


THE STATE OF THE NEWS INDUSTRY CLASS THREE

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ACCOUNTABILITY



Walt Bogdanich - Death on the Tracks

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DEATH ON THE TRACKS

Walt Bogdanich talks about his investigation into the safety record of the railroad industry.

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corruption

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<https://investigatingpower.org/walt-bogdanich/>

DEATH ON THE TRACKS

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AN INVESTIGATIVE SERIES

Death on the Tracks

By WALT BOGDANICH

PART SEVEN

Oversight Is Spotty on Rail-Crossing Safety Projects

By WALT BOGDANICH and JENNY NORDBERG

When Missouri state auditors set out to learn if railroads were prudently spending government money to install warning signals, they found more than a few problems. (Feb. 18, 2005)

PART SIX

Questions Raised on Warnings at Rail Crossings

By WALT BOGDANICH, Jenny Nordberg, Jo Craven McGinty and Tom Torok contributed reporting for this article

An examination of reported signal malfunctions in the railroad industry indicates that they may constitute a wide problem. (Dec. 30, 2004)

PART FIVE

Safety Group Closely Echoes Rail Industry

By WALT BOGDANICH, Jenny Nordberg and Eric Koli contributed reporting for this article

Documents show that the nation's most influential rail-safety group is tightly bound to the railroad industry. (Nov. 14, 2004)

PART FOUR

For Railroads and the Safety Overseer, Close Ties

By WALT BOGDANICH, Jenny Nordberg contributed reporting for this article

Has a close relationship to the railroad industry dulled the Federal Railroad Administration's enforcement edge? (Nov. 7, 2004)

PART THREE

Amtrak Pays Millions for Others' Fatal Errors

By WALT BOGDANICH, Claire Hoffman, Eric Koli and Jenny Nordberg contributed reporting for this article

In accident after accident, freight railroads have used Amtrak to shield themselves from tens of millions of dollars in liability. (Oct. 15, 2004)

Multimedia

▶ VIDEO



Excerpt: Trouble on the Tracks
A clip of the Times documentary based on Walt Bogdanich's reporting about the railroad industry.

▶ AUDIO & PHOTOS



Survivor's Tales
Chris Barber was struck by a Union Pacific freight train in 2001. Frank Stevenson was hit in 1998.

Readers' Opinions

Forum: Death on the Tracks
A discussion on the investigative series on dangerous rail crossings in America.

RELATED

- [Bogdanich Wins Pulitzer for 'Death on the Tracks'](#)

https://archive.nytimes.com/www.nytimes.com/ref/national/deathonthetracks_index.html

DEATH ON THE TRACKS

Oversight Is Spotty on Rail-Crossing Safety Projects

By Walt Bogdanich and Jenny Nordberg

Feb. 18, 2005



When Missouri state auditors set out to learn if railroads were prudently spending government money to install warning signals at grade crossings, they found more than a few problems.

According to audit reports from two years ago, one railroad, Kansas City Southern, had submitted overcharges of nearly 100 percent, or almost \$60,000, on one project. Another, BNSF Railway, also had an overcharge of nearly 100 percent.

And that was not all. BNSF, formerly known as Burlington Northern and Santa Fe, overcharged to a lesser degree on more than a dozen other signal projects, records show.

Missouri officials should not have been surprised. In 2000, Missouri asked BNSF to repay \$670,000 in overcharges on 43 earlier signal projects, all financed mostly by the Federal Highway

https://archive.nytimes.com/www.nytimes.com/ref/national/deathonthetracks_index.html

WATCHDOG JOURNALISM IN THE U.S

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FEATURED



Monsanto's defense: Fungal disease, not dicamba, to blame for peach farmer's problems

By [Johnathan Hettinger](#) | 10 hours ago

For the past two weeks of a federal trial brought by Missouri's largest peach farm against German agribusiness giants Bayer and BASF, the focus has been on the weed killer dicamba.

On Monday, with the plaintiff wrapping up its case, lawyers representing Monsanto shifted the attention to everything but the herbicide. Monsanto was bought by Bayer in 2018,

More from Dicamba on Trial

- [Dicamba on trial: Peach farm one witness away from resting its case against Bayer, BASF](#)

Get the scoop on dicamba

Bayer and BASF are defending themselves against charges that they intentionally caused "an ecological disaster" in order to increase their profits on dicamba-related products.

The judge has imposed a gag order
The exhibits are sealed

And The Midwest Center for Investigative Reporting is there each day, covering it all.

With your donation of \$50 or more, you will receive daily email updates from the trial, behind-the-scenes tidbits, photos and other material - including a free copy of our dicamba e-book.

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<https://investigatemitwest.org/>

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- ✦ 2010s
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- ✦ 1940s
- ✦ 1930s
- ✦ 1920s
- ✦ 1910s

2019 Pulitzer Prizes

[See 2019 Board Members](#)

JOURNALISM

CATEGORY	WINNERS	FINALISTS
Public Service	South Florida Sun Sentinel For exposing failings by school and law enforcement officials before and after the deadly shooting rampage at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.	ProPublica The Washington Post
Breaking News Reporting	Staff of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette For immersive, compassionate coverage of the massacre at Pittsburgh's Tree of Life synagogue that captured the anguish and resilience of a community thrust into grief.	Staff of the Chico Enterprise-Record in collaboration with the Bay Area News Group Staff of the South Florida Sun Sentinel
Investigative Reporting	Matt Hamilton, Harriet Ryan and Paul Pringle of the Los Angeles Times For consequential reporting on a University of Southern California gynecologist accused of violating hundreds of young women for more than a quarter-century.	David Barstow, Susanne Craig and Russ Buettner of The New York Times Kathleen McGrory and Neil Bedi of the Tampa Bay Times
Explanatory Reporting	David Barstow, Susanne Craig and Russ Buettner of The New York Times For an exhaustive 18-month investigation of President Donald Trump's campaign finance records.	Aaron Glantz and Emmanuel Martinez of Reveal from The Center for Investigative Reporting, Emeryville, Calif. (in collaboration with the Washington Post)

<https://www.pulitzer.org/prize-winners-by-year/2019>

WATCHDOG JOURNALISM IN THE U.S

The screenshot displays the IRE Awards website. At the top, a navigation menu includes links for ABOUT IRE, EVENTS & TRAINING, MEDIA & DATA LIBRARY, RESOURCE CENTER, JOB CENTER, AWARDS, PUBLICATIONS, SHOP, JOIN, and CONTACT. The main header features the IRE logo and the text "INVESTIGATIVE REPORTERS & EDITORS". A search bar is located below the header. The main content area is titled "AWARDS • IRE AWARDS" and features a large image of a gold coin with the words "INVESTIGATIVE REPORTERS & EDITORS" and a torch. To the right of the image is the IRE Awards logo and the tagline "Rebuilt for 21st Century Journalism". Below the image, the text reads: "The IRE Awards is the annual contest of Investigative Reporters and Editors Inc. recognizing the best in investigative reporting by print, broadcast and online media." This is followed by a paragraph explaining that after judging, all entries are placed in IRE's Resource Center story library. A sub-section titled "About the 2019 contest" lists several bullet points: "The IRE Awards are closed.", "The deadline to enter was Jan. 12, midnight Eastern.", "Check out our FAQ for all your IRE Award-related questions", "Judging will be completed in April 2020", and "The awards will be presented at the 2020 IRE Conference in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, June 20." On the right side of the page, there is a "PAST WINNERS" section with a vertical list of years from 2018 down to 2005. A sidebar on the left contains a "SEARCH" section and a "AWARDS" section with a list of links including "IRE AWARDS", "FAQ", "Winners", and "2016 IRE Awards Screeners".

<https://www.ire.org/awards/ire-awards>

WATCHDOG JOURNALISM IN THE U.S



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<https://www.wisconsinwatch.org/trust-project/>

WATCHDOG JOURNALISM IN THE U.S

The screenshot shows the ProPublica website interface. At the top, there are navigation links for ProPublica, ProPublica Illinois, Local Reporting Network, Electionland, and Data Store. On the right, there are social media icons for Facebook and Twitter, and a red 'Donate' button. The main header features the ProPublica logo, followed by 'Graphics & Data', 'Newsletters', and 'About'. A search bar with the text 'Get the Big Story' and a 'Join' button is also present. Below the header is a secondary navigation bar with icons and labels for Immigration, Trump Administration, Politics, Criminal Justice, More..., Series, Video, Impact, and Search.

INSIDE THE BORDER PATROL
A Group of Agents Rose Through the Ranks to Lead the Border Patrol. They're Leaving It in Crisis.
How several agents from a small outpost in Arizona, including recently retired chief Carla Provost, climbed to the top of the Border Patrol, then one by one retired, leaving corruption, misconduct and a toxic culture in their wake.
by Melissa del Bosque, Feb. 10, 5 a.m. EST

Did You Give Birth in Your Home? Help ProPublica and Vox Report.
by Nina Martin, ProPublica, and Julia Belluz, Vox, Feb. 10, 5 a.m. EST

Help Us Understand How the Cost of Diabetes Care Is Threatening Lives
by Lizzie Presser and Maya Miller, Feb. 11, 5 a.m. EST

Featured Series
THE TURBOTAX TRAP
How the Tax Prep Industry Makes You Pay

TurboTax and Others Charged at Least 14 Million Americans for Tax Prep That Should Have Been Free, Audit Finds
Tax software companies made around \$1 billion in revenue by charging people who were eligible to file for free.
by Paul Kiel and Justin Elliott, Feb. 5, 3:18 p.m. EST


<https://www.propublica.org/>

WATCHDOG JOURNALISM IN THE U.S

Crime and punishment, from the street to the courtroom and prisons

ACCOUNTABILITY / CRIMINAL JUSTICE


MILITARIZATION OF POLICE SOLITARY CONFINEMENT LAW ENFORCEMENT LEFT FOR DEAD



CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Air marshals say a party-hearty attitude prevails at the agency


Former and current air marshals are coming forward to describe a "wheels-up, rings-off" culture rife with adultery, prostitution and other misconduct.



CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Air marshals' flight schedules rearranged for trysts, employees say

Federal air marshals assigned to protect commercial flights across the U.S. were furtively pulled from their assigned flights so they could meet for sexual trysts, get better routes or travel to cities they preferred, current and former employees said.



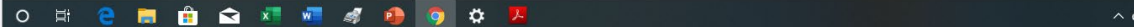
CRIMINAL JUSTICE

America's gun-toting guards armed with poor training, little oversight

Across the U.S., a haphazard system of lax laws, minimal oversight and almost no accountability puts guns in the hands of security guards who endanger

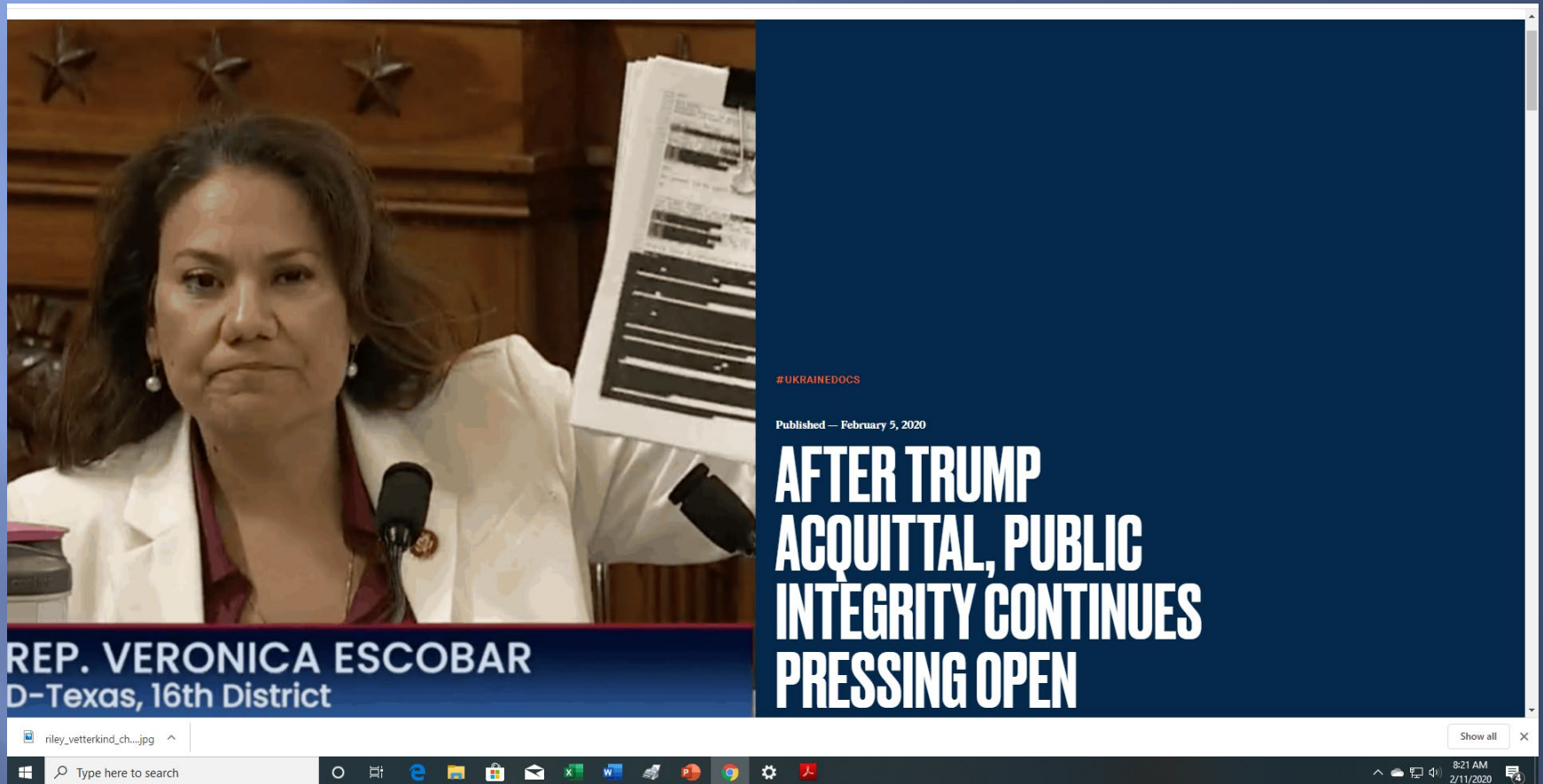
Ph...jpg ^

to search



<https://www.revealnews.org/topic/criminal-justice/>

WATCHDOG JOURNALISM IN THE U.S



The image is a screenshot of a news article. On the left, there is a photograph of Rep. Veronica Escobar, a woman with dark hair wearing a white blazer, holding up a large sheet of paper with text on it. The background shows a wooden wall with stars. Below the photo is a blue banner with the text "REP. VERONICA ESCOBAR D-Texas, 16th District". To the right of the photo is a dark blue background with white text. At the top right of this section is the hashtag "#UKRAINEDOCS". Below it is the text "Published — February 5, 2020". The main headline reads "AFTER TRUMP ACQUITTAL, PUBLIC INTEGRITY CONTINUES PRESSING OPEN". At the bottom of the screenshot, there is a Windows taskbar with various application icons and a system tray showing the time as 8:21 AM on 2/11/2020.

REP. VERONICA ESCOBAR
D-Texas, 16th District

#UKRAINEDOCS

Published — February 5, 2020

**AFTER TRUMP
ACQUITTAL, PUBLIC
INTEGRITY CONTINUES
PRESSING OPEN**

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Type here to search

8:21 AM
2/11/2020

<https://publicintegrity.org/national-security/ukraine-docs/trump-ukraine-documents-foia-impeachment/>

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Covering thought leadership in journalism


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June 13, 2013

NIEMAN WATCHDOG PROJECT

Truth or Consequences: Where is Watchdog Journalism Today?


Despite budget cuts and shrinking newsrooms, watchdog reporters are finding new ways to fulfill an old mission—holding those in power to account



ARTICLE BY
DAN FROMKIN
@froomkin

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Nieman Reports
Spring 2013

<https://niemanreports.org/articles/truth-or-consequences-where-is-watchdog-journalism-tohttps://niemanreports.org/articles/truth-or-consequences-where-is-watchdog-journalism-today/day/>

WATCHDOG JOURNALISM IN THE U.S

The screenshot shows the Nieman Reports website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Nieman', 'Fellowships', 'Reports', 'Lab', and 'Storyboard'. On the right side of the top bar, there are links for 'Donate Now' and 'Nieman Foundation at Harvard'. The main header features the 'NiemanReports' logo and the tagline 'Covering thought leadership in journalism'. Below the header is a secondary navigation bar with links for 'Home', 'Articles', 'Watchdog', 'Magazine', 'Archives', 'About', and 'Subscribe'. A search bar is also present. The main content area displays the article title 'Truth or Consequences: Where is Watchdog Journalism Today?' in large, bold black text. Below the title is a sub-headline: 'Despite budget cuts and shrinking newsrooms, watchdog reporters are finding new ways to fulfill an old mission—holding those in power to account'. To the right of the article title is a small image of the 'Nieman Reports Spring 2013' magazine cover, dated June 13, 2013. Below the article text is a large image with the words 'TRUTH OR PATH' and 'CONSEQUENCES' visible in a stylized font. To the right of the image, the author information is listed: 'ARTICLE BY DAN FROOMKIN @froomkin'. Below the author information are social media sharing options for 'Tweet' and 'Share'.

Nieman Reports

Covering thought leadership in journalism

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NIEMAN WATCHDOG PROJECT

June 13, 2013

Truth or Consequences: Where is Watchdog Journalism Today?

Despite budget cuts and shrinking newsrooms, watchdog reporters are finding new ways to fulfill an old mission—holding those in power to account

ARTICLE BY
DAN FROOMKIN
@froomkin

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<https://niemanreports.org/articles/truth-or-consequences-where-is-watchdog-journalism-tohttps://niemanreports.org/articles/truth-or-consequences-where-is-watchdog-journalism-today/day/>

WATCHDOG JOURNALISM IN THE U.S



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The Best of Nonprofit News 2019

Introduction

More than 230 members of the Institute for Nonprofit News regularly produce rigorous public service journalism that elevates diverse voices, informs communities and holds the powerful accountable. Check out some of the year's best work displayed by category.

If you value these stories, please support the newsrooms behind them. You can find many at [NewsMatch.org](https://www.newsmatch.org), where your gift to journalism will make a difference all year long.

<https://inn.org/the-best-of-nonprofit-news-2019/>

VALUE OF REAL NEWS

“Each dollar spent on stories can generate hundreds of dollars in benefits to society. Stories costing thousands to produce can deliver millions in benefits across a community.”

-

*Economist James Hamilton,
Democracy’s Detectives: The
Economics of Investigative
Journalism*