

## Connecting - May 18, 2015

1 message

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Mon, May 18, 2015 at 9:13 AM

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# Connecting

May 18, 2015

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning - here's to a great week ahead!

Kurt Rossi shares that a "Celebration of Life" for AP's **Jim Gaines**, who was killed in the Amtrak crash in Philadelphia last week, will be held from 4-8 p.m. on May 28 at the Princeton Marriott at Forrestal, 1100 College Road East, Gratella Room, in Princeton, New Jersey.

What's in your get-away kit?

Ye Olde Connecting Editor's mention in Saturday's edition of the emergency travel bag kept by George Esper prompted several responses, and if you'd like to contribute your own thoughts, send them my way.

Paul

# What's in your get-away kit?



**Harry Cabluck** - Re unusual items for use on road assignments: It was always best to have handy a bottle of spirits, a big bill and a handful of AP lapel pins to help get things done.

Otherwise, if you need space filler for "Connecting," here's a list of stuff that probably everyone has carried at some time:

Even now, packed in the trunk of my car are some items that were standard for a photographer based in Pittsburgh or Columbus. The hard-hat, shovel and tire chains are gone. Items are arranged in an old Speed Graphic carrying case... Dayglow orange vest, roll baling wire, road flare Fuzees, flashlight, spare fuel filter, bug spray, first-aid kit, sunscreen, tool kit, automobile lock-picking tools, rain gear, maps for too many locations, spare bulbs and fuses for car.

During the black and white analog days of photography some had a lightweight portable kit, crammed into a case about the size of one for roller skates. Mainly for use when dashing into an unfamiliar darkroom.

1. Four stainless Nikor reels, inside a one quart developing tank, inside a homemade cylindrical PVC tank, with thermometer. Hand-held hair dryer.
2. Quart of premixed D-76 film developer.

3. Package dry mix Dektol paper developer.
4. Quart concentrate Kodak Rapid Liquid fix.
5. Some 30 sheets enlarging paper in various grades. (Paul Vathis' suggestion).
6. AP enlarging easel. Film editing loupe.
7. Caption paper.
8. Substitute for 105A coupling coil and cut-key with attached alligator clips. (Thanks, again, and again, to communications wizard Dave Fisher).

Those larger cases that we lugged around carried complete darkroom and writing accoutrement because it was unusual to find a photo supplier near breaking stories.

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**Randy Evans** - Your account of George Esper's get-away bag reminded me of similar advice I received as a wet-behind-the-ears from Jack Hovelson, the legendary Des Moines Register bureau reporter in Waterloo. I was being dispatched by the Register to man the newspaper's Quad Cities news bureau.

This was 1976. By the time I traded in my car about six years later, let's say that clothing styles (and my clothing tastes) had changed significantly. I'm grateful I didn't have any need to wear those double-knit pants that were so loud they could have violated the noise ordinance.

I call Hovelson legendary, and one story proves that. In 1978, the AP moved a story out of Chicago that a man named John Wayne Gacy had been arrested in the western suburbs and was suspected in the disappearance of dozens of young men.

The Register city desk called Hovelson because the AP story said Gacy had served time in an Iowa prison after being convicted on sex abuse charges in Waterloo years before. The city desk wanted Hovelson to put together a sidebar on Gacy's Iowa connection.

"Hold on," he told the desk.

After pulling out a file, the compulsive clip-filer got back on the phone a few minutes later with information about Gacy's time in Waterloo, including his work as manager of three KFC restaurants, his involvement in the local Jaycees organization and details about the criminal charges that landed him in the Iowa prison. Hovelson even had a copy of Gacy's Iowa indictment in his files.

-- *Randy Evans, Des Moines, retired assistant managing editor and opinion editor of the Des Moines Register.*

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**Larry Hamlin** - Interesting choice of stuff to have on hand if stranded on a deserted island. Really, all one needs is a deck of playing cards. Just start playing solitaire and within 5 minutes someone will be looking over your shoulder telling you to play the red nine on the black ten.....

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**Gene Herrick** - George Esper's story about keeping emergency stuff in his car trunk, reminded me of my days working out of the Minneapolis bureau in the 1960's. My territory covered Minnesota, North western Wisconsin, a tip of upper Michigan, North and South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, and all of Canada above me. For those who may not know, this is the "Icebox" area of the upper USA.



Every August I would pack a survival kit and keep in my car trunk. The box contained a big box of chocolate bars, cans of nuts, cans of sardines, packages of crackers, aspirin, some first-aid stuff, a nice big bottle of good bourbon whisky, and lots of foul weather gear. In the trunk, I also placed a bamboo fishing pole (the one which is hollow inside). One would ask why a fishing pole. Well, if I should get stuck in a blizzard, and car and me covered in snow, I could put together the hollow fishing pole, stick it out of the window, and up into fresh air. It's called survival. Often in the spring, car would be found containing people dead from hunger, lack of air, etc.

Did I ever use the trunk stuff. Yes, a couple of times when on assignment in far out places, but not in a blizzard. Ah, life in the wilderness!

## Connecting mailbox

### *Bill Vogrin honored for column*



The Society of Professional Journalists awarded former AP correspondent **Bill Vogrin** first place in the news columnist division of the Top of the Rockies contest for 2014. The competition includes journalists in Colorado, Wyoming, Utah and New Mexico.

Vogrin joined The Gazette of Colorado Springs in 1994 after 13 years with The AP in Kansas City, Topeka, Kan. and Peoria, Ill. Vogrin was city editor at The Gazette before starting his Side Streets metro column in 2002, which he writes three days a week.

He won for a column on a homeless man, Joe Rivera. The judges said: "Detailed reporting and personal recollections paint a heartbreaking picture of Rivera's life and decline. It's not often reporters take this kind of care in a story about someone whose death might otherwise have gone unnoticed. The details paint a picture of other people with substance abuse and mental health issues."

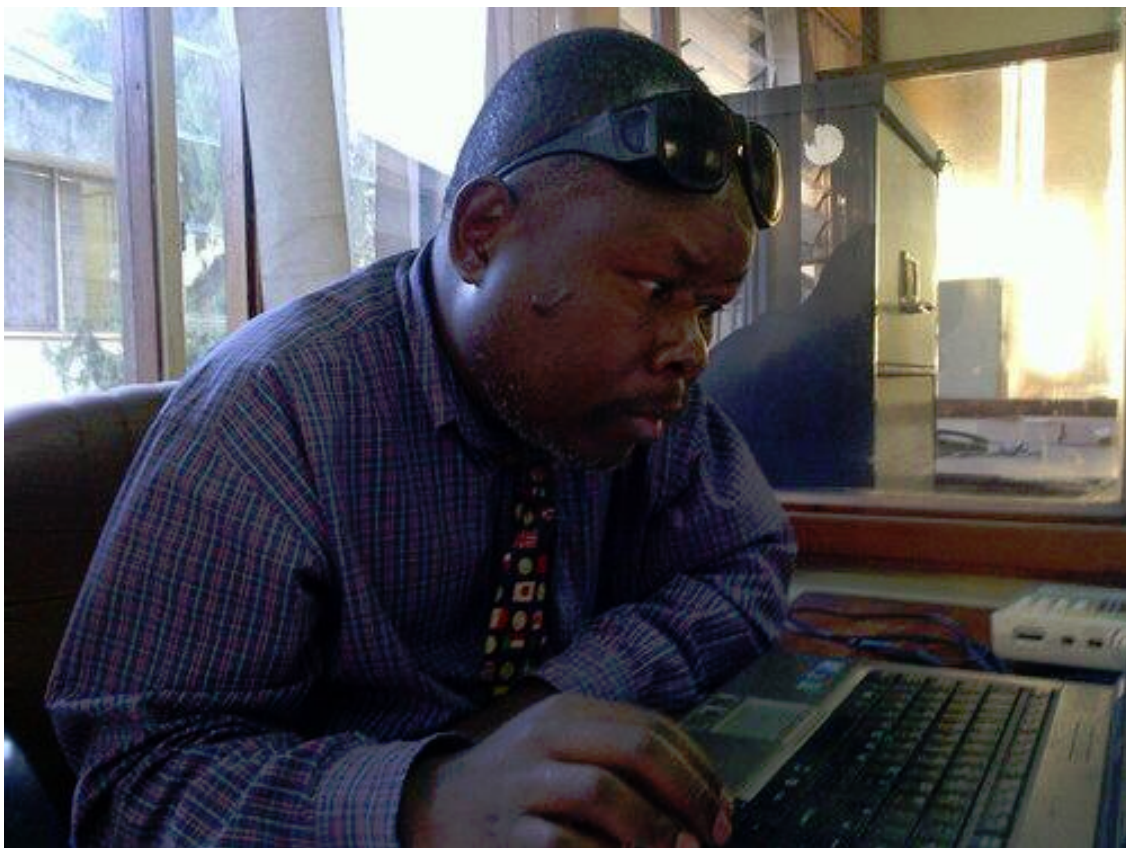
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## ***'Kill Chain' worth downloading***

**Robert Weller** - It was particularly timely to read about the dissing of the Hersh story on the same day that we had yet another example of the failed "Kingpin" strategy. Another ISIS leader was killed, who will be replaced by a younger, more aggressive man with fewer inhibitions, seeking revenge.

The "Kill Chain" by Andrew Cockburn is well worth downloading. Hopefully we will not find out in a few days that ISIS was involved in the Amtrak derailment in Philly.

## **Raphael Kinn Tenthani killed in car crash: BBC, AP correspondent in Malawi**



Respected journalist and influential columnist Raphael Kinn Tenthani was killed Saturday night in a car crash at Kamwamba, Zalewa Road.

Details were sketchy but an eye witness Tiya Somba Banda, a Super League of Malawi treasurer general said it was "terrible" accident.

Tenthani's body was taken to Mlambe Hospital mortuary in Blantyre and later transferred to College of Medicien.

His two children who survived the accident are at Queens Elizabeth central hospital receiving treatment.

He was a freelance journalist , a BBC correspondent and well known for his popular column, "The Muckraking" which appeared on Nyasa Times, Sunday Times and was also well known for providing political analysis on topical issues.

Tenthani was also a correspondent for Associated Press Pan African News Agency, the Maravi Post and Nyasa Times.

He was named by Malawi's flagship online news Nyasa Times as its 'person of the year' for 2014 (<http://www.nyasatimes.com/2014/12/31/nyasa-times-person-of-the-year-goes-to-malawi-media-and-tenthani>)

Tenthani was also Best Columnist, MISA Malawi Awards - 2012, for Daily Times and UN Media Award 2010, for Associated Press Millennium Development Goals (MDG) correspondence.

**John Daniszewski**, vice president for AP's International news, called his death "a sad loss for us and his colleagues because of his contribution to journalism in Malawi."

Former AP South Africa correspondent **Donna Bryson** said he was "a dear colleague who was dedicated to the proposition that good journalism keeps important conversations going - and keeps the feet of politicians to the fire. And, he knew this job is a lot of fun. He absolutely reveled in the chase for stories."

And from **BBC Africa** - "We've learned with great shock and sadness that our long serving Malawi Correspondent Raphael Tenthani has died. He passed away last night in a motor accident. His two sons and a cousin who were with him in the vehicle survived the accident. Raphael was a brilliant writer and journalist and reported not just for the BBC, but for the Associated Press as well. He was also a popular newspaper columnist at home. He will be greatly missed by the team here @BBCAfrica. RIP Ralph!!!

Human rights campaigner at Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitations (CHRR) Makhumbo R Munthali said Tenthani's death is "great blow" not only to the media fraternity but also to the entire democratic governance realm.

" He was an activist in and out, a true patriot that exposed the gaffes of our collapsing public service without fear and favour. He will be remembered as one of the fiercest

columnist who called a spade a spade - a scenario that often landed him in bad books with those in authority," Munthali told Nyasa Times.

Tenthani has been the subject of controversy for his candid reporting on political issues.

Click [here](#) for a link to this story.

## Latest issue of APME News available for download

Click [here](#) for the May 2015 issue of APME News.

### Connecting '80s/'90s/100 Club'

Joseph Benham and Richard Pyle are the newest "admissions" to the Connecting 80s Club. Our clubs for those in their 80s and up are reserved for a precious fortunate few. So if you have earned your stripes by qualifying for one of those age plateaus and you are not listed below, send a note to Ye Olde Connecting Editor.

Any ideas on further proper recognition of our Connecting clubs are welcomed.

Members "admitted" to date:

**Mercer Bailey** ([Email](#)) - 88  
**Joseph Benham** ([Email](#)) - 81  
**Sibby Christensen** ([Email](#)) - 80  
**Otto Doelling** - 81 ([Email](#))  
**Phil Dopoulos** ([Email](#)) - 83  
**Mike Feinsilber** ([Email](#)) - 80  
**Lew Ferguson** ([Email](#)) - 81  
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**George Hanna** ([Email](#)) - 85  
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100s

Max Desfor - 101

## Stories of interest

### ABC Colleague: George Stephanopoulos 'Really Isn't a Journalist' (Daily Beast)

If ABC's chief anchor thought two apologies over his undeclared Clinton Foundation donations would be enough to pacify his critics, he was wrong.

It has been a rough weekend for ABC News's embattled chief anchor, George Stephanopoulos, and an even worse Sunday.

On CNN's Reliable Sources media criticism program, Stephanopoulos's former ABC News colleague, Carole Simpson, unloaded on the former top aide to Bill and Hillary Clinton that she said she likes and respects.



"There is a coziness that George cannot escape," said Simpson, who toiled for two decades at ABC News, notably as the weekend anchor of World News Tonight from 1988 to 2003.

"While he did try to separate himself from his political background to become a journalist, he really isn't a journalist."

Click [here](#) to read more.

AND

### George Stephanopoulos and the Line Between News and Entertainment

(New York Times)

First Brian Williams and now George Stephanopoulos. Credibility, or in this case, incredibility, is the Dutch elm disease of network anchors - once it spreads, it's ferociously damaging and hard to stop.



For baffling reasons, Mr. Williams fibbed about his war zone derring-do. Mr. Stephanopoulos, a top strategist in Bill Clinton's first presidential campaign and administration before he joined ABC News, failed to let his viewers know that he had donated \$75,000 to the Clinton Foundation. On "Good Morning America" on Friday, he called it a mistake. The admission has resulted in some Republicans claiming bias for Hillary Clinton.

It's the kind of dumb, inexplicable blunder that is enabled by the very job that makes it toxic.

There is a fundamental incongruity between being a celebrity and a trusted news anchor. Stars of that magnitude live in a bubble where ordinary rules don't apply; big-name journalists who sometimes have to confront politicians on camera can't afford to exist in that same space.

Click [here](#) to read more.

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### **Clinton Foundation donors include dozens of media organizations, individuals** (Politico)



NBC Universal, News Corporation, Turner Broadcasting and Thomson Reuters are among more than a dozen media organizations that have made charitable contributions to the Clinton Foundation in recent years, the foundation's records show.

The donations, which range from the low-thousands to the millions, provide a picture of the media industry's ties to the Clinton Foundation at a time when one of its most notable personalities, George Stephanopoulos, is under scrutiny for not disclosing his own \$75,000 contribution when reporting on the foundation.

The list also includes mass media groups like Comcast, Time Warner and Viacom, as well a few notable individuals, including Carlos Slim, the Mexican telecom magnate and largest shareholder of The New York Times Company, and James Murdoch, the chief operating officer of 21st Century Fox. Both Slim and Murdoch have given between \$1 million to \$5 million, respectively.

Click [here](#) to read more.

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### **Ignored and Unreported, Muslim Cartoonists Are Poking Fun at ISIS**

(Newsweek)

Recently, an attack on a Muhammad cartoon contest held in Garland, Texas, was foiled by local police, leaving two gunmen dead.

The event was organized by Pamela Geller, a self-appointed "expert" on Islamic terrorism and jihad, who makes a lucrative living pandering Islamophobic clichés that many commentators have analogized to hate speech.



While a number of Geller's trenchant discourses on Islam have been taken up by writers, one of her statements declaring that Judeo-Christian culture is superior to Islam because "Islam does not allow humor" appears to have fallen on deaf ears.

Click [here](#) to read more.

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### **Why almost no one's covering the war in Yemen** (Columbia Journalism Review)

CAIRO - More than 1,200 people have died since Saudi Arabia and its allies launched a military operation in Yemen in March, but the country has become so hard to access that news organizations are finding it almost impossible to cover the conflict. At the same time, a lack of electricity and poorly developed internet infrastructure are hampering the citizen journalism and online activism that have offered a window into other recent conflicts.

Yemen's political turmoil has gone underreported for years, but journalists say the current conflagration has made reporting on the country more difficult than at any other time in memory. There are vanishingly few foreign journalists in Yemen as a result of the violence on the ground, access restrictions, and wavering commitment on the part of international news organizations.

Yemeni journalists, meanwhile, face power outages for days at a time, the threat of food shortages, and the problem of finding sources in a polarized country where violence has hardened attitudes.

Click [here](#) to read more.

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### **Journalists are not terrorists** (Al Jazeera)

The U.S. National Security Agency placed an Al Jazeera journalist on a terrorist watch list on the basis of contacts he made with sources, according to an Intercept report published last week. The story should alarm the public about government threats to journalists and

misuses of raw intelligence data.

Ahmad Muaffaq Zaidan, Al Jazeera's Islamabad bureau chief, was identified as a member of both Al Qaeda and the Muslim Brotherhood by an NSA software program called Skynet that analyzes communication metadata such as phone contacts and location. On the basis of whom Zaidan telephoned, who called him and where the calls took place, Skynet labeled him a member of both organizations. The Intercept reported these findings on May 8 based on analysis of one of the numerous documents released by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden.

One of those documents, an NSA PowerPoint slide listing Zaidan's imagined affiliations, would be ridiculous if it weren't so serious. This is how America's intelligence apparatus with its massive funding, cutting-edge computers and armies of big-brained analysts identifies enemies of the state? Is it any wonder that so many civilians have been accidentally killed in drone attacks?

Click [here](#) to read more.

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## **Is It Time For Google To Rank News Content Behind Paywalls Better?**

(Searchengineland.com)

For years, Google has suppressed the ability for paid news content to rank well in its search results. It's time for that to change, given how Google doesn't suppress other types of paid content. The change may help people value news content more. It might also produce real revenues for news publishers, if they can come together on an "all access" subscription plan run through Google.

Many news publications have "paywalls," where people can't read content unless they have a paid subscription. Some of these are very strict, such as with The Times of London. If you don't pay, you don't get to read. Some are "leaky," such as with the New York Times. It allows people coming from Google or from social networks to read some or all content for free.

Strict paywalls pose a big problem for Google. The company has long said that searchers generally don't like being sent to sites that have paywalls. Searchers are used to the idea that they can read anything they click on from a Google search for free. If they hit a paywall, they get annoyed. Some of that annoyance blows back on Google. "Why did you send me to this place!"

Click [here](#) to read more.

# **Today in History - May 18, 2015**

**By The Associated Press**

Today is Monday, May 18, the 138th day of 2015. There are 227 days left in the year.

### **Today's Highlight in History:**

On May 18, 1980, the Mount St. Helens volcano in Washington state exploded, leaving 57 people dead or missing.

### **On this date:**

In 1642, the Canadian city of Montreal was founded by French colonists.

In 1765, about one-fourth of Montreal was destroyed by a fire.

In 1896, the Supreme Court, in *Plessy v. Ferguson*, endorsed "separate but equal" racial segregation, a concept renounced 58 years later in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*.

In 1910, Halley's Comet passed by earth, brushing it with its tail.

In 1926, evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson vanished while visiting a beach in Venice, California. (McPherson reappeared more than a month later, saying she'd escaped after being kidnapped and held for ransom.)

In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a measure creating the Tennessee Valley Authority.

In 1934, Congress approved, and President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed, the so-called "Lindbergh Act," providing for the death penalty in cases of interstate kidnapping.

In 1944, during World War II, Allied forces finally occupied Monte Cassino in Italy after a four-month struggle with Axis troops.

In 1953, Jacqueline Cochran became the first woman to break the sound barrier as she piloted a Canadair F-86 Sabre jet over Rogers Dry Lake, California.

In 1969, astronauts Eugene A. Cernan, Thomas P. Stafford and John W. Young blasted off aboard Apollo 10 on a mission to orbit the moon.

In 1973, Harvard law professor Archibald Cox was appointed Watergate special prosecutor by U.S. Attorney General Elliot Richardson.

In 1995, ballet dancer Alexander Godunov was found dead at his West Hollywood, California, home at age 45. Actress Elizabeth Montgomery, 62, died in Los Angeles.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush offered his unqualified support for Egypt's

political reform process as he received Prime Minister Ahmed Nazief (AHKH'-med ah-ZEEF') at the White House.

Five years ago: Grilled by skeptical lawmakers, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar acknowledged his agency had been lax in overseeing offshore drilling activities, and that might have contributed to the disastrous oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. A suicide bomber detonated his vehicle near a U.S. convoy in Afghanistan, killing 18 people, including six troops - five from the U.S., one from Canada. Following a 2009 party switch, Sen. Arlen Specter was defeated in Pennsylvania's Democratic primary, ending his re-election bid.

One year ago: AT&T Inc. agreed to buy satellite TV provider DirecTV for \$48.5 billion, or \$95 per share (completion of the deal is pending government approval). Singer Jerry Vale, 83, died in Palm Desert, California. Cinematographer Gordon Willis ("The Godfather," "Annie Hall" and "All the President's Men") died on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, at age 82.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Bill Macy is 93. Actress Priscilla Pointer is 91. Hall-of-Fame sportscaster Jack Whitaker is 91. Actor Robert Morse is 84. Actor Dwayne Hickman is 81. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Brooks Robinson is 78. Actress Candice Azzara is 74. Bluegrass singer-musician Rodney Dillard (The Dillards) is 73. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Reggie Jackson is 69. Country singer Joe Bonsall (The Oak Ridge Boys) is 67. Rock musician Rick Wakeman (Yes) is 66. Rock singer Mark Mothersbaugh (Devo) is 65. Actor James Stephens is 64. Country singer George Strait is 63. Rhythm-and-blues singer Butch Tavares (Tavares) is 62. Actor Chow Yun-Fat is 60. Rock singer-musician Page Hamilton is 55. Contemporary Christian musician Barry Graul (MercyMe) is 54. Contemporary Christian singer Michael Tait is 49. Singer-actress Martika is 46. Comedian-writer Tina Fey is 45. Rapper Special Ed is 41. Rock singer Jack Johnson is 40. Country singer David Nail is 36. Rhythm-and-blues singer Darryl Allen (Mista) is 35. Actor Matt Long is 35. Actor Allen Leech is 34. Christian-rock musician Kevin Huguley (Rush of Fools) is 33. Christian singer Francesca Battistelli is 30. Actor Spencer Breslin is 23.

***Thought for Today: "A conference is a gathering of people who singly can do nothing, but together can decide that nothing can be done." - Fred Allen, comedian (1894-1956).***

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