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## Connecting

April 29, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this the 29<sup>th</sup> day of April 2021,

The AP was put to the test in covering the trial of former police officer Derek Chauvin in the death of George Floyd – and the AP delivered.

The Central News Director for the AP, **Tom Berman**, detailed in a staff note the preparation and execution that scores of AP journalists made in our lead story for today. It makes me proud.

With sadness, I bring you news of the death of our colleague **Tim Curran**, whose 39-year AP journey began in the Milwaukee bureau and continued in Columbus, Cleveland and Kansas City. He was surrounded by his wife **Kathy** and their three sons when he left this earth in Milwaukee Tuesday night.

I had the privilege to work with him during his 22 years in the Kansas City bureau. A fine journalist, a fine man. Tim retired in 2006 and later moved with Kathy back to Milwaukee. An obituary and more on his life will be provided soon.

If you have a favorite memory of working with Tim, please share.

Our colleague **Julia Weeks** ([Email](#)) invites you to join a Facebook Live Book Chat in which **Hal Buell** and **Nick Ut** discuss their new book, photojournalism and more. Hal just authored a book on Nick's AP career – From Hell to Hollywood: The Incredible Journey of AP Photographer Nick Ut. The chat will take place next Tuesday, May 4, at 7pm EDT - [facebook.com/APImages](https://facebook.com/APImages)



Here's to a great day ahead – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

## Covering the Derek Chauvin verdict: An AP team effort



Lisa Robinson of Washington, reacts on Tuesday, April 20, 2021, in Washington, as the guilty verdict in Minneapolis, in the murder trial against former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin was announced. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon)



George Floyd's brother Philonise Floyd wipes his eyes during a news conference, Tuesday, April 20, 2021, in Minneapolis, after the verdict was read in the trial of former Minneapolis Police officer Derek Chauvin for the murder of George Floyd. (AP Photo/Julio Cortez)

**Tom Berman ([Email](#)) – Central News Director, Chicago**

*MINNEAPOLIS (AP) – Ex-cop Derek Chauvin convicted of murder and manslaughter in George Floyd death that stirred worldwide protests.*

That APNewsAlert brought to the world the result of the most closely watched trial in decades. Simultaneously, AP was broadcasting LIVE video from inside and outside the courtroom, while photo editors were only moments behind getting out stills from the pool video of the trial and images from our photographers outside the courthouse. Quick to follow was deep cross-format coverage from Minneapolis and throughout the world that captured the reaction to a case that had redefined the conversation about race and policing across the globe.

An enormous amount of effort went into the preparation for the moment of the verdict and its aftermath, including the AP bringing in reporters, photographers and VJs from across the U.S. to supplement our local staff. Editors at desks throughout the U.S. and London ensured their work got to customers quickly and accurately.

The preparation, in fact, went back months, preceding the beginning of jury selection on March 9. The core Minnesota team covering the trial prepared for that by conferring with colleagues on the Law Enforcement and Race & Ethnicity beat teams and others in the AP.

Underlying the success of the coverage from beginning to end was a focus on the reporting. Reporters Steve Karnowski, who was a member of the print pool, and Amy Forliti and News Editor Doug Glass all watched the court proceedings virtually gavel to gavel, ensuring that we mastered the facts of the case and were quick to identify patterns and enterprise. Mohamed Ibrahim reported from outside the trial along with Tim Sullivan, with photographer Jim Mone capturing the scene outside the courthouse and across Minneapolis.

To ensure that local reporters could remain focused on reporting, Central Desk reporter Tammy Webber remotely pulled together the main text story each day, with Central Desk editors Andrea Thomas and Jeff McMurray and Top Stories' Pete Brown handling the majority of spot and enterprise coverage. Video producers Ritu Shukla, Angie Wang, Bob Eller and Carrie Antlfinger were among the team during the weeks of the trial that ensured our video edits from the courthouse were complete and got to customers quickly. With no access granted for stills, Chicago-based photo editor Mike Green turned around quick frame-grabs.

As closing arguments approached and tension in the Minneapolis area increased following the police custody death of Daunte Wright, the AP supplemented the local staff with a team of journalists from across the country: Mike Householder, Robert Bumsted, Ted Shaffrey, Noreen Nasir and Brian Skoloff for video; John Minchillo, Julio Cortez and Morry Gash for photos; and Stephen Groves, Aaron Morrison and Michael Tarm for text.

The cross-format coverage of the verdict and the immediate response was broad and deep. Morrison and Sullivan teamed up for a reaction story from George Floyd Square, the location of Floyd's killing; Morrison and fellow Race & Ethnicity Team member Kat Stafford explored how the verdict gave hope, if only fleeting, to Black Americans; Juan Lozano, David Phillip and John Mone captured reaction from Floyd's hometown of Houston; and a piece from the R&E team's Deepti Hajela along with Jocelyn Noveck, with contributions from around the country, that looked at the relief felt by many around the country and asked what comes next in America.

Key to our strategy from the beginning of the trial was taking steps to ensure we had the bandwidth and resources to execute on enterprise close to the news while delivering thematic running stories during each day of jury selection and testimony.

For example, Forliti, focused intently on the proceedings, sent up a flare when she was impressed by a Black juror's exclusion, illustrating how difficult it can be for people who say they have personal experience with police misconduct to get onto juries that hold police accountable. Groves supplemented Forliti's reporting on the excused juror with expert insight, and Shukla produced a focused video edit. Jim Salter zeroed in on the way the prosecution and defense sought to portray the bystanders who witnessed Floyd's death. Forliti and Glass teamed up for an insightful look at the defense attorney's strategy. Claudia Lauer and Colleen Long wrote on the rarity of convicting police officers. Webber dug deeply into some of the most powerful moments during the trial in a way we couldn't do during the daily coverage.

The explanatory journalism was facilitated by an aggressive use of the Explainer format, with dozens produced – and sometimes updated and re-used – during the course of the trial, thanks to the efforts of reporters from around the country, some of

who wrote multiple explainers. Angles included why jurors can't be dismissed based on their race, by Lauer; the rules for striking jurors, by Todd Richmond; a story dissected what lawyers were attempting to elicit through their questions, by Jim Salter in St. Louis; a look at the impact of the testimony on witnesses by Ryan Foley; a piece explaining the legal underpinnings of the debate over police use of force by Tarm; an explanation of medical testimony from medical writer Marilyn Marchione; and a piece delving in the differing portrayal of Floyd's drug use by Kathleen Foody.

Newspaper play was strong throughout the trial, as was online play, helped by the "Death of George Floyd" hub updated by the Nerve Center's Dave Clark, who also created a widget inside the hub – "Explaining the Derek Chauvin Trial" – to highlight the explainers. With the verdict approaching, we experimented with a team that included Sophia Rosenbaum to make sure we were aware of trending topics and making the most of our headlines to ensure they turned up on search. Part of that strategy was aggressive tweeting of stories as interest surged.

AP's video coverage was formidable. AP provided multiple LIVE Feeds from Minneapolis – inside and outside the courtroom – and elsewhere in the U.S. Sixty customers took video from inside and outside the court on AP Live Choice, with about 200 customers getting it on AP Direct. In addition, the AP offered approximately 40 edits on the day of the verdict – about twice what Reuters offered customers. And we were faster than the competition to get these edits to customers.

For the week of the verdict, four of the top five stories in terms of customer downloads were from the trial. The mainbar on the day of the verdict had about 550 downloads, about 400 higher than the daily average for the typical top story. That story was also the most read spot news story of the week on APNews, with more than 750,000 pageviews.

Stories from the trial that week drove about 2 million combined pageviews on APNews. Two of the explainers post-verdict ranked in the top 13 in terms of engagement on APNews for the week. Both the What's Next and why Chauvin is unlikely to face maximum sentence explainers averaged more than 2 minutes of readership.

In terms of filing speed, for the verdict, we had an alert out in the same minute the final "guilty" was announced. A tight, prepped story moved 3 minutes later. And we had the fully prepped story out 5 minutes after that. Even with technical problems with the APNews CMS, our push alert was still ahead of the New York Times and CNN.

Local customers had their own aggressive coverage of the trial. Yet they made good use of AP's explanatory and enterprise coverage, with Minnesota Public Radio regularly posting the explainers, the Minneapolis Star Tribune giving strong play to enterprise and the St. Paul Pioneer Press leading its website with the story on the Black jury candidate who didn't make it past voir dire.

Throughout the coverage, top of mind was sensitivity to access and security issues that might arise, with Kathleen Hennessey on the ground working with Danny Spriggs, Brian Barrett and others to ensure that the journalists had the knowledge and equipment they needed to cover the story.

Thanks to all those named and unnamed whose contributions made for coverage that did justice to this important story.

## Thanks to Hal Buell for giving me chance to excel

**Guy Palmiotto (Email)** - Hal hired me in January 1976 and spent several months as his "Office Boy", no offense here. My duties was support him as well as the "Bullpen" comprised of Jake Schwadel, Thomas DiLustro and Sandy Colton. If there was a Pulitzer for this team, it would be well deserved. This consisted of handling the camera and film supplies, stringer credits and keeping track of "Play reports", and mail. It was a great introduction to what the AP was about and the quality of the photojournalism that was created. Helping to support photogs such as Faas, Adams, Ut and numerous others was beyond comprehension for me. Every day was an adventure, i.e. accompanying Sandy for aerial photography, setting studio shoots for the AP Board meetings and observing the photo editors moving photos over the wire. I had learned the world is a constant dynamic, humane and inhumane and AP photographers documented this daily and AP photogs were the best in the business.

Delivering the mail to Hal's office one afternoon became a turning point in my career. While on the phone he looked me square in the eye and spoke into the receiver, "I have just the individual for the project ". Unbeknownst to me, he had been speaking with photographer Harry Cabluck, who at that time was based in Pittsburgh. As I found out later, with the '76 Montreal Olympic Games on the horizon, the AP needed a process to deliver color photos over the network. A few days later I was in Pittsburgh, learning the color separation process with Harry and Chuck Carroll the Photography Director at the Tarentum Daily Dispatch in Tarentum, PA. This process created four-color separations (prints) from color transparencies. I learned more about color photography in two weeks there and ultimately, fast forward, a decade or so, helped me transition to the digital era. Kudos to Harry Cabluck for also giving me this opportunity. This knowledge was critical in contributing color photography to "Operation Sail" in New York City and the Montreal Olympics that summer, and a 40-year career in AP Photos.

I have to say Thank You to Hal for giving me the opportunity to excel at the AP and owe the longevity of my career for being at the right place at the right time.

Happy Birthday Hal.

## On the storming of the Capitol

**Ed McCullough (Email)** - Re the rhetorical question, "What if the people storming the Capitol on January 6 had been Black," a commonsense response is: reporters and editors should use the same or similar words to describe the same or similar events. Why should skin color matter?

A farcical response is: call what happened Jan. 6 - or last summer - a demonstration and focus on "demonstrators' concerns" that underlay their actions. Result? No mob, no rioting, no damage done - yet somehow now a need to tap billions of dollars of federal aid to replace what purportedly was not destroyed in the first place. Incidentally, didn't the Capitol police officer who died, die of natural causes? Worth a mention?

Re "Context is key. Police violence doesn't just happen" - nor does political violence. Nor is it new that context matters. Nor did news media always get it wrong, for example, by always relying mostly on police information. That's a dubious and debatable starting point.

Re "newsrooms are rarely as diverse as the Black and brown communities in which they work," why is that - decades after news organizations have deliberately sought to promote diversity? As have municipal police departments. And communities in selecting their state and local leaders.

Newsroom and reporters' hand-wringing, and attempts to address problems by developing different narratives, seem designed to achieve intended outcomes as successfully - read: unsuccessfully - as past efforts.

Why not just cover news as news without social filters?

## Connecting mailbox

### *Was he drafted? He checked with the AP*

**Jim Salter** ([Email](#)) – An LA Times story by Sam Farmer on odd happenings on NFL draft day included an interesting AP reference – and it is timely to run today, the first day of this year's draft:

When (Tony) Dungy was draft-eligible, it was he who was doing the calling.

It was 1977, and he was a safety coming out of the University of Minnesota. The draft wasn't televised in those days, and Dungy was in his off-campus apartment waiting for word of which team had chosen him. And waiting.

Finally, confused and dejected, he picked up the phone and reluctantly called the Associated Press.

"I'm sorry," said the person who answered the phone. "The draft has been over for a long time."

Bad day for Dungy, but it all worked out. He signed as a free agent with the Steelers, and his NFL career was underway.

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*Happy 40th, Susan Clark!*



Susan Clark (left) and Lori Greene

**Susan Clark (Email)** – We had a staff meeting Wednesday and my boss Lori (Greene, director of procurement) said she was having a technical problem. Little did I know that Lori was making her way to my new apartment, 30 minutes from hers. During the meeting, the front doorbell rang and my husband Stew answered. I was on the call and all of a sudden in walked Lori with flowers, a plaque and a letter from AP President Gary Pruitt! I was Gobsmaoked! I am very proud to work for AP. My bosses Jeremy (NEED LAST NAME AND TITLE) and Lori have been amazing! My colleagues are dedicated and brilliant I admire everyone in my department.

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### ***'Joint address'***

**Jerry Cipriano (Email)** - Any editors, past or present, care to weigh in on the use of "joint address" to describe President Biden's speech to Congress? It seems to me it is a solo address, by one man, to a joint session of the House and the Senate. What is joint about the event is not the address, but the meeting of the two chambers. Does addressing them as they meet jointly make it a joint address?

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden will use his first joint address to Congress to pitch a \$1.8 trillion investment in children, families and education that would fundamentally transform roles the government plays in American life.

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## *Photo of Prince memorial replica featured among 'striking photos'*



**Jeff Baenen** ([Email](#)) - My AP photo of a Prince memorial replica at Paisley Park in Chanhassen, Minnesota, recently was featured in weekly news magazine *The Week's* '20 Years of Pop Culture, in 20 Striking Photos.'

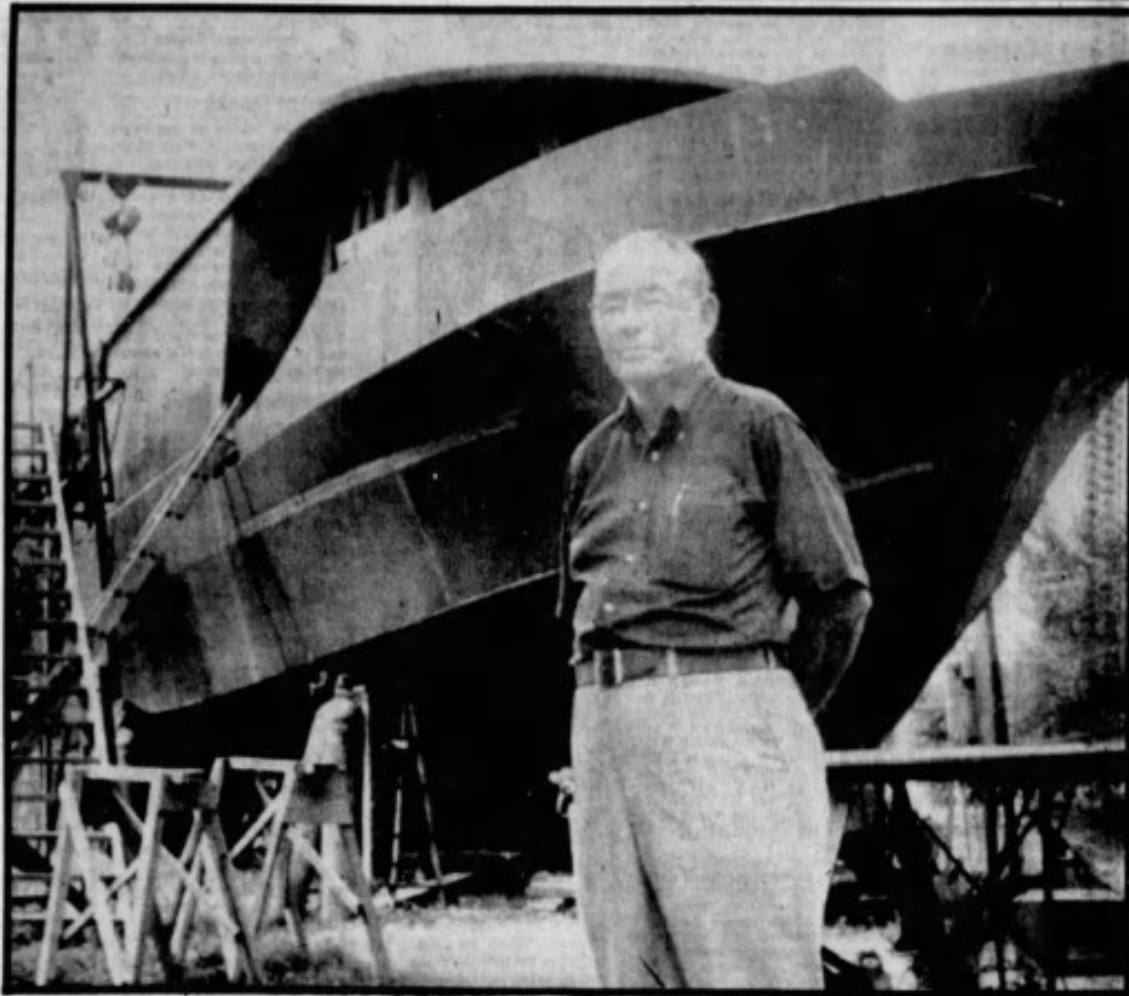
[Here](#) is a link to the story.

I took the photo in 2016 during a media tour of Paisley Park as Prince's recording studio and home prepared to open as a museum following the "Purple Rain" singer's death. The memorial was made up of drawings and items fans had left on the fence around Paisley Park. Look closely and you can see a Little Red Corvette Hot Wheels car, just like the Prince song. Prince died of an accidental painkiller overdose at Paisley Park on April 21, 2016; I was one of the first reporters on the scene and saw the first of many fans place flowers on the fence as word of his death spread.

Other photos included actress Halle Berry winning her Academy Award, Steve Jobs presenting the iPhone and singer Lady Gaga wearing her meat dress. Getty Images, Reuters and AP/Invision were among other outlets whose photos were chosen.

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## *Hands that healed, hands that shaped steel*



Dr. Bill Myerly is building a boat on the shore of Lake West Okoboji at Wahpeton, Iowa, that will have more space than some two-bedroom homes. (AP Laserphoto)

## It's a hull of a big boat

By Mark Mittelstadt  
Associated Press Writer

WAHPETON, Iowa (AP) — The crack about Noah and the ark is all too familiar to Dr. Bill Myerly, but he can understand why people are curious about the huge, steel boat he's building on West Lake Okoboji.

"I guess it is kind of unusual," the Spencer surgeon said one day recently, taking a break from grinding welds in the boat's imposing hull. "The people in the Midwest are very startled by it, but you go to either coast and it's not that unusual."

Almost daily for the past two years, Myerly, 63, has been cutting, pounding, welding and grinding 25 tons of steel panels and beams into what is now the hull for the 56½-foot boat.

In another two years, the "Iowan" will be a sleek cabin cruiser on which 10 people can live for weeks without having to go ashore. Containing 700 square feet of living space — more than some small, two-bedroom homes — it will have a

Beach.

When it's completed, it will have an upper deck from which he can control the boat as well as sophisticated navigation and communication gear.

The boat will be painted. He's agreed to his wife's suggestion of off-white with blue trim.

The "Iowan" is only the latest unusual step for a man whose life hasn't always followed the beaten path.

The son of a northwest Iowa farmer, Myerly entered medicine and was the first student to go through a surgical training program at Methodist Hospital in Des Moines.

In 1956, he was the first surgeon in private practice to perform open heart surgery.

Nearly three years later, he did the operation live on public television. "I think all of Des Moines stood still that day," he said, laughing.

Myerly became chief of surgery at Iowa Methodist, and with a staff of 11 residents routinely performed complex heart, cardiovascular, and

and plumbing this winter, but that won't be easy.

"I literally have had thousands of people stop by since I started on this," he said. "I figure it has put me behind a little bit. Sometimes I just have to lock it up and go inside, there are so many distractions."

"People are just overwhelmed by it, that's the most common reaction."

"I get tired of hearing people say 'Well, that's quite a project.' Then there are some people who say 'What is it?' That really gets me."

"And then there's the ones who think they're funny and say something about Noah's ark and when am I going to collect the animals. I tell them it sleeps ten animals."

And no, he's not going to put it in Lake Okoboji, even though he'd prefer to test it there rather than in Lake Michigan. It would cost too much to move it that short distance, he said.

Myerly said he had no special knowledge before starting to build the boat. He bought a \$5,000 set of plans from a California designer.

complete kitchen, two showers and bathrooms, a freezer and a clothes washer and dryer.

The four-year project is a retirement dream for the prominent surgeon.

Instead of moving to the sunny Southwest, Myerly is planning to launch the boat in the Great Lakes in early 1985 as he hangs up his scalpel and operating room gown. From there, he'll take his wife, Georgia, on a cruise around the southern half of North America and up to Alaska, exploring inland waterways and fjords along the Pacific Coast as he has done on two previous sailing trips.

"That's too far off to think much about yet, but I suppose as I progress on the boat, we'll start getting excited."

Most on-lookers want to know why Myerly is building the boat, and the answer is simple.

"I figure this will be worth just under a half a million dollars when it's completed, and I can't afford that. So I have to build it," he said.

"It's something I can retire on and travel on. I have to be active. I don't want to sit around and drink when I retire."

The boat now is little more than a rusty carcass rising out of the green Iowa cornfields on a lot next to Myerly's home near Manhattan

complex heart, cardiovascular and general surgery.

He enjoyed the position and Des Moines, he said, but he also loved the Iowa Great Lakes region located not far from his hometown, Rodman.

"When I was a small lad we were up here about every other weekend," he said.

His grandfather owned a mile-and-a-half of the best shoreline on western West Lake Okoboji before selling it off at \$200 to \$300 a lot. He recalls the days when huge steamships ferried passengers around the lake, and when a young musician named Lawrence Welk played local dance halls and Fred and Adelle Astaire stayed at the gracious Manhattan Beach hotel.

So he decided to move back, building his house amidst tall oak trees on two lakeshore lots in 1967. He quit the Iowa Methodist post three years later to live on the lake and use his surgical skills in the Spencer area, where he and two partners now operate in four small cities.

Normally arriving home by noon, Myerly often spends five to seven hours a day working on the boat, then relaxes in the cool breeze on his dock or on a 26-foot sailboat which he built on a fabricated hull.

He wants to complete the exterior steel work on the "Iowan" this fall so he can start the interior wiring

learned how to weld from "a couple pages in a book," then started on the project.

A wood hull outline helped as he hung 14 steel rib frames from a piece of angle iron, then started fastening the steel panels.

A simple misstep in maneuvering 800-pound steel plates or any of the other work in building a boat could injure or ruin a surgeon's hands; but Myerly said he's not concerned.

"I've always done woodworking. I used my hands a lot on the farm, so I decided that that would never be a factor in what I do. I did lose a fingernail though, and I've had some close calls."

For example, a 4- by 4-inch wood beam under pressure exploded in his face. The accident caused no major injuries but did leave some scars.

Once the boat is completed — welding all done, 235 horsepower engine in place, electronic gear installed, interior decorating done — Myerly will have the boat moved by truck to the Great Lakes for launching.

When that time comes, Myerly said there will be no fanfare.

"I don't want to be fiddling with any mob," he said. "I'm going to have my driver come in unannounced, probably at night, we'll load it up in less than an hour and be off. And that'll be it."

**Mark Mittelstadt (Email)** - For Throwback Thursday, here's a fun story I stumbled across while vacationing 39 years ago.

In August 1982, Mary, our first son, then 2, and I were staying at a family resort on West Lake Okoboji in northwest Iowa. On a weedy lot just outside the entrance was a rusted steel structure in the shape of a large boat hull. Curious, I walked over and asked a slight man in baggy clothes and carrying a welding torch what he was building.

It turned out the man was a heart surgeon, fairly well-known in the Midwest. Dr. William Myerly had pioneered certain heart surgery procedures while based in Des Moines and built some of his own surgical tools when none were available. Eventually he moved to the Iowa Great Lakes region and settled in a modest home on one of its lakes. He continued his practice at small hospitals in the region.

Having previously built a sail boat and a small aircraft, Myerly in 1980 began work on what would become a 32-ton, 9-passenger cabin cruiser. During an interview I repeatedly asked him whether he was worried that a slipped steel plate or some other accident would permanently cost him use of fingers or hands that also performed delicate procedures inside patients' chest cavities. He wasn't. The AP story and photo received good play.

The doctor spent an estimated 7,000 hours and completed the large boat in 1985. While many boats have been built and launched in the Lakes region, Myerly's never touched the greenish-blue waters of Okoboji. A moving crew hoisted the craft he named Okoboji onto a large truck for transport to Milwaukee, where he and his wife launched it and traveled the other Great Lakes to Florida.

Myerly died on Jan. 1, 2017, at his home in Spirit Lake, Iowa, days shy of his 98th birthday. According to his obituary, "After his retirement in 1985, he and his first mate Georgia spent many years traveling on the Okoboji, hosting friends, family, and enjoying new adventures. He sold his boat less than ten years ago, and it is now in Alaska. He and Georgia continued to travel around the country during the winter months over the next few years. He never tired of the drive to Alaska, but he finally relinquished the keys to his car at the age of 97."

[KELOLAND News video](#) of completion of Myerly boat and move from Okoboji.

## Final roundup of your names for our newspaper-reading canine



The photo, originally posted by George Arfield, with this comment: Targeting previously news-neglected family members in an effort to reverse drop in circulation.

And Connecting's call for naming the dog resulted in:

Linda Barnas - I'd suggest News hound.

Sibby Christensen - His formal name is Grant. Grant takes Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Don Cooper - News hound

Gary Graham - Scoop dog

Bruce Nathan - Erudite Canine Gives Primacy to the Rin-Tin Word...Scoopy-Doo...Dogged consumer of cur-ent events

Doug Pizac - Bad News is a Bitch (assuming dog is female)

Malcolm Ritter - Given the creases in the paper, I'd suggest Foldin' Retriever.

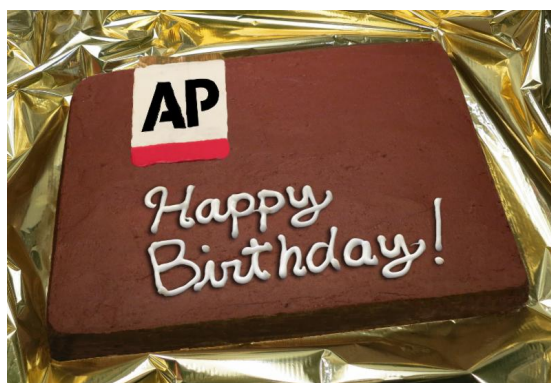
Alan Sayre - "Damn. PetSmart stock was down again yesterday"

Paul Stevens - Nose for news

Dave Tomlin - Paper trained

(I am told cats are asking for equal time -dogs drool, cats rule, so they say.)

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



John Bolt - [jboltwv@johnbolt.com](mailto:jboltwv@johnbolt.com)

Dave Fritz - [fritzdavelv@gmail.com](mailto:fritzdavelv@gmail.com)

Dennis Gale - [dgale4521@yahoo.com](mailto:dgale4521@yahoo.com)

Andy Lippman - [alippman22@hotmail.com](mailto:alippman22@hotmail.com)

Bruce Lowitt - [brucelowitt@gmail.com](mailto:brucelowitt@gmail.com)

## Stories of interest

*A modest proposal for saving the republic*

**By Garrison Keillor**

I am a simple man leading a simple life, thanks to my wife who reads the pandemic news and the dark dreadful visions of pessimistic epidemiologists and instills caution in me, otherwise I'd be hanging out in saloons singing sea shanties with unmasked ne'er-do-wells, passing a bottle of whiskey around and sharing bacteria. Instead, she and I lead a monastic life, staying home, reading books, eating salads, playing Scrabble.

A year of quarantine with your spouse is something we didn't anticipate when we said our vows. I promised to have and to hold, in sickness and in health, but by "sickness," I was thinking of a bad cold, maybe a sprained ankle, not a year of incarceration. But by God, quarantine is an excellent test of a marriage, and either you go to a hotel and call your lawyer or you discover that you married the exact right person, which, as I contemplate it day after day, seems to me to be the greatest good luck, right up there with being an all-star third baseman or winning the Nobel Peace Prize.

I had twenty aunts and uncles, all of them married, and I witnessed no yelling, no door-slamming, no sobbing in locked rooms, so I figured the odds were in my favor. But I walked into a couple of troubled marriages before luck struck, and now I think that quarantine should be a prerequisite for marriage. Six months locked in a one-bedroom apartment before the license can be issued. You will quickly find out whether you have anything to say to each other or not. You'll find out about housekeeping habits, personal hygiene, sense of humor (if any), dietary preferences. I am a liberal and know what is good for people and premarital quarantine is right at the top of the list.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

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## ***The Hamburglar? How a story about meat limits fell apart*** (AP)

By **DAVID BAUDER** and **ALI SWENSON**

NEW YORK (AP) — President Joe Biden spent only a weekend as the "Hamburglar" in the conservative media world.

But while the false story lasted, it moved with a damaging speed and breadth, another example of a closed ecosystem of information affecting public opinion.

An academic study published a year before Biden became president was used to speculate that he would place limits on how much red meat Americans can consume as part of his stated goal to sharply reduce greenhouse gas pollution.

It was a potentially potent, visceral argument with punchy cable TV octane, namely that Biden was trying to limit people to eating one hamburger a month — an

allegation that could seriously undermine his climate change plan before he even announced it.

There was one main problem: He's said no such thing.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

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## ***Retired Washington Post editor Martin Baron has book deal*** (AP)

NEW YORK (AP) — Martin Baron, who retired recently as executive editor of The Washington Post, is working on a book about his leadership of the paper during the administration of President Donald Trump.

Flatiron Books announced Wednesday that it had acquired Baron's "Collision of Power: Trump, Bezos, and The Washington Post." The Post is owned by Amazon.com founder and frequent Trump target Jeff Bezos.

Baron will explore his eight years with the paper and look into larger issues of the press and its role in democracy.

Read more [here](#).

## **The Final Word**

### ***These Words Were Invented by Mistake*** (Word Genius)

English is notorious for adopting words from other languages, leading to plenty of mistranslations or miscommunications. Rather than acknowledging the mistake, English speakers tend to double down and embrace the it, creating new words all on their own. Below are nine such words that were invented by mistake.

#### **Algorithm**

Often used in reference to computing, an algorithm is a set mathematical process with clear steps in order to arrive at the right answer. But the word algorithm is a mistranslation of the name of 9th-century Persian mathematician Muḥammad ibn Mūsā al-Khwārizmī. It was Latinized to be "Algoritmi." That's right — one of the fundamental terms in the field of mathematics comes from a mispronunciation of a name.

#### **Sneeze**

The Old English word "fnesan" means to snort. Styles of writing and penmanship later changed, and there was confusion between the letter "s" and the letter "f." Fnesan turned into snesan, and there you have the start of sneeze. Gesundheit!

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

# Today in History - April 29, 2021



## By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, April 29, the 119th day of 2021. There are 246 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On April 29, 1992, a jury in Simi Valley, California, acquitted four Los Angeles police officers of almost all state charges in the videotaped beating of motorist Rodney King; the verdicts were followed by rioting in Los Angeles resulting in 55 deaths.

### On this date:

In 1913, Swedish-born engineer Gideon Sundback of Hoboken, New Jersey, received a U.S. patent for a "separable fastener" [-] later known as the zipper.

In 1945, during World War II, American soldiers liberated the Dachau (DAH'-khow) concentration camp. Adolf Hitler married Eva Braun inside his "Führerbunker" and designated Adm. Karl Doenitz (DUHR'-nihtz) president.

In 1946, 28 former Japanese officials went on trial in Tokyo as war criminals; seven ended up being sentenced to death.

In 1957, the SM-1, the first military nuclear power plant, was dedicated at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

In 1967, Aretha Franklin's cover of Otis Redding's "Respect" was released as a single by Atlantic Records.

In 1961, "ABC's Wide World of Sports" premiered, with Jim McKay as host.

In 1983, Harold Washington was sworn in as the first Black mayor of Chicago.

In 1991, a cyclone began striking the South Asian country of Bangladesh; it ended up killing more than 138,000 people, according to the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.



In 1997, Staff Sgt. Delmar Simpson, a drill instructor at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland, was convicted of raping six female trainees (he was sentenced to 25 years in prison and dishonorably discharged). A worldwide treaty to ban chemical weapons went into effect.

In 2000, Tens of thousands of angry Cuban-Americans marched peacefully through Miami's Little Havana, protesting the raid in which armed federal agents yanked 6-year-old Elian Gonzalez from the home of relatives.

In 2008, Democratic presidential hopeful Barack Obama denounced his former pastor, the Rev. Jeremiah Wright, for what he termed "divisive and destructive" remarks on race.

In 2010, the U.S. Navy officially ended a ban on women serving on submarines, saying the first women would be reporting for duty by 2012. The NCAA's Board of Directors approved a 68-team format for the men's basketball tournament beginning the next season.

Ten years ago: Britain's Prince William and Kate Middleton were married in an opulent ceremony at London's Westminster Abbey. President Barack Obama visited Tuscaloosa, Alabama, one of the sites of deadly tornadoes two days earlier, saying he had "never seen devastation like this."

Five years ago: Hundreds of rowdy protesters broke through barricades and threw eggs at police outside a hotel in Burlingame, California, where Donald Trump addressed the state's Republican convention. North Korea sentenced Kim Dong Chul, a U.S. citizen of Korean heritage, to 10 years in prison after convicting him of espionage and subversion. Joey Meek, a friend of Dylann Roof, the white man later convicted of killing nine Black parishioners during a Bible study at a Charleston, South Carolina, church pleaded guilty to lying to federal authorities. (Meek was sentenced in March 2017 to more than two years in prison.)

One year ago: Scientists announced the first effective treatment against the coronavirus, the experimental antiviral medication remdesivir, which they said could speed the recovery of COVID-19 patients. The government estimated that the U.S. economy shrank at a 4.8% annual rate in the first quarter of the year as the pandemic shut down much of the country. The Federal Reserve said it would keep its key short-term interest rate near zero for the foreseeable future as part of its effort to bolster the economy. A suburban Minneapolis nursing home said 47 residents had died from complications of COVID-19. President Donald Trump said the federal government would not extend the social distancing guidelines that were expiring the next day; he said he would resume his own out-of-state travel. Police were called to a Brooklyn, New York, neighborhood after a funeral home overwhelmed by the coronavirus resorted to storing dozens of bodies on ice in rented trucks and a passerby complained about the smell; no criminal charges were filed.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Keith Baxter is 88. Conductor Zubin Mehta is 85. Pop singer Bob Miranda (The Happenings) is 79. Country singer Duane Allen (The Oak Ridge Boys) is 78. Singer Tommy James is 74. Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., is 71. Movie director Phillip Noyce is 71. Comedian Jerry Seinfeld is 67. Actor Leslie Jordan is 66. Actor Kate Mulgrew is 66. Actor Daniel Day-Lewis is 64. Actor Michelle Pfeiffer is 63. Actor Eve Plumb is 63. Rock musician Phil King is 61. Country singer Stephanie Bentley is 58. Actor Vincent Ventresca is 55. Singer Carnie Wilson (Wilson Phillips) is 53. Actor

Paul Adelstein is 52. Actor Uma Thurman is 51. International Tennis Hall of Famer Andre Agassi is 51. Rapper Master P is 51. Actor Darby Stanchfield is 50. Country singer James Bonamy is 49. Gospel/rhythm-and-blues singer Erica Campbell (Mary Mary) is 49. Rock musician Mike Hogan (The Cranberries) is 48. Actor Tyler Labine is 43. Actor Megan Boone is 38. Actor-model Taylor Cole is 37. Pop singer Amy Heidemann (Karmin) is 35. NHL center Jonathan Toews is 33. Pop singer Foxes is 32. Actor Grace Kaufman is 19.

## 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.**



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