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**From:** Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 09, 2014 10:57 AM  
**To:** stevenspl@live.com  
**Subject:** Connecting - May 9, 2014

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# Connecting

May 9, 2014



Colleagues,

## Got a bonus story to share?

Doug Pizac, in reaction to a story in Thursday's Connecting asking what was the best bonus that folks received as journalists, suggests that fellow colleagues on Connecting share their own bonus experience. (If any.) And, he offers to lead off.

Doug writes:

BEST -- On my way back to the LA bureau after covering the 1986 California Angels spring training in Palm Springs, I happened upon college spring break festivities in the middle of the desert resort town and decided to make some feature photos. The fun soon turned to terror for several women who had their clothes torn off and for a food vendor who was hit in the head with a bottle followed by his truck being broken into and his food stolen. A single policeman first showed up and threatened the crowd with his can of mace if they didn't calm down. More police soon arrived and the state highway in and out of town was shut down until control could be maintained.



I found a phone booth within feet of the action, called the buro and started dictating my story to the desk which turned out to be my first A-wire news story. I also got the vendor on the phone to give quotes directly to the desk. Once the story was filed I went to the local paper to process my film and file pictures. For my national reporting and images then COB **John Brewer** awarded me a dinner for two at Spago for myself and my fiancé -- then AP photo editor **Betty Kumpf**. (We just celebrated 28 years.)

**WORST** --- While at a small newspaper in Kentucky in the '70s the publisher handed out canned hams as a Christmas gift to the employees that he got from an advertiser in exchange for an ad. The chief photographer opened his and offered some to his dog who refused to take a bite. He did and got sick. My gift went to the landfill unopened as did those of others in the newsroom.

Poynter provided this story from journalists around the country:

#### **It's bonus time, get out your carving knife**

A lot of journalists got the Bob Cratchit treatment when bonus time came, (past tense intentional,) bringing home turkeys, a bag of cranberries and even bacon. "One newspaper for which I worked gave employees bacon as a Christmas bonus. The first year or two it was really good bacon, but eventually you could tell The Old Man (as we called our owner/publisher) was just sending his poor wife to the store and telling her to get whatever was cheapest," Steve James wrote on Facebook. Click [here](#) for more.

**Send your own bonus story - good or bad or both - to me and I will share with the group.**

## **News about the AP**

### **AP among news media challenging ban on journalism drones**

More than a dozen media organizations challenged the government's ban on the use of drones by journalists Tuesday, saying the Federal Aviation Administration's position violates First Amendment protections for news gathering. The organizations, including The Associated Press, filed a brief with the National Transportation Safety Board in support of aerial photographer Raphael Pirker. Pirker was fined \$10,000 by the FAA for flying a small drone near the University of Virginia to make a commercial video in October 2011. He appealed the fine to the safety board, which hears challenges to FAA decisions.

Click [here](#) for the story.

## Connecting mailbox

**Dave Kalish**- This week, I received two honors for my new novel, The Opposite of Everything. It won first place in the literary category of the Somerset Fiction Awards, a national contest that recognizes emerging new talent and outstanding work. And my book was named a finalist in the comedy/humor category of the 2014 Next Generation Indie Book Awards. I will pick up the latter accolade at an awards ceremony on May 28 at the Harvard Club in Manhattan. I received the news in the thick of my Northeast book tour, which so far has spanned from Saratoga in upstate New York to Boston yesterday evening. In coming months my tour takes me to Woodstock, N.Y., Montclair, N.J., Burlington, Vt., Philadelphia and other places. My novel is a fictional comic twist on my struggles with health and marital problems during my tenure at the New York City headquarters of The Associated Press in the 1990s and early 2000s. The website for his book is [www.davidkalishwriter.com](http://www.davidkalishwriter.com) and his Amazon page, <http://amzn.to/1EvXtn>

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**George Arfield** - Regarding the item in Thursday's Connecting on the overuse of " impact" and other such flogged-to-irrelevancy neo-cliches: Is there any other expression that has become as meaningless as the "BREAKING NEWS - BREAKING NEWS - BREAKING NEWS" zipper on the three main cable news channels? Talk about breaking ... #%^££!!!

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**Claude Erbsen** offers his nomination for Headline of the Day:

### Texas police officer shoots dead 93-year-old woman

Click [here](#) for the story that begins: (Reuters) - A small town Texas police officer responding to an emergency call about a female with a gun has been suspended for shooting dead a 93-year-old woman in her home, authorities said on Thursday.



## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday

To

[Bill Beecham](#)

[Thom Callahan](#)

[Anita Miller Fry](#)

### **Editorial Talking Points -- week through May 4, 2014**

**NEW PENTAGON FRONT:** Washington's Lolita Baldor, visiting a U.S. military base in Afghanistan, spotted posters in a women's bathroom advertising a sexual-assault prevention hotline. She wondered: Were similar posters up in the men's bathrooms? Baldor had broken the news three months earlier that the number of reported sexual assaults in the military had risen by 50 percent in 2013.

After her return from Afghanistan, Baldor knew the final numbers for the full fiscal year would be coming out soon. In part because of her accurate reporting earlier, senior Pentagon officials spoke to her a day before the report's formal release. That gave AP the full story 24 hours before the defense secretary's own announcement.

Baldor's May 1 story reported not only the final data that confirmed her original scoop, but also spotlighted concerns in the Pentagon about the small number of men willing to report being victims of sexual assault. Defense officials announced a greater emphasis on getting men to come forward. They said about 14 percent of last year's assault reports involved male victims. Baldor wrote about a new front opening in the military's effort to fix the sex-abuse problem in the ranks.

(<http://goo.gl/54FMgu>)

**FERRY VIDEO:** More than two weeks after the South Korean ferry sank, AP became the first Western news organization to obtain heart-wrenching video, recorded on the cell phone of a boy whose body was found in the wreckage. It showed a frightening scene as the ship listed so severely that high school students, one of them weeping, had to sit on a wall instead of the floor.

In Seoul, Technology writer Youkyung Lee tracked down the phone number of the father of the dead boy, and producer Hyun-ah Kim persuaded him to release the video to AP. Reporter Hyung-jin Kim and bureau chief Foster Klug pieced together the details and timeline from the images showing the cabin tilting and

panic rising among its young occupants.

The story was widely mentioned in South Korean news media and was a top story on Yahoo and other websites. Even The New York Times, which the previous day had run its own story on the video, picked up ours in its entirety. Lee, Klug and Asia Enterprise Editor Leon D. Keith also produced a story based on documents and public records to show that the ferry had exceeded its cargo limit on 246 occasions in the past 13 months \_ nearly every voyage it made \_ and may have been even more overloaded than usual on its final journey.

<http://apne.ws/R7iRbX>

## Stories of interest

### [The Real Story About the Wrong Photos in #BringBackOurGirls](#) (Latrice Davis/FB)

A Twitter campaign using the hashtag #BringBackOurGirls has focused global attention on the plight of some 276 Nigerian schoolgirls kidnapped by the Islamic militant group Boko Haram. Three photos of girls have been posted and reposted thousands of times, including by the BBC and by the singer Chris Brown (who himself has had issues with anger management and violence against women). One problem: The photos are of girls from Guinea-Bissau, more than 1,000 miles from Nigeria, who have no relationship to the kidnappings.

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### [Tribune buys out McClatchy's stake in MCT newswire](#) (Bob Daugherty)

Tribune Publishing "will take full ownership" of McClatchy Tribune Information Services" and its operations will move to Chicago, McClatchy vice president for news and Washington editor Anders Gyllenhaal tells staffers in a memo. "MCT will consolidate editorial and business staffs in Chicago and merge with the Tribune Content Agency, creating a single business out of the two related operations," he writes.

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### [NBC's Olympic TV Deal Accounts for Advances in Technology](#)

Eighteen years ago, there was no certainty that we would be watching sports and movies on little mobile screens or that outfits like Netflix would engage us by streaming series a season at a time. How, then, can anyone predict how we

will consume video in 18 years with the rapid evolution - alongside the occasional revolution - occurring in technology? The answer is - if you're NBC Universal and the International Olympic Committee - you don't. Not when you're making a deal for NBC to carry in the United States the six Olympic Games from 2022 to 2032 on its television and digital platforms, and whatever new technology develops in the next two decades. Their \$7.75 billion deal, with a \$100 million signing bonus, was announced Wednesday.

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#### **U.S. Journalist Adam Baron Deported From Yemen**

NEW YORK -- Adam Baron, a freelance journalist reporting from Yemen the past three years, has been deported from the country. Baron regularly writes for the McClatchy newspaper chain and the Christian Science Monitor. James Asher, the Washington bureau chief for McClatchy, confirmed to HuffPost that he has been deported and that Baron "believes the deportation is about his journalism." "Obviously, it is troubling that a journalist doing his job would be tossed from any country," Asher said.

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#### **Heritage Foundation plans news site with 'true, straight-down-the-middle journalism'**

The Heritage Foundation has plans for a news site with a clean design and straight reporting, Joshua Green reported Thursday in Bloomberg Businessweek. Daily Signal launches June 3, Green wrote, and the site will also offer an opinion section. The staff of about 12 will write about what the mainstream media ignores, Green reported.

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#### **NABJ Names Darryl R. Matthews Sr. as New Executive Director (Mark Mittelstadt)**

WASHINGTON - The National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) announced today the selection of Darryl R. Matthews, Sr. as the new Executive Director of the association, the largest organization of journalists of color worldwide. Matthews had been serving in the role in an interim capacity.

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#### **Impressions: Publishers' protest produces positive result**

Community newspapers across America organized what appears to have been a successful protest two weeks ago to get the Newseum in Washington, D.C., to

include us in its Today's Front Pages exhibit. The Newseum, for those who haven't been there, is an interactive museum of news and journalism located on Pennsylvania Avenue, near the U.S. Capitol. It is a seven-level, 250,000-square-foot museum with 15 theaters and 14 galleries.

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### The Huffington Post, nine years on

On Friday, March 7, Peter Goodman was writing an email to Arianna Huffington during the last hour of his last day as her employee, when a team of workmen showed up at his office on the fifth floor of The Huffington Post's 770 Broadway headquarters.

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### Yes, We Bleeped The Word 'Uterus' (Bob Daugherty)

Some listeners may have noticed Friday when we bleeped a series of words in a piece on the dairy industry by Anna King of the Northwest News Network. The story was about farmers taking advantage of record prices for dairy and beef. The bleeping quote came from Dean Hibbs, a dairyman in eastern Washington, who told King about looking for "hot cows," or those in heat.

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### **Best of the States** (Valerie Komor)

Colleagues,

Since the Republican Party took over the North Carolina Legislature four years ago, and the governor's mansion in 2012, they have worked to lower taxes, promising that it would increase economic activity and thus have no negative impact on state government. Statehouse Reporter **Gary Robertson** knew that an upcoming release of state revenue numbers would be an opportunity to assess whether those assertions were true. Any sign of a shortfall would damage the GOP's efforts to continue to cut taxes while increasing pay for teachers and state employees.

With the May 14 start of the legislative session looming, Robertson had been working his budget sources for weeks to learn when the revenue projections would be released. He worked this into his routine despite being our lead reporter for the nationally watched U.S. Senate Primary.

Late Friday afternoon, his tenacity finally paid off: A GOP source in the legislature told Robertson that budget analysts were estimating North Carolina would face a \$445 million revenue shortfall when the fiscal year ends on June

30. This meant the state would come in 2.1 percent short of what it needed to carry out this year's budget.

Robertson was alone in reporting this, and as soon as the APNewsNow hit the wire, members were calling the Raleigh bureau eager to have the [full story](#) for their websites and newspapers. His exclusive reporting went unmatched until the next day and was widely used throughout the state, online and in print, including in the Raleigh News and Observer which has numerous reporters covering state government.

As AP's longtime statehouse reporter in Raleigh, Robertson has developed sources and respect on both sides of the aisle and knows who to go to when he needs information. Even though this news looked bad for the GOP, his Republican source trusted Robertson to report the story fairly and accurately.

Newsbreaks like this one signal to members and nonmembers that the AP is committed to providing excellent statehouse reporting and that we get important stories ahead of other media.

**For his persistent work to put AP ahead on a critical and highly competitive beat in his state, Gary Robertson wins this week's \$300 Best of the States prize.**

Other work that impressed the judges:

**\_ Dave Porter, newsman, Newark, New Jersey, for obtaining exclusive details** on how much the Christie administration has spent on legal bills on its longshot bid to have sports gambling legalized in New Jersey. Using an open-records request, his story provided an example of costly legal work Christie is farming out to politically connected firms. <http://hrld.us/1fN3hy6>

**\_ Marc Levy, newsman, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, for breaking news that Gov. Tom Corbett decided to support legalization of medical marijuana, at least for kids in some circumstances.** Thanks to a tip from a statehouse source, the AP had the story alone for about a half-hour before the governor made an official announcement, an hour earlier than he originally had intended. <http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2014/05/01pennsylvania-gov-tom-corbett-backs-marijuana-extract-treatment>

**\_ Amy Hanson, Matt Volz and Matt Brown in Montana, for their examination of the "stand-your-ground" debate in light of two recent incidents, including one in which a Montana man shot a German exchange student after laying a trap to catch an intruder.** The New York Times matched their work several days later.

Text: <http://bit.ly/Rd11UZ>; video: <http://bit.ly/1mmzw9W> <http://bit.ly/R92yMh>

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