freedom around the world](#)

[Pruitt: A free press isn't a threat to national security](#) (shared by Mike Holmes)



*Gary Pruitt / AP Photo*

[Grassley: FCC newsroom study violates First Amendment](#)

[FCC moves forward with newsroom study but will amend some questions, exempt journalists in "pilot" phase](#)

[White House bars media from covering Dalai Lama meeting; issues official photo](#)

[Photographers urge news orgs not to use WH handout](#) (shared by Bob Daugherty)

[Rubio: Venezuela's expulsion of CNN crew is assault on press freedom](#)

[Week in Review: Facebook's huge WhatsApp buy; cable TV/online streaming fight](#)

[For journalists: Costs, benefits from public library e-government services](#)

[Would cameras turn the Supreme Court into a circus?](#)

[Conflict of interests? Wisconsin town's journalist-mayor runs for state Assembly](#)

[Update: Baltimore City Paper staffers lose jobs in acquisition, can re-apply to The Sun](#) (shared by Doug Pizac)

[Local online news network Patch hiring editorial staff in wake of mass layoffs](#)

Six journalism opportunities to apply for in March

APME creates jobs board to link employers, people seeking news jobs

Why are all the House of Cards journalists so bad at journalism?  
(Shared by Latrice Davis via Facebook)

A brief history of sexism in TV coverage of the Olympics (Davis)



Janine and Zoe, in 'happier' times. Melinda Sue Gordon/AP

Sun-Times drops freelance sportswriter after he lectures prep team he covered (Daugherty)

Texas Monthly writer claims USA Today took his story (Daugherty)

Documentary revisits NYT's plagiarism scandal, talks ethics (Daugherty)

How always being busy makes you dumber

Why you shouldn't drink coffee in the morning

Financial advice for the end of the world

## **Deaths**

Garrick Utley, was 74 (Pizac)

## **Media Oops**

From BBC News (Daugherty)



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