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## Connecting - March 7, 2015

1 message

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# Connecting

March 7, 2015

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Colleagues,

Good Saturday morning!

Here are stories of interest as we begin the weekend.

Paul

## Covering Russell Means...in the nude

(Another in our Connecting series on unusual news coverage situations.)

**David Egner** ([Email](#)) - The most unusual place I ever went to cover a story was a place where I was completely uncovered. No clothes, no shoes, no glasses - not even a pen and notebook allowed.



It was 1982. I was in a remote scenic valley on federal land in the Black Hills of South Dakota, joining Russell Means of the American Indian Movement and a young white man who would identify himself only as Goat Man in a sweat lodge religious ceremony.

I was the AP correspondent in Pierre, S.D. I was spending several days in Rapid City, S.D., covering a federal court trial in which the U.S. government sought an order to evict about 35 Native Americans from federal land they had occupied for 20 months, living in teepees. The Indians named their settlement Yellow Thunder Camp, and wanted to make it a permanent religious community.

"The Black Hills means to us what Jerusalem means to Christians, Jews and Moslems," Means testified in the trial. He mentioned a number of sacred ceremonies the Indians held at Yellow Thunder.

I thought it would be interesting to do a feature on Sioux religious beliefs and asked Means if I could observe a sweat lodge ceremony over the weekend.

"You can't observe, but you can join us in prayer in the sweat lodge if you get naked," Means told me. I quickly agreed.

It was a bitterly cold December day when I joined Means and Goat Man, standing naked in deep snow outside a pup tent about 8 feet in diameter. We crawled into the tent.

As I wrote in my A-Wire story: "Forty stones taken from an outside fire radiated intense heat in the sweat lodge, and Means splashed water on the stones every few minutes to fill the small round tent with steam that stung the naked flesh of its three occupants." I was hotter than I have ever been - feeling like a piece of meat being cooked.

"Grandfather, Great Mystery, we beg you to stop the wasicu (Lakota for 'white man,') from raping the sacred Mother Earth and raping her children," Means prayed, alternating between English and the Lakota Sioux language. "Give us strength to battle the wasicu."

Means then said it was my turn to pray. The only thing I could think of was a short Hebrew prayer: Sh'ma Yis'ra'eil Adonai Eloheinu Adonai echad. (Hear, O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is One).



Means recognized the Hebrew and was clearly surprised. There were only about 600 Jews in South Dakota , which at the time had a population of about 680,000, so I was a rare sighting.

"You're Jewish!" Means exclaimed. "Bruce Ellison (Means' lawyer in the federal court case), he's Jewish too. The only time I've been convicted was when I had a non-Jewish lawyer. So now I have a rule: when I go to court, I only let Jewish lawyers represent me."

One of two Indian men outside our sweat lodge opened the flap on the tent and the cold outside air was a welcome relief. The men put in stones from the outside fire into our tent, closed the flap, and Means splashed water on the rocks to generate more heat in what he called "an Indian sauna."

Goat Man prayed, asking the Great Spirit to forgive the wasicu for sinning against the Indians. Means prayed some more and when he opened the tent flap before the final round of prayer I asked to crawl outside. Worried that I would forget his quotes, I grabbed my trusty reporter's notebook, pen and glasses and started scribbling, standing naked in the snow and covered in dirt. Fortunately, the technology did not yet exist for anyone to tweet out a photo of me.

*Click [here](#) for a copy of Egner's A-wire story on the experience.*

## Connecting mailbox

### *The Little Rock connections*

Lindel Hutson ([Email](#)) - - Bob Haring's mention of the Little Rock connection to Wick

Temple got me thinking of the long list of prominent AP alums that small bureau has produced.

Topping the list is Keith Fuller, (right), the COB during the 1957 Little Rock integration crisis, and later AP president from 1976 to 1985. AP's Relman Morin won the Pulitzer for his coverage of the Central High situation on Fuller's watch.



Wick, of course, is another distinguished alum, along with Haring, who became a bureau chief and New York executive before moving to the Tulsa World as executive editor.

More recently, Ron Fournier was plucked by the Little Rock AP from the Arkansas Democrat. He covered Bill Clinton's last years in Arkansas and then President Clinton's early years in Washington. Fournier later became Washington AP bureau chief and is now senior political columnist and editorial director of the National Journal.

When I started in 1972, Little Rock had six staffers plus COB John Robert Starr. Four of the six would move on to manage bureaus: Robert Shaw, Oklahoma City, Indianapolis and Little Rock; Bill Simmons, Little Rock, and me, Oklahoma City. Tom Yates became UPI bureau manager in Little Rock. Harry King, then LR sports editor, would later spend many years as news editor.

Tom Dygard started in Little Rock and later worked in AP bureaus in Detroit, Birmingham and New Orleans. He later was COB in Little Rock, Indianapolis, Chicago and Tokyo. Tom, who retired in 1993, died in 1996 and the author of several children's books.

Dygard, as Chicago COB, brought Bob Zimmer from the Little Rock bureau and made him correspondent in Champaign. Bob had been LR broadcast editor and, as correspondent in downstate Illinois, became the AP's farm writer.

Larry McDermott went thru LR as a temporary staffer and later was Little Rock bureau chief. He was an assistant to Lou Boccardi before becoming a publisher.

Two other alums who would become COBs were Dorothy Abernathy, in Richmond, and Kristin Gazlay, who was Little Rock COB before moving on to New York headquarters. Rob Dalton was briefly Little Rock COB before becoming an executive with AP broadcast in New York and later Washington.

Connecting Chief Paul Stevens has a Little Rock connection, through his military service. He worked with Zimmer at Little Rock AFB before each joined the AP. He had another as Kansas City bureau chief, hiring two LR newsmen, Scott Charton and David Lieb, successively for Jefferson City statehouse correspondent. Lieb continues in that job.

Marc Wilson passed through LR on his way to Chicago and later Boise correspondent and Dallas assistant COB.

Linda Franklin, who did such great work as news editor in Oklahoma City and later in Dallas, started in Little Rock. Linda, like Wick, Tom Yates and me, also came to AP from the Texarkana Gazette.

Texarkana was my first job after the Army in Europe. Wick by then was COB in Seattle, and very much revered in Texarkana.

J.Q. Mahaffey, mentioned earlier in the Wick tribute, had retired from the Gazette as executive editor. When I told him I was thinking about AP, he offered to contact Wick and put in a good word for me.

But Starr, the LR COB, had told me that if I would park somewhere he would hire me as soon he had an opening. He made good on his promise in September 1972. I've always been proud to say I was hired by Starr. He was quirky but he was a hard-charging newsman who didn't take 'no comment' for an answer. I learned a lot.

Starr was hired by Fuller in 1957 after writing sports for the Memphis Commercial Appeal and founding the Pine Bluff Star-Reporter.

He worked for AP 19 years, including 10 as bureau chief.

Starr left AP in 1976 and eventually became executive editor of the Arkansas Democrat.

There, he helped Publisher Walter Hussman launch a newspaper war with the state's premier newspaper, the Arkansas Gazette, the oldest continuously published newspaper west of the Mississippi.

In May 1979, Starr posed for the cover of the weekly Arkansas Times. It is a classic: Starr sits atop a Gazette newspaper rack with a helmet on his head and a knife clenched between his teeth. (Photo at right is a tame version.)

The war ended with Hussman buying the Gazette in 1991 and folding it into the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, which continues.



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### ***Why did judges pick this photo?***

**Michael Feldman** ([Email](#)) - I believe it was Supreme Court Justice Steward Potter who said he did not know what is pornography until I see it. I feel the same about bad pictures.

Why did these WWP judges pick this photo of a couple having sex? It's not the porn



nature, it is just a bad picture. Am I so old school that I reject anything that is not hard news? I have shot and picked a lot of pictures for UPI, Reuters and AP that were in print. I ran the international photo operation for AP in London and NY, and I thought I had some idea what photojournalism is. How can this image get through the process? Time to re-look at what is photojournalism, these contest and who judges them. A glad to be retired - liver disease or not

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## ***Funny Money***

**George Zucker** ([Email](#)) - When I headed the AP bureau in Baltimore in the early 1970s, I envied sports editor Gordon Beard. He was paid to watch the Colts and Orioles at the top of their games.

For two weeks prior to the Preakness, the second leg of racing's triple crown, Beard got to spend most afternoons at Pimlico Race Track writing pre-race features. One day in 1972 he called me from the track press box. "Hey boss," he said. "I just won a \$740 exacta!"

After I congratulated him, he added: "And you know what's funny? I'm on overtime!"

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## ***Why the delay by AP in setting record straight?***

**Marc Humbert** ([Email](#)) - I was a bit surprised that today's (Friday's) Connecting didn't have any reaction to the Connecting report from Thursday on the Columbus Dispatch story on the AP, after four months of apparent stonewalling, finally setting the record somewhat straight concerning the AP interview with Gov. John Kasich and the Affordable Care Act/Medicaid dispute.

I found the development disturbing on a number of levels. First, why did it take the AP so long to set the record straight? Didn't the reporter's supervisors review the transcript or the tape of the interview immediately when objections from the Kasich camp were raised? Didn't AP-New York do the same?

And, when the Dispatch asked for the complete transcript of the interview, why was it rebuffed by the AP?

This appears to be yet another black eye for the AP, and for the news media in general. And, it would seem to provide yet more ammunition for those who would portray the news media, and the AP, as anti-conservative.

Does a liberal bias exist within parts of the AP and the news media in general? Of course, it does. Just as there exists a conservative bias within parts of the AP and the news media in general. But incidents like this make it hard for those in the business of trying to get it right - for those trying to provide readers, viewers and listeners with the accurate

information they need to be responsible members of a democracy.

One of the rules I always tried to have reporters I worked with follow was to make sure you have a good tape recorder, and have it on, when going into an interview, especially with politicians. And, if you think you have big, breaking news, check back with the subject to make sure you are not misinterpreting what was said. If they have a different take on what was said, you can always report exactly what was said and offer up the possibility that such statements could be interpreted in different ways.

There may, of course, be more to the Ohio story than what I read in Connecting. If so, I think our readership deserves a fuller explanation. I hope the AP has one.

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### ***Find your own damned clichés!***

**Walter Mears** ([Email](#)) - Noting the mention of cliches, I remember a survey by APSE to member sports editors, the idea of which was to spot and end cliches. The survey asked editors to report the cliches they saw most often.

One of them answered that APSE could find its own damned cliches, as he wasn't sharing his.

## **Connecting wishes Happy Birthday**



To

**Gary Clark** ([Email](#))

**Michael Giarrusso** ([Email](#))

**Myron Belkind** ([Email](#))

# Welcome to Connecting



## David Morris ([Email](#))

Since leaving the Washington Bureau as director of elections at the end of 1999, I've been the senior White House correspondent for Bloomberg News, executive editor of National Journal's CongressDaily and, now, deputy managing editor for The Kiplinger Letter. I still do exit poll work, which I started at the AP, as a consultant for ABC News. But my real joy is music. I write about roots music for Bluegrass Today ([bluegrasstoday.com](http://bluegrasstoday.com)), play the upright bass and write bluegrass songs. One of my songs, "The Tenth Day of September," was included in a short film, "Herschel Sizemore: Mandolin in B." That song, about Sept. 11, has special meaning because I was with President Bush in Sarasota, Fla., that day.. Another song, "Weeds (Where The Flowers of Love Once Grew)," is on the new album by Adkins & Loudermilk, which comes out March 17. Three other songs that I've written or co-written are on albums that will come out later this year or early in 2016. (David pictured with Roni Stoneman, of Hee Haw fame.



## Stories of interest

### [Paraguayan Journalist Shot to Death Along Brazil Border](#)

A Paraguayan radio journalist has been shot to death in a Brazilian city bordering a crime-ridden area that is a hotbed for drugs and arms smuggling, officials said Friday.

Gerardo Servian worked for a local radio station near the city of Pedro Juan Caballero. He was shot nine times on a street in Ponta Pora by unidentified gunmen who escaped in a motorcycle, police chief Walter Vazquez said.



The victim's brother Francisco said Servian had never received death threats and he had recently moved to Ponta Pora because his daughters attend a school in the Brazilian city. But "in this area of the country it's normal to silence journalists with gunshots," added the brother, who is also a journalist.

Four other journalists have been killed since the start of last year while working along the porous and crime-ridden northern border with Brazil.

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### **NBC Brings Back Andrew Lack to Lead Its News Division** (Shared by Sibby Christensen)

NBC Universal reached into its past to chart a new path forward on Friday, hiring Andrew Lack to lead its news division after a series of missteps that culminated with the suspension of Brian Williams last month.

The arrival of Mr. Lack, who was president of NBC News from 1993 until 2001, represents the largest step in a broad restructuring of the news operation. Mr. Lack, 67, will oversee NBC News and MSNBC but not CNBC, Steve Burke, chief executive of NBCUniversal, said in a memo to employees. He starts in April.

Pat Fili-Krushel, the chairwoman of NBCUniversal News Group, will move into a yet-to-be-determined corporate role on Mr. Burke's executive team.

On his return, Andrew Lack will oversee NBC News and MSNBC, but not CNBC.

Mr. Lack faces a daunting to-do list at a news division buffeted by turmoil. At the very top is helping Mr. Burke determine the fate of Mr. Williams, who was suspended for six months without pay after his admission that he had embellished an account of his role in a helicopter episode in Iraq in 2003. An internal review of Mr. Williams and his reporting is still in progress. Investigators told executives earlier this week that they needed a few more weeks to look into the matter, according to a person with knowledge of the inquiry.

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### **Lessons on Second Chances from My Brother, David Carr**

Even in Washington there are things more important than politics. There are losses more profound than an election defeat or the failure of a piece of legislation. When we lose someone who reminds us of what is important and what is not, there are lessons for personal, public and religious life. For me, and apparently many others, my youngest brother, David Carr, was such a person.

On Feb. 12 I got a stunning call that David had collapsed and died at the age of 58 in the newsroom of The New York Times, where he served as a media columnist. As I tried to reach our family, the terrible news was already on our phone and TV screens. I was horrified. But minutes later, we saw the beginning of an outpouring of memories and

reflections on the Internet, in the media and later at his wake and funeral.

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## **Toledo Blade gets \$18,000 from government for deleted photos**

In what was seen as a victory for First Amendment rights, the U.S. government agreed Thursday to pay The Blade \$18,000 for seizing the cameras of a photographer and deleting photographs taken outside the Lima tank plant last year.

In turn, The Blade agreed to dismiss the lawsuit it filed April 4 in U.S. District Court on behalf of photographer Jetta Fraser and reporter Tyrel Linkhorn against Charles T. Hagel, then the U.S. Secretary of Defense; Lt. Col. Matthew Hodge, commandant of the Joint Systems Manufacturing Center, and the military police officers involved in the March 28, 2014, incident.

Fritz Byers, attorney for The Blade, said the settlement was made under the First Amendment Privacy Protection Act, which prohibits the government, in connection with the investigation of a criminal offense, from searching or seizing any work product materials possessed by a journalist.

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## **What will happen to the Tampa Bay Times?**



THEY ARE BARELY NOTICEABLE ON THE CREAM-COLORED WALL of the seventh floor executive suite at the Tampa Bay Times: nine simple wood-framed announcements signed by the president of Columbia University and one emblem, lined up in two modest rows- Pulitzer Prizes, the brass rings of journalism. The newspaper, still widely known outside Florida as the St. Petersburg Times, its name until a 2012 rebranding, has scooped up four of those 10 Pulitzers in the past six years, and been a finalist five more times in that span.

The Times is a venerable newspaper with an ownership structure that guarantees its independence, a liberal voice on Florida's conservative west coast, a writer's paper where great reporters both stayed and made careers or left and jumped directly to the top of the journalistic pecking order. If Pulitzers are the measure, it is enjoying the most accomplished run in its history. And it achieved all this from a hometown best known for

old folks, shuffleboard, and sunshine.

But the Times, Florida's largest newspaper, has been in financial free fall for those same six years. From a peak of 406 full-time news personnel in 2006, it now has half that. Across all divisions, about 200 full-time employees left last year alone. Regional sections now appear once a week, not every day; pay cuts have been instituted, retiree health benefits were eliminated, and severance pay has shriveled. And it is still fighting what may be the longest ongoing newspaper battle in the country, a nearly three-decade war of attrition with The Tampa Tribune that it literally cannot afford to lose.

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### **Climate change: why the Guardian is putting threat to Earth front and centre** (Shared by Charlie Hanley)

Journalism tends to be a rear-view mirror. We prefer to deal with what has happened, not what lies ahead. We favour what is exceptional and in full view over what is ordinary and hidden.



Famously, as a tribe, we are more interested in the man who bites a dog than the other way round. But even when a dog does plant its teeth in a man, there is at least something new to report, even if it is not very remarkable or important.

There may be other extraordinary and significant things happening - but they may be occurring too slowly or invisibly for the impatient tick-tock of the newsroom or to snatch the attention of a harassed reader on the way to work.

What is even more complex: there may be things that have yet to happen - stuff that cannot even be described as news on the grounds that news is stuff that has already happened. If it is not yet news - if it is in the realm of prediction, speculation and uncertainty - it is difficult for a news editor to cope with. Not her job.

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### **So long again, Chicago Daily News**

## Final edition



On March 4, 1978, the presses fell silent for the last time at the Chicago Daily News, an iconic and crusading newspaper that was unable to adapt to changing times. The following article, which originally appeared here in 2005, is reprinted as a reminder of what happens when a paper runs out of readers, revenues and ideas.

"It's fun being the publisher when things are going well," squeaked the young man who stumbled awkwardly to the top of a battered desk in the unusually silent newsroom of the Chicago Daily News. "But it's no fun today."

Swallowing a nervous giggle, Marshall Field V cleared his throat and read the assembled staff the short, typewritten death warrant of one of the most distinguished newspapers in American history.

An agonizing month later, on March 4, 1978, the Daily News signed off with the jaunty banner, "So long, Chicago."

## The Final Word

### *3 reasons Apple's watch will - or won't - change the game*



SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - No one can argue that Apple has changed the way people live their lives. The company's iPod, iTunes, iPhone and iPad have shaken up music, phone and computer markets worldwide. Is the Apple Watch going to be able to do the same?

The stakes are big for Apple CEO Tim Cook: the watch is the first brand-new Apple product to be launched without legendary co-founder Steve Jobs. But the market is awash in smartwatches that have gained little traction. Here are three reasons the Apple Watch will finally move the needle in the smartwatch industry - and three reasons it might not.

#### WHY IT WILL CHANGE THE GAME

Click [here](#) to read more. (Shared by Mark Mittelstadt)

## Today in History

### By The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, March 7, the 66th day of 2015. There are 299 days left in the year.

#### Today's Highlight in History:

On March 7, 1965, a march by civil rights demonstrators was violently broken up at the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, by state troopers and a sheriff's posse in what came to be known as "Bloody Sunday."

On this date:

In 1793, during the French Revolutionary Wars, France declared war on Spain.

In 1850, in a three-hour speech to the U.S. Senate, Daniel Webster of Massachusetts endorsed the Compromise of 1850 as a means of preserving the Union.

In 1876, Alexander Graham Bell received a patent for his telephone.

In 1912, Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen arrived in Hobart, Australia, where he dispatched telegrams announcing his success in leading the first expedition to the South Pole the previous December.

In 1926, the first successful trans-Atlantic radio-telephone conversations took place between New York and London.

In 1936, Adolf Hitler ordered his troops to march into the Rhineland, thereby breaking the Treaty of Versailles (veh-ry-SY') and the Locarno Pact.

In 1945, during World War II, U.S. forces crossed the Rhine at Remagen, Germany, using the damaged but still usable Ludendorff Bridge.

In 1955, the first TV production of the musical "Peter Pan" starring Mary Martin aired on



NBC.

In 1975, the U.S. Senate revised its filibuster rule, allowing 60 senators to limit debate in most cases, instead of the previously required two-thirds of senators present.

In 1983, the original version of The Nashville Network (now Spike) made its debut.

In 1994, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled that a parody that pokes fun at an original work can be considered "fair use." (The ruling concerned a parody of the Roy Orbison song "Oh, Pretty Woman" by the rap group 2 Live Crew.)

In 1999, movie director Stanley Kubrick, whose films included "Dr. Strangelove," "A Clockwork Orange" and "2001: A Space Odyssey," died in Hertfordshire, England, at age 70, having just finished editing "Eyes Wide Shut."

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush nominated John Bolton to be U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, an appointment which ran into Democratic opposition, prompting Bush to make a recess appointment. The presidents of Syria and Lebanon announced that Syrian forces would pull back to Lebanon's eastern Bekaa Valley by March 31, but that a complete troop withdrawal would be deferred until after later negotiations. A prison fire in the Dominican Republic killed 134 inmates.

Five years ago: The Iraq war thriller "The Hurt Locker" received six Academy Awards including best picture, with Kathryn Bigelow accepting the first directing Oscar awarded to a woman. Iraq held an election in which neither the Sunni-backed coalition nor the Shiite political bloc won a majority, spawning an eight-month deadlock and stalling formation of a new government.

One year ago: Russia was swept up in patriotic fervor in anticipation of bringing Crimea back into its territory, with tens of thousands of people thronging Red Square in Moscow chanting, "Crimea is Russia!"

Today's Birthdays: Photographer Lord Snowdon is 85. TV personality Willard Scott is 81. International Motorsports Hall of Famer Janet Guthrie is 77. Actor Daniel J. Travanti is 75. Entertainment executive Michael Eisner is 73. Rock musician Chris White (The Zombies) is 72. Actor John Heard is 69. Rock singer Peter Wolf is 69. Rock musician Matthew Fisher (Procol Harum) is 69. Pro Football Hall-of-Famer Franco Harris is 65. Pro and College Football Hall-of-Famer Lynn Swann is 63. Rhythm-and-blues singer-musician Ernie Isley (The Isley Brothers) is 63. Actor Bryan Cranston is 59. Actress Donna Murphy is 56. Actor Nick Searcy is 56. Golfer Tom Lehman is 56. International Tennis Hall-of-Famer Ivan Lendl is 55. Actress Mary Beth Evans is 54. Singer-actress Taylor Dayne is 53. Actor Bill Brochtrup is 52. Opera singer Denyce Graves is 51. Comedian Wanda Sykes is 51. Actor Jonathan Del Arco is 49. Rock musician Randy Guss (Toad the Wet Sprocket) is 48. Actor Peter Sarsgaard is 44. Actress Rachel Weisz (wys) is 44. Classical singer Sebastien Izambard (Il Divo) is 42. Rock singer Hugo Ferreira (Tantric) is 41. Actress Jenna Fischer is 41. Actress Sarayu Rao is 40. Actress Audrey Marie Anderson is 40. Actor TJ Thyne is 40. Actress Laura Prepon is 35.

***Thought for Today: "History and experience tells us that moral progress cannot come in***

***comfortable and in complacent times, but out of trial and out of confusion." - Gerald R. Ford, 38th President of the United States (1913-2006).***

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