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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this the 14th day of August 2020,

Why is The Associated Press identifying Joe Biden's running mate - U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris - as Black?

That's a question posed and answered in an AP Definitive Source column Thursday by **John Daniszewski**, AP's Editor at Large for Standards.

And in another timely Definitive Source column, deputy managing editor **David Scott** outlines how AP VoteCast — the news cooperative’s election survey, which debuted in 2018 — uses the ideal methodology to conduct accurate research about the electorate in all 50 states during a pandemic.

The 2020 class of the Kansas Newspaper Hall of Fame was presented – virtually – on Thursday night by the Kansas Press Association – and longtime AP Topeka Correspondent **John Hanna** was among those inducted. The pandemic forced cancellation of the normal in-person induction ceremony.



Click [here](#) for a link to the virtual presentation – nicely done, KPA executive director (and Connecting colleague) **Emily Bradbury**. The portion of the video honoring John begins at the 33:10 mark.

And these days, what would Connecting do without more of your first-vehicle stories. Join your colleagues with your own story of that beloved vehicle...

Have a great weekend – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

How we will identify Kamala Harris



Democratic presidential candidate and former Vice President Joe Biden, left, looks on as his running mate Sen. Kamala Harris speaks at the Hotel DuPont in Wilmington, Delaware, Aug. 13, 2020. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

By John Daniszewski
AP Vice President, Editor at Large for Standards

The choice of U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris, D-Calif., to join Joe Biden on their party's presidential ticket to run against Donald Trump and Mike Pence was historic in many senses.

Harris is only the fourth woman to run on a major party ticket, after former presidential candidate Hillary Clinton and former vice presidential hopefuls Geraldine Ferraro and Sarah Palin.

She is the first woman of color to appear on the ticket for either major party. She is the first woman of African Caribbean descent and the first woman of Asian descent. Her parents were immigrants: her mother from India and her father from Jamaica, the Caribbean island nation.

Why is The Associated Press identifying Harris as Black?

The reason is that Black is the identity that Harris herself has chosen.

In her first remarks as Biden's running mate on Wednesday, Harris spoke of her mother's roots but described herself as the "first Black woman" to be nominated for the vice presidency on a major party ticket.

Shortly before Harris announced her presidential campaign in 2019, AP asked her advisers how she identified and was told she identified as Black. On Tuesday, hours before the announcement, AP again checked with her advisers and were told again that she identifies as Black.

According to AP style, a person's race should be noted only when clearly relevant, such as in stories that involve significant, groundbreaking or historic events. Coverage of Harris' selection as a vice presidential candidate falls into that category.

Since her selection, many Indian citizens, Indian Americans and Asian Americans have taken pride in Harris's Indian roots when discussing her identity. AP's stories about her also have noted her Indian heritage prominently.

However, AP generally allows people in its news stories to name and identify themselves, whether by gender, religion, ethnic group or race. In the case of Harris, she has chosen to identify herself foremost as a Black woman, and AP coverage will reflect her choice.

AP handled the question of former President Barack Obama's racial identity in a similar way. His mother was white, and his father was African, and Obama identified as African American. AP identified him in stories as Black in accordance with his wishes, while also mentioning his racially mixed background when relevant.

If Harris changes how she wishes to be identified, for instance as Black and Asian, then AP would change its language to reflect that.

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

Polling in a pandemic: the ideal methodology



A worker processes mailed-in ballots at the King County Elections headquarters in Renton, Washington, Aug. 5, 2020. (AP Photo/Ted S. Warren)

By Lauren Easton

The coronavirus has upended nearly every aspect of the U.S. presidential election. Deputy Managing Editor David Scott explains how AP VoteCast — the news cooperative's election survey, which debuted in 2018 — uses the ideal methodology to conduct accurate research about the electorate in all 50 states during a pandemic:

David Scott - Before the coronavirus arrived, it was already likely that more people than ever before would vote by mail, early or absentee this fall. The shift away from in-person voting has happened for decades. Less than 60% of the electorate voted in person in 2016.

That decades-long rise in advance voting led us to work with NORC at the University of Chicago to create AP VoteCast. Unable to meet a representative sample of voters standing outside polling places with pencils and clipboards, we built a methodology to meet voters where they are. Regardless of how or when Americans vote, we're able to capture their opinion via our mail, phone and online approach.

Then came the pandemic, which has dramatically accelerated the transition away from in-person voting on Election Day itself.

In the 2020 presidential primaries, three times as many people in Ohio, Georgia, Nevada and Virginia voted before the day of the election as in 2016. Five times as many did so in Wisconsin, while advance voting was up by a factor of 12 in Pennsylvania. Come this fall, five states will conduct their election almost entirely by mail. Others will, for the first time, mail every registered voter an absentee ballot.

It's possible — if not likely — that for the first time ever, most voters will make their choice and cast their ballots before polls open on Election Day.

We didn't envision a global pandemic when developing AP VoteCast, but that work means one thing AP doesn't have to do this year is scramble to invent a new way to survey the electorate. We came into 2020 ready for this moment.

Here's another thing that makes us excited about using AP VoteCast this fall: our methodology doesn't require we guess what percentage of the electorate will vote in advance of Election Day. Instead, we ask registered voters to tell us about their plans.

We know from our past results that — even in states where changes due to COVID-19 make pre-election estimates difficult or impossible — AP VoteCast will provide an accurate accounting of who will vote when. AP VoteCast's estimates of advance vote were spot on in the 2018 midterms, with an average error of less than 2 percentage points.

That's going to be an important data point for our decision desk after polls close on Election Day and we start the work of declaring winners. We'll have that data for every state, too, which is yet another way AP VoteCast is perfect for this moment.

In 2016, not many people went into Election Day thinking the outcome would be decided based on who won Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania. This year, those states might again be decisive. Or, maybe Arizona and Georgia will matter more. Could Texas be in play?

Because AP VoteCast delivers election research about voters in all 50 states, we won't have to guess which states will make the difference this year. No matter where the "Road to 270" takes us on Election Day (and the days after), AP's election survey will make sure our newsroom and our customers have an accurate and exceptionally detailed picture of who voted and why.

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

Another take on Sumner Redstone

Marty Steinberg ([Email](#)) - Here's another take on Sumner Redstone. It was the first "preparedness" I did for CNBC.com. I was assigned to write the obit at least five years ago by my then-boss, former AP newsman Ben Berkowitz. I lost track how many times I updated it. Redstone sure led a fascinating life. Made for TV?

Click [here](#) for the story and click [here](#) for a sidebar.

The boys and girls on the Zoom



Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden speaks during a campaign event on Wednesday. There was only a small pool of reporters in attendance as Joe Biden made his first appearance with Sen. Kamala Harris since tapping her as running mate. | Carolyn Kaster/AP Photo

**By ELI OKUN and JOHN F. HARRIS
POLITICO**

In the mythology of political journalism, covering a presidential campaign is supposed to be a window into the soul of America.

In the reality of the 2020 campaign, Alexandra Jaffe of the Associated Press has a window into the courtyard of her building off H Street NE in Washington, D.C. That's the view from her junior one-bedroom apartment, not too far from Capitol Hill.

In 2016, Jaffe, then with NBC, spent the cycle as what campaign reporters call an “embed.” She spent much of her time on the Trump campaign plane—up and down, over and over—and when she wasn’t there she was on the road trying to educate herself, and her audience, on the politics of Ohio.

In 2020, she ruefully acknowledges, “Gosh, I basically cover the campaign from my couch.”

It is an odd turn of events in the media business. Four years ago, after most journalists were caught surprised by Donald Trump’s victory, there was an almost universal critique about how the profession needed to do better next time. Reporters needed to get off Twitter, get off cable and get off their asses. Entire tomes were written on the subject.

Start filling up notebooks, the argument went, with quotes from aldermen and barbers, from mayors and cab drivers, and families at the food court. That is how journalists liberate themselves from conventional wisdom and the distorting effects of their cultural bubbles and learn what’s really happening in the country.

Instead, due to the coronavirus pandemic, journalists are spending more time on their asses than ever—phone in one hand, and television remote in the other. The presidential campaign has gone remote in multiple senses of the word—the most dramatic shift in the rhythms and day-to-day logistics of newsgathering that political journalism has seen in decades. In 1973, writer Timothy Crouse coined a term with a classic media book, "The Boys on the Bus." Over the years, the craft lost its historic chauvinism and women boarded the bus. This year—and perhaps into the future—the bus is canceled. A latter-day Crouse might write "The Boys and Girls on Zoom."

Read more [here](#).

More of your stories of your first or favorite vehicle



Paul Simon ([Email](#)) - After enjoying so many views of first cars, I found a picture similar to the first one I drove – my mom’s 1950 Studebaker Champion. It had the starter button under the clutch, 3-speed manual transmission, and not much power. We had it for many years. I’ll always remember late in the 1960s backing out of our driveway in Calimesa (next to Yucaipa, CA) in another car and bashing in the driver’s door of the Studebaker parked across the street. A main Studebaker designer was Raymond Loewy, father of 1980s L.A. staffer Laurence Loewy. This model was characterized by very similar front and back ends.



Greg Smith ([Email](#)) – This photo is my first car, 1957 Chevrolet two door sedan V-8. I was second owner and Texas plate reads 1966 so makes me either 16 or 17 years old. Texas brand Pearl beer and cigarette in hand. I traded out cigarettes for “smoking dope” while in Vietnam in 1970-71. Stuck with the beer drinking for another 50 years before deciding to give it up. In my teenage years in Texas a 57 Chevy was a “babe magnet” to have. Or at least that is what guys thought at the time.



Here I am in front of my first car, and the photo at right is of my dad and his new truck that I found (dated April, 1940, seven months before I was born). They don't make em like that anymore.

John Travalent ([Email](#)) -

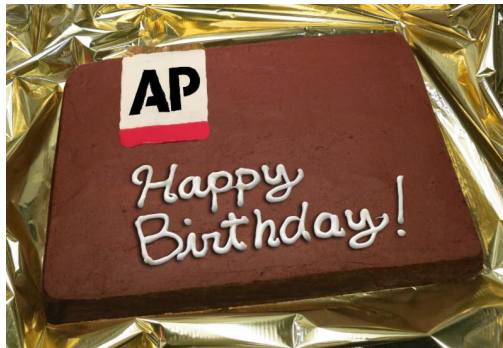
My first car was a 1953 Ford Sunliner convertible which was a replica of the Ford 50th anniversary pace car model. That's it in the background of the picture, but you can get a full view of the original by clicking [here](#). Note the white and gold leather interior, fake continental spare, fender skirts, and dual spotlights. Pretty cool stuff for 1953.



But of course, there is a backstory as to how a 17-year-old kid got such a set of wheels. I headed off to college at St. Louis University in Fall of 1957, my parents driving me there from Kansas City where we lived. I made friends with another Kansas Citian who had a car and was able to hook a ride home with him at Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks. But at semester break, our final exam schedules were different; he left early, and I did not have a ride home. So I did the next best thing – hitchhiked from St. Louis to Kansas City. Well, it was January and snowing and I had to catch a bus the last couple of miles home. When I got home unexpectedly and covered with snow, my mom nearly fainted and told my dad, “Get the kid a car”. And the rest is history.

As a footnote, I had that car for four years and then upgraded to a '57 Chevy convertible.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

On Saturday...

Dan Perry – danperry2018@gmail.com

Cindy Saul – cindysaul@gmail.com

On Sunday...

Bobby Baker - bebaker3@msn.com

Stories of interest

We Have Her Back

August 6, 2020

To:

News Division Heads, Editors in Chiefs, Bureau Chiefs, Political Directors,
Editors, Producers, Reporters, and Anchors

From:

Fatima Goss Graves (National Women's Law Center), Ilyse Hogue (NARAL),
Valerie Jarrett, Alexis McGill Johnson and Melanie Newman (Planned
Parenthood), Debra Ness (National Partnership for Women and Families),
Cecile Richards (Supermajority), Jess Morales Rocketto, Hilary Rosen,
Stephanie Shriock and Christina Reynolds (Emily's List), Tina Tchen (TimesUp)

Re: NEWS COVERAGE FOR THE VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

We are reaching out now because we are about to embark on a historic moment - once again - having a woman on a Presidential Campaign ticket. While you have already done significant reporting on the process, we know you are actively preparing for coverage about the specific Democratic Vice Presidential nominee.

Given how few women have reached this point, the sometimes disappointing coverage of the process to date and the double standards we've seen in the public and media expectations of women leaders over the years- and even more so for Black and Brown women leaders – we wanted to respectfully share some thoughts with you about the media's role in the scrutiny and coverage of women and women of color candidates in general, and the vice-presidential candidate in particular.

We do this today without knowing who Joe Biden's choice will be, as it allows you to consider your coverage in the context of these important societal issues

without the additional considerations that a specific candidate's personal story may bring.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

-0-

Pssst ... It's not all bad news (Poynter)

By KRISTEN HARE

"Hey everyone. I'm Kara Meyberg Guzman," Meyberg Guzman said in a podcast episode last July for Santa Cruz Local.

"And I'm Stephen Baxter," her co-founder and colleague replied.

"We're the co-hosts of Santa Cruz Local, which is a podcast and website that reports on Santa Cruz's public institutions," Meyberg Guzman said. "But today, we're trying something completely different."

"We're former print journalists building a local news startup in Santa Cruz," Baxter said.

"We want to earn your trust," Meyberg Guzman said after she and Baxter introduced the miniseries. "And to do that, we think you should get to know us. And vice versa."

A little more than a year later, in the midst of a pandemic that's shrinking local newsrooms and costing jobs, Santa Cruz Local hit a milestone last week. It hit the 500 member mark. Five hundred people now support the three-person team's work with monthly payments that start at \$9. About 80% of the site's revenue now comes from membership.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

New Bob Woodward book will include details of 25 personal letters between Trump and Kim Jong Un (The Hill)

BY REBECCA KLAR

Journalist Bob Woodward's new book, his second on the Trump presidency, will include 25 personal letters exchanged between President Trump and North Korea's Kim Jong Un, according to details of the book revealed by publisher Simon & Schuster on Wednesday.

The 25 letters obtained by Woodward have never been public, according to the Amazon description of the forthcoming book, titled "Rage."

Kim described the bond between the two leaders as out of a "fantasy film," according to the book's description.

Woodward's book is scheduled to be released Sept. 15, just seven weeks before Election Day.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad.

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Matt Herron, Whose Camera Chronicled a Movement, Dies at 89 (New York Times)



A civil rights protest in Alabama photographed by Matt Herron. “Matt had a sensitivity to the subject matter and was able to envision it in a way that was both powerful, dramatic but also touching,” said Ken Light, a professor of photojournalism. Credit: Matt Herron

By Sam Roberts

Matt Herron, a photojournalist who vividly memorialized the most portentous and promising moments from the front lines of the 1960s civil rights movement in the Deep South, died on Aug. 7 when a glider he was piloting crashed in Northern California. He was 89.

His wife, Jeannine Hull Herron, said Mr. Herron was flying his new self-launching glider (he had learned to fly at 70) when it crashed about 125 miles northwest of Sacramento after taking off from Lampson Field in Lakeport, on Clear Lake. He died at the scene. The National Transportation Safety Board said the crash was under investigation.

A child of the Depression and a protégé of the Dust Bowl documentarian Dorothea Lange, Mr. Herron assembled a team of photographers to capture the clashes between white Southerners and Black protesters, aided by their white Freedom Rider allies, as they sought to claim the rights they had been legally granted a century before.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Cecilia White.

Today in History - August 14, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Aug. 14, the 227th day of 2020. There are 139 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 14, 1997, an unrepentant Timothy McVeigh was formally sentenced to death for the Oklahoma City bombing. (McVeigh was executed by lethal injection in 2001.)

On this date:

In 1900, international forces, including U.S. Marines, entered Beijing to put down the Boxer Rebellion, which was aimed at purging China of foreign influence.

In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act into law.

In 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill issued the Atlantic Charter, a statement of principles that renounced aggression.

In 1945, President Harry S. Truman announced that Imperial Japan had surrendered unconditionally, ending World War II.

In 1948, the Summer Olympics in London ended; they were the first Olympic games held since 1936.

In 1973, U.S. bombing of Cambodia came to a halt.

In 1980, workers went on strike at the Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk (guh-DANSK'), Poland, in a job action that resulted in creation of the Solidarity labor movement.

In 1992, the White House announced that the Pentagon would begin emergency airlifts of food to Somalia to alleviate mass deaths by starvation.

In 1995, Shannon Faulkner officially became the first female cadet in the history of The Citadel, South Carolina's state military college. (However, Faulkner quit the school less than a week later, citing the stress of her court fight, and her isolation among the male cadets.)

In 2008, President George W. Bush signed consumer-safety legislation that banned lead from children's toys, imposing the toughest standard in the world.

In 2009, Charles Manson follower Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme, 60, convicted of trying to assassinate President Gerald Ford in 1975, was released from a Texas prison hospital after more than three decades behind bars.

In 2018, a highway bridge collapsed in the Italian city of Genoa during a storm, sending vehicles plunging nearly 150 feet and leaving 43 people dead.

Ten years ago: A day after weighing in on the issue, President Barack Obama repeated that Muslims had the right to build a mosque near New York's ground zero, but said he was not commenting on the "wisdom" of such a choice. Eight people leaving a party at a downtown Buffalo, New York, restaurant were shot, four fatally, including a Texas man who'd returned to his hometown to celebrate

his first wedding anniversary. (Former gang member Riccardo McCray was later convicted of first-degree murder and attempted murder, and sentenced to life without parole.) A truck overturned during an off-road race in the Mojave Desert, killing eight spectators.

Five years ago: The Stars and Stripes rose over the newly reopened U.S. Embassy in Cuba after a half century of often-hostile relations; U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry celebrated the day, but also made an extraordinary, nationally broadcast call for democratic change on the island.

One year ago: Thousands of people packed a baseball stadium in El Paso, Texas, to mourn the 22 victims of a shooting at a Walmart by a man who told police that he was targeting Mexicans. American rapper A\$AP Rocky was found guilty of assault by a Swedish court, six weeks after a street brawl in Stockholm that had attracted the attention of President Donald Trump, but the court gave “conditional sentences” to the rapper and his two bodyguards, sparing them prison time unless they were to commit a similar offense in Sweden again. A former Blackwater security contractor, Nicholas Slatten, was sentenced in Washington to life in prison after a retrial for his role in the 2007 shooting of unarmed civilians in Iraq that left 14 people dead.

Today's Birthdays: Broadway lyricist Lee Adams (“Bye Bye Birdie”) is 96. College Football Hall of Famer John Brodie is 85. Singer Dash Crofts is 82. Rock singer David Crosby is 79. Country singer Connie Smith is 79. Comedian-actor Steve Martin is 75. Movie director Wim Wenders is 75. Actor Antonio Fargas is 74. Singer-musician Larry Graham is 74. Actor Susan Saint James is 74. Author Danielle Steel is 73. Rock singer-musician Terry Adams (NRBQ) is 72. “Far Side” cartoonist Gary Larson is 70. Actor Carl Lumbly is 69. Olympic gold medal swimmer Debbie Meyer is 68. Actor Jackee Harry is 64. Actor Marcia Gay Harden is 61. Basketball Hall of Famer Earvin “Magic” Johnson is 61. Singer Sarah Brightman is 60. Actor Susan Olsen is 59. Actor-turned-fashion/interior designer Cristi Conaway is 56. Rock musician Keith Howland (Chicago) is 56. Actor Halle Berry is 54. Actor Ben Bass is 52. Actor Catherine Bell is 52. Rock musician Kevin Cadogan is 50. Actor Scott Michael Campbell is 49. Actor Lalanya Masters is 48. Actor Christopher Gorham is 46. Actor Mila Kunis is 37. Actor Lamorne Morris is 37. TV personality Spencer Pratt is 37. NFL quarterback-turned-baseball player Tim Lincecum is 33. Actor Marsai Martin is 16.

Got a story or photos to share?

Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

Here are some suggestions:

- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.

- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.

- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.

- **"A silly mistake that you make"** - a chance to fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.

- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.

- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.

- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

Paul Stevens

Editor, Connecting newsletter

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