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# Connecting

April 30, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this the 30<sup>th</sup> day of April 2020,

From the COVID-19 pandemic to the racial justice movement and the U.S. election, AP's journalists captured a world in distress in 2020. President and CEO **Gary Pruitt** and Chairman **Steven Swartz** recount AP's milestones and achievements in this year's annual report. Click [here](#).

Today's issue brings you the obituary of our colleague **Tim Curran**, whose 39-year AP career took him from Milwaukee to Columbus to Cleveland and finally to Kansas City. Tim died Tuesday night at the age of 69. The obituary was lovingly prepared by his wife **Kathy**, a contributor to Connecting who was Tim's "voice" in his difficult final years, and their three sons.

An error by Connecting's editor in Thursday's issue in the story on Susan Clark's 40<sup>th</sup> AP anniversary. The last name and title of **Jeremy Carmel** was omitted. Jeremy, a Connecting colleague, is vice president and treasurer of The Associated Press.

Have a great weekend – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

## *AP's 2020 annual report*

# A LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND CEO



From Steven Swartz, Chairman (at left), and Gary Pruitt, President and CEO

AP's journalists captured a world in distress in 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic upended daily life; the racial justice movement swept across America and the globe; and the U.S. election and its aftermath led to incredible turmoil. During these extraordinary times, the world relied on The Associated Press. And AP met the moment.

As we write this letter, AP's journalism continues to illuminate the grim toll of COVID-19. Exclusive, all-formats coverage took the world inside overwhelmed intensive care units from New York to Milan, illustrating the trauma but also the heroism happening behind closed doors. We showed overflowing funeral homes, shuttered small businesses, empty stadiums and so much more. We produced data-driven reporting detailing the virus' disproportionate impact on people of color and the most vulnerable among us. As hope abounds with the administration of vaccines, AP continues to document stories of both cautious optimism and growing virus inequity around the globe.

Video, photos and poignant text stories illuminated a racial reckoning in America and across the world in 2020, as protests over racial injustice and police brutality brought systemic racism and social inequality to the fore. This movement led to important and difficult conversations everywhere, including at the AP. We want to do better. We remain committed to diversity, equity and inclusion, and to continuing the conversation.

Before, during and after the U.S. presidential election, AP provided the facts. We held the powerful to account with our thorough fact checks, we debunked misinformation and we comprehensively covered the campaign. Moreover we delivered the results of the election without fear or favor, informing the world of the next president of the United States and explaining how we declared the winner.

The beginning of 2021 brought an unprecedented insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, and with it attacks on journalists, including AP staff. These attacks on press freedom continue all over the world. Just last month AP journalist Thein Zaw was released from prison in Myanmar after spending over three weeks behind bars, detained while covering a protest against the country's military coup. We know that a free press is more crucial than ever — everywhere — as the public tries to navigate fact from fiction.

Read more [here](#).

*His AP career spanned 39 years*  
**Timothy Lalor Curran (1941-2021)**



Timothy Lalor Curran passed away on April 27, 2021 while being held and loved by his wife of 53 years and his three sons.

He was born in Mauston, Wisconsin to Frank and Lucille (Lalor) Curran, less than four weeks before the bombing of Pearl Harbor. He lived with his mother's family in Madison after his dad enlisted in the Navy and left for the Pacific Theater, and returned to Mauston in 1946.

He attended Madonna High School, where he "did well in everything he took up." This is an inside joke he would have facetiously insisted on being included in his obituary, but his sons suspect that there was some truth to it, given his reputed mastery of the accordion and his oft-repeated claims of being one of the fastest guys on the football team. He was the prom king and all-around good guy, with the only seeming blemish on those years being the time he was unjustly TKO'd in a boxing match by a lesser opponent. (He swears he was just trying to tire the guy out).

He attended Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, where he studied English and excelled as an actor. He had starring roles in *The Music Man*, *Take Me Along*, *Dr. Faustus*, and *Twelfth Night*, among others. He was later inducted into the Loras College Theater Hall

of Fame, thus allowing him to employ the phrase “a Hall of Famer like myself,” when circumstances required. (More often than you’d think).

Tim was an avid learner, continuously taking classes such as Roman History, Greek Mythology, and Acting. After 30 years with The Associated Press, he qualified for a sabbatical and decided to enhance his journalism career by receiving a law degree from University of Kansas.

He met Kathy Walsh when his mother babysat for her, because their parents were friends. He was two years old and she, an infant. According to family lore, when it was time for her to go home, Tim cried and asked if they could keep her.

They married in 1968. Tim loved her with everything he had, and relished becoming a part of her sizable, tight-knit clan. His parents were both from large Irish families and had hoped the same for Tim. During World War II, Frank would write Lucille regularly about their shared hopes of giving young Tim a bigger family. It wasn’t to be until he married Kathy. Her parents, siblings and cousins embraced him as a full and integral member of the Walsh family, spending countless happy gatherings at the family farm in Cattail Valley. He loved the Walsh family dearly and they him. He would go on to be the eulogist for both his father-in-law Billy Walsh and mother-in-law Audrey Walsh. Following his dementia diagnosis, all five of Kathy’s siblings and their spouses accompanied them on a trip to Ireland.

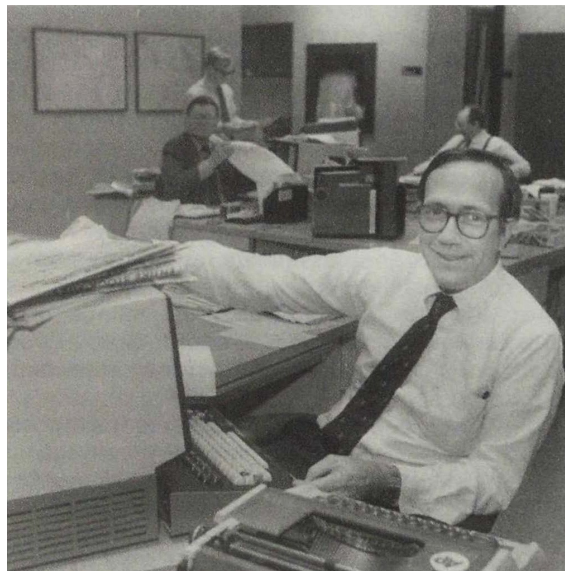


Kathy gave him even more family to love with sons, Daniel (Lisa), Nicholas (Stephanie) and Brendan (Casey). Tim filled their childhood with many happy memories, except for the times when he insisted on slowly, thoughtfully reading every single word on the historic plaques you come across at museums or landmarks. He took them to more baseball games than could be counted, played the piano regularly, sang loudly in church, photographed every awkward moment of their lives, and showed them how to truly appreciate the characters, pranksters and yarn-spinners of the world (and the

colorful anecdotes they could provide for regular re-telling). Most importantly, he taught them to be kind and loving and curious without being judgmental.

Tim's professional career was that of a newsman. He started as a scribe for the Juneau County Chronicle and Mauston Star, where he enjoyed reporting on the goings on around town, tipping beers with the likes of young politico Tommy Thompson and inserting inside jokes into the photo captions of the newspaper.

He caught the attention of the AP and was offered a job in their Milwaukee bureau in 1967, which he would note, was coincidentally about the same time fellow Milwaukee legend Lew Alcindor (now Kareem Abdul-Jabbar) started his career there. He was an AP man for the next 39 years, working in the bureaus of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Columbus, Ohio, Cleveland, Ohio and Kansas City, Missouri. He interviewed many notable people in his career, and made sure to have a lot of laughs while so doing. He often said it was "no big deal" that he hung out in country legend Merle Haggard's RV (but big enough to



mention often) and once had the distinct honor of being physically picked up and moved aside by one of Walter Mondale's Secret Service agents. He was lucky to work with many people that he truly cared for, and it seemed that affection was reciprocated. Once, after Tim ridiculously and repeatedly made a big deal in the office about catching a home run ball hit by unknown MLB journeyman Bobby Jones in Cleveland, his coworkers went to great lengths to get the ball signed by Jones himself. It was displayed prominently in his home for the rest of his life.

In retirement, Tim immersed himself with family, which grew to include 12 grandchildren, Frank, Allie, George, Megan, Tom, Audrey, Eddie, Matt, Grace, Lucy, Clara, and Dashiell. He was able to know, hug and love each one of them, which he did with regularity and unparalleled enthusiasm. He also returned to his love of acting and music. He joined the Johnson County Chorus and performed with them at Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall, and was heard to say that he made it to the latter with hardly any practice at all.

Lewy body dementia slowly but surely robbed him of the spark and wit that drew so many to him, but was unable to diminish, even at the end, what made him who he was: a kind man who loved people for who they were, and loved above all else the large family his parents had always hoped for him.

Funeral services will be held at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Mauston, WI on Wednesday June 30, 2021 at 11:00 AM. Visitation will be held immediately prior at the church starting at 9:00 AM.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Cleveland Clinic / Philanthropy Institute, Neurology Institute / Alzheimer's Disease Research, P.O Box 931517,

Cleveland, Ohio 44193-1655.

## Memories of Tim Curran

**Jim Bagby (Email)** - Tim was an original. Quiet but with a wonderful sense of humor. The great pica pole kidnapping comes to mind. Only after it's long adventures, all captured in pictures that appeared mysteriously in our office, and its untimely demise under sudden wave while posing on a West Coast beach, did Tim haltingly admit that he was the primary culprit (with co-conspirator Cliff Schiappa and perhaps some others).

My cherished measuring and cutting stick had never been intended for such a wet end. And we all had many laughs about the episode thereafter. It goes without saying he was a fine journalist, and it was a joy to work with him. We'll miss him and the twinkle in his eye. So glad that he and Kathy shared some of our lunches, even after their return home.

-0-

**Steve Crowley (Email)** - When I was in several of my broadcast positions, and based in KC, I loved the relationship I had with Tim. I often would discuss some of my toughest sales challenges with him, and he was always very encouraging. Every time I would pack up my kit bag and go on the road, as I was leaving the office, he would shout his favorite phrase to me "Go out there and SELL, SELL!" When I'd return from the road he'd always want to know of my sales triumphs and offer sound advice in dealing with recalcitrant members or prospects.

It was so enjoyable when he and Kathy would come back to KC and we got to spend time with them at our "Retiree Lunches."

Tim was definitely one of the good guys, and my prayers go out to Kathy and the family.

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**Dennis Kois (Email)** - So saddened by the notice of Tim Curran's death.

I was fortunate enough to work with him in the Milwaukee bureau, where his great (and dry) humor, his calm approach to the job, his skills and his quiet leadership made life much better and easier for this newbie.

He loved his work and was a thoughtful and kind co-worker and friend.

My thoughts and prayers go out to Kathy and his sons and his extended family.

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**Doug Tucker (Email)** - Even when we know death is coming, no one is ever prepared to lose a good friend.

I was saddened but not surprised to learn my long-time AP colleague Tim Curran had passed away after a long and courageous battle with that accursed scourge known as Alzheimer's.

Tim will be remembered as a special man in many ways. He was an excellent newsman and a gifted writer. His willingness to hurry to the aid of anyone swamped with breaking news and jangling telephones was legendary in Kansas City.

But his quick, hearty laugh and unconquerable sense of decency will be what I remember - two qualities, in fact, that resulted in Tim's becoming the "victim" in the best practical joke in the history of the Kansas City bureau.

He mentioned one day that he and his young sons had decided to take in a football game at nearby Kansas University. But the stadium was undergoing massive renovations at the time and they could not find any place to buy tickets.

"So we just walked in and sat down," he said. "We tried to buy tickets but there was no place to do it. Nobody said a word to us."

Now, most people might take sly pleasure out of getting away with a free ballgame. Aw, c'mon. Admit it.

But not Tim. He felt a bit guilty, even though the stadium was a mess and he couldn't find anybody to take his money.

That's just the kind of guy Tim Curran was. Everyone knew there was nothing phony about his sense of personal integrity.

So a couple of us seized the chance to have some fun. Bob Frederick, the Kansas athletic director, gave me a sheet of his official stationery and a Kansas University envelope.

We typed out a letter and slipped the addressed envelope into the bag of morning mail.

I walked it over to Tim and tossed it on his desk.

Suspecting nothing, he took out the very official-looking correspondence and started to read.

As best as I recall, it began something like this:

"Dear Mr. Curran - campus security has brought to my attention proof that you and members of your family surreptitiously gained entrance (on such-and-such date) to a Kansas sports event without purchasing the required tickets. I must advise you, sir, we view this as a very serious matter."

Absorbed in what he was reading, Tim did not notice that all activity and all conversation in that bustling newsroom had come to a standstill. All eyes were on Tim. As he read, it actually seemed the color was draining from his face.



The letter went on like that for a few grafs, then changed tone.

“I am particularly disappointed that this act was committed by an AP man, Mr. Curran. Not only did you set a terrible example for your young sons, who now will probably become thieves and robbers, but you also brought shame upon a great news organization.

“Lou Boccardi, my college roommate and dear friend, was quite upset when I informed him of your illegal act. I can’t recall exactly what he said, he was so angry. But it was something about pink slips and rolling heads.”

Slowly, a worried scowl gave way to a grin. Color came back. He looked up, everybody broke into laughter, and no one laughed longer or harder than Tim himself. He loved it. He even kept the letter. Kathy Curran knows exactly where it is.

Just a few months ago she read an account of the prank to Tim and triggered big, happy smiles.

Rest In Peace, Tim Curran. What a good man you were.

## This is not a guest essay

**Norm Abelson (Email)** - I've been a faithful reader and admirer of the New York Times for many years. But I've got a bone to pick with the paper.

Here's the reason: The Times announced it was changing the designation Op Ed to “Guest Essay.” The Times said the change was occasioned, among other things, by the fact that on-line opinion no longer has the “opposite editorial page” meaning. O.K., I get it, but did they have to use such genteel language? The new name has a whiff of well-mannered political correctness about it. What's next – changing “All the news that's fit to print” to “Non-offensive content”?

I'm trying to imagine the response to such soft-soaping by my old AP day editor, who hurled invectives as he chopped away at my “fancy” writing. Or by some of the icons of the “Front Page” era.

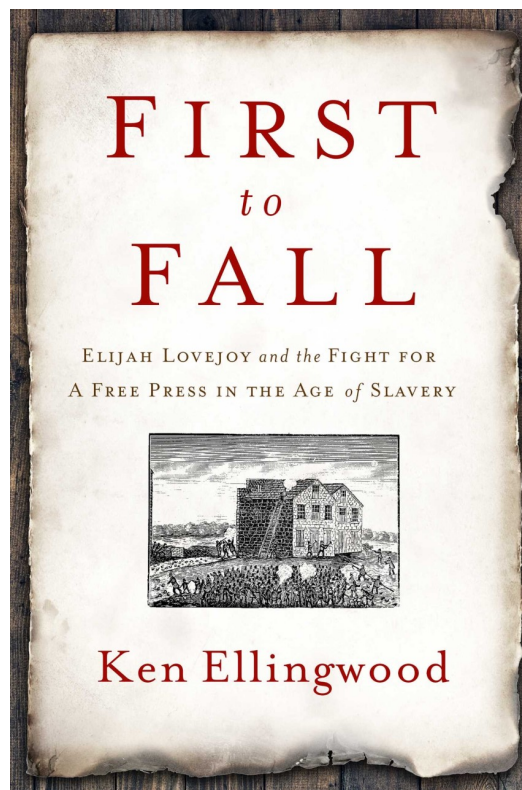
I've been writing Op Eds, on and off, since the early 1970s, and never thought of any one of them as an essay (even though they may technically have been classified as such). Nor have I ever been invited to tea as the guest of the papers they appeared in.

Hey, Times, I've got an idea: How about “What People Unfortunate Enough Not To Be Times Writers Are Thinking.”

## Lovejoy is considered America’s first martyr to the free press

**Ken Ellingwood** ([Email](#)) - Elijah Parish Lovejoy was that rare and troublesome being along America's frontier in the 1830s. He was a man determinedly opposed to slavery on moral grounds, and with the means—a newspaper—to trumpet those opinions to a public with little appetite to hear them.

*First to Fall: Elijah Lovejoy's Fight for a Free Press in the Age of Slavery* is a tale of journalistic courage set along the nation's slavery divide in Missouri and Illinois, where it was risky to criticize slavery during the decades leading to the Civil War. Lovejoy's insistent antislavery writings—born of a belief in newspapers and the printed word to prick consciences—went far enough to get him killed.



*First to Fall* is the account of an under-appreciated American hero and his struggle to combat slavery through a newspaper, the *Observer*. Lovejoy is considered America's first martyr to the free press.

The tale unfolds over 16 eventful months as Lovejoy's increasingly forceful writings on slavery infuriate residents and civic leaders who see them as a threat to public order. The book follows Lovejoy and the small but determined band of supporters who encourage him, pay for replacements when his presses are destroyed and stand up in defense of press liberty.

The story stretches to the free state of Ohio, where another outspoken anti-slavery editor, James G. Birney, endures similar violent attacks on his press by pro-slavery mobs in Cincinnati. Both men had begun their anti-slavery trajectories as supporters of so-called colonization, the idea that the best way to deal with the nation's racial crisis was to promote the deportation of freed blacks to Africa. Both abandoned that in favor of immediate emancipation. Both turned to newspapering.

*First to Fall* also reveals a surprisingly broad campaign by slavery's defenders—through laws restricting publications and mob violence—to smother any criticism of human bondage. It is amid this regime of suppression that Lovejoy and Birney take up the mantle of anti-slavery.

As the young nation grappled with how "free" its press would be under the First Amendment, Lovejoy and Birney awakened many Americans to the ways in which attempts to quash written expression threatened the democracy they cherished. The crusade chronicled here represents an emblematic first in the America's fight to secure press liberty—a struggle that has not ended.

*Ken Ellingwood, an award-winning former correspondent for the Los Angeles Times, was posted in the newspaper's bureaus in Mexico City, Jerusalem, Atlanta and San*

*Diego. He is the author of **Hard Line: Life and Death on the U.S.-Mexico Border** (Pantheon, 2004). Ellingwood currently lives with his wife and daughter in Abu Dhabi.*

## Connecting sky shot – NY State



With her companion Quinn, Mary Esch paddles with the Adirondack Mountain Club at Peebles Island.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Ben Brown - [babrown@charter.net](mailto:babrown@charter.net)

Dick Lipsey - [richardiii.runner@usa.net](mailto:richardiii.runner@usa.net)

Sarah Wilson - [show4992@gmail.com](mailto:show4992@gmail.com)

*On Saturday to...*

Nancy Benac - [nbenac@ap.org](mailto:nbenac@ap.org)

*On Sunday to...*

Jean Capellos - [jcapellos@gmail.com](mailto:jcapellos@gmail.com)

Tom Gillem- [tom.gillem@comcast.net](mailto:tom.gillem@comcast.net)

## Stories of interest

***Photos: The scene at President Biden's first address to a joint session of Congress*** (Washington Post)

Click [here](#) to view. Shared by Doug Pizac.

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***Facebook to pay \$5 mln to local journalists in newsletter push*** (Reuters)

By Sheila Dang

April 29 (Reuters) - Facebook Inc said Thursday it will give \$5 million to pay local journalists in multi-year deals as part of its new publishing platform to help independent writers attract an audience and make money through the social media network.

The move is part of Facebook's answer to the trend of email newsletters, led by platforms like Substack, as it focuses on reporters "who are often the lone voice covering a given community," the company has said.

The publishing platform, which Facebook announced last month, will be integrated with Facebook Pages and include a free self-publishing tool for journalists to send out newsletters or create their own website.

Independent journalists in the United States can apply to the program beginning on Thursday, and priority will be given to reporters who plan to cover “Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian or other audiences of color,” in locations that lack an existing news source, Facebook said.

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

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## ***1 in 5 local TV stations reports attacks on journalists in 2020, survey finds*** (Poynter)

**By: Al Tompkins**

The Radio and Television Digital News Association said the results of its new survey about how many TV journalists came under attack in 2020 are “shocking.” The report says one in five television news directors reported attacks on employees and 86% of news directors purchased bulletproof vests and gas masks and sent security teams with reporters more often.

The research found that “most of the attacks were made by protesters, but some involved the police.”

Stations told the RTDNA researchers that they increased the size of crews from one person to two people and sometimes more.

The attacks happened in markets of every size in almost every part of the country, although the report says, “The bigger the market, the more likely that there have been attacks, with 39% of news directors in top 25 markets reporting attacks. Journalism is more dangerous in the West than any other part of the country; network affiliation made no difference.”

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Pizac.

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## ***How a photo and a Long Beach book drive led to a false story and attacks on Kamala Harris*** (Los Angeles Times)

**By ERIN B. LOGAN**

WASHINGTON — Last week, Long Beach announced it would repurpose its convention center to temporarily house up to 1,000 unaccompanied migrant children arriving at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Officials knew that wrangling that many children would be a tall order, so they launched a drive to fill a library with books for the children to read. Someone donated Vice President Kamala Harris’ 2019 children’s book “Superheroes Are Everywhere.”

That book was laid on a cot last Thursday and a news service photographer, who declined to comment to The Times, took a photo of it.

The New York Post wrote a front-page story reporting that federal officials were including the book as part of the “welcome kits” given to migrant children.

Read more [here](#).

## The Final Word

### *Stylebook updates: Asian American-related, disabilities, antisemitism*

**Paula Froke** ([Email](#)) – *AP Stylebook editor* - Today (April 23) at the (online) convention of ACES: The Society for Editing, the Stylebook team is announcing an expanded entry on disabilities along with some new individual entries related to disabilities.

We are still working on individual disability-specific entries (blind, dyslexia, dementia, etc.) Today’s updates do not include any of those; rather, we are sharing an expanded overview plus some general terms.

Also today:

- New guidance related to coverage of Asian Americans.
- A change in style to antisemitism, instead of anti-Semitism.
- And a few other points.

We’ve made a number of other updates and additions in the past year, many related to race-related coverage, the pandemic, unrest and police. Expect more updates on those topics in the coming months, as well as on other big topics such as immigration and gender/sexuality.

Many thanks to my fellow Stylebook team members: Anna Jo Bratton, Andale Gross, Jeff McMillan, Pia Sarkar, Jerry Schwartz and Raghu Vadarevu; and to John Daniszewski, Michael Giarrusso, Larry Lage and Sarah Sell, who made big contributions to our discussions on disabilities.

Here are some highlights being released today. Next week I will send our new Pandemic Economy Topical Guide.

Reminders on how to access the free staff version of Stylebook Online are below and on [inside.ap.org](http://inside.ap.org)

**Today’s updates:**

**antisemitism (n.), antisemitic (adj.)** Prejudice or discrimination against Jews. A 2021 change from previous style (anti-Semitism and anti-Semitic).

The term was coined in the 19th century by the German writer Wilhelm Marr, who opposed efforts to extend the full rights of German citizenship to Jews. He asserted

that Jews were Semites – descended from the Semitic peoples of the Middle East and thus racially different from (and threatening to) Germany's Aryans. This racist pseudoscience was applied only to Jews, not Arabs.

The previous style was based on common usage. In recent years, the capitalization of Semitism has come under criticism from those who say it could give credence to the idea that Jews are a separate race. In response, a growing number of Jewish organizations and others have settled on the style antisemitism.

Avoid using the term antisemite for an individual other than in a direct quotation. Instead, be specific in describing the person's words or actions.

**injuries** They may be suffered, sustained or received (a 2021 change). Often, simpler wording is possible: She was injured in the crash, rather than she sustained injuries in the crash.

**trauma (new)** Avoid the vague medical jargon trauma when it is possible to use more specific words like injury, wound, bruise or shock. Acceptable in medical diagnoses such as traumatic brain injury or post-traumatic stress disorder, and in references to emotional injury.

**ASIAN AMERICAN-RELATED UPDATES** (all new except Asian American; in that one, the part in red is new):

**Asian** Used to describe people from Asia. Avoid using Asian as shorthand for Asian American when possible.

**Asian American** No hyphen (a change in 2019 for this and other dual heritage terms). Acceptable for an American of Asian descent. When possible, refer to a person's country of origin or follow the person's preference. For example: Filipino American or Indian American. **Do not describe Pacific Islanders as Asian Americans, Asians or of Asian descent. Avoid using Asian as shorthand for Asian American when possible.**

**Pacific Islander** Used to describe the Indigenous people of the Pacific Islands, including but not limited to Hawaii, Guam and Samoa. Should be used for people who are ethnically Pacific Islander, not for those who happen to live in Pacific Islands. Be specific about which communities you are referring to whenever possible. Do not use Asian Pacific Islander unless referring to Pacific Islanders of Asian descent. Do not describe Pacific Islanders as Asian Americans, Asians or of Asian descent.

**AAPI** Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. The acronym is widely used by people within these communities but is not as well known outside of them. Spell out the full term; use AAPI only in direct quotations and explain the term.

**Stop AAPI Hate** A movement that was launched in March 2020 in response to a rise in anti-Asian bias and racism stemming from the coronavirus pandemic that originated in China. The Asian Pacific Planning and Policy Council, Chinese for Affirmative Action and the Asian American Studies Department of San Francisco State University created a reporting center under the name Stop AAPI Hate to track and respond to cases of hate, violence, harassment and discrimination against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States. Some prefer to use the hashtag #StopAsianHate.

**anti-Asian sentiment** Avoid this euphemism, which conveys little meaning. Alternatives may include anti-Asian bias, anti-Asian harassment, anti-Asian comments, anti-Asian racism or anti-Asian violence, depending on the situation. Be specific and give details about what happened or what someone says happened.

## **DISABILITIES overview**

The terms disabilities and disabled include a broad range of physical and mental conditions both visible and invisible. People's perceptions of disabilities vary widely. Use care and precision when writing about disabilities and people with disabilities, considering the impact of specific words and the preferences of the people you are writing about.

Avoid writing that implies ableism: the belief that typical abilities – those of people who aren't disabled – are superior. Ableism is a concept similar to racism, sexism and ageism in that it includes stereotypes, generalizations and demeaning views and language. It is a form of discrimination or prejudice against people with disabilities.

Do not describe an individual as having a disability unless it is clearly pertinent to the story. For example: Merritt, who is blind and walks with the help of a guide dog, said she is pleased with the city's walkway improvements. But not: Zhang, who has paraplegia, is a fan of the Philadelphia Phillies.

Be specific about the type of disability, or symptoms. For example: The woman said the airline kicked her family off a plane after her 3-year-old, who has autism, refused to wear a mask. She said her son became upset because he does not like to have his face touched.

When possible, ask people how they want to be described. Some people view their disability as central to their identity, and use identity-first language such as an autistic woman or an autistic. Others prefer person-first language such as a woman with autism or a woman who has autism.

In describing groups of people, or when individual preferences can't be determined, use person-first language.

In general, refer to a disability only if relevant to the story, and if a medical diagnosis has been made or the person uses the term. If relatives or others use the term, ask how they know, then consider carefully whether to include the information.

Avoid the term handicap for a disability or handicapped for a person.

Avoid using disability-related words lightly or in unrelated situations. Some examples: calling a person or an idea demented, psychotic, blind, catatonic, moronic, retarded, on the spectrum, etc.; saying a plan falls on deaf ears or he turned a blind eye or the awards show is schizophrenic. As in all writing, consider word choice carefully. Words that seem innocuous to some people can have specific and deeply personal or offensive meanings to others. Consider alternative phrasing.

Also, these individual entries:



**ableism** Discrimination or prejudice against people with disabilities; the belief that typical abilities – those of people who aren't disabled – are superior. A concept similar to racism, sexism and ageism in that it includes stereotypes, generalizations and demeaning views and language. It is a form of discrimination or prejudice against people with disabilities.

**birth defect** Acceptable in broad references such lessening the chances of birth defects or about 1 in 33 babies in the U.S. has a birth defect. Do not use the term when referring to a specific person or to a group of people with a specific condition. Instead, be specific about the condition and use only if relevant to the story. Some prefer the term congenital disorder.

**caregiver, caretaker** A caregiver is a person who takes care of someone requiring close attention, such as a person with serious illnesses or age-related concerns. Generally use that term, rather than caretaker, in situations involving people receiving care. The term caretaker generally refers to a person who takes care of something, such as a house, when the owner isn't present, or to a person or entity carrying out duties temporarily (a caretaker government).

**special needs, special education** When possible, avoid these terms. While they remain in wide use in education and law, many view them as euphemistic and offensive. Instead, aim to be specific about the needs or services in question.

**Special Olympics** Organization that offers 30-plus Olympic-style individual and team sports for people with intellectual disabilities. The organization supports over 5 million athletes and more than 100,000 competitions each year in more than 170 countries, as well as other activities, events and services. Athletes are called Special Olympians.

## Today in History - April 30, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, April 30, the 120th day of 2021. There are 245 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:**

On April 30, 1975, the Vietnam War ended as the South Vietnamese capital of Saigon fell to Communist forces.

**On this date:**

In 1517, Londoners began attacking foreign residents in rioting that carried over into the next day; no deaths were reported from what came to be known as "Evil May Day," but about a dozen rioters, maybe more, ended up being executed.

In 1789, George Washington took the oath of office in New York as the first president of the United States.

In 1803, the United States purchased the Louisiana Territory from France for 60 million francs, the equivalent of about \$15 million.

In 1945, as Soviet troops approached his Berlin bunker, Adolf Hitler took his own life along with that of his wife of one day, Eva Braun.

In 1968, New York City police forcibly removed student demonstrators occupying five buildings at Columbia University.

In 1970, President Richard M. Nixon announced the U.S. was sending troops into Cambodia, an action that sparked widespread protest.

In 1973, President Richard Nixon announced the resignations of top aides H.R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman, Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst and White House counsel John Dean, who was actually fired.

In 1983, blues singer and guitarist Muddy Waters died in Westmont, Ill., at age 68.

In 1993, top-ranked women's tennis player Monica Seles was stabbed in the back during a match in Hamburg, Germany, by a man who described himself as a fan of second-ranked German player Steffi Graf. (The man, convicted of causing grievous bodily harm, was given a suspended sentence.)

In 2004, Arabs expressed outrage at graphic photographs of naked Iraqi prisoners being humiliated by U.S. military police; President George W. Bush condemned the mistreatment of prisoners, saying "that's not the way we do things in America."

In 2010, heavy winds and high tides complicated efforts to hold back oil from a blown-out BP-operated rig that threatened to coat bird and marine life in the Gulf of Mexico; President Barack Obama halted any new offshore projects pending safeguards to prevent more explosions like the one that unleashed the spill.

In 2019, Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido took to the streets to call for a military uprising against Nicolas Maduro; street battles erupted in the Venezuelan capital. The Trump administration quickly declared enthusiastic support for the Venezuelan opposition effort.

Ten years ago: A Libyan official said Moammar Gadhafi had escaped a NATO missile strike in Tripoli that killed one of his sons and three young grandchildren.

Five years ago: Anti-government protesters tore down walls and poured into the Iraqi capital's heavily fortified Green Zone, where they stormed parliament in a major escalation of a political crisis that had simmered for months. The Rev. Daniel Berrigan, 94, a Roman Catholic priest and peace activist who was imprisoned for burning draft files in a protest against the Vietnam War, died in New York.

One year ago: The number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits soared past 30 million in the six weeks since the virus outbreak took hold. The Republican-led Michigan legislature refused to extend the state's emergency declaration and voted to authorize a lawsuit challenging the authority of Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to deal with the pandemic; Whitmer responded by declaring a new 28-day state of emergency. Hundreds of conservative activists, some openly carrying assault rifles, returned to the Michigan state Capitol to denounce the governor's stay-home order. President Donald Trump continued to speculate on the origins of the coronavirus, saying China could have unleashed it on the world due to some kind of "mistake" or that it might have been released intentionally. New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said New York City subways would be shut down from 1 a.m. to 5 a.m. each day for cleaning of trains and stations.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Willie Nelson is 88. Actor Burt Young is 81. King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden is 75. Movie director Allan Arkush is 73. Actor Perry King is 73. Singer-musician Wayne Kramer is 73. Singer Merrill Osmond is 68. Movie director Jane Campion is 67. Movie director Lars von Trier is 65. Former Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper is 62. Actor Paul Gross is 62. Basketball Hall of Famer Isiah Thomas is 60. Actor Adrian Pasdar is 56. Rock singer J.R. Richards (Dishwalla) is 54. Rapper Turbo B (Snap) is 54. Rock musician Clark Vogeler is 52. R&B singer Chris "Choc" Dalyrimple (Soul For Real) is 50. Rock musician Chris Henderson (3 Doors Down) is 50. Country singer Carolyn Dawn Johnson is 50. Actor Lisa Dean Ryan is 49. R&B singer Akon is 48. R&B singer Jeff Timmons (98 Degrees) is 48. Actor Johnny Galecki is 46. Actor Sam Heughan is 41. Actor Kunal Nayyar is 40. Rapper Lloyd Banks is 39. Actor Kirsten Dunst is 39. Actor Dianna Agron is 35. Country singer Brandon Lancaster is 32. Rapper/producer Travis Scott is 30.

## 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**

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