

truth purpose

private email

choices

undercover

disclosure

minimize harm

investigative ethics

confidential checks and balances

alternatives questions

credibility principles

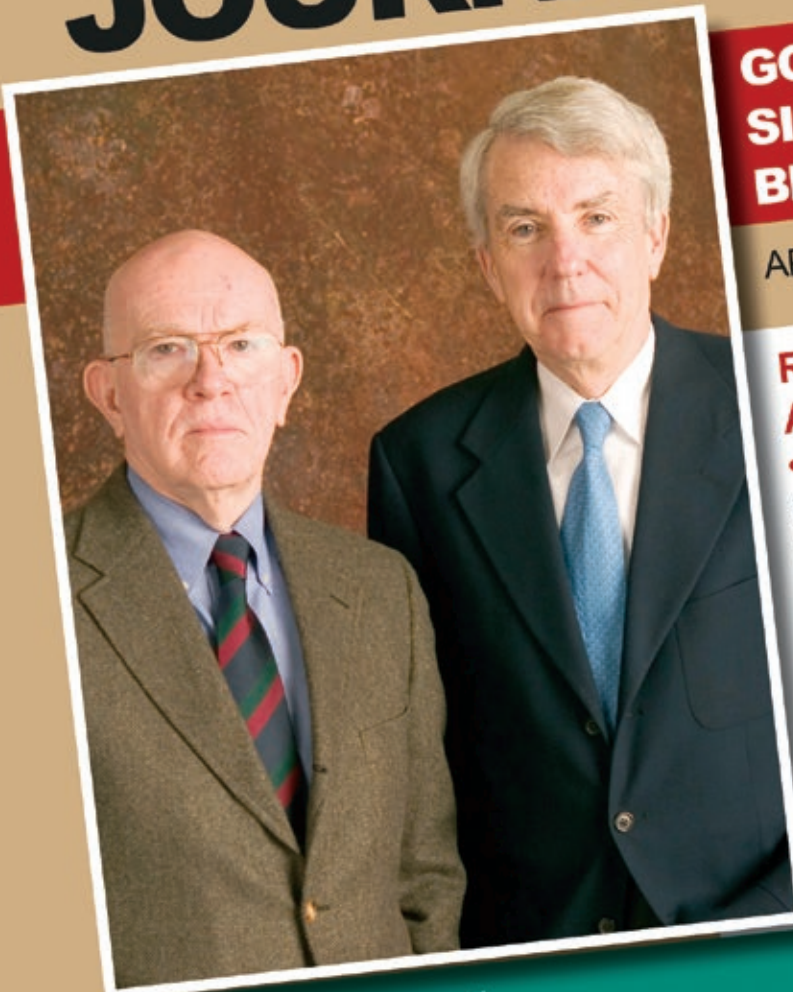
transparency

ENTER TODAY!

Entries must have been published online or in print in the year ending June 30, 2014.

BARLETT & STEELE AWARDS for **INVESTIGATIVE BUSINESS JOURNALISM**

Deadline: Aug. 1, 2014



GOLD AWARD: \$5,000
SILVER AWARD: \$2,000
BRONZE AWARD: \$1,000


APPLY AT **BUSINESSJOURNALISM.ORG**

REYNOLDS CENTER TRAINING AT IRE CONFERENCE

- 2-5 p.m. June 25: **Detecting Corporate Fraud** with **Roddy Boyd** of the Southern Investigative Reporting Foundation and convicted felon **Sam Antar**, formerly Crazy Eddie
- 9:40-10:40 a.m. June 27: 2013 Barlett & Steele Gold Award winner **Kendall Taggart** with the Center for Investigative Reporting

Register at BusinessJournalism.org

Visit our booth at IRE to enter a drawing for a mini-tablet!

 Donald W. Reynolds
**National Center
for Business Journalism**

Andrew Leckey, President
andrew.leckey@businessjournalism.org
602-496-9186

Reynolds Center's new online graduate certificate program includes
INVESTIGATIVE BUSINESS JOURNALISM: BIZJOURNALISM.ASU.EDU

TWITTER: @BIZJOURNALISM

FACEBOOK: BIZJOURNALISM

- 4 | **TURNOUT AT CONFERENCES REFLECTS INDUSTRY'S INTEREST IN WATCHDOG WORK**
By Mark Horvit
- 5 | **MEMBER NEWS**
- 6 | **BEHIND THE BRIDGE**
How thorough beat reporting led from a traffic jam to a major scandal
By Shawn Boburg, The Record
- 8 | **CHANGING THE LINEUP**
Sports departments need to do more watchdog
By Dwayne Bray, ESPN
- 10 | **IRE AWARD WINNERS**
- 33 | **COLLECTED WISDOM**
The Bureaucracy of a Bureau Chief
By Reginald Chua, Reuters
- 34 | **SNAPSHOTS FROM OUR BLOGS**

truth purpose
private email
choices undercover
disclosure minimize harm
investigative ethics
confidential checks and balances
alternatives questions
credibility principles
transparency

17 | **NEW VALUES IN JOURNALISM ETHICS**
Shrinking resources put duty on individual journalists
By Kelly McBride, The Poynter Institute

20 | **UNDERCOVER REPORTING: AN AMERICAN TRADITION**
The history and best practices of reporting undercover
By Brooke Kroeger, New York University

21 | **GETTING IT ON TAPE**
Tips for capturing video while working undercover
By Tisha Thompson, WRC-TV

24 | **LOOKING BEYOND OUTCOMES IN WEIGHING UNDERCOVER REPORTING**
By Stephanie Craft, University of Illinois

25 | **ETHICAL INFOGRAPHICS**
In data visualization, journalism meets engineering
By Alberto Cairo, University of Miami

28 | **FOI FILES**
Privacy, scraping and hacking: weighing the freedom of information
By David Cuillier, University of Arizona School of Journalism

30 | **IRE INTERNATIONAL**
Undercover in Africa: Exposing hidden criminal underworlds
By Anas Aremeyaw Anas, Ghana

32 | **IRE RESOURCES**

SPRING 2014

Volume 37 | Number 2

MANAGING EDITOR
Megan LutherART DIRECTOR
Erica Mendez BabcockCONTRIBUTING LEGAL EDITOR
Sam TerilliEDITORIAL ASSOCIATE
AND STORY EDITOR
Cameron Dodd**IRE**IRE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Mark HorvitBOARD OF DIRECTORS
PRESIDENT
David Cay Johnston
author/freelanceVICE PRESIDENT
Sarah Cohen
The New York TimesTREASURER
Andrew Donohue
The Center for Investigative ReportingSECRETARY
Ellen Gabler
Milwaukee Journal SentinelEXECUTIVE MEMBER
Mc Nelly Torres
NBC MiamiCHAIRMAN
Manny Garcia
Naples Daily NewsZiva Branstetter
Tulsa WorldRobert Cribb
The Toronto StarLeonard Downie Jr.
The Washington PostMatt Goldberg
NBC Bay AreaJosh Meyer
Northwestern UniversityT. Christian Miller
ProPublicaStuart Watson
WCNC-TV, Charlotte

Turnout at conferences reflects industry's interest in watchdog work

BY MARK HORVIT

As I write this, the entire IRE staff is in the midst of preparation for this year's IRE Conference. Every year at the conference the executive director gives an update on how things are going during the annual membership meeting. Let's just say that it's not the most well-attended event at the conference (and I'm being really generous). And that, combined with the fact that most members can't travel to the conference every year, means that most of you don't get an update on how your organization is doing and what we're up to.

So, I thought I'd take this opportunity to catch you up. Here are some current highlights and some things we're working on:

IRE membership has hovered at or above 5,000 for the past several months now. That's up significantly from where we were for much of the past decade, and I believe it's a testament to the importance that journalists and their news organizations place on providing better content and coverage. Also encouraging is that our student membership has grown, something the IRE Board made a priority.

Attendance at many of our events is also up. The recent Computer-Assisted Reporting Conference in Baltimore was the largest we've ever held, with almost 1,000 attendees from more than 20 nations. It's too soon to say how many of you will have joined us in San Francisco, but both San Antonio in 2013 and Boston in 2012 were among our largest conferences. We've also seen increased demand for our in-newsroom training and our hands-on data boot camps. And thanks to generous funders, we are offering a limited amount of free training for news organizations that otherwise couldn't afford to bring us in. We've filled all the available slots at the moment, but hope to offer more soon.

We're offering a growing amount of original content on our online home, www.ire.org. Among the cool new stuff you can find is more audio, with our newly launched IRE Radio. We're taking some of the hundreds of hours of audio we gather at regional workshops and national conferences, pulling out key tips and suggestions and making it easy for members to find, in addition to offering material newly recorded for the web. We're also doing more with video, including new Behind the Story segments. If you're interested in doing something for the site (audio, video or tried-but-true text), contact Sarah Hutchins at sarah@ire.org. As always, we're counting on members to make this work.

I also wanted to take a moment to share some of the encouraging signs we're seeing around the industry. Job postings continue to pop up on ire.org at a satisfyingly steady pace. Many of those doing the hiring are looking for data skills — a trend that's only grown over the past couple of years — but we're also seeing more news organizations that are seeking journalists with broader investigative reporting and editing skills. So while we've certainly continued to see a disturbing number of layoffs, plenty of news organizations are hiring journalists with the skills IRE and NICAR emphasize. If you're hunting for work (or just curious about your options), make frequent visits to ire.org/jobs.

And finally, if you're looking for motivation throughout the week, regularly check out our Extra blog. IRE members and other journalists are doing an amazing amount of stellar investigative and watchdog work every day, and it's inspiring and humbling to read and watch. If you're not submitting your own work, please do. Just send an email to extraextra@ire.org with a link and a sentence or two about the story.

Whether you attend the CAR or IRE conferences, one of our regional events or stay connected with us through the web, there are plenty of ways to be involved. I hope we hear from you soon.

Mark Horvit is executive director of IRE and the National Institute for Computer-Assisted Reporting. He can be reached at mhorvit@ire.org or 573-882-1984.

The IRE Journal (ISSN0164-7016) is published four times a year by Investigative Reporters & Editors, Inc., 141 Neff Annex, Missouri School of Journalism, Columbia, MO 65211, 573-882-2042. Email: megan@ire.org. U.S. subscriptions are \$70 for individuals, \$85 for libraries and \$125 for institutions/businesses. International subscriptions are \$90 for individuals and \$150 for all others. Periodical postage paid at Columbia, MO. Postmaster: Please send address changes to IRE. USPS#451-670

© 2014 Investigative Reporters & Editors, Inc.

IRE Members Honored with Pulitzer Prizes

Several members of Investigative Reporters and Editors were among journalists recognized in the 2014 Pulitzer Prizes. The Washington Post and The Guardian US won the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service for their work exposing secret surveillance by the National Security Agency. Several IRE members contributed to the reporting. **Chris Hamby** of The Center for Public Integrity won for Investigative Reporting for "his reports on how some lawyers and doctors rigged a system to deny benefits to coal miners stricken with black lung disease, resulting in remedial legislative efforts." **Will Hobson** and **Michael LaForgia** of the Tampa Bay Times won for Local Reporting for "their relentless investigation into the squalid conditions that marked housing for the city's substantial homeless population, leading to swift reforms." **David Philipps** of The Gazette (Colorado Springs, CO) won for National Reporting for "expanding the examination of how wounded combat veterans are mistreated, focusing on loss of benefits for life after discharge by the Army for minor offenses, stories augmented with digital tools and stirring congressional action."

Several IRE members were among Pulitzer Prize finalists as well. **Megan Twohey** of Reuters was a finalist for the prize in Investigative Reporting for her reporting on underground Internet child exchanges. **Phillip Reese** of The Sacramento Bee also was a finalist for the Investigative Reporting prize for his reporting on a Las Vegas mental hospital that dumped more than 1,500 psychiatric patients across the country over a span of five years. **Les Zaitz** of The Oregonian was a finalist in the Explanatory Reporting category for his narratives that showed how lethal Mexican drug cartels infiltrated Oregon and other regions of the country. **Todd South** was part of a team from the Chattanooga Times Free Press that was a finalist for the Local Reporting prize. South and his colleagues were recognized "for using an array of journalistic tools to explore the 'no-snitch' culture that helps perpetuate a cycle of violence in one of the most dangerous cities in the South." **John Emshwiller** and **Jeremy Singer-Vine** of The Wall Street Journal were finalists for National Reporting for "their reports and searchable database on the nation's often overlooked factories and research centers that once produced nuclear weapons and now pose contamination risks." Newsday was named as the sole finalist for the Public Service prize for their series on exposing "shootings, beatings and other concealed misconduct by some Long Island police officers." Several IRE members contributed to the reporting.

IRE Members Win 2014 Goldsmith Prize

Chris Hamby, **Ronnie Greene**, **Jim Morris** and **Chris Zubak-Skees** of The Center for Public Integrity and **Rhonda Schwartz** of ABC News won the Goldsmith Prize for Investigative Reporting for their collaboration "Breathless and Burdened: Dying from Black Lung, Buried by Law and Medicine." The Goldsmith prize honors investigative reporting that impacts public policy in the United States at a national, regional or local level. Several IRE members were finalists for the prize.

Peabody Award Winners Include IRE members

Several members of Investigative Reporters and Editors were named 2013 Peabody Award winners. **Sebastian Walker** of Al Jazeera America won for his participation in the "courageous investigation into an international health scandal," which resulted in "Fault Lines: Haiti in a time of Cholera." **Anjali Kamat** of Al Jazeera America was recognized as the correspondent for "Fault Lines: Made in Bangladesh," which uncovered how corporations like Wal-Mart keep prices low through human rights abuse. **Mark Fainaru-Wada** was honored as a reporter and writer for the Frontline documentary "League of Denial: the NFL's Concussion Crisis." The film was cited for its "dogged pursuit of evidence, meticulous argumentation, and willingness to take on the most powerful organization in professional sports." **Susannah Frame** and **Russ Walker** of KING - Seattle won for their roles in creating "Hanford's Dirty Secrets," a story about "the most dangerous nuclear dump in the United States." **Russell Goldenberg** was honored as the interactive developer for the team that created the "ingeniously constructed" interactive documentary website "Hollow." The site tells the story of the decline of McDowell County West Virginia. **Aarne Heikkila**, **Hannah Rappleye** and **Lisa Riordan Seville** were part of a team of reporters recognized for NBC's series of stories "In Plain Sight: Poverty in America." The Peabody Board described the coverage as a "coordinated effort to educate the public about this increasingly important, underreported topic." **Greg Phillips, Jr.**, **Manuel Torres**, **Tom Wright** and **Lee Zurik** of WVUE - New Orleans were recognized as part of the team

that produced "Louisiana Purchased," which the Peabody Board called "diligent" and an "unusually accessible expose of a state's labyrinthine campaign-finance system." **Bryan Staples**, **Phil Williams** and **Kevin Wisniewski** of WTVF - Nashville were among those who won an award for "NewsChannel 5 Investigates: Questions of Influence." The coverage was praised "for its deep, determined exploration of the realities of what Tennessee's governor called a "sea change" in the way the state was run." **Dwayne Bray**, **Chris Buckle**, **Mark Fainaru-Wada**, **Carolyn Hong** and **William Weinbaum** of ESPN won for their "candid, independent reporting" in "NFL at a Crossroads: Investigating a Health Crisis." **Agustin Armendariz**, **Aaron Glantz**, **Susanne Reber** and **Aaron Williams** of The Center for Investigative Reporting were honored for their contribution to "Reveal: The VA's Opiate Overload." Their investigation uncovered an increase in opiate prescriptions from Veterans Administration hospitals that led to an overdose rate among their patients that was more than twice the national average.

The 2014 Selden Ring Award Goes to IRE Members

IRE members **Ellen Gabler** and **Allan J. Vestal** of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel received the 2014 Selden Ring Award for Investigative Reporting. USC Annenberg recognized Gabler and Vestal, along with colleagues Mark Johnson, John Fauber and Kristyna Wentz-Graff, for their series "Deadly Delays," which investigated processing failures in newborn screening programs.

IRE Members Win 2013 Polk Awards

The winners of the 2013 George Polk Awards in Journalism included 13 IRE members. The awards honor special achievement in journalism, particularly in the areas of investigative and enterprise reporting. The following IRE members were among this year's 30 recipients of awards given in 13 categories. **Glenn Greenwald** won one of three awards given for National Security Reporting for his article for The Guardian about the collection of Americans' phone records by the National Security Agency, based on documents leaked by Edward Snowden. **Laura Poitras** also was recognized, along with **Barton Gellman**, in the National Security Reporting category for their reporting based on intelligence obtained from Snowden. **Shawn Boburg**, of The Record, won the Polk Award for State Reporting for his work covering the September lane closures on the George Washington Bridge in Fort Lee, N.J. **Rosalind Helderman** (Washington Post) won the George Polk Award for Political Reporting for her work with Laura Vozzella and Carol Leonnig in uncovering the relationship between Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell and a wealthy entrepreneur. **Meg Kissinger** won one of two awards given in the medical reporting category for her revealing series for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on the Milwaukee County mental health system. **Philip Reese** of the Sacramento Bee won the other medical reporting award for his work with Cynthia Hubert exposing the "patient-dumping" practices of a Las Vegas hospital. **Frances Robles** of The New York Times won the Polk award for justice reporting for discovering the use of tainted testimony by a Brooklyn homicide detective. **Tim Elfrink** of the Miami New Times won the award for sports reporting for his article identifying Biogenesis as a supplier of steroids to MLB players. **Alison Fitzgerald**, **Daniel Wagner** and **John Dunbar** of The Center for Public Integrity won the business reporting category for demonstrating the failure of Wall Street to hold accountable those responsible for the 2009 financial meltdown. **Mark Fainaru-Wada** of ESPN won the George Polk Award for Network Television Reporting for his contribution to tracing the National Football League's efforts to cover up evidence linking head injuries to high rates of brain disease among players. **Noah Pranksy** of WTSP was the winner in the local television reporting category for his disclosure of the reduction of yellow light times at intersections in Florida and the consequences of those changes.

IRE Member Elected to FIJ Board

David Boardman, dean of Temple University's School of Media and Communication, has been elected to the Fund for Investigative Journalism's Board of Directors. He is also president of the American Society of News Editors, a member of the Steering Committee of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, a member of the Board of Directors of the California-based Center for Investigative Reporting and a charter member of the Advisory Board of ProPublica, the national investigative journalism nonprofit. He also serves on the board of the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, based in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Please submit Member News items at ire.org/publications/ire-journal/member-news/ submit-membernews. Read updates online at ire.org/publications/ire-journal/member-news/.

BEHIND THE BRIDGE

How thorough beat reporting led
from a traffic jam to a major scandal

By Shawn Boburg
The Record

The notion that government officials would create a traffic jam to exact revenge against a town's mayor might seem implausible on its face. But it's one that I and other reporters at The Record vigorously pursued from the day our transportation columnist, John Cichowski, got a tip and wrote a story that raised a lot of questions.

Fort Lee, New Jersey had experienced extraordinary traffic jams for five mornings last September (bit.ly/1ing7xg). The town's access lanes to the George Washington Bridge, which connects New Jersey to Manhattan, had been closed abruptly and without warning. The reason was a mystery. The public wasn't notified. Neither were local police. Mark Sokolich, mayor of the gridlocked town, had suspected it was political retribution. He had declined to endorse Gov. Chris Christie, who was running for re-election.

When The Record asked the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, the agency that controls the bridge, about the closures, they told us it was part of a traffic study but refused to release further details.

Knowing the beat

The hunch that this story was about more than traffic cones wasn't the result of a special instinct for big news stories. It was the product of years of digging into the inner workings of the Port Authority, of getting to know the figures at the core of its power structure and understanding what motivates them. It took four months of reporting before we linked the lane closures to a deputy chief of staff in Gov. Christie's office. But the foundation for the investigation began years earlier with aggressive beat coverage of the Port Authority.

Identifying particular areas of inquiry was important to me when I began the beat in late 2010. Getting inside an agency like the Port Authority is tough. A 7,000-employee behemoth steered by political appointees from two states, the agency isn't subject to state or federal public records laws, only its own "Freedom of Information Code." The code covers public records, but the agency has followed it selectively. Responses to requests can take months, and they are regularly denied with little explanation.

Understanding how power flows within an organization is essential on any beat. It's often

more complicated than an organizational chart might suggest. That became clear early in my coverage of the Port Authority. For a raw introduction to the agency, I contacted recent retirees and previous political appointees. I met them for lunch or talked to them by phone. They explained how the Port Authority worked. They also introduced me to people who were still there and working at all levels: secretaries, financial analysts, police officers.

Getting info on an enigmatic figure

What many of those sources kept telling me was that David Wildstein, a former political blogger who the Christie administration brought into a newly created job at the Port Authority, was one of the agency's most powerful executives. He was seen as Christie's enforcer, the governor's eyes and ears inside the agency. Wildstein ended up being a key figure in the lane closure controversy.

Career employees at the Port Authority feared Wildstein. He made it known that his sole constituent was Christie and gave the impression that when he spoke it was with the governor's imparted authority.

My access to him was nil. He declined to take my calls or answer my e-mails. Once, when I ran into him at a public meeting of the agency's commissioners, he refused to answer any of my questions because, he said, "I don't do anything publicly."

When I wrote daily stories about agency actions or decisions, I used them as opportunities to understand how Wildstein and others shaped those decisions. I contacted sources who would only talk to me anonymously. Even when I couldn't use what they said, they explained who was calling the shots.

It was during one of those background conversations that I first heard about the Christie administration's 50 patronage hires for positions throughout the agency. Even a toll collector and a railroad trackman got their jobs courtesy of the governor's office. The Port Authority wouldn't confirm the governor's referrals, but I found confirmation in internal payroll records that the agency had been forced to submit in a civil court case.

In 2012, I found out Wildstein had bought Internet domain addresses containing my name and linked them to a rival newspaper's website.

I didn't know it because I had no reason to visit www.shawnboburg.com. Wildstein, it turned out, had a habit of buying domain names of the people he was angry with — without telling them. More obvious to me at the time was that my access to New Jersey appointees at the agency became even more limited.

Outside the agency, few people knew who Wildstein was. So I decided to do an investigative profile of him. I went to his hometown and looked in the archives of the old weekly newspaper. I found his high school yearbook and saw that he grew up with Christie. I interviewed nearly a dozen agency employees. What emerged from the research and interviews was that Wildstein was a political junkie who approached his day job as if it were one of the many political campaigns he had helped run in his past career as a behind-the-scenes strategist.

Developing sources

Surprisingly, after the not-so-flattering Wildstein profile ran, I began to get more access from the New Jersey side of the agency. People who had previously ignored my calls quickly responded.

Exposing powerful people, it turns out, can come with unexpected benefits. The more deeply you understand an organization, the more likely it is that people with power will try to influence your understanding. In other words, sources begot sources. While developing sources, I always try to be an honest broker and to make clear that my only alliance is to readers. I think that helps build trust when people are afraid, or are not authorized, to speak.

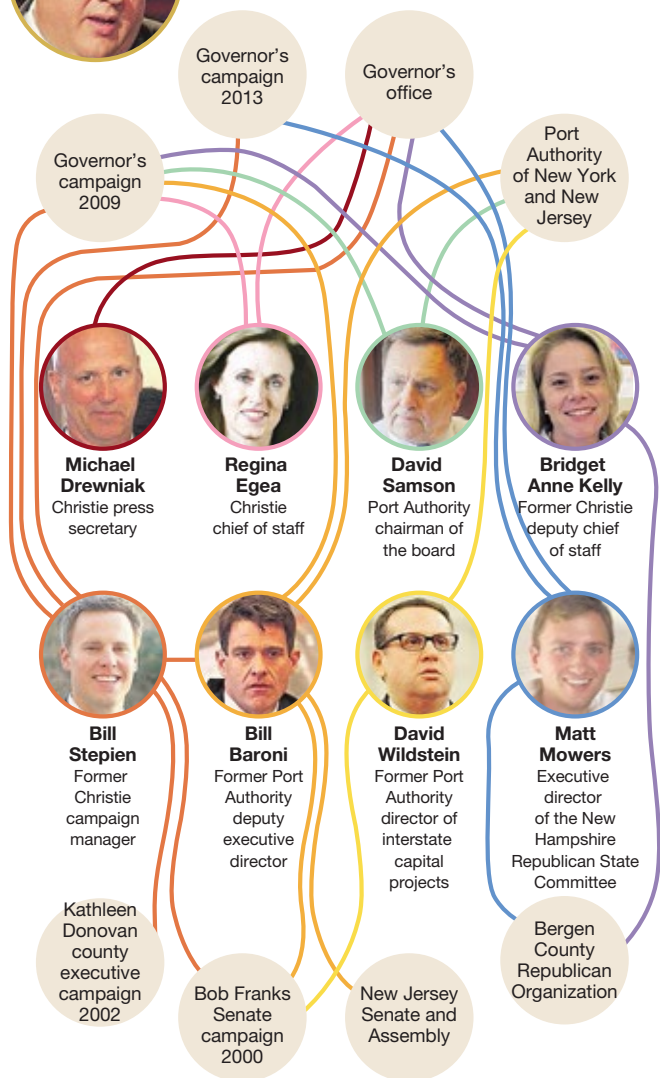
It was through my relationship with top executives at the agency that I learned about who owns the rights to the name "World Trade Center." The Port Authority built the original Twin Towers with public money. The agency is rebuilding a new trade center today. But it doesn't own the rights to the WTC name. A private nonprofit called the World Trade Centers Association does. Based in New York City, the nonprofit bought the naming rights from the Port Authority for \$10 in 1986. Amazingly, the deal had never been reported to the public.

The WTCA was founded by Guy Tozzoli, a Port Authority executive who retired shortly after he convinced the agency to sell the name to his private group. He ran the nonprofit for decades afterward. Real estate developers around the world



Christie's people

How key people in the George Washington Bridge scandal are connected:



Source: Staff reports

R.L. REBACH/STAFF ARTIST

who wanted to brand their buildings World Trade Centers paid for the right to use the name. Tozzoli made millions.

The decades-old agreement rankled recently appointed Port Authority executives when they tried to sell merchandise adorned with the WTC logo. They couldn't without permission.

I wrote two stories about the \$10 deal last summer, prompting an investigation by the New York attorney general's office (bit.ly/Ro8HUz). Like so many other stories, after the initial tip, it was all about the documents. Predictably, the Port Authority was receptive to record requests this time. They turned over documents related to Tozzoli and gave me access to dozens of boxes of archived records documenting how agency resources helped the nonprofit get off the ground.

Together, the stories took about two months to do, partly because they involved reviewing thousands of documents and locating Tozzoli's far-flung contemporaries. I was lucky to have patient and understanding editors. I think another reason I was given enough time to do a thorough story is that I had earned my editors' trust. That doesn't happen overnight. I had worked on many investigative stories prior to this one. My editors knew what to expect: that I'd be honest from the start about how much time I needed and about the major obstacles I foresaw. And they knew that if they needed me to peel off for a few days and do overnight stories because they were short-handed somewhere else, I'd do it in a flash without complaint.

Searching for documents

The agency told my colleague the day he wrote his column that the lane closures were part of a traffic study. After that, it ignored follow-up inquiries. Document requests were dragged out or flat-out denied.

We knew there had to be documents that would tell the story. If it was a legitimate study, there would be internal memos, advisories and, of course, the study's results. The Port Authority wouldn't turn over any of that. We tried the governor's office, too. They insisted they didn't know anything about it. Christie's office also told us, in response to a public records request, that it had no documents related to the lane closures.

We later discovered that was false. In fact, we learned some of the governor's advisers forwarded e-mails to their personal accounts and corresponded from there, evidently believing that these discussions were beyond the reach of the public.

Most critically, we searched for documents in Fort Lee. We found correspondence, phone logs and police reports suggesting the town frantically pleaded for answers during the lane closures and warned of dire public safety consequences. The Port Authority willfully ignored them.

The Port Authority was also tellingly silent through all of our coverage, often issuing a blanket "no comment" on anything related to the controversy. But sources within the agency began leaking internal e-mails and documents that told a crucial part of the story: Christie's people at the Port Authority knew before they closed the lanes that it would create havoc in Fort Lee. Traffic engineers had told them beforehand.

They did it anyway.

The Record was relentless in pushing for documents, whether through official requests or leaks. Wildstein resigned in December. But the story continued to expand.

Keeping track of the documents

One of the challenges was staying organized. As the roster of people involved continued to grow with new revelations, hundreds and eventually thousands of documents became public, and the sequence of events surrounding the lane closures took on increasing significance. I've found a couple of simple strategies are immensely helpful in staying organized. I rely heavily on timelines. I input dates, times and significant events or details, so that I have a running narrative that can help me to immediately put new details into context. I try to update the timeline every time I do a story that includes significant new details. When I do a longer-term investigation I also try to keep a single searchable file with transcriptions of all my interviews. It may require a little more work after deadline, but it can save time and make your reporting much more thorough later.

By early January, our reporting had generated a lengthy narrative that suggested ulterior motives for the lane closures. But the story exploded on Jan. 8 when The Record was the first to report that one of Christie's deputy chiefs of staff had sent an e-mail to Wildstein that said: "Time for some traffic problems in Fort Lee." That e-mail and thousands of other documents were made public by a legislative committee that used its subpoena power to investigate the lane closures.

In the months since, the story prompted a federal criminal investigation that could determine whether anyone else in the governor's office was involved. Meanwhile, the Port Authority's new leadership is vowing to change the agency's ways.

Shawn Boburg is an investigative reporter and covers the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey at The Record in northern New Jersey. He was the recipient of the 2013 Polk Award for his reporting on Port Authority and the George Washington Bridge lane closure scandal. Boburg joined The Record in 2006. He was previously a reporter at The Eagle-Tribune in Massachusetts and was part of a team that won the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for Breaking News for coverage of the tragic drowning of four young boys in the Merrimack River. He lives in New Jersey.

CHANGING THE LINEUP

Sports departments need to do more watchdog

By Dwayne Bray
ESPN

Red Carpet Kutz barbershop operated in Lauderhill, Fla. for years, but few people ever got a haircut or shave there. Instead, owner Brandon Bivins and other gamblers placed sports bets in a back room, including high-stakes wagers on youth football games involving kids as young as 5 years old.

Police say one championship game drew a pot of \$100,000. Up to \$20,000 was bet on other youth games. At times, kids who made great plays were rewarded with hundreds of dollars and some parents were offered cash if they'd switch their kids to teams coached or operated by the gamblers, some of whom had felony drug and assault convictions on their rap sheets. Bivins, who has several felonies on his record, was coach and president of the Fort Lauderdale Hurricanes.

Bivins and eight other men were rounded up on a bright, warm Florida day in October 2012 and charged with felony bookmaking. Bivins pleaded guilty to two misdemeanor charges of unlawful betting, and another man was convicted of felony bookmaking. The seven other cases are pending.

Even though the gamblers had bet on youth football in South Florida for years, none of the region's local television stations or newspapers broke the story. That honor went to a pair of journalists from the ESPN investigative unit that I oversee at "Outside the Lines:" reporter Paula Lavigne and producer Greg Amante (es.pn/1ngR8Dx).

Broward County deputies said their 18-month investigation that led to Bivins' arrest was sparked by the May 2011 ESPN story. Our South Florida investigation seems to highlight a trend in investigative sports reporting, one in which some of the most impactful stories are no longer produced by local sports journalists. In recent years, hard news reporters and national sports journalists have been producing many of the biggest and most impactful sports investigations.

The state of sports investigations

For nearly two decades, the mainstream local press seemed built to investigate and break many of the most important sports sto-



Gamblers in the stands bet on youth football games in Florida.

The drought in local investigative sports reporting leads to an uninformed citizenry on important social and community issues that transcend the games on the field of play.

ries in their communities. Between 1981 and 2000, three regional newspapers won Pulitzer prizes for investigative or beat sports coverage that unearthed corruption – the St. Paul Pioneer Press (2000), the Lexington Herald-Leader (1986) and the Arizona Daily Star (1981).

But two occurrences have changed the face of watchdog sports reporting: First, amid staff reductions and the emphasis on more online content, newspapers appear to have placed a lower priority on investigative sports reporting.

Second, some national outlets seem to have gotten serious about improving their level of journalism and have hired some of the most accomplished news and sports journalists to bolster their investigative efforts.

"This is truly the golden age of long-form investigative and enterprise sportswriting," said Don Van Natta Jr., who was on two Pulitzer Prize-winning reporting teams at The New York Times before joining ESPN in 2012. "Never before have readers had so many choices to read in-depth profiles, take-outs, analysis and investigations about sports."

Others say sports investigations could be even better and more abundant.

"There isn't enough" watchdog sports reporting, said Sandy Padwe, a Columbia University instructor who was investigations editor at Sports Illustrated for 12 years, including parts of the 1970s, 80s and 90s. "Because of cutbacks or a lack of interest, too few papers, magazines, broadcast outlets and digital sites are committed on a daily or weekly basis to doing investigative sports journalism."

Padwe blames news executives for not placing a bigger emphasis on watchdog reporting. "It always was a hard sell because of the 'toy department' rationale at too many media organizations, which always looked at the sports department as a place where you took the readers and viewers and listeners away from war, crime, politics, violence and other front-page problems and gave them games," he

said. "And because there isn't enough investigative reporting today, many local and national issues are not looked at with the depth and detail and consistency needed to engage people in some very big and very important issues regarding the role of sport and its relationship with American society."

Journalists overlooked Sandusky

The drought in local investigative sports reporting leads to an uninformed citizenry on important social and community issues that transcend the games on the field of play. Padwe cites the case against former Pennsylvania State defensive coordinator Jerry Sandusky, who was found guilty in 2012 of 45 counts of child sexual abuse for molesting boys over a 15-year period. Sandusky had resigned from the football coaching staff in 1998 at age 55. Few questioned Sandusky's resignation or the fact that it came with perks such as an office in the school's athletic facilities, where Sandusky abused boys, according to trial testimony.

Details of the Sandusky grand jury investigation were exposed in 2011 by Sara Ganim, a crime reporter at the Harrisburg Patriot-News, a newspaper nearly 90 miles from Penn State's campus. Ganim and the Patriot-News staff were awarded a Pulitzer Prize for the reporting (bit.ly/1jx6lx9).

"The Penn State situation is the perfect example," Padwe said. "Where were the local papers in 1998 and then after Sandusky left the team? Where were the stories questioning what was going on? Why did it take a 24-year-old police reporter to break it all more than a decade later?"

You can still find some quality local sports investigations. A great example is the work of Dan Kane, a News & Observer reporter who has published scoop after scoop on an academic scandal involving athletes at the University of North Carolina. There is also the 2011 investigation by Boston Globe investigative sports reporter Bob Hohler, who uncovered allegations that Hall of Fame tennis player Bob Hewitt sexually abused underage girls he coached from the 1970s to the early 1990s (bit.ly/1jx6HUy).

Hohler, however, is one of the few full-time sports investigative reporters left at metropolitan newspapers. Most daily newspapers have eliminated that position. "Investigative sports journalism is absolutely essential, particularly in professional and college sports, where there is so much public and private money flowing," Hohler said.

Excellent exclusives

Many of the biggest exclusives these days are coming from some national outlets such as Sports Illustrated, Yahoo! Sports, Deadspin

and HBO "Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel." For years, USA Today has had the most comprehensive online sports databases and The New York Times' investigations in recent years have ranged from horse racing to hockey goons to gender equity to concussions.

"Outside the Lines," ESPN's award-winning show, broke the story of Rutgers University coach Mike Rice physically and verbally abusing players and was first to air the now-infamous video of Rice yelling profanity and throwing basketballs at players (es.pn/1iYKlXp). "Outside the Lines" won a 2013 duPont, Murrow and Peabody awards for investigating football safety issues. And "OTL" reporters were featured in a PBS "Frontline" documentary on NFL brain injuries that won a George Polk award. The story itself made industry headlines when ESPN, initially a partner in the project, took its name off the documentary. Some questioned whether the network was influenced by pressure from the NFL, a business partner. ESPN officials said they did so because they did not have editorial control over the film.

Local journalists can make an impact

Yahoo! Sports reporter Charles Robinson acknowledged that national outlets have more time to nurture watchdog stories, but said local reporters can find ways to make an investigative impact. "Even when I was a local beat writer and my finances were limited, my greatest successes were always rooted in my ability to know as many people involved as possible and the trust I was able to cultivate with those individuals," he said. "The reality is that in most cases, it costs nothing to get to know a human source."

Veteran watchdog scribe Danny Robbins helped expose NCAA rule violations at Southern Methodist University in the late 1980s. His work helped lead to the so-called "death penalty," which included the cancellation of the 1987 season for the SMU football program. Robbins urged local journalists to be more creative in their approach to watchdog reporting.

"Even with the personnel and financial challenges we face in the media these days, it can be done," said Robbins, who now works the investigative desk at The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. "How difficult is it to file some open-records requests for personnel files of the local high school coaches? How difficult is it to drive to the next county to see somebody in the evening? Too many sports reporters and editors buy into the myth that you have to have a boatload of reporters or a huge budget or you have to go 'underground' for six months to do this stuff. You don't."

Tim Elfrink, managing editor at the Miami New Times, won a Polk award for breaking the Biogenesis performance-enhancing drugs news. Ganim, a crime reporter on a newspaper several

counties away, broke the Sandusky news. Some might say that neither Elfrink nor Ganim had to worry that their scoops would cost them access to teams because they don't cover a sports beat. But the truth is that while teams might occasionally threaten to limit the access of a hard-hitting reporter, or players and coaches might try to freeze out that reporter, those tactics have not proven to last long or work. If one player stops talking to a reporter, other sources tend to notice and often help that reporter even more.

When officials threaten to limit a reporter's access to a team or threaten a lawsuit because of tough reporting, what should the reporter do? The reporter should keep pushing. If officials are making threats, there's a good chance the reporter is on to something. Also, reporters must not

When officials threaten to limit a reporter's access to a team or threaten a lawsuit because of tough reporting, what should the reporter do? The reporter should keep pushing. If officials are making threats, there's a good chance the reporter is on to something.

become a pawn of the team or agents. It's OK to get information from any and all sources.

Sources nearly universally have a hidden agenda, and that agenda is to protect their own interest. Reporters must not ignore negative information on a team or player just because that team, player or player's agent has been helpful or given them good access in the past.

There's a lesson in the work of reporters like Ganim and Elfrink, Robbins said, a lesson about how local reporters can make a difference and about the power of watchdog journalism.

"Anyone who thinks sports investigative journalism isn't important need look no farther than a high school football stadium in Texas on a Friday night, youth soccer fields on a Saturday afternoon and a Southeastern Conference football stadium on a Saturday night," Robbins said. "Sports is a huge cultural force and should be covered as such."

Dwayne Bray has worked 25 years in the media. He is the senior coordinating producer of the ESPN Enterprise Unit, in charge of television content for the investigative brand "Outside the Lines." As a reporter and editor, he has worked at The Dallas Morning News, the Los Angeles Times, the Dayton Daily News and The Medina (Ohio) Gazette. In 1999, he wrote "The Gift: Learning to Appreciate the Value of Life," a book chronicling his donation of a kidney to a cousin.

Read the winning stories online at ire.org



2013 IRE AWARD WINNERS

Investigative Reporters & Editors unveiled the 2013 winners of the IRE Awards, a stellar lineup that demonstrates the power of investigative reporting and its crucial role in society.

This year's winners provided unprecedented insight into the ways in which the government deploys technology in surveillance programs with a shockingly wide net. They used deep sourcing to overcome government roadblocks and uncover atrocities and corruption. They fought and won precedent-setting victories in open records battles to shine light on increasingly opaque government agencies. They exposed threats to children, un-

covered financial malfeasance, highlighted government waste and tracked hidden assets across the globe.

This year's winners were selected from among more than 500 entries. One organization – the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel – is a multiple award winner, in both the print/online and multimedia categories, for two separate projects.

The awards, given by Investigative Reporters & Editors Inc. since 1979, recognize the most outstanding watchdog journalism of the year. The contest covers 16 categories across media platforms and a range of market sizes.

The highest honor IRE can bestow for investigative reporting is the **IRE Medal**. *This year's medal winners are:*

“The NSA Files,” Guardian U.S.

Glenn Greenwald, Ewen MacAskill, Laura Poitras, James Ball, Spencer Ackerman, Dominic Rushe, Julian Borger and the Guardian U.S. staff

Judges' comments: In a series of investigative stories based on top-secret National Security Agency documents leaked by former intelligence analyst Edward Snowden, the Guardian U.S. revealed a story that continues to reverberate in the United States and across the globe. The stories showed the vast scope of domestic and international surveillance programs, the close relationship between technology companies and intelligence agencies and how technology is leading to widespread mass collection of Americans' telephone and Internet data. The Guardian U.S. was the first to reveal a FISA court order showing how the communication records of millions of U.S. citizens are being collected “indiscriminately and in bulk.” The journalists faced two legal regimes with vastly different precedents and laws governing press freedoms. The Guardian brought in U.S. media partners, including The New York Times and ProPublica, after an ultimatum by the U.K. government to turn over or destroy the documents or risk legal action. The Guardian's reporting, and that by other news organizations, prompted vigorous debate in the U.S. and around the world as well as numerous legal challenges, Congressional hearings and legislation calling for reform of NSA programs.

theguardian



GLENN GREENWALD



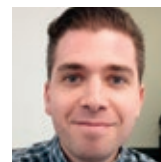
EWEN MACASKILL



LAURA POITRAS



JAMES BALL



SPENCER ACKERMAN



DOMINIC RUSHE



JULIAN BORGER

SPECIAL AWARDS:

Medals are also awarded to winners in two special categories:

TOM RENNER AWARD

ALBERTO ARCE

“Collapse into Chaos,” AP Honduras, Alberto Arce
Judges’ comments: In a fearless investigation, AP reporter Alberto Arce chronicled Honduras’ collapse into chaos in the aftermath of a coup in 2009. Arce’s stories uncovered government-sanctioned death squads, human rights abuses in prisons and corruption among police and military forces. His

reporting documented the killing of a Honduran teenager by an Army unit vetted and supplied by the U.S. government. Another story detailed the deaths of civilians during a drug raid in which the U.S. DEA took part. Overcoming a lack of public records available to him, Arce persuaded sources to give him copies of government documents and developed sources within the government, military, court systems and nongovernmental organizations. He befriended prison officials and gang members alike to gain access to areas they controlled. Arce, who lived in Tegucigalpa with his family, had to take many extraordinary security measures and was eventually pulled out of Honduras after he was warned his reporting would get him killed.

Finalists:

- **“Backfire,” Milwaukee Journal Sentinel,** John Diedrich and Raquel Rutledge
- **“The Party Behind Bars,” WSMV-Nashville,** Jeremy Finley, Brittany Freeman and Jason Finley
- **“ABC News Brian Ross Investigates: Al Qaeda in Kentucky,” ABC News,** Brian Ross, James Gordon Meek, Cindy Galli, Rhonda Schwartz, Rym Momtaz, Jeanmarie Condon and Almin Karamehmedovic
- **“Crime and Punishment,” The Chicago Reporter,** Angela Caputo and Rui Kaneya

FOI AWARD

“The Prescribers,” ProPublica, Tracy Weber, Charles Ornstein, Jennifer LaFleur, Jeff Larson and Lena Groeger

Judges’ comments: ProPublica accomplished many feats at once in “The Prescribers,” detailing a danger to the nation’s health and billions in wasted federal dollars, while securing complete public access to Medicare prescription data for the first time. After filing



TRACY WEBER



CHARLES ORNSTEIN



JENNIFER LAFLEUR



JEFF LARSON



LENA GROEGER



an FOIA request with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for data on prescriptions doled out through the Part D drug program, reporters labored for a year negotiating with the agency. Some officials opposed disclosing the identities of doctors and providers, but the information was ultimately released, scoring a precedent for all future requests ProPublica used the data on prescriptions written over five years by 1.6 million doctors to conduct a nationwide review on questionable practices. The stories were published by dozens of other news media, and the data was made available to the public to search doctors by name and compare prescribing practices.

Finalists:

- **“Breaking the Banks,” Sarasota Herald-Tribune,** Anthony Cormier and Michael Braga
- **“Contrary to the Public Interest,” KMGH-Denver,** Keli Rabon, John Ferrugia, Jason Foster, Art Kane, Carl Bilek, Jeff Harris and Michael de Yoanna
- **“Deadly Delays,” Milwaukee Journal Sentinel,** Ellen Gabler, Mark Johnson, John Fauber, Allan James Vestal and Kristyna Wentz-Graff
- **“Legacy of Neglect,” The Columbus Dispatch,** Mark Ferenchik, Jill Riepenhoff and Mike Wagner

2013 Award winners and finalists by category:**PRINT/ONLINE****PRINT/ONLINE - SMALL**

ANTHONY CORMIER



MICHAEL BRAGA

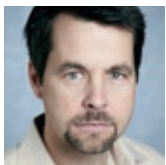
“Breaking the Banks,” Sarasota Herald-Tribune, Anthony Cormier and Michael Braga

Judge’s Comments: Part Financial Times and part Carl Hiaasen novel, this yearlong series chronicled the collapse of 69 local banks in Florida. The stories unearthed a trail of crime and corporate malfeasance and showed that in the heady days of Florida’s real estate boom, bankers in the state were using their lending institutions as personal piggy banks. Reporters Michael Braga and Anthony Cormier took advantage of an obscure Florida law to gain access to never-before-seen regulatory reports on failed banks. They showed some lent millions to known mobsters. Spouses and children of bank executives got money through insider deals. Bank officials used complex schemes to funnel millions out of their banks before they collapsed. Reaction was swift. Three bankers were indicted for fraud based on the newspaper’s findings, the FDIC filed three civil lawsuits, and other investigations are pending.

**Finalists:**

- **“The Meth Menace,” The Charleston Gazette,** Eric Eyre, David Gutman, Rob Byers, Rachel Molenda and Victoria Zigadlo
- **“Tony Bosch and Biogenesis: MLB Steroid Scandal,” Miami New Times,** Tim Elfrink
- **“Private Prisons,” Palm Beach Post,** Pat Beall, Joel Engelhardt, Michelle Quigley and Niels Heimeriks

PRINT/ONLINE - MEDIUM



JOHN DIEDRICH



RAQUEL RUTLEDGE

“Backfire,” Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, John Diedrich and Raquel Rutledge

Judges’ Comments: In an exhaustive and shocking yearlong series, Journal Sentinel reporters John Diedrich and Raquel Rutledge detail reckless and illegal operations carried out by

the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The investigation began with a tip about federal agents damaging a rental property and expanded into a nationwide scandal with relentless digging. The reporters discovered the ATF taking advantage of people with intellectual disabilities by employing them in undercover operations, giving firearms to unsupervised felons and buying stolen property that encouraged burglaries. The stories prompted the U.S. Justice Department’s inspector general to open an inquiry into the newspaper’s findings.

Finalists:

- **“Conservatorships in Tennessee,” The Tennessean,** Walter F. Roche Jr., Deborah Fisher, Lisa Green and Scott Stroud
- **“Chronic Crisis,” Milwaukee Journal Sentinel,** Meg Kissinger
- **“Other Than Honorable,” The Gazette,** Dave Philipps and Michael Ciaglo
- **“Nightmare in Maryville,” The Kansas City Star,** Dugan Arnett, Darryl Levings, Mike Fannin, Steve Shirk and Kathy Lu

PRINT/ONLINE - LARGE (TIE)



REUTERS

“The Child Exchange,” Reuters, Megan Twohey, Ryan McNeill, Janet Roberts, Robin Respaut, Charlie Szymanski, Matthew

Weber, Maryanne Murray, Zachary Goelman, Jim Bourg, Troy Dunkley and Blake Morrison

Judges’ comments: This report broke new ground, mining Facebook and Yahoo groups and bulletin boards to find a story that had been completely unexplored. “The Child Exchange” revealed how families are passing off their adopted children to strangers. The reporters identified eight online bulletin boards where participants advertised unwanted children, often international adoptees, as part of an informal practice called “private re-homing.” The reporters talked with parents who gave away or took in children and also interviewed the children themselves, who talked about being brought to America and discarded by their adoptive parents. Reuters’ investigation found that in a single Internet group, a child was offered to strangers on average once a week during a five-year period.

“The NSA Files,” Guardian US, Glenn Greenwald, Ewen MacAskill, Laura Poitras, James Ball, Spencer Ackerman, Dominic Rushe, Julian Borger and the Guardian U.S. staff
See Judge’s Comments on Page 10

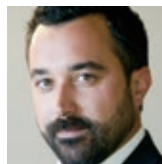
Finalists:

- **“As OSHA Emphasizes Safety, Long-Term Health Risks Fester,” The New York Times,** Ian Urbina

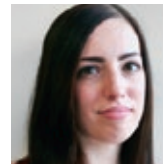
- **“Homes for the Taking: Liens, Loss and Profiteers,” The Washington Post,** Debbie Cenziper, Michael Sallah and Steven Rich
- **“NSA and the Snowden Files,” The Washington Post,** Barton Gellman, Laura Poitras, Ashkan Soltani, Julie Tate, Ellen Nakashima, Peter Wallsten, Carol Leonnig, Alice Crites and Greg Miller
- **“Secrecy for Sale: Inside the Global Offshore Money Maze,” International Consortium of Investigative Journalists,** Gerard Ryle, Marina Walker Guevara, Michael Hudson, Djordje Padejski, Kimberley Porteous, David Donald, Nicky Hager, Mar Cabra, Duncan Campbell, Stefan Candea, Rigoberto Carvajal, Matthew Caruana Galizia, Giannina Segnini, Matthew Fowler, Sebastian Mondial, James Ball, François Pilet, Leslie Wayne, Frédéric Zalac, Harvey Cashore, Alex Shprintsen, Nicole Reinert and Zach Dubinsky

MULTIPLATFORM

MULTIPLATFORM - SMALL



BRAD RACINO



RYANN GROCHOWSKI JONES



LORIE HEARN



“Money, Power and Transit,” inewssource, Brad Racino, Ryann Grochowski Jones and Lorie Hearn

Judges’ comments: A billion dollars here, 12 million passengers there and somebody ought to pay attention. Although some reporters have abandoned the type of beat reporting that produces investigations about important public policy issues, inewssource continued to press forward with a dogged probe of San Diego’s North County Transit system. inewssource filed 40 open records requests and produced 30 stories making the most of video, audio and the written word to reveal layer upon layer of bureaucratic arrogance, corruption and ineptitude at the transit system. inewssource did not shrink under a fusillade of legal fire. The result has been a series of accountability measures involving the system, enough to show that Brad Racino and company are making an impact.

Finalist:

- **“Tulane Legislative Scholarships,” WWL-New Orleans,** Mike Perlstein with Gordon Russell from The New Orleans Advocate

MULTIPLATFORM - MEDIUM

“Deadly Delays,” Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Ellen Gabler, Mark Johnson, John Fauber, Allan James Vestal and Kristyna Wentz-Graff

Judges’ comments: Reporters for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel exposed a shocking practice at many of the nation’s hospitals. In an analysis of nearly 3 million newborn screening tests from throughout the country, the Journal Sentinel found that hundreds of thousands of blood samples from newborn babies arrive late at labs where they are to be tested. Despite very clear and dramatic

warnings to send blood samples to state labs within 24 hours, many hospitals don't comply and instead wait days and then send blood samples in batches to save a few dollars in postage. As a result, children who should be diagnosed and treated shortly after birth are suffering preventable brain damage and even death. Reporters at the newspaper fought a state-by-state public records battle to gather the data. The investigation sparked reaction nationwide, including action in Congress and from dozens of states across the country that have made or are making significant changes to their newborn screening programs.



FROM LEFT: ALLAN JAMES VESTAL, KRISTYNA WENTZ-GRAFF, JOHN FAUBER, ELLEN GABLER, MARK JOHNSON

Finalists:

- **“Exposing Missouri’s Secret Execution Drug Source,”** *St. Louis Public Radio*, Chris McDaniel and Véronique LaCapra
- **“Wandering,”** *InvestigateWest*, Jason Alcorn, Robert McClure, Daniel Kopec of KCTS-Seattle and Ruby de Luna of KUOW-Seattle
- **“Blood In The Streets,”** *Orlando Sentinel*, Scott Powers, Arelis Hernández, George Skene and Lisa Cianci
- **“Sex Predators Unleashed,”** *Sun Sentinel*, Sally Kestin, Dana Williams, Mike Stocker and Rachel Schallom

MULTIPLATFORM - LARGE

“Secrecy for Sale: Inside the Global Offshore Money Maze,” *International Consortium of Investigative Journalists*, Gerard Ryle, Marina Walker Guevara, Michael Hudson,

Djordje Padejski, Kimberley Porteous, David Donald, Nicky Hager, Mar Cabra, Duncan Campbell, Stefan Candea, Rigoberto Carvajal, Matthew Caruana Galizia, Giannina Segnini, Matthew Fowler, Sebastian Mondial, James Ball, François Pilet, Leslie Wayne, Frédéric Zalc, Harvey Cashore, Alex Shprintsen, Nicole Reinert, Zach Dubinsky, David Leigh, Frederik Obermaier, Bastian



Obermayer and Leo Sisti

Judges’ comments: ICIJ produced a tremendously ambitious international reporting effort that is awe-inspiring by every measure. A team of more than 100 journalists mined a collection of millions of pages of leaked documents exposing how wealthy people worldwide use offshore havens to hide fortunes and shrink their tax bills. The investigation found that major financial institutions have served as accomplices, devising ways to park assets in front companies in the British Virgin Islands and elsewhere. ICIJ, a project of the Center for Public Integrity, told the story in myriad ways, including a searchable database of offshore companies and trusts. The project prompted high-profile resignations and civil and criminal investigations on four continents.

Finalists:

- **“Rehab Racket,”** *CNN and The Center for Investigative Reporting*, CNN: Scott Zamost, Drew Griffin, Richard T. Griffiths, Patricia DiCarlo and Charlie Moore CIR: Christina Jewett, Will Evans, Amy Pyle, Mark Katches and Susanne Reber
- **“Breathless and Burdened: Dying from black lung, buried by law and medicine,”** *The Center for Public Integrity, in partnership with ABC News*, Chris Hamby, Brian Ross, Matthew Mosk, Kimberley Porteous, Erik Lincoln, Sarah Whitmire, Chris Zubak-Skees, Timothy Meko, Peter Newbatt Smith, David Donald, Jim Morris, Rhonda Schwartz and Ronnie Greene
- **“Known to police 2013,”** *Toronto Star*, Andrew Bailey, Linh Do, Brian Hughes, Hidy Ng, Jim Rankin, Randy Rislung, Serena Willoughby and Patty Winsa
- **“Supplement Shell Game,”** *USA TODAY*, Alison Young, John Hillkirk, Shannon Rae Green and Garrett Hubbard

BROADCAST/VIDEO

BROADCAST/VIDEO - SMALL

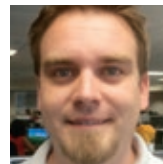


LEE ZURIK



DONNY PEARCE

“Body of Evidence,” *WVUE-New Orleans*, Lee Zurik, Donny Pearce, Jon Turnipseed, Mike Schaefer, Greg Phillips, Wes Cook and Tom Wright



JON TURNIPSEED



MIKE SCHAEFER

Judges’ comments: This exhaustive series shows what can happen when a tenacious reporter just keeps digging. Acting on a tip, WVUE’s Lee Zurik began investigating the coroner’s office in St. Tammany Parish, an affluent suburb north of New Orleans. He soon discovered that Peter Galvan — who had convinced voters to approve a tax increase for his office budget — had rewarded himself lucrative raises that made him the highest-paid elected official in Louisiana. As Zurik continued to peel back more layers using 25 public records requests, he found that Galvan had charged lavish



GREG PHILLIPS



TOM WRIGHT



meals to a public credit card and was cashing in tens of thousands of dollars in supposed unused sick and vacation time, all while jet-setting around the globe. Several months into the station's reporting, the FBI began investigating. Lawmakers stripped the coroner of the power to set his own budget and by month eight, he had resigned and pleaded guilty to criminal charges in federal court.

Finalists:

- **“Following the Money: Indiana Storm Sausage,” WTHR-Indianapolis**, Bob Segall, Bill Ditton and Cyndee Hebert
- **“Questions of Influence,” WTVF-Nashville**, Phil Williams, Ben Hall, Kevin Wisniewski, Bryan Staples and Iain Montgomery
- **“Trail of Dirty Deeds, KSHB-Kansas City**, Ryan Kath, Melissa Greenstein, Michael Butler and John Woods
- **“Small Claims...Big Injustice”, WTHR-Indianapolis**, Sandra Chapman, William C. Ditton, John Whalen and Steve Rhodes

BROADCAST/VIDEO - MEDIUM



“In Harm’s Way,” KNBC-Los Angeles, Joel Grover, Chris Henao, Ernesto Torres, Phil Drechsler, Keith Esparros, Kris Li and Bobbi Eng

Judges’ comments: This gripping series of reports tackles the topic

of ground transportation safety, focusing on a string of tour bus accidents in southern California and astoundingly lax government policing of that industry. The team took a multifaceted approach to the investigation, focusing both on inspection and accident records, as well as an on-the-street documentation of driver behavior. The team found regulators with knowledge of tour bus safety violations who still allowed the buses to carry passengers, as well as a record of dangerous driver behavior on many of the routes followed. The team overcame language difficulties in dealing with owners of bus companies and enlisted expert help to be sure speed reports on the buses followed were accurate. The investigation achieved major results, including a highway patrol raid on one of the companies and federal regulators shutting down six companies.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: KEITH ESPARROS, JOEL GROVER, ERNESTO TORRES, PHIL DRECHSLER AND CHRIS HENAO

Finalists:

- **“Colorado Rape Victims: Evidence Ignored, Justice Denied”, KMGH-Denver**, Keli Rabon and Jason Foster
- **“Raked Over the Coals”, KPNX-Phoenix**, Wendy Halloran, Jeffrey Blackburn, Mark Phillips, Bryan West and Mark Casey
- **“Hanford’s Dirty Secrets”, KING-Seattle**, Susannah Frame, Steve Douglas, Russ Walker, John Vu and Mark Ginther

BROADCAST VIDEO - LARGE



SCOTT ZAMOST



DREW GRIFFIN



RICHARD T. GRIFFITHS



PATRICIA DICARLO



CHARLIE MOORE



CHRISTINA JEWETT



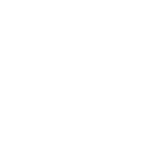
WILL EVANS



MARK KATCHES



AMY PYLE



SUSANNE REBER

“Rehab Racket,” CNN and The Center for Investigative Reporting

At CNN: Scott Zamost, Drew Griffin, Richard T. Griffiths, Patricia DiCarlo and Charlie Moore. At CIR: Christina Jewett, Will Evans, Amy Pyle, Mark Katches and Susanne Reber. **Judges’ comments:** Taxpayers spend tens of millions of dollars in California for legitimate drug and alcohol rehab centers to help low-income addicts recover. But CNN and CIR nailed down how chronic scam artists have siphoned off millions of dollars by billing the public for fake patients. “Rehab Racket” brings the triple whammy of data, paper records and good old surveillance to document massive, systemic fraud. After being ignored and stiff-armed by state officials up and down the chain of command, CNN shows up with cameras in tow for an unscheduled accountability session with California’s top health official. Drew Griffin walks the fine line of being polite yet insistent that the public is owed an answer. The series got results: fraudulent clinics shut down, criminal prosecutions begun and public officials held to account.

Finalists:

- **“Invasion of Privacy,” RBS/GLOBO TV**, Giovanni Grizotti, Marcelo Theil, Vera Souto and Joelson Maia
- **“ABC, The Look out, Flood Cars,” ABC News**, Jeanmarie Condon, Bill Weir, David Scott, Gerry Wagschal, Dan Morris, Mike Cappetta, Erin Brady, Karl Dawson, Jeremy Phillips, Paul Carneiro, Ron Ladd, Kenny Chow, Spencer Wilking, Ozren Milharcic, Jay Enyart, Ken Collins, Christopher Schneider, Sarah Kolinovsky and Candace Smith

- **“Lethal Medicine,” 60 Minutes**, Jeff Fager, Bill Owens, Michael Radutzky, Scott Pelley, Michael Rey, Oriana Zill de Granados, Stephanie Palewski Brumbach, Andrew Bast and Emily Rand
- **“40 Million Mistakes,” 60 Minutes**, Jeff Fager, Bill Owens, Steve Kroft, James Jacoby, Michael Karzis, Matthew Lev

RADIO/AUDIO



DANIEL VELASCO



YLVA LINDGREN

“The Girl Who Got Tied Down,” Swedish Radio, Daniel Velasco with Ylva Lindgren

Judges’ comments: It turns out “The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo” is not all fiction. “The Girl Who Got Tied Down” is all too real: Abused by her own father, only to face rape while in foster care by others. Her

attackers included a senior police official who publicly proclaimed he was a “feminist.” The police chief was ultimately exposed and prosecuted in a high profile arrest. The story also focuses on a senior psychiatrist who personally profits from abandoning the girl. Drawing from the girl’s own recordings — including confrontations with staff who ignored and neglected her — Daniel Velasco and Swedish Radio weave together a riveting story, powerful and revelatory. After the documentary aired, the psychiatrist was fired and his company lost its contract. But more important, the documentary commanded public attention to the plight of all children lost in a harsh system.

Finalists:

- **“Buried in Grain,” National Public Radio**, Howard Berkes, Andrea de Leon and Jim Morris from The Center for Public Integrity
- **“Betrayed by Silence,” Minnesota Public Radio**, Madeleine Baran, Sasha Aslanian, Mike Cronin, Tom Scheck, Laura Yuen, Mike Edgerly, Meg Martin, Bill Wareham and Chris Worthington
- **“Reveal: The VA’s Opiate Overload,” The Center for Investigative Reporting**, Aaron Glantz, Agustin Armendariz, Aaron Williams, Michael Corey, Michael Montgomery, Adithya Sambamurthy, Stephanie Mechura, Cole Goins, Amy Pyle, Susanne Reber and Ben Adair

STUDENT (TIE)



RYAN LOVELACE



“A Center and Its Director,” The Butler Collegian, Ryan Lovelace, Butler University

Judges’ comments: When Butler University named South African icon Allan Boesak as the executive director for its new Desmond Tutu Center, the announcement received widespread praise. Boesak’s role in working with Archbishop Tutu, Nelson Mandela and others to bring down the apartheid regime was highlighted. Butler Collegian Managing Editor Ryan Lovelace wanted to know more about the man being entrusted with university funds to run

the center. In a three-month investigation, Lovelace used South African court records, documents from Wikileaks and interviews with sources in South Africa to document Boesak’s history. The former freedom fighter had been convicted of misusing donations made to his foundation. Although Boesak was still appointed to the Butler position, the article raised questions about his appointment and ability to manage a nonprofit center that has received millions in contributions. This was a powerful investigation done by a lone student at a small college newspaper with few resources. It should inspire other students to do similar work.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: PROF. ALEC KLEIN, DIRECTOR OF THE MEDILL JUSTICE PROJECT; MCKENZIE MAXSON; ANIKA DUTTA; MEGAN THIELKING; STEPHANIE FUERTE; LAURYN SCHROEDER; ALEX HAMPL; AMANDA WESTRICH, RESEARCH ASSOCIATE AT THE MEDILL JUSTICE PROJECT.

“Spotlight on Shaken-Baby Syndrome,” The Medill Justice Project, Christina Assi, Anna Bisaro, Rebecca Cohen, Anika Dutta, Stephanie Fuerte, Alex Hampl, Sarah Husain, McKenzie Maxson, Lauryn Schroeder, Megan Thielking and Diana Tsai

Judges’ comments: Students at the Medill Justice Project set their sights on an often-misunderstood area of the criminal justice system: shaken-baby syndrome. The students found few reliable national statistics so they set to create a centralized source, using more than 30 sources to compile what’s believed to be the largest publicly available national database. Along the way, the students successfully fought several First Amendment battles with law enforcement to gain access to records. They also challenged Illinois’ corrections officials, winning the ability to conduct on-camera interviews with inmates. Their reporting won results. A federal judge took the rare step of reopening a federal innocence hearing. In another case, the findings were included in the prisoner’s clemency petition before the governor.

Finalists:

- **“In the Line of Fire: Tough justice for bystanders hit by NYPD bullets,” 219 Magazine**, Erin Horan, Martin Burch, Christine Streich and Ajai Raj
- **“Sex offenses on campus,” Columbia Missourian**, Samantha Sunne
- **“Lost signals, disconnected lives, Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism**, Mario Koran, Lukas Keapproth and the Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism staff
- **“Back Home: The Enduring Battles Facing Post-9/11 Veterans,” ASU-News21**, News21 Staff: This project was produced by 26 students from 12 universities working under the direction

of a team of editors led by Leonard Downie Jr. and Jacquee Petchel. The student reporters were: Asha Anchan and Riley Johnson from the University of Nebraska; Forest Burnson of University of Texas at Austin; Bonnie Campo, Chase Cook and Kelsey Hightower of the University of Oklahoma; Anthony Cave, Florida International University; Caitlin Cruz, Chad Garland, Peter Haden, Trahern Wallace Jones, Andrew Knochel, Rachel Leingang, Kay Miller, Mary Shin, Jake Stein and Mauro Whiteman of Arizona State University; Jeff Hargarten, University of Minnesota; Gregory Kohn and Jessica Wilde, University of Maryland; Daniel Moore, Kent State University; Steven Rich, University of Missouri; Colton Totland, University of Oregon; Catey Traylor, Central Michigan University; and Meg Wagner and Hannah Winston, University of Florida.

INVESTIGATIONS TRIGGERED BY BREAKING NEWS



BRETT SHIPP



JASON TRAHAN



BILLY BRYANT



“Hazard in the Heartland,” WFAA-Dallas/Fort Worth, Brett Shipp, Jason Trahan and Billy Bryant

Judges’ comments: After the devastating explosion that killed 15 and injured more than 100 people in Texas, the WFAA team moved quickly to have reports on the air investigating the cause of the disaster and what regulators could have done to prevent it. The reports focused

on much-ignored federal regulations requiring local agencies to form planning committees to track dangerous chemicals. The county where the explosion took place was in violation of federal law and did not have such a committee. The investigation then expanded to find a large group of counties in violation of the law and lacking any record of where dangerous and explosive chemicals were stored. Due to the breaking nature of the investigation, the reporters faced hostile sources for the story, nerves still raw from having just lost friends in the explosion. The investigation resulted in the state issuing new rules for the reporting and storage of hazardous chemicals.

Finalists:

- **“A Deadly Explosion,” Houston Chronicle,** Ingrid Lobet, Lise Olsen, Yang Wang, Tony Freemantle, Peggy Fikac, Patti Hart, John Tedesco, Matthew Tresaugue and Eric Berger
- **“A 911 Call’s Deadly Aftermath, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette,** Liz Navratil and Jonathan D. Silver
- **“The Shell Game,” KXAS-Dallas/Fort Worth,** Scott Friedman, Eva Parks, Peter Hull and Shannon Hammel
- **“Tracking Danger,” KMGH-Denver,** Theresa Marchetta, Jennifer Castor and Carl Bilek

BOOK



LAWRENCE WRIGHT

“Going Clear, Scientology, Hollywood, and the Prison of Belief,” Lawrence Wright

Judges’ comments: Wright’s investigation of the Church of Scientology is groundbreaking in its examination of one of the most well known, but secretive, religion organizations in the world. He draws on previously secret documents — including internal works of the church’s founder L. Ron Hubbard — interviews with former and current members of the church and hundreds of court records to present a hard-hitting, but balanced view of church and its followers. The book shines a light on the church’s harsh treatment of those who try to leave, but also highlights those, including some of Hollywood’s biggest stars, who have benefited from its teachings. The book also explores the complicated biography

of the church’s founder and its relationship with its most famous member, actor Tom Cruise. Despite threats from the church, which is known for its aggressive defense of its works and members, this work provides the best understanding of Scientology to date.

Finalists:

- **“Eternal Harvest: The Legacy of American Bombs in Laos,”** Karen Coates and Jerry Redfern
- **“Kill Anything That Moves: The Real American War in Vietnam,”** Nick Turse

GANNETT AWARD FOR INNOVATION IN WATCHDOG JOURNALISM

THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

“Spotlight on the Texas Legislature,” The Texas Tribune, The Texas Tribune Staff

Judges’ comments: In The Texas Tribune’s “Spotlight on the Texas Legislature,” the live stream of the House and Senate proceedings presents a simple innovation by a scrappy team of journalists and demonstrates how to tell a story of national interest beyond its local audience. That, combined with relentless, constantly updated watchdog reporting, brought transparency to a state legislature with a history of opaqueness. The judges are unaware of any other comparably sized news organization doing this kind of watchdog work in these kinds of simple, yet smart, solutions. Through the live stream combined with the interactive documenting of conflicts of interest and financial relationships, the team has given us all unfettered access to the entire Texas legislature. This is an example of truly innovative thinking by a small team that allows a broad, national audience to have meaningful access to important state-level stories.

Read the winning stories online at ire.org

NEW VALUES IN JOURNALISM ETHICS

Shrinking resources put duty on individual journalists

BY KELLY MCBRIDE — THE POYNTER INSTITUTE

INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISTS generally have quick reflexes when it comes to ethics. And that's not always a good thing.

Psychologists would describe investigative journalists as the righteous type: easily outraged, quick to judge something as good or bad, courageous enough to point out the failings of the powerful. That highly tuned sense of moral outrage combined with a desire to expose corruption or impose justice on unfair systems is the internal engine that drives so many great investigative reporters.

It's counterintuitive that the very thing that makes investigators good, sometimes makes them bad at ethical decisions.

That's because ethics is a process, not a gut reaction. That very gene that makes you want to charge forward and expose the slimy powerbroker is the gene that tells you, "Don't listen to your critics, they're just trying to slow you down."

In the past, most investigative reporters had a pretty secure newsroom safety net, their own system of checks and balances that tilted the odds toward healthy results. There were layers of editing. Projects were expected to take a long time. There were a lot of other bodies around to share the work.

Also, newsrooms once embraced fairly stable and predictable decision-making systems.

Much has changed. Newsrooms are smaller, and they no longer have a robust duplication of resources. That means the number of people participating in a given project is likely smaller, and the diversity of thought and experience is narrower.

On top of that, the investigative model has changed. In many places, investigative teams are now part of small non-profit organizations funded by philanthropists or foundations. Newsrooms are doing smaller investigations. More and more individuals who are passionate about investigative work find ways of doing it without the official imprimatur of "investigative reporter." That means they might be doubling up with general assignment or beat work, because most newsrooms can't afford to have investigative specialists who do nothing else.

None of this is inherently unethical. It simply means that the systems by which we traditionally made ethical choices

around investigative journalism have become less stable and less predictable.

Many investigative journalists no longer work in a system that compensates for their weaknesses. Instead, investigative journalists must embrace a process that might feel unnatural. They have to stop and evaluate the ethical implications of reporting choices, even when they think they know the right answers. They have to acknowledge that sometimes there is more than one right choice.

So what does that process look like?

This starts with identifying core values. This is no small task.

Many investigative journalists no longer work in a system that compensates for their weaknesses. Instead, investigative journalists must embrace a process that might feel unnatural.

Almost every major professional news organization is retooling its code of ethics. While it's easy to freshen language to acknowledge the perpetual news cycle, social media and a mobile environment, it's a lot harder to figure out if these new realities have changed our core values.

When Tom Rosenstiel, executive director of the American Press Institute, and I were co-editing "The New Ethics of Journalism: Principles for the 21st Century," we asked this question of our contributors: Have our ethical values changed? They surprised us with their easy consensus.

Yes, they said, new values had emerged. Transparency and community had risen to headline level and that should be acknowledged.

SIX ETHICAL SCENARIOS

We gave Poynter's McBride a list of six ethical scenarios to weigh in on.

1. A source has asked to be paid to analyze information for a complicated story. Is it ethical, and should it be disclosed?

If there is a fair market value for the analysis, then yes, it's completely legitimate to pay for it and to disclose to the audience what it cost. For instance, when the Tampa Bay Times was doing DNA analysis on fish that was served as grouper, they paid for it. There are forensic accountants who can go through a set of records and estimate the value of a company. They get paid for that work.

This becomes more suspect when a source is asking to be paid for his or her opinion based on cumulated expertise. A lawyer who has defended the criminally insane should not be paid to comment on a case. Likewise, a whistleblower calling attention to unsafe working conditions should not be paid for his opinion. When you pay people simply to serve as sources, you increase the chances that they will distort the information to increase its value.

Note that this is different from paying an analyst to regularly contribute to your work, the way cable television newsrooms do. In that case they are paying for the time and the reliability. One-offs or occasional sources that offer expert opinion or eye-witness accounts should not be paid for contribution to your journalism.

2. Is it fair to use pictures, video and other items from social media accounts? Does it matter if the person is an offender or a victim?

You have two obligations when taking material from social media. First, you must provide adequate verification and context through reporting. There have been numerous examples of journalists identifying the wrong person because they forsook their basic responsibilities to report and verify. Beyond accuracy, you are obliged to operate within your newsroom's ethical standards and within the broader legal standards. Most social media networks provide for reuse of material within the network. But every image and video, as well as other material published on social media, is protected by copyright. Therefore you must operate within the boundaries of fair use. For a great tutorial for journalists on fair use, see this course on Poynter's News University (bit.ly/1nviMcG).

3. I have been given access to state servers to transfer a large file, but the access allowed me to traverse up to the root directory and look in other folders. Is it ethical to peek?

That's the equivalent of trespassing and burglary. Just because your neighbor leaves his door unlocked, doesn't mean you can go in and raid the fridge. Now, that doesn't mean you couldn't ever ethically justify breaking the law. You could. But it would have to be for a story that was overwhelmingly in the public's interest, in which you had exhausted all other possible reporting pathways. Even then, you'd still have to be willing to endure the legal consequences.

4. I've got a PDF from a government agency, but it's password-protected. Is it ethical to crack it to see what's inside?

It'd be better to file a request and get the information opened. Governments have limited reasons for classifying documents, and most stuff is improperly sealed. If you determine that it is improperly being kept from public view, then everybody wins. However, if you determine that it should be sealed even though it's a story with compelling public interest, then see above on burglary and trespassing.

5. While reporting a story, I've discovered a crime has been committed. Am I obligated to inform the police immediately, or can I wait until the story runs?

Your primary loyalty is to your audience. By telling your audience of the crime you are also informing the police. However, if delaying that reporting could lead to an individual being harmed or killed, then you have an obligation to act immediately.

6. I requested data from the school district and they accidentally included student names. I don't plan to publish any names, but do I need to assign pseudonyms before I analyze the data so I don't violate student privacy?

You have an obligation to make sure that you don't contribute to a further violation of the students' privacy by unnecessarily sharing the information. But you have no obligation to shield them from yourself or individuals who are working on the story. That said, if the information is particularly embarrassing and someone working on the story is likely to know the students, then it would be an act of kindness for everyone if you did shield the names. But it's not an ethical obligation.

Where independence from outside influences had once been the prime value in journalism, transparency has risen above it. Telling the audience how you made decisions, why they should believe you, how you chose the story and how your business model influences your work are now all highly valued.

That doesn't mean that independent journalism is no longer important. Indeed, it is likely to remain very important to a broad group of journalism organizations. But we are no longer in a position to discount information that advocates a point of view. We are seeing traditional news organizations adopt positions on a variety of issues from global warming to equal rights to Obamacare. Now that anybody can be a journalist, independence is no longer a key indicator of a reporter. That makes transparency all the more important. Because everyone has competing loyalties, conflicts of interest and points of view, being transparent gives the audience the information they need to judge the journalism.

Likewise, serving a community has risen above the maxim of minimizing harm. Of course you still have an obligation to minimize harm, particularly to the innocent or the vulnerable. But it's not your only duty, nor is it your primary duty. With technology you have the ability to know your audience and be part of a community in ways that were never possible before the Internet.

Step 1: Name your principles

Principles are values turned into action statements. It's impossible to make good ethical choices if you aren't clear about the principles that guide your work.

Seek the truth. Act with transparency. Serve the community. Those are the three principles that Rosenstiel and I listed as the core guiding values most likely to serve journalism in pursuit of democracy. They differ from the three traditional principles that most of journalism has been operating with for the last couple decades: Seek the truth. Act independently. Minimize harm.

But they are not the only principles or the best principles for every news organization. You may have others that are unique to your mission or your audience. When we lived in a world with a relatively few number of media outlets, it made sense that we could articulate principles that applied to most media organizations. Now that we live in a world where media organizations have multiplied exponentially, it's unrealistic to think that single set of principles would work for all. That doesn't mean that organizations like Poynter, IRE, SPJ, ONA or RTDNA shouldn't try writing codes of ethics for a wide swath of journalists. Those codes are important if we are going to talk about this work as a profession.

However, that's just the starting point. Individual journalists and news outlets have their own work to do. It's important that you agree with your boss and others in your newsroom about your motivations for doing investigative work.

Step 2: Identify your journalistic purpose

Investigative reporters sometimes skip this step because it seems so obvious. Why are we doing this story? Because citizens need to know. Because the powerful should be held accountable.

But too often, when you don't articulate your journalistic purpose out loud, you end up serving other masters. You run sensational video because of its potential to go viral. Or you publish a database just because you can.

Step 3: Ask questions

Ask genuine, open-ended questions about ethical dilemmas. Not those snarky hypothetical, argumentative statements that often pass for questions. Reporters tend to be really great at interviewing sources, but really bad at using those same skills for guiding discussions within the newsroom.

Instead of starting each question with an argument or a premise, start with a neutral, open-ended question to allow a group of people to explore new territory.

Journalists in the middle of an ethical argument tend to look for parallel scenarios. "If this was a man, would we ever question his parenting skills?" "If this company didn't advertise with us, would we be having this meeting?" While those questions can telegraph double standards or hypocrisy, in a group of people looking for solutions argumentative questions tend to create more arguments. Open-ended questions have different results. "When do we scrutinize the parenting ability of people running for public office?" "How is this company's status as an advertiser impacting our reporting process?"

Neutral, open-ended questions can still highlight unfairness, but they also help a group of people identify solutions.

Step 4: Look for alternatives

This is the key step in ethical decision-making. When newsrooms around the world tap Poynter's resources for help in a tricky decision, this is our secret sauce. We don't usually tell reporters or editors what to do. Instead, we help get more alternatives on the table. When you have four or five choices, instead of just two, you are more likely to find a solution that matches your journalistic purpose or balances two competing values.

Step 5: Match the appropriate alternative to your journalistic purpose

It's tempting to see the act of sorting through alternatives as a compromise or an exercise in consensus building. That's not doing ethics. During a healthy ethical process, usually the alternatives that best serve the journalistic purpose of the work rise to the top.

Explaining to the audience why you chose to do what you did, whether it's publishing a database or digging into an individual's financial connections, is like the icing on the cake. If your process was robust, justifying your work to the audience is easy. It's not always the first instinct of investigative journalists to explain why they made the choices they made. But we're getting there as a profession.

Now that the audience has so many choices when it comes to where to get information and whom to trust, explaining the process behind the product is crucial for maintaining credibility.

Since institutions behind journalism have been stretched thin responding to changes in the economy and technology, the burden of ethics in investigative reporting falls more heavily on the individuals who are passionate about the work.

Investigative journalists who believe in holding the powerful accountable also will embrace the skills and knowledge required to hold themselves accountable.

Kelly McBride is vice president for academic programs at The Poynter Institute and the co-editor of "The New Ethics of Journalism: Principles for the 21st Century."

UNDERCOVER REPORTING: AN AMERICAN TRADITION

The history and best practices of reporting undercover

BY BROOKE KROEGER — NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

TO ANYONE WHO STILL THINKS significant undercover reporting stopped in the late 1970s, when ethical concerns about the method first flared, please consider this:

From Jan. 1, 2013 to the end of April 2014, I posted 42 significant new undercover investigations to the open-access database at undercoverreporting.org. Those added in the first four months of this year include a new human trafficking exposé by Ghana's Anas Aremeyaw Anas; the infiltration of a Wall Street secret society by Kevin Roose for *New York Magazine*; David Spears' book, "Exit Ramp," which chronicles his 80 hours panhandling off Interstate 205 in downtown Oregon City; a Nigerian human trafficking investigation by Tobore Ovuorie for *Premium Times* and a BBC "Panorama" elder care investigation that led to one firing and seven staff suspensions.

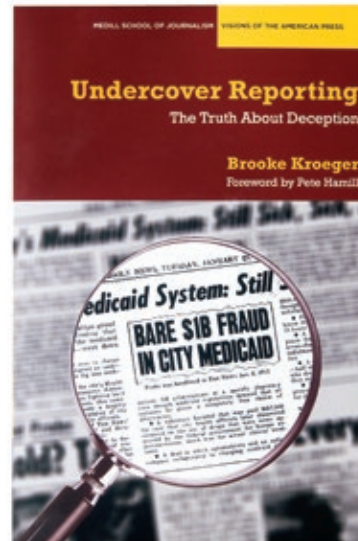
The 37 entries for 2013 include the Upton Sinclair redux by my colleague, Ted Conover, who got hired as a federal inspector to gain access to a Nebraska beef slaughterhouse. In "The Jungle," Sinclair didn't go any further than dressing the part and toting a lunch pail. Conover's 18-page report for *Harper's* was a 2014 National Magazine Award finalist.

The undercover tradition

The point is, undercover reporting has continued, ethical conundrums and all, in a steady and uninterrupted flow since at least the 1840s. That's when reporters for Horace Greeley's *New York Tribune* posed as auction buyers in Virginia and Louisiana to report on the evils of slavery. In another case, a reporter signed on with a Civil War infantry regiment of the Petersburg Grays to get up close and personal at the hanging of the abolitionist John Brown.

For more than 160 years since, examples of important work involving undercover reporting have numbered in the thousands. That's a lot, considering the time, editorial deliberations, effort, ethical consternation, expense, exertion and risk these undertakings so often demand.

It's not hard to fathom why the appeal of undercover work remains strong. Like almost no other journalistic form, it gives reporters deep, unfiltered access to subjects, situations and institutions that are important but hidden from the public. It also



In her book released in 2012, Kroeger argues the value of undercover reporting and highlights investigations throughout history.

permits the use of narrative storytelling techniques that can stir impassioned public response and thus encourage action from those in power. These are the best, if not the only good reasons to undertake such a project.

Over the years, my research has found hundreds of prestigious honors given for this kind of work. And little wonder. Historically, the best undercover reporting has had a positive impact: from heightened public awareness and calls for action to arrests, firings, legislation and institutional reform.

Deception did not beget distrust

Missteps such as the 1992 ABC-Food Lion investigation and the 1998 Cincinnati *Enquirer*-Chiquita Banana exposé have their own "Lapses" cluster in undercover reporting database, but it's worth noting that it's small, especially compared to how often conventional journalistic approaches go wrong. The much longer "Undercover Journalism Debated" cluster is also worth a look (bit.ly/1fMuKiW).

A new, more disapproving attitude toward undercover reporting did begin to surface in the late 1970s, when the vexing issue of

GETTING IT RECORDED

Tips for capturing video while working undercover BY TISHA THOMPSON, WRC-TV

Simple things can trip you up when you shoot undercover video. “Is the camera on? I can’t tell if the camera is on!” Simple gestures: “Is my arm too stiff?” Simple questions: “What do you do for a living?” On its surface, it’s such an innocuous question. It’s the small-talk question people always ask. But answering that one question while you’re recording with a hidden camera illustrates the complexity, anxiety and difficulty of shooting undercover video.

Stories that use hidden cameras and surveillance video are wonderful stories because they catch the liars lying. They show what really happens when people think no one is looking. Undercover video is the ultimate truth-teller.

And the pay-off can be tremendous. Our hidden camera stories have led to laws getting changed, people getting fired and companies changing their policies.

Here are the 10 things we always do to pull off successful undercover shoots:

Talk to your lawyer

Before ever undertaking any hidden camera story, we call our lawyer and walk through what we plan to do. There’s always some legal nuance that may trip you up. Can you record video but not audio? Is there an expectation of privacy? What if you move locations? Is there a sign that says “Recording Prohibited?” Every state treats these questions differently. Some states, for instance, have rules about how many unrelated people have to be near you to make it a “public” place.

Do you even need a hidden camera?

People often jump at the chance to shoot a hidden camera because it sounds so sexy. But you can still go “undercover” without being “hidden.” By using a well-placed newspaper and a cell phone, flip camera or handcam, you suddenly don’t have to worry about legal issues like privacy. We did a story about a man selling real estate when he was supposed to be at his six-figure government job. We knew we would be fine outside the house, but once we walked inside we had to worry about an expectation of privacy. So, we casually asked him if we could shoot video with our flip camera to remember what we saw. He said “Of course!” When he later tried to kill the story by threatening to sue us for illegally recording him, we reminded him he had given us permission. We aired the video and he lost his job.

Practice, practice, practice

Practice using the camera in your newsroom by talking to people as they are standing, sitting and moving around. Fig-



WRC-TV

NBC engineers installing high-definition cameras into our test vehicle. Each camera is motion activated and wired to its own digital video recorder or DVR.



When you repeat everything they say in the form of a question, you may get a different answer. Here, an AAMCO salesman admits to our producer he doesn’t know what the service he’s recommending to us actually is or why it costs so much money.



Robin Fader

Can you spot the six hidden cameras?

ure out how to turn it on and off without anyone noticing. This sounds so obvious, but it can be so hard in the heat of the moment. Make sure you’re not shooting sideways or upside down (so easy to do!). Are you shooting the ceiling?

GETTING IT ON TAPE continued

Women and button cameras attached to a shirt at chest-level typically don't mix because their, ahem, anatomy tends to point the camera towards the ceiling.

Rehearse

Find someone willing to role-play with you. Come up with every possible question someone might ask while you're shooting. "Where you from?" "What's your cell number?" How will you safely leave without drawing attention to yourself? What do you do if it gets dangerous? And what will you do if they ask, "Is that a camera?" In most cases, you tell them the truth. Check with your lawyer, but you will probably need to tell them who you are, who you work for and that you're wearing a hidden camera. Our plan is then to say, "I want to ask you some questions." People will sometimes answer them. If they tell you to leave, you leave. But you can transition into a confrontational style interview where you ask specific, pointed style questions. Stay grounded with facts and avoid an accusatory tone — while remembering all the while you're also the photog and need to keep them in frame.

Fit in

Think about what you look like, what you're wearing and how you hold the camera. Do you have vehicle tags from out of state? Does your vehicle have a number or station logo on its bumper, rearview mirror or windshield? Are you wearing an ID badge or a jacket identifying where you work? Are you holding that cell phone like your whole life depends on it and you forget to ever move your elbow?

Never, ever lie

This is sacrosanct. You cannot "make up" a backstory or fudge what you do for a living. But you can deflect a question by asking a question or responding truthfully without giving away your profession. "I work for Comcast" or "I work in web development" is true but not too revealing. We've also brought along employees who work in our sales and accounting departments so they can answer all the questions while we do all the shooting.

Use multiple cameras

It is inevitable, no matter how well you prepare, that one of your cameras will fail for some reason. Sometimes we have one person carry two cameras (like a cell phone camera and a button camera). Sometimes two people carry cameras. If you can, have someone in a car or at a distance shooting video as well.

Repeat their answers

Just in case your microphone can't pick up what the other side is saying, and so there's no doubt about what they just



Robin Fader

Answers: (1) Keychain cam (2) Cell phone cam (3) Cell phone cam (4) Pen cam (5) Button Cam (6) Glasses cam

said, repeat what they tell you in the form of a question. If someone says, "The repair is going to cost \$200," say something like, "Wait, it's going to cost \$200?" When our producer repeated everything AAMCO technicians told him about why repairs would cost so much, some of the technicians changed their answers or admitted they didn't really know what they were talking about.

Keep your mouth shut and your body still

It feels so unnatural, but you have to stay still for longer than you think. And don't talk unless you have to. Especially during the down moments while you're waiting for the action to start. Don't yap about your boyfriend, your night out, or even worse, what you really think about your boss. Whatever you say could end up in a courtroom. Think about what you will sound like if a jury, and your boss, listens to you chattering on about your personal life.

You will think you've been made

This is completely normal. You will be convinced they can see the camera or know you're a reporter. Be prepared, but also learn how to channel that natural anxiety into getting the shot. This, by far and away, is the hardest part but will eventually become easier the more you do it.

The only way to get good at this is to just do it. So go out there and do it. But be smart, be prepared and don't beat yourself up too much if something goes wrong. Because it will. How you handle it will be the difference between a good story and a great story.

Tisha Thompson is an investigative reporter at WRC-Washington, DC. A graduate of Princeton University and Missouri's Graduate School of Journalism, she loves hidden camera, computer-assisted and document driven stories — her specialty for more than a decade. Her undercover camera investigations have produced 14 Emmy nominations and six statues.

would-be truth-tellers engaging in deceptive practices first gave pause to a few sectors of the editorial elite. What caused the change of heart? The timing strongly suggests that the main driver was not so much that the ethical baggage suddenly became too heavy. Rather, it was the release of national surveys signaling a precipitous drop in public trust of the media.

A poll released by the National Opinion Research Center in 1976 showed that the number of Americans with a great deal of confidence in the press had fallen to 28 percent. By 1983, that figure had slipped further to 13 percent. Reasons cited for the growing distrust included overuse of unidentified sourcing, too much pandering to the powerful, falsification and embellishment of facts, bias, lack of concern about accuracy and a perception that journalistic power and a presumption of importance had increased to a point of arrogance and insensitivity.

As I note in my book on undercover reporting, none of these is the natural sin of undercover reporting, and it was never included in any list of culprits of mistrust. In fact, the practice was almost always applauded in surveys undertaken by individual newspapers, gauging reader response to their own high-profile, undercover projects.

A number of major newspapers banned undercover reporting in the 80s. Mystifyingly, and to my surmise, these newspapers assumed that banning undercover work was the most visible, symbolic, concrete way to restore public confidence.

A spillover effect of this response was the dead hand it put on big prize considerations. The 1979 Pulitzer board memorably passed over the Chicago Sun-Times' 25-part *Mirage Tavern* series. After months of intensive legal and ethical vetting, the newspaper opened and ran its own bar for about four months to find out how petty graft in the city really worked. *Mirage* remains one of the most inventive exposés of all time and led to more than a dozen firings of city or state employees; 33 indictments and 18 convictions of city inspectors; the creation of new city, state and federal task forces and more. But because of the sudden ethical handwringing on the Pulitzer board that year — well chronicled in the press at the time — the series did not win the prize so many thought it so deserved.

The next year came Merle Linda Wolin, who for nearly a year was “Merlina” the Latina sweatshop worker, reporting undercover for the Los Angeles Herald Examiner in one of the earliest mainstream newspaper efforts to engage and report on the city's growing Latino community. Each new installment was broadcast over local Spanish-language radio and carried by *La Opinion*, the Spanish-language newspaper. The series brought Wolin into court to sue an employer who refused to pay her and an appearance before a Congressional subcommittee as an expert on home labor.

Yet the Pulitzer board also declined to support Wolin's project, despite a supplementary, confidential report from the jury, defending the work as its first choice. Judges for the 1980 Robert F. Kennedy awards that year clearly gave this debate a pass. The grand prize went to the Atlanta Constitution for a series on workers in Georgia who earned below minimum wage. The series included undercover stints by two reporters, one as a turpentine worker and the other as a motel maid.

In the coming years, the duPont board awarded several Silver Batons for television work that involved hidden cameras. A couple of newspaper series that involved undercover components even made the finalist lists at the Pulitzers. But the contrast with



New York Tribune, Los Angeles Herald Examiner

LEFT: Reporters with the New York Tribune went undercover as auction buyers in the 1840s to report on slavery in Virginia and Louisiana. RIGHT: Los Angeles Herald Examiner reporter Merle Linda Wolin posed as a sweatshop worker for a year in the 1980s.

the previous period was stark. Between 1960 and 1979, the Pulitzer board had awarded five prizes to projects with prominent undercover dimensions.

So, to the more casual observer on the newspaper side it might well have appeared that undercover had gone to ground. Remember, these were the days long before a few key strokes into a search engine could correct a misimpression. And somehow that has remained a common view, even though significant projects have continued to be produced with regularity. And, 15 years after the *Mirage*, even the Pulitzer board came around.

Tony Horwitz's two weeklong stints in 1994 as a poultry processor for his *Wall Street Journal* series about the dirtiest, lowest paid jobs in America took the 1995 Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting. What is it about food processing? Charlie LeDuff's work in a pork plant was part of a 2001 *New York Times* Pulitzer-winning series, too.

Horwitz's undercover episode fell under the vigilant ethical scrutiny of the Journal's standards-bearer of the day, Barney Calame. The Journal had supported many such efforts both before 1979 and has since, but always under a strict set of guidelines.

During my research for my book, “Undercover Reporting: The Truth About Deception,” I was particularly struck by the way Calame and the Journal's then managing editor, Paul Steiger, explained their approach to me in interviews.

Their thinking is of a piece with the standards of almost every hallowed legacy media outlet that did not outright forbid the practice: Go undercover as a last resort, don't lie, identify yourself if asked directly and explain the methodology to the reader. But the Journal of the time clearly privileged the journalism above all other considerations.

Steiger, who became founding editor-in-chief, CEO and president of ProPublica, held the view that a publication needs to be careful before resorting to extreme reporting measures. “But that does not mean it should shy away from using them if the story warrants it.”

Calame emphasized the importance of avoiding collateral damage, of doing no unintended harm to those “who either do not know they are being quoted for publication or don't understand the possible consequences of being quoted or described, even if they are aware.”

Steiger also waxed reflective on what case might make him willing to breach the rules. He couldn't think of one. “But this

Looking beyond outcomes in weighing undercover reporting

BY STEPHANIE CRAFT — UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Journalists trying to determine whether the deception involved in undercover reporting can be ethically justified might turn to the SPJ Code of Ethics for guidance. There they would find the straightforward instruction to: “Avoid undercover or other surreptitious methods of gathering information except when traditional open methods will not yield information vital to the public. Use of such methods should be explained as part of the story.”

For some situations, that instruction alone might be all the guidance you need. Is the information to be gained vital? Is there no other way to get it? Will we tell the public how we got it? If yes, yes and yes, then...go ahead, right?

Well, maybe. But I suggest throwing a couple more considerations into the mix to ensure that ethical decision-making does not rely so heavily on outcomes, as the Code seems to do, in determining the rightness of actions. Predicting outcomes is notoriously difficult, and relying on them can lead us to ignore other important ethical obligations.

Here, we will consult philosopher W.D. Ross for help. Going undercover is often a situation in which two perfect duties – defined by Ross as duties you **MUST** act on, such as keeping your promises, avoiding causing harm and respecting others’ autonomy – collide and suggest contradictory actions. Undercover reporting can, for example, treat the people whom the journalist is deceiving as mere tools, as means to an end, and not as autonomous people deserving of respect. In some situations undercover reporting can also be the only way

for journalists to keep their implied promise to the public to “seek truth and report it.” Acting on the first duty would mean, perhaps, not going undercover or maybe changing HOW the undercover reporting is undertaken. Acting on the second duty would mean the opposite. And other duties, perfect or imperfect, might also be at stake. So what to do?

If it seems that all we (with Ross’s help) have accomplished so far is to complicate the issue, that’s not bad. In fact, it’s kind of the point. We want to expand the decision-making process to consider how going undercover might affect every player relevant to the situation. Who are these people? What kind of harm might they suffer? What is the nature of my duty to them? Once we know that, we can weigh their various claims on us and think through why some of those claims might be more important than others – why it might be justifiable in this case to breach one perfect duty in order to act on another perfect duty.

All of this brainstorming can help you reach better decisions about whether, when and how to do undercover work. And it will help you offer a better explanation for those decisions to the public for whom you work than “it seemed like a good idea at the time.”

Stephanie Craft is an associate professor of journalism whose research focuses on journalism ethics and news literacy. She is co-author, with Charles Davis, of the textbook “Principles of American Journalism: An Introduction” published by Routledge.

is not something handed down from the mount,” he said. The fundamental issue is credibility: “What should journalists do to be accepted and credible by the lights of society? A policy of not lying fits with that,” he said. “But it’s not a moral absolute.”

I expand upon all of these considerations in the book, but here are a couple of other highlights gleaned from my research:

- Be careful in putting the writer at the center of the work, making him or her more important than the story.
- Avoid the pitfall of “improperly speaking for others,” in Philip Brian Harper’s phrase. Don’t attribute more to the reporter’s unique experience than its portion.
- Stay within the bounds of law.
- Have detached outside evaluations of a project before undertaking it.
- Don’t let “don’t lie” become some weird contortion of another kind of untruth. Undercover reporting often involves

such tactics as camouflaging one’s appearance, finessing a job application, hiding telltale equipment, dodging officials who would not welcome a reporter’s presence or coaching sources in how to keep the reporter’s secrets. These are surreptitious acts. As uncomfortable or out-of-character the intent to deceive might feel, it is, in fact, deception. Acknowledge the behavior for what it is.

- And instead of the more typically accepted formulation of “Make sure there is no other way to get the story,” I would amend that to say, make sure there is not a more timely and equally effective means of getting and presenting the information.

Brooke Kroeger’s four books include “Undercover Reporting: The Truth About Deception” and “Nellie Bly: Daredevil, Reporter, Feminist.” She is a professor at the Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute of New York University, where she directs the graduate degree unit known as Global and Joint Program Studies.

ETHICAL INFOGRAPHICS

In data visualization, journalism meets engineering

BY ALBERTO CAIRO — UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

LET ME START by boring you to death with some relevant theoretical considerations. Bear with me for just a few paragraphs. You'll have much more fun if you grasp where I'm coming from. At the core of the discussion on what constitutes morally good behavior when designing news graphics and data visualizations lies a much more fundamental question: What is a visualization, anyway?⁽¹⁾ It's information encoded as charts, maps, diagrams and illustrations that facilitate communication, analysis and understanding. A visualization is much more than an unidirectional channel between a "teller" and a "viewer." Rather, visualizations are artifacts that designers contrive for people to explore and comprehend datasets, geographic realities or complex entanglements of ideas and events.

Therefore, creating a visualization isn't just an act of journalism, but also of engineering. To think about the ethics of news visualization — a field waiting to be developed — is to go beyond the grand

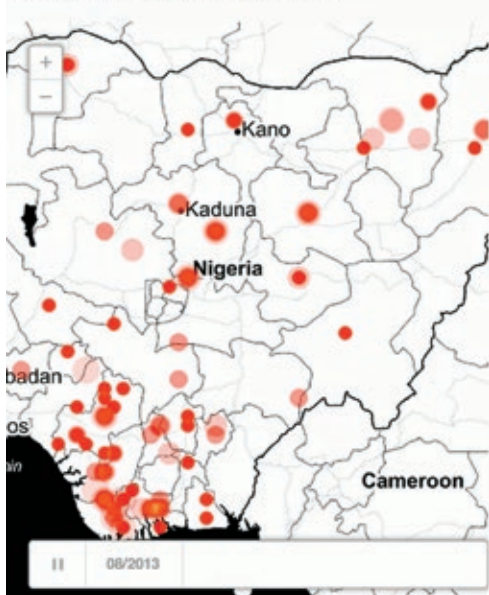
themes traditionally covered in the literature on journalism ethics and to explore matters of effectiveness and efficiency.

Journalists who design visualizations need to address questions related to what they should display and why, but also pay increased attention to how they should display it. In other words, visualization designers must think about the structures, styles and graphic forms that let audiences access information successfully in every situation.

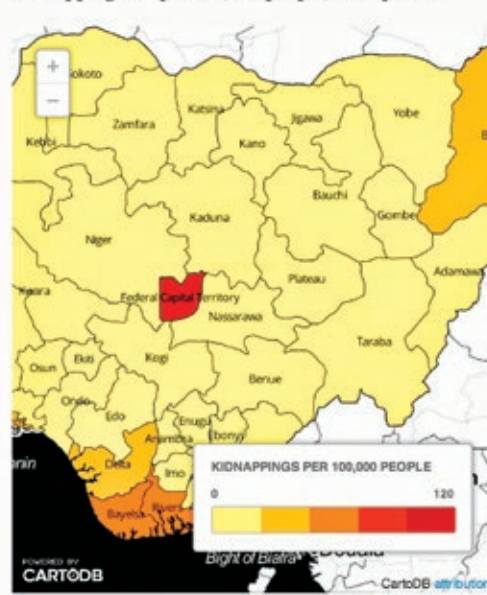
A disclaimer: I'm an unashamed rule utilitarian.⁽²⁾ I won't take the time to defend my stance here. I've been told that I can only write up to 1,800 words. It'll be enough for you to remember that the cornerstone of this article is that the purpose of journalism is to increase knowledge among the public while minimizing the side effects that making that knowledge available might have. Take the time to digest the previous sentence: Increasing understanding while minimizing harm.

Figure 1

Kidnappings in Nigeria, 1982-present



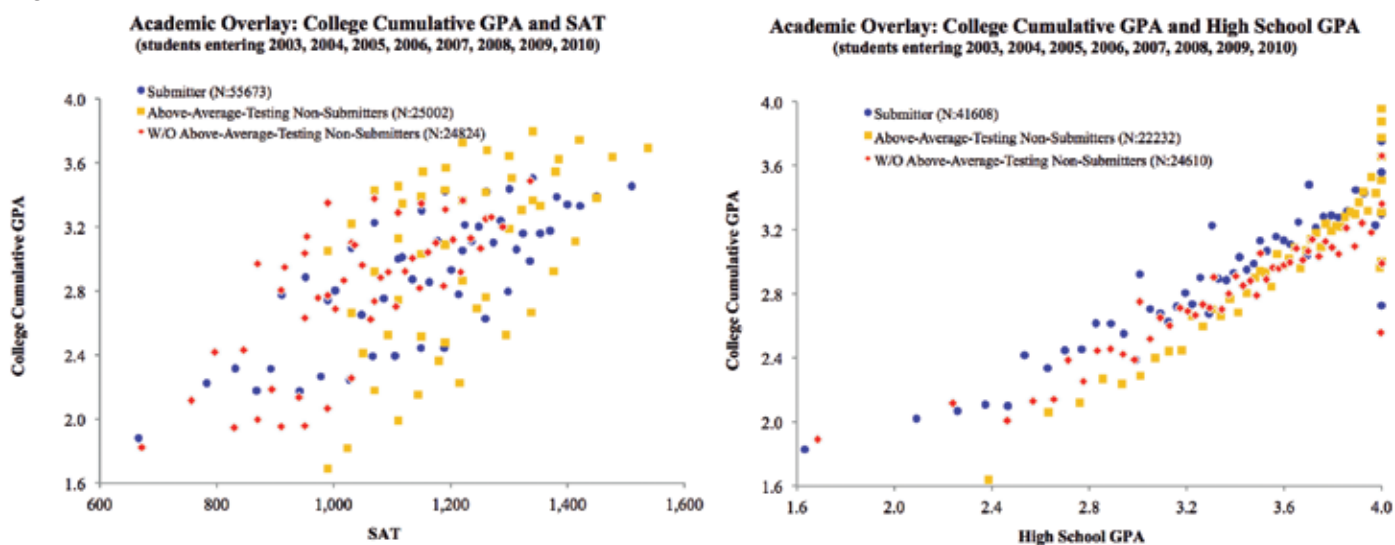
Kidnapping rate per 100,000 people, 1982-present



FiveThirtyEight used data from the Global Database of Events, Language and Tone, which tracks news stories about kidnappings, to create both graphics.

FiveThirtyEight

Figure 2



Correlation between SAT scores and GPA in college and between high school GPA and college GPA.

The journalistic virtues and deontological rules we often hear and read about (academics in journalism ethics love them, but they rarely reason why we should embrace them in the first place) can be reworded as utilitarian guidelines for conduct. We don't "tell the truth" just for the sake of telling the truth, and we are not "honest" because "honesty" is a self-evident "virtue." Arguably, such notions are risible.

Rather, we are honest and we tell the truth because we have evidence to demonstrate that doing so increases the public's understanding about relevant matters. Better information is correlated to well-being. Generalized knowledge can lead to generalized happiness.

Now, as promised in the first paragraph, let's proceed to the fun part, in which I would like to propose several topics for further discussion.

What to show

Although the main focus of this article isn't how we should choose topics to cover or how to collect and process data, I would like to make a couple of points. First, I feel that news publications that conduct data journalism rely too much on existing and easily accessible databases, a fact that may introduce biases in their story choices. Second, those stories are sometimes built without assessing the quality of their sources or applying proper reporting and analysis methods. This can lead to disastrous results.⁽³⁾

In May, Mona Chalabi, lead writer for the FiveThirtyEight's Data-Lab, published two blog posts which claimed that kidnappings in Nigeria have accelerated in the past 30 years. The evidence provided to support the article's thesis were a couple of bar graphs and two animated maps. See Figure 1.

These graphics don't show kidnappings, though, but the number of news stories about kidnappings, a variable that was obtained from the Global Database of Events, Language and Tone. But "News stories about kidnappings" is a poor proxy variable for actual kidnappings if the data is not normalized somehow, perhaps by adjusting for the amount of news stories related to the beat. This is similar to inferring armed robbery rates in Miami based on the occurrence of the word "robbery" in the Miami Herald. It would be absurd, as the Herald may be covering middle-class neighborhoods better than it covers poor ones (I'm making this up.) Neglecting confounding variables is risky.

The two posts that Chalabi wrote didn't even put the data in context, for instance by mentioning that Boko Haram, the group that kidnapped hundreds of Nigerian girls recently, was founded in 2002. There's a surge in kidnapping reports after that year.

Several data-savvy readers reprimanded FiveThirtyEight. One of them, Erin Simpson, wrote on Twitter: "Validate your own data. It's not true just because it's on a goddamn map."⁽⁴⁾ Simpson's observation is poignant, as we have some tentative evidence⁽⁵⁾ to think that

Stories are sometimes built without assessing the quality of their sources or applying proper reporting and analysis methods. This can lead to disastrous results.

people are less skeptical of new information when it is presented as a chart or a data map than when it comes just as text. Visuals are persuasive and may provide a sense of certainty, for better or worse. FiveThirtyEight has since added an Editor's Note admitting the errors.

How to show it

When I say that news graphic designers are not just journalists, but also information engineers, I imply that we should think a bit more as software developers or industrial designers. In other words, for us the information is as important as the effectiveness and efficiency of the displays we devise to convey it. When we create a visualization, we're giving information a visual shape, we model it, we sculpt it. There should be a connection between the forms we choose and the tasks that our visualization is intended to facilitate.

Let's suppose that you're working on a story about the weak correlation between SAT scores and GPA in college, and the strong one between high school GPA and college GPA.⁽⁶⁾ You have all the data and you know where all students in the sample came from.

How should you encode the data? The right procedure is to think about the purpose of the graphic (“to display relationships”) and then choose the graphic form accordingly. In this case, a couple of scatter plots similar to Figure 2 will do the job quite nicely — after you have styled them for publication, of course.

Not all visualization designers proceed this way. Instead, they sometimes rely on their personal aesthetic preferences and choose graphic forms based just on their visual appeal. Beauty and creativity have a role in visualization, for sure. We need to experiment with new graphic forms — our current visual grammar and vocabulary are quite limited — but not at the expense of clarity and efficiency. Would it make sense to present the same data mentioned above on a map? No, because the purpose of this particular graphic is to display correlations, not to reveal geographic patterns.⁽⁷⁾

You may be asking yourself at this point: How do we know if a graphic form is better at fulfilling a particular purpose than another one? The answer is that we can partially base our decisions on existing research on statistics, computer science, and cognitive psychology. I can’t go into many details here⁽⁸⁾, but we already know that some shapes are indeed better for certain functions. To test this notion, take a look at Figure 3.

I’m pretty sure that you’re able to estimate the height of most lines in the dot plot quite accurately. You cannot do the same in the bubble chart or in the pie chart. Why not? It has to do with the fact that the human brain is much better at comparing a single dimension (length, width, or height) than two (width and height or, in other words, area.)⁽⁹⁾

How is all this connected to ethics? Is it because clarity, efficiency, depth and caring for the functionality of graphics are self-evident goals? Not at all. The reason is that there should be a relationship between evidence (when evidence is available) and moral choices.

When a designer chooses a graphic form to represent data just because she likes it, while ignoring evidence that may lead her to choose a more appropriate one, her act is morally wrong. It’s not wrong just because she’s not been virtuous or because there is a deontological rule against inappropriate charts, but because her act will likely have negative consequences, such as confusion, obfuscation and misunderstanding.

Visualizations that are beautiful, fun, clear, functional and concise — but not devoid of depth and nuance — help us see things that we wouldn’t be able to otherwise. Good visualizations provide insight. They enlighten us. And knowledge has the potential to lead people to live better, happier and more fulfilling lives. There can be no higher law in journalism, not even telling the truth or shaming the devil.

Alberto Cairo is a professor of the professional practice at the School of Communication of the University of Miami and director of the visualization program of UM’s Center for Computational Science. He’s the author of the book ‘The Functional Art: An Introduction to Information Graphics and Visualization.’

Notes:

(1) For the sake of brevity, when I write “visualization” I refer to any kind of display that consists of graphic representations of information, from traditional static print infographics to interactive visual displays intended to explore a data set.

(2) To learn more about “rule utilitarianism” read <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/consequentialism-rule/> In case you’ve forgotten your Journalism Ethics 101 class, here’s a reminder of the differences between consequentialism, deontology, and virtue theory (roughly speaking, the three large branches of normative ethics): http://www.trinity.edu/cbrown/intro/ethical_theories.html

(3) Two examples: First, the one discussed in this article, from FiveThirtyEight: <http://www.thefunctionalart.com/2014/05/when-plotting-data-ask-yourself.html> The other comes from vox.com: <http://www.thefunctionalart.com/2014/04/my-new-infographics-motto-its-more.html>

(4) “If A Data Point Has No Context, Does It Have Any Meaning?” <https://storify.com/AthertonKD/if-a-data-point-has-no-context-does-it-have-any-me>

(5) Blank slates or closed minds? <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~nyhan/opening-political-mind.pdf> and ‘Lay understanding of probability distributions’ <http://journal.sjdm.org/13/131029/jdm131029.pdf>

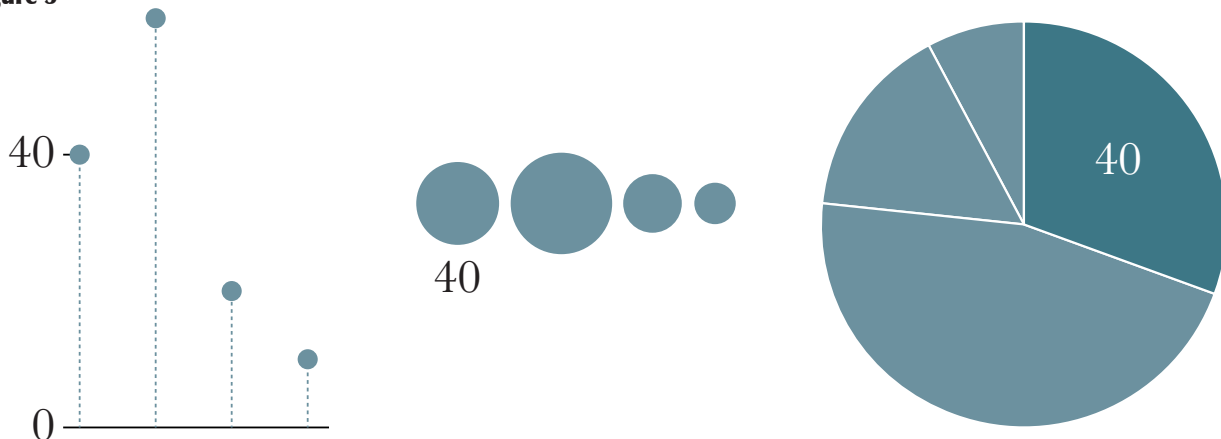
(6) See ‘Defining Promise: Optional Standardized Testing Policies in American College and University Admissions’ <http://www.nacacnet.org/research/research-data/nacac-research/Documents/DefiningPromise.pdf>

(7) There’s a reason why the title of my first book in the American market is “The Functional Art.”

(8) If you’re interested in those details, I’d recommend to look into the work of Colin Ware, Stephen Few, Stephen Kosslyn, Naomi Robbins, and William Cleveland, among others.

(9) You should not infer from this that bubbles are always wrong. Think of a map showing electoral results all over the U.S. to identify regional voting patterns. In this case, bubbles may come in handy.

Figure 3



Try to estimate the values represented on each chart based on the only value shown. You can probably do this quite well on the dot plot, but not on the bubble chart or the pie chart. The values are 40, 60, 20 and 10.

PRIVACY, SCRAPING AND HACKING

Weighing the ethics of accessing records

BY DAVID CUIILLIER — UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM

WITH THE GREAT POWER of investigative journalism comes great responsibility.

This is even more important today because of the fast and easy dissemination of information online and the massive amounts of data available in our electronic notebooks. Just because we “can” do something doesn’t mean we necessarily should.

Major journalism organizations, including the Online News Association, Society of Professional Journalists and Radio Television Digital News Association, are updating their codes of ethics to keep up with changing technology. Most of the tweaks are focused on the use of social media, but investigative reporting has its own specialized quandaries to consider, particularly regarding public records and data:

Scraping boundaries

Sometimes a government agency won’t provide a compiled database so you have to scrape the data off its website. Nothing wrong with that; it’s public information and it’s our job to seek truth and report it. Just make sure you aren’t evading firewalls, posing as someone else or lying about it. Also, to minimize harm, avoid scraping in a way that bogs down the agency’s website. If the agency complains, be upfront and don’t hide. Suggest the agency simply provide the database to save everyone trouble.

Hacking hacks

Is it ever OK to go undercover and enter a government computer system with someone else’s passwords; to pose as someone else just as a reporter might do to go undercover physically? Some people might say the end justifies the means, and even the SPJ Code of Ethics states that “surreptitious methods” of gathering information is to be avoided “except when traditional open methods will not yield information vital to the public.” I think it’s a bad idea and is likely to elicit public scorn and perhaps legal repercussions that don’t outweigh the benefits. Instead, develop sources who will get the information for you. If we lie and deceive, how are we any different from the scoundrels we investigate?

Raw data post

Database journalists have long debated the ethics of posting unverified government data online. On the one hand, it’s unrealistic to check every fact in a database that might contain millions of records. But it is unethical to knowingly post information that is inaccurate. Spot check data to make sure it is accurate. Everyone understands there are going to be errors, and we can make it clear by explaining that to the public. If the database is too dirty, ditch it, or perhaps make that the story.

Privacy dilemma

Got concealed weapons permit data? Probably not anymore. Legislatures have closed down gun databases in response to media organizations posting the data online with names and home addresses. I understand the public good of posting that data, but

Some people say it’s lazy and sneaky to look at public records request logs to see what other journalists have requested, but I see nothing wrong with it.

citizens and legislators don’t. It’s important to be mindful of the balance between reporting the truth and minimizing harm, in this case perceptions and fears of privacy invasion. If you have a database that includes what citizens now consider private (e.g., home addresses), think carefully about whether all of that information needs to be posted online. Does the public interest outweigh the privacy interest? Ask non-journalists for their feedback. If you decide to post, explain the public interest clearly and transparently.

Competitor snooping

Is it OK to FOIA the FOIA logs? Absolutely. I encourage it. Some people say it’s lazy and sneaky to look at public records request logs

to see what other journalists have requested, but I see nothing wrong with it. First, these logs are usually public records, so it's not as if a journalist has an expectation of privacy when submitting a records request. Second, it causes no harm to the public. If anything it improves reporting because it fosters competition. I wish there were more journalists vying for investigative stories today. Third, great story ideas emerge from FOIA logs. A majority of requests are submitted by business interests and citizens, and the records they seek can be compelling. That helps get important information to the public.

Fake finders

We are ethically bound to verify the information we receive, and that includes the vetting the authenticity of documents and data. Be skeptical of photocopies, and when it really matters, consider forensic experts to examine the nature of documents or data. Journalists who are duped can cause harm to society and their careers.

Mind the minders

Government agencies, particularly at the federal level, are becoming more controlling of information and employees — prohibiting workers from talking to journalists without approval. It is our ethical imperative to push back, even if that means circumventing their

processes and policies. Journalists have no obligation to follow their rules, including submitting questions in advance, allowing a public information officer to sit in on an interview and not interviewing employees. Ethically, we are required to seek truth and report it. However, in doing so we must be mindful of the potential harm we can cause to government employees who we interview — we might put their jobs in jeopardy. We must use the utmost care in protecting them while getting the information the public needs.

Silent running

Journalists have an ethical imperative to fight for public records, which includes going to court and lobbying for better statutes. If we “lobby” for better case law by suing, we certainly can lobby for better laws in our legislatures. If we don't, who will? To sit back and say nothing empowers secrecy and abrogates our responsibility as champions for the public's right to know.

David Cuillier, Ph.D., is director of the University of Arizona School of Journalism in Tucson, Ariz., and president of the Society of Professional Journalists. He is co-author, with Charles Davis, of “The Art of Access: Strategies for Acquiring Public Records.”

Why use DocumentCloud?



- In-depth analytical tools
- Secure collaboration
- Share with your audience in a meaningful way

Give your documents the power they deserve.



A service of Investigative Reporters & Editors.

www.documentcloud.org

UNDERCOVER IN AFRICA

Exposing hidden criminal underworlds

BY ANAS AREMEYAW ANAS — GHANA

HE CAME FROM A LONG LINE OF DOCTORS who prey on the vulnerable. His victims were young girls in despair: pregnant, unprepared and frightened. “I’m here to help,” his menacing smile suggested. “If only you’ll let me have my way.”

He had his way for years, until I went undercover in September of 2012. Using hidden cameras, I exposed the fake doctor who’d been performing abortions with unsterilized tools after coercing his young patients into having unprotected sex with him.

The fake doctor was arrested by police officers from Ghana’s Criminal Investigations Department. When confronted by the police with video evidence of his acts, he confessed. He was then processed for court. The case is ongoing in Ghana’s High Court of Justice.

My name is Anas Aremeyaw Anas. I work as a reporter in Ghana and across Africa. I often go undercover to expose ills in my society. I never show my face in public because I utilize my anonymity as a reporting tool.

I have a three-tier mission for all the stories I work on: to name, shame and [help] jail the bad guys in my society. I expose people, publish their stories, hand them over to law enforcement agencies and ensure that they are dealt with according to the dictates of law.

I have a three-tier mission for all the stories I work on: to name, shame and [help] jail the bad guys in my society.

In the fake doctor’s case, I got video of him raping the girls. There is a history of denial in cases such as this. But with hardcore evidence such as video, denial is difficult.

I produced my first undercover story over 15 years ago, not knowing that it would define my career as a journalist. I had received a tip about police officers taking bribes from street hawkers and allowing them to sell at an unapproved location in Accra, Ghana. I interviewed the accused police officers, but they denied the allegations. The hawkers confirmed it. I decided to immerse myself as a hawker and witness things for myself, to get the full story.

It took seven days to report that story that in the end exposed the corrupt officers.

Undoubtedly, undercover stories seem to generate a lot of buzz due to the high risk and the impact of these stories on public opinion. But I have done numerous stories that never required going undercover. I use undercover reporting as a method of last resort. It is not



Anas Aremeyaw Anas

In order to do undercover reporting, investigative journalist Anas Aremeyaw Anas does not show his face in stories and wears disguises when he speaks at conferences.

a tool for personal vendettas or abusing the rights of private citizens.

On any given story, my editorial meetings decide on undercover after all other means of getting the story have been explored. In the cases of the fake doctor and the street hawkers, going undercover was necessary, driven by the need to uncover wrongs. I saw it as a tool to penetrate a world hidden from the public view – to expose what others would prefer to keep as a secret. I went undercover because the issue was in the interest of the public – not an invasion of an individual’s privacy. This same principle guides my work now.

I have often referred to my kind of journalism as “a product of my society.” I work within the context of Africa. As a late subscriber to democracy, Africa needs reform-oriented journalism to strengthen its public institutions, to expose the ills in society and help shape policy.

In that regard, I identify with the muckrakers of America’s Progressive Era, who worked toward reform. Upton Sinclair, Lincoln Steffens, Ida Tarbell and Nellie Bly come to mind. From their semi-



Police arrest a Chinese human trafficker during a raid where seven Vietnamese trafficked girls were rescued in Ghana.

nal works, I take inspiration as I pursue stories that contribute to the development of my society.

And it has worked.

In late 2007, I launched the anti-human trafficking project – a series of investigative reports aimed at tackling human trafficking in the West African subregion. While reporting on this project, I stepped into dark and secret worlds. In China, Nigeria and Togo, I came across traffickers and victims whose lives were hidden. They had experiences that would have remained invisible to others without undercover reporting. Using various disguises in most of these stories, I exposed more than seven human trafficking rings that operated between Southeast Asia and West Africa.

The most recent was my exposé on a Chinese human trafficking ring, which was running a brothel in Ghana by exploiting trafficked Vietnamese girls. Like most of my human trafficking stories, the victims were rescued and the perpetrators are facing the law.

I have often received criticism for using deception in my quest for greater truths. Although the points of the critics are understandable, they fail to acknowledge that some issues of grave interest to the public are designed to remain unknown. How can we find these out? How can we influence policy on hidden worlds if they are not brought to light?

Reporting undercover is never a solo mission. I get support from my colleague reporters, security agencies and members of civil society in my country. Due to the dangers associated with it, anyone going undercover must use it as a method of last resort. The story must be in the interest of the public, and the risks must have a congruent level of reward.

When Upton Sinclair exposed the horrible effects of capitalism on workers in the Chicago meatpacking industry in 1906, he sought

to reveal a society to its self. He sought to show that more work needed to be done to improve conditions of the people.

As a reporter, my work stands at the intersection of policy and the people. I use undercover reporting as a tool to get into the areas where we might never go with traditional journalism. I believe undercover reporting – and by extension, journalism – is valuable for

In the cases of the fake doctor and the street hawkers, going undercover was necessary, driven by the need to uncover wrongs. I saw it as a tool to penetrate a world hidden from the public view – to expose what others would prefer to keep as a secret.

its power to reveal truths and affect reform in our society. It forces us to re-evaluate our paths, consider which ones need pursuing and where we need to turn around.

Anas Aremeyaw Anas is an undercover journalist and attorney working in Ghana and across the African continent. He has received several international awards for his work. President Barack Obama calls him a courageous journalist “who risked his life to report the truth.”

Visit: www.anasaremeyawanas.org for more.

IRE RESOURCES

The IRE Resource Center is a major research library containing more than 25,500 investigative stories – both print and broadcast – and about 4,000 tipsheets available at ire.org/resource-center or by contacting the Resource Center directly, 573-882-3364 or rescntr@ire.org.

TIPSHEETS

No. 4051: “Hacks or hackers?” Isaac Wolf, reporter for Scripps Howard News Service provides ethical questions to consider before scraping data. (2014)

No. 3548: “Pulling off the undercover investigation.” Galli, et al., help you weigh the pros and cons of going undercover. From the legalities of using a hidden camera to what to do if you get caught. (2011)

No. 3136: “Navigating the social network minefield.” This presentation discusses how social networking sites like Facebook, Flickr and LinkedIn can be valuable to an investigation. The authors discuss the ethical implications of using material found on the web and offer suggestions to make sure everything is legally alright. The tipsheet also includes many examples of stories that have successfully utilized social networks to enhance their investigations. (2008)

No. 3013: “Dealing with ethics, anonymous sources and the public.” Doug Pardue and Mary Fricker summarize some recent ethical issues in journalism, such as whether to publish offensive cartoons and whether to yield to government pressure not to release information. The tipsheet also lists a few resources to help clarify journalism ethics. (2007)

No. 2479: “A journalist’s tips on authenticating documents.” Howard Rosenberg of ABC News offers ten pieces of advice about authenticating documents. The suggestions include, “find an expert” and “trace the chain of custody.” Rosenberg offers a detailed explanation for each tip. (2005)

STORIES

No. 26238: “Sysco’s dirty secret: outdoor food sheds across U.S. and Canada.” After receiving a tip that seemed too wild to be true, NBC Bay Area began weeks of surveillance and hidden camera recordings to expose the hidden food practices of the world’s largest food distributor. As a result of the reporting, the company publicly vowed to make sweeping changes to ensure the safety of its food delivery to millions of people across North America. The stories also prompted investigations by state, federal and Canadian health officials that are ongoing and are expected to result in significant monetary penalties.

No. 26006: ABC News. “The town that Medicare built.” The waste and scams involving the Medicare system — taxpayer-

paid health care for seniors — are estimated to be in the tens of billions of dollars. So the ABC News Investigative Team took their undercover cameras and a producer’s 82-year-old grandmother to one of the major hotbeds of Medicare fraud in the country to see firsthand how it can happen. The result was a fascinating glimpse into a world that had, until then, been relegated to government statistics and press releases. Viewers saw how a simple trip to the doctor’s office can result in a diagnosis for illnesses that don’t exist and expensive treatments that are not needed, all at the expense of taxpayers. (2012)

No. 22315: The University Daily (Texas Tech Univ). “Ethical questions raised about local stations.” This investigation found that two local television stations, supposedly in competition with each other, actually share news material, field reporters and a building. The authors explore the ethical dilemmas raised by the situation. (2005)

THE IRE JOURNAL

“Data breach: Journalists accused of hacking.” Isaac Wolf of Scripps Howard News Service details how he found 170,000 highly sensitive documents publicly posted online via a Google search. Wolf addresses the legal and ethical concerns of collecting the documents. (Fall 2013)

“Collected Wisdom: Project bulletproofing.” Mark Katches of California Watch suggests starting the bulletproofing process of reporting at the beginning, when a story idea is “conceived,” instead of waiting until the end, as is the habit of many reporters and editors. He provides a total of 20 discussion points, including weighing ethical questions, covering the reporting phase, the writing and editing phase and the final production phase that will ensure “everyone sleeps well when the story is finished.” (Winter 2010)

EXTRA! EXTRA!

“Atlanta car dealerships caught charging illegal fees.” In an undercover investigation Fox 5 Atlanta found that many used car dealerships in the Atlanta area were breaking the law by charging extra fees when closing a sale. State law prohibits car dealerships in Georgia from charging more than the advertised price, aside from taxes, tag and title, yet some used car dealerships around the city were caught charging close to \$600 more. Watch the full story at bit.ly/111ZNY4 (2013)

The Bureaucracy of a Bureau Chief



BY REGINALD CHUA

Years ago, as a young – or young-ish – reporter for the Asian edition of *The Wall Street Journal*, I was lucky enough to be paid to wander around the Philippines and Vietnam, delving into complex areas of policy, meeting interesting people, writing long narrative pieces and not worrying hugely about spot news.

Then I discovered my inner bureaucrat.

Promoted prematurely to run the paper – then called *The Asian Wall Street Journal* and now *The Wall Street Journal Asia* – I traded my best reporting years for wall-to-wall management duties.

Not that I'm complaining. Taking over the Hong Kong-based Asian Journal in 1997, just as the former British colony was returned to the mainland and the Asian financial crisis was about to break, was a tremendous opportunity to lead a great newsroom. It helped shape my views of how to foster and sustain good journalism, especially good enterprise and enterprising journalism. And it certainly helped me look at journalism from a point of view of broader coverage, rather than a single story or series.

One of the most important lessons I learned early on is how much of a team sport journalism is, or should be, even if much reporting is a solo endeavor. It's impossible to run a news organization without delegating and depending on a host of other people of varying skills, experience and drive. It puts a premium on finding great reporters and editors, finding ways to motivate them to do great work and making sure they have the resources to do so.

Half the battle is in figuring out what beats to cover – where there are good stories to be had, how to conceptualize the beat, where your newsroom has a competitive advantage and so on. In some cases we simply outgunned our rivals by putting more people on an area of coverage than they did; in others, we formulated beats that were just offbeat enough – looking at food as a manifestation of culture, for example – that let us own a subject area. And where we were outgunned, the trick was always to find a different way to frame some part of it so that we could own a piece of the beat, even if we were going to lose on some other fronts.

But it's not enough simply to put someone on a beat; they need to come up with plans of attack for how they're going to cover the topic over the course of the year. One way we helped them focus was to insist on theme memos for each beat every year. This meant listing out no more than three or four major issues they expected to address over the next 12 months.

The idea was that they would – assuming they had picked the right themes, of course – much more effectively address those questions if they aimed to consistently hit those topics all year long. Better to do 10 good stories each on four themes than to do two good stories each on 20 themes. In a way, it's thinking of coverage as writing a book on an ongoing basis – each theme, in effect, is a chapter, and you're regularly adding to it. Readers will remember the overall coverage better, and

you'll have a much better chance of finding a deeper and better story. And when you've done good work, this is a great way of constantly reminding you to come back to the story and record how things have and haven't changed.

Of course, news has a habit of breaking as well, and reporters need to be able to adjust to new events easily without being sucked entirely into covering spot news. One of the best pieces of advice I remember to help guide beat reporters – shamelessly stolen from Mike Williams, then the Tokyo bureau chief of the Journal and now Global Enterprise Editor at Reuters – is to give them a goal of coming up with an average of one story a week that told people something they otherwise wouldn't know.

In other words, covering spot events doesn't count, at least as far as this goal is concerned, and neither does simply chasing a competitor's story. Original work – scoops, scoops of insight, smart features that offer new information or context, is what counts.

Setting yourself a goal like this really stretches reporters to think ahead of the pack, flexes their reporting muscles, keeps the pressure on to constantly do better and also forces them to be better-sourced and more knowledgeable about their beat.

Ideas don't have to be hugely complex; sometimes all it takes is a real curiosity about the world and the courage to ask the simplest questions. I remember, later in my career running the *South China Morning Post*, when all the Hong Kong newspapers – ourselves included – were tripping over themselves to cover the flood of mainland Chinese money coming in to buy luxury real estate, often priced in the millions of dollars.

David Lague, then the SCMP's managing editor and now also at Reuters and one of the best story idea generators I've ever seen, wandered into the news meeting one day with a simple question that no one had asked before: How do they pay for these apartments? After all, he noted, China restricts the amount of money its citizens can bring out of the country. How could thousands of mainlanders be showing up in Hong Kong with millions to burn?

That set the stage for a great series that examined the multiple ways Chinese evaded controls, from paying old ladies to physically smuggle bricks of currency notes across the border to more subtle schemes involving trading control of accounts on the mainland and in Hong Kong. All from a simple question.

I can't say I don't miss reporting. But the energy and excitement of helping great work get done is a pretty good substitute – even for a jaded bureaucrat.

Reg Chua is Executive Editor, Editorial Operations, Data & Innovation, at Reuters, where he oversaw the Connected China project. Prior to joining Reuters in 2011, he was Editor-in-Chief of the South China Morning Post and spent sixteen years at The Wall Street Journal, including eight years as the editor of its Hong Kong-based Asian edition.

Snapshots from our blogs

Transparency Watch: News organizations file lawsuits against Missouri for failing to release execution drug records

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS AND RACHEL LIPPMANN
(ST. LOUIS PUBLIC RADIO)

Two suits were filed in May challenging Missouri officials for failing to disclose information about the drugs the state uses in lethal injections.

In the first, The Associated Press and four other news organizations argue that the state's actions prohibit public oversight of the death penalty. The second suit, under the state sunshine law, was filed by Chris McDaniel, a reporter for St. Louis Public Radio, the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press and the American Civil Liberties Union of Missouri. It challenges the state's refusal to disclose information and documents relating to executions.

McDaniel, along with Veronique LaCapra, has reported extensively on Missouri's lethal injection process and disclosed the previous supplier of the drug to the state. He has numerous Sunshine Law requests pending to gain more information.

Read the full post at bit.ly/1xe31gF

A conversation with the federal FOIA Ombudsman's office

BY SARAH HUTCHINS, GEORGE VARNEY
IRE RADIO

Ever wonder what kinds of questions federal agencies ask FOIA liaisons? We did. So we went right to the source. Kirsten Mitchell is a facilitator in The Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), a neutral office within the National Archives that anyone — requester or federal agency — can come to for help with the FOIA process.

IRE student George Varney talked with Mitchell, a former journalist, to learn more about her job and the tips she offers journalists and officials.

- Make it easy for agencies to confirm your media status, a step that's key when determining FOIA fees. This is especially important for independent journalists, Mitchell said. Don't make the agency have to dig around online for this information. Provide information about your record or publication contract up front.
- While it's understandable for journalists to want to request "any and all documents" on a topic, Mitchell advises journalists try to narrow the scope of their request.
- FOIA should not be your first step. Before submitting your request, comb through the agency's website to

make sure the information isn't already available. Check data.gov and governmentattic.org, which provide plenty of documents.

You can listen to the full interview at bit.ly/1hKUFJ9

How an oil spills database was built

BY LIZ LUCAS, NICAR

Mike Soraghan is an oil and gas reporter at EnergyWire (an arm of E&E Publishing) and former NICAR bootcamper from 2013. For those of you who have been to bootcamp, you remember Open Lab, held (almost) every night after class wraps up for the day. Even back then, Mike was toiling over some nasty-looking data on oil spills.

Last month EnergyWire published Mike's story about smaller oil spills, the kind of spills that don't usually make it into the news but that collectively amount to quite an impressive number: "More than 26 million gallons of oil, hydraulic fracking fluid, 'fracking' wastewater and other substances," the report says.

Knowing that he pulled reports on spills from states individually, and having gotten a glimpse at what he was up against, I was curious how this came together

Mike had been reporting on a story about oil and gas enforcement in 2011 when he came across some online state databases of oil spills. He also knew that most producing states require reports on spills over a set amount. So he set out to see just how much data he could get.

Read the full post at bit.ly/TCK3RF

Public isn't told about state probes of police wrongdoing

The Missouri Peace Officers Standards and Training Program, or POST, is in charge of reviewing allegations of misconduct by police officers to see whether they should retain their state licenses. Because of the secretive nature of the process, three years later, we don't know if a POST review has or has not been held on the now-former Branson, Missouri officer.

KYTV-Branson has been investigating confidential settlements between police departments and citizens who have accused officers of wrongdoing. The station started looking at this issue after learning about two confidential settlements by the City of Branson. Both settlements came after allegations of wrongdoing involving the same police officer.

Read full story at bit.ly/1qWb94X

Updated FBI Uniform Crime Reports now available

The NICAR Database Library has updated the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, one of the best resources for national crime statistics. The most current reports are for 2012.

WHAT'S IN IT?

Law enforcement agencies around the country voluntarily submit reports to the FBI on what are known as "index" crimes: Murder, non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor-vehicle theft and arson. These crimes are meant to serve

as an index for gauging fluctuations in both the overall volume and rate of crime. The data include the number of crimes by agency and by month. Geographic information includes region, state, county, city and metropolitan statistical area (MSA).

Read full post here: bit.ly/ShV3Tr

IRE Welcomes New Google Journalism Fellow

This summer IRE welcomes Aram Chung, a student at Columbia University in New York, as its Google Journalism Fellow. Chung is working on a dual graduate degree in journalism and computer science. She is focusing on computational journalism, data visualization, news design and social media. Chung has participated in the Pro-Publica Pair Programming Project, covered New York's 6th Congressional District for QueensCampaign.com, and served as editor-in-chief of the KAIST Herald, an English-language campus paper at KAIST, her undergraduate institute in Daejeon, Korea.

Lessons from the storm: What we can learn from the Moore, Okla. tornado

BY SARAH HUTCHINS, IRE RADIO

One year ago, an EF5 tornado tore through Moore, Oklahoma and left 25 people dead. A month after the storm, Oklahoman reporter Paul Monies and CBS News Southern Bureau Chief Scott Keenan talked about their experiences covering the twister during a session at the 2013 IRE Conference.

Keenan encouraged journalists to question the injury and fatality numbers officials present. They're often wrong, he said. Keenan also offered tips for navigating the muddied, post-disaster chain of command and filing stories from the field.

To get real-time weather information, the Oklahoman sends a weather reporter to a local National Weather Service office on severe weather days. Monies, an energy reporter at the Oklahoma City-based paper, also discussed steps managers took to provide support for staff in the wake of the storm.

Read full post at bit.ly/1m84EE1

Learn to write code, build a web scraper at our September workshop

IRE and the University of Missouri Journalism School once again will offer a data journalism workshop this September, where students will learn how to write code in Python to clean datasets and to build a web scraper.

The workshop will be held Sept. 4-7. The lead instructor for this workshop will be data journalism pioneer Chase Davis, assistant editor for interactive news development at The New York Times.

Attending the workshop will allow students to earn one hour of pass/fail credit; students who wish to earn two hours of graded credit can choose to complete an independent study project (build a web scraper) in the four weeks following the workshop.

Read more details at bit.ly/1osMAHo

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTERS & EDITORS, INC. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of investigative reporting within the field of journalism. IRE was formed in 1975 with the intent of creating a networking tool and a forum in which journalists from across the country could raise questions and exchange ideas. IRE provides educational services to reporters, editors and others interested in investigative reporting and works to maintain high professional standards.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES:

IRE RESOURCE CENTER – A rich reserve of print and broadcast stories, tipsheets and guides to help you start and complete the best work of your career. This unique library is the starting point of any piece you're working on. You can search through abstracts of more than 25,500 investigative-reporting stories through our website.

Contact: Lauren Grandestaff, lauren@ire.org, 573-882-3364

IRE AND NICAR DATABASE LIBRARY – Administered by IRE and the National Institute for Computer-Assisted Reporting. The library has copies of many government databases, and makes them available to news organizations at or below actual cost. Analysis services are available on these databases, as is help in deciphering records you obtain yourself.

Contact: Elizabeth Lucas, liz@ire.org. To order data, call 573-884-7711.

ON-THE-ROAD TRAINING – As a top promoter of journalism education, IRE offers loads of training opportunities throughout the year. Possibilities range from national conference and regional workshops to weeklong boot camps and on-site newsroom training. Costs are on a sliding scale and fellowships are available to many of the events.

Contact: Jaimi Dowdell, jaimi@ire.org, 314-402-3281 or Megan Luther, megan@ire.org, 605-996-3967

PUBLICATIONS:

THE IRE JOURNAL – Published four times a year. Contains journalist profiles, how-to stories, reviews, investigative ideas and backgrounding tips. The Journal also provides members with the latest news on upcoming events and training opportunities from IRE and NICAR.

Contact: Megan Luther, megan@ire.org, 605-996-3967

UPLINK – An online publication by IRE and NICAR on computer-assisted reporting. Uplink stories are written after reporters have had particular success using data to investigate stories. The columns include valuable information on advanced database techniques as well as success stories written by newly trained CAR reporters.

Contact: David Herzog, dherzog@ire.org, 573-882-2127

FOR INFORMATION ON:

ADVERTISING – Stephanie Sinn, stephanie@ire.org, 901-286-7549

CONFERENCES – Stephanie Sinn, stephanie@ire.org, 901-286-7549

DONATIONS – Mark Horvit, mark@ire.org, 573-882-1984

LISTSERVS, BOOT CAMPS AND EVENT REGISTRATIONS – Amy Johnston, amy@ire.org, 573-884-1444

MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTIONS – John Green, jgreen@ire.org, 573-882-2772

MAILING ADDRESS:

IRE, 141 Neff Annex, Missouri School of Journalism, Columbia, MO 65211

IRE

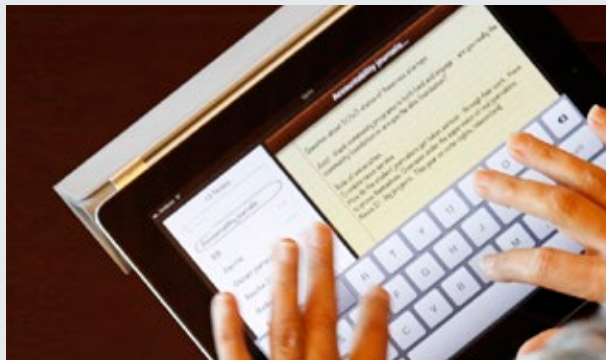
Investigative Reporters & Editors, Inc.
Missouri School of Journalism
141 Neff Annex
Columbia, MO 65211
www.ire.org

Get an edge with the new graduate certificate in business journalism from the internationally renowned Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University.

Offered fully online through the Cronkite School's Donald W. Reynolds National Center for Business Journalism, this five-course, 15-hour graduate certificate will help you compete for the many jobs in business journalism.

Need an edge in the job market?

New **online** graduate certificate in business journalism



Courses start in August 2014

- Issues in Coverage of Business and the Economy
- Critical Analysis of Business Journalism
- Better Business Storytelling
- Data in Business Journalism
- Investigative Business Journalism

Visit bizjournalism.asu.edu

ASU online
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

ReynoldsCenter
Center for Business Journalism
BUSINESS JOURNALISM.ORG

ASU Walter Cronkite
SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM
AND MASS COMMUNICATION
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY