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**Sent:** Wednesday, May 07, 2014 9:22 AM  
**To:** stevenspl@live.com  
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# Connecting

May 7, 2014



Colleagues,

Good morning! Leading off today's Connecting:

## **A Window To Executions: How To Cover Death For A Living**

Each week, NPR's Weekend Edition Sunday host Rachel Martin brings listeners an unexpected side of the news by talking with someone personally affected by the stories making headlines.

As a criminal justice reporter for The Associated Press, **Michael Graczyk** has covered hundreds of executions of death row inmates in the state of Texas. This means, of course, that he must be there to witness those deaths.



This past week, after an execution in Oklahoma went terribly wrong, many people turned their attention again to capital punishment - and to the reporters who cover it. Graczyk is no stranger to botched executions himself, having witnessed at least two in his time reporting.

There are peculiar difficulties that come with covering such grim events for his livelihood.

One of the challenges: Despite viewing so many executions, Graczyk tries to maintain a sense of his responsibilities as a witness to the death of another individual.

"You have to be careful," he says. "You don't want to get into a formula. You want to make it a story that people want to read, either for the record or for the sake of it being an interesting case."

And still, even in the trying moment, he must remember his faculties as a reporter. "As [with] most people who write news stories, you're dealing with time and space considerations, and you want to be careful that you don't miss anything."

Matter-of-factly, he notes: "It can be very challenging at times."

Click [here](#) for the NPR interview with our Connecting colleague. (Shared by Linda Sargent)

## **News of AP**

**L.A. Times' Ken Dilanian jumps to AP**

**Ken Dilanian**, an intelligence and national security reporter, has left the Los Angeles Times for the Associated Press, the latest in a string of notable departures for the newspaper. Dilanian, who spent two years at the Times, will join AP's national security team, where he will cover the CIA and the NSA, among other areas. He will also team with Eileen Sullivan on stories about surveillance, privacy and intelligence-gathering. Click [here](#) for more.

## Connecting mailbox

[Peggy Walsh](#) - Although there were stories in (Tuesday's) Connecting of much more consequence, I got a kick out of the ABC building being named after Barbara Walters. When I worked for The New York Times I lived right across the street from ABC. I could look out my window & see it. It reminded me of all the ABC people I used to see (Barbara was not among them) and how New Yorkers never uttered "you're whoever" even if by chance they were in the same line, as I was once, with Diane Sawyer and JFK Jr. getting a sandwich at the nearby deli.

## Why Don't Older Americans Want Time Machines?



Not that anyone receiving Connecting is OLD or anything, but whatever your age, I thought you would enjoy this story:

You want a time machine, don't you? Because one in 10 Americans do—at least that's what they said when Pew Research Center asked what futuristic technology they would like to own. That's a notable percentage of people, especially when you consider that survey respondents came up with "time machine," unprompted, out of every possible future invention they could imagine. (Naturally, flying cars were popular, too.)

Click [here](#) for more.



## Welcome to Connecting

[Andrea Cavanaugh](#) - AP Los Angeles, 2000-01

[Gordon Sakamoto](#) - retired AP Honolulu chief of bureau

## Stories of interest

### [Lewinsky Breaks Silence About Clinton Affair, Saying She Was 'Made a Scapegoat'](#)

WASHINGTON - Monica Lewinsky says she became reclusive during Hillary Rodham Clinton's campaign for president in 2008 for fear that she would be used for political purposes and that she feels "gun-shy" even now as Mrs. Clinton considers another run in 2016.

**AND**

### [Monica Lewinsky hits Drudge, Dowd](#)

Monica Lewinsky has credited the conservative website Drudge Report with driving what she describes as her "global humiliation" in the wake of the affair with President Bill Clinton. In a new tell-all for Vanity Fair, published Tuesday, the former Clinton intern took aim at the media circus that surrounded the scandal, singling out both Drudge and Maureen Dowd, the sardonic New York Times columnist. "Thanks to the Drudge Report, I was... possibly the first person whose global humiliation was driven by the Internet," Lewinsky wrote of the influential aggregator, which covered every turn in the Lewinsky scandal. Lewinsky said she used to call the Times columnist "Moremean Dowdy," because of her biting columns about the affair, but added, "today, I'd meet her for a drink."

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### New service will rate the authenticity of digital images

By the time an image makes its way online, it could have been opened and processed in any number of applications, passed through various hands, and been remixed and manipulated. Today a new image hosting service, Izitru, is launching to give people new ways to certify the authenticity of a digital image. It's also a tool that journalists can use to help verify images.

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### Reporters' Pay Falls Below U.S. Average Wage

Sarah Rose, 27, works full time as a newspaper reporter in Kentucky, but is considering taking a part-time job to help cover living expenses. Rose earns \$24,000 a year at the Glasgow Daily Times, where mandatory furloughs this year are projected to reduce her modest salary by \$2,000. "With these furlough days, I am living paycheck to paycheck," says Rose, who holds a bachelor's degree in mass communication from Mesa State College in Colorado. Like thousands of other journalists, Rose is pursuing a career that has long been notorious for low salaries.

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### Bloomberg News' hack nightmare: Why did it "double down" with Halperin & Heilemann?

The weekend brought some disappointing, unsurprising and vaguely peculiar media news: Bloomberg News hitched its wagon to John Heilemann, formerly of *New York*, and Mark Halperin, formerly of *Time*. These two gentlemen are, along with Chris Cillizza and *Politico*, responsible for reducing political coverage to its current, frightfully superficial state. For these folks, it's of great importance who "won the morning" and who had the worst week in Washington. And, of course, no matter what mishap befalls any politician, it will be good news for John McCain—a head-scratcher that is, for some reason, considered gospel.

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### Newton Daily News fires editor who blasted the 'Gaystapo' for trying to 'reword the Bible' (Mark Mittelstadt)

Shaw Media's Newton Daily News has dismissed editor Bob Eschliman for a post on his personal blog blasting "the LGBTQXYZ crowd and the Gaystapo" for trying "to reword the Bible to make their sinful nature 'right with God.'"

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**Just 7 percent of journalists are Republicans. That's far fewer than even a decade ago**

(Carol Riha)

A majority of American journalists identify themselves as political independents although among those who choose a side Democrats outnumber Republicans four to one, according to a new study of the media conducted by two Indiana University professors.

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**Fox News mixes up footage of grieving Asians** (Bob Daugherty)

Rick Phillips of the Korean Cultural Center in Los Angeles has sent three letters to Fox News with a question about a news segment regarding the sinking of a ferry in South Korea, which left about 260 dead.

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**Amazon Patent Shows Common Seamless Background Lighting Technique** (Doug Pizac)

Internet giant Amazon is attempting to patent the use of seamless backgrounds and tabletop photography -- a common practice that has been used by photographers for over a hundred years. If successful in being granted the patent, infringement suits could be filed against thousands of photographers, including portrait and commercial studios.

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**Larry King on going digital, and CNN's strategy**

"I miss being live, which I did all my life, and I miss the big story, though I will tell you, I am glad I am not at CNN now with this missing plane. Because that has been turned into the most absurd news story. It was a great news story and then it went absurd."

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**Ashes to ashes - mourning the passing of Emory's journalism degree**

By Guest Columnist RICHARD T. GRIFFITHS, vice president and senior editorial director of CNN as well as a member of the Emory Journalism Program Advisory Board. Note to readers: Richard Griffiths delivered these remarks on April 25 at a reception celebrating the Emory Journalism Program's "18 years of courageous inquiry and ethical engagement." As of now, Emory no longer offers a degree in journalism.

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### Who's running The Miami Herald?

Three Hispanics and one African-American, all of them women

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## News from APME

### **APPLY NOW FOR APME'S COMMUNITY PUBLIC SERVICE GRANT**

*The outstanding work of smaller news organizations continues to be a priority of the Associated Press Media Editors as it announces the third year of the Community Journalism Public Service Initiative.*

*Media companies in metropolitan areas (MSA) of 100,000 or fewer people are encouraged to apply for the grant. The recipient will receive \$1,000 to jump-start the initiative and a trip to the annual APME conference to present the project.*

*It's easy to enter: Draft a proposal of 500 words or less and include examples of how you would approach the project. It should be multiplatform, include social media and address a long-standing community issue.*

*Last year's winner was The Sedalia Democrat in Missouri for its "Meth at the Crossroads" series. City Reporter Emily Jarrett presented the newspaper's work at the APME national conference in Indianapolis in October. The first winner was the Beaver Dam News of Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, for its series on mental illness in its community.*

*The 2014 winner will present its work at the joint ASNE/APME Conference Sept. 15-17 in Chicago.*

*To apply, go to <http://www.tfaforms.com/232227> and fill out the online form.*

*The deadline for applications is **May 31**. The grant will be awarded in June.*

*\_Details:*

*The grant: A \$1,000 grant will be given to a small-media company for a public service project that addresses a long-standing community issue. If results are*

*shown, a representative also will receive an expenses-paid trip (up to \$1,000) to the ASNE-APME conference in September in Chicago.*

*Eligibility: The media company must have a website and serve a metropolitan area (MSA) of 100,000 or fewer people. Entrants must be Associated Press members.*

*Expectations: The project can use print and/or digital platforms and include social media and/or a mobile strategy. It should be considered entrepreneurial and should have the potential to be used elsewhere, including by a larger media company. Even though the project can be an ongoing series and continue after the APME conference, there will an expectation that a part of the project will be published before Sept. 1. The Innovator/Great Ideas/Awards Committee will contact the grant recipient in August to determine progress on the initiative.*

*To apply: Go to <http://www.tfaforms.com/232227> to submit your proposal of 500 words or less, including examples of how you would tackle the project. The form will also prompt you to give your company's newsroom staffing, website page views per month and your newspaper's circulation or audience size.*

*Deadline: May 31. The winner will be notified in June.*

*For more information, contact Joe Hight at [joe.hight@gazette.com](mailto:joe.hight@gazette.com) or David Arkin at [darkin@corp.gatehousemedia.com](mailto:darkin@corp.gatehousemedia.com)*

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