

Ted Here.....

Derek Chauvin made the job of every man and woman who wears a police uniform so much tougher.

As the nation and beyond focus on Minnesota for the opposite of reasons we would wish for, protesters protest, some morons take personal advantage of the tragedy for illegal activity, and 12 peers deliberate a mountain of testimony.

And while what Chauvin did on a Minneapolis street back on May 25 of last year is indisputable considering the clear video evidence, the final decision on the former officer's fate is -- at this writing -- still undecided. Was this an act of brutality, as the pictures seem to indicate, or is there some further explanation which throws that out of focus?

Whatever the verdict and however you feel about this situation, I believe we would all agree that we would never want to see our child or sibling or parent being handled like George Floyd was that day. I think we would all howl in protest at having someone's knee pinning our own heads to the pavement. While handcuffed. With four policemen present. The whole handling of this arrest was just plain wrong.

On the other hand, where would a civil society be without a policing force? There are too many knuckleheads and worse running around to just ignore. Chaos would ensue. Envision one of those movies you've seen of some lawless country where thugs and kingpins reign by force and terror. No, we don't need fewer police men and women. We just need them to be better.

Better at what they do and how they do it. Brute force and a hot pistol may make for a classic Clint Eastwood film, but in reality most officers will never fire their weapons in the line of duty. A gentler approach most often does the job, and doesn't call for mass protests against the department. It also gains respect for the professionalism that is supposed to be behind the badge.

Derek Chauvin -- found guilty or not-guilty -- publicly scoffed and spit on that respectability, and for that policemen and women all over will pay. That isn't right, but it's human. Chauvin's and far too many other over-the-top responses against citizens -- too often citizens of color -- paints broadly with a dark stroke against a noble and dangerous profession.

Police, like any institution and maybe even more so, need to stay on top of their game and constantly look with a critical eye on their tactics, while earnestly addressing concerns. The public isn't sending squads of 'Dirty Harry's out on the streets, and that's as far from what we want and need as it can get.

Defund the police? What would that get anyone, other than a more poorly trained and more understaffed force? What's needed is the opposite, where more funding goes to properly vet applicants for their psychological and sociological fitness before they are admitted to the program, then thoroughly educate and coach them in correct practices for dealing with tense and potentially dangerous situations.

More funding is needed to continue that training, to police the police for those who are veering off the path, to try correct that behavior before it becomes an international news story, and finally to relieve those folks of duty who no longer fit the proper profile of the men and women who swear they will protect us and serve us.

Derek Chauvin could be found not-guilty, but he's definitely not innocent. George Floyd should not be dead as the result of excessive force during an arrest over a phony 20 dollar bill. Chauvin tarnished his own badge and, by association, those of his now former colleagues. If anything good can come out of something like this it may be a deeper introspection of policing in America, and efforts to keep the likes of Derek Chauvin out of the ranks.

OTHER VOICES

Minnesota on path to dramatic energy transformation

by Gregg Mast and Lisa Jacobson
MinnPost

America is on the verge of a once-in-a-generation kind of investment. President Joe Biden's announcement of a \$3 trillion infrastructure package aimed at steering our economy toward a clean energy future is monumental -- both in the amount of dollars the administration is proposing and the

incredible benefits it will have for Minnesota's workers and economy.

But what exactly does this clean energy future look like? And perhaps more important, who are the people working in Minnesota's clean energy sector, and what kind of jobs are we talking about? When our organizations -- Clean Energy Economy MN (CEEM) and the Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE) -- talk

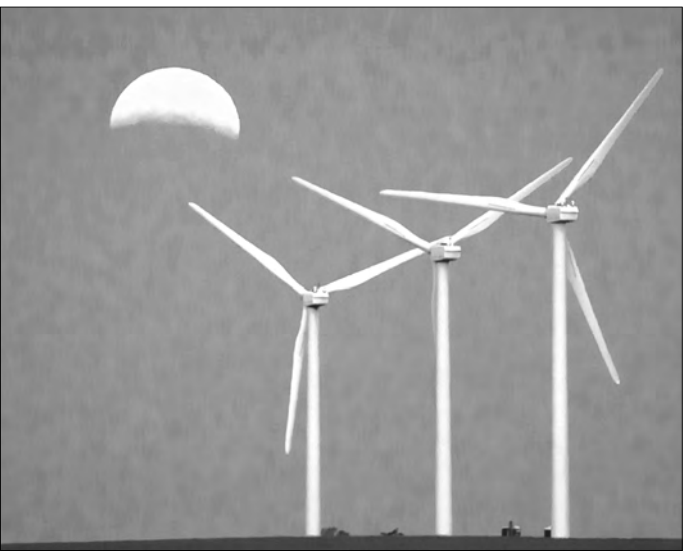
about a clean energy future, we're talking about an entire ecosystem utilizing a diverse suite of clean, affordable, and innovative technologies like energy efficiency, renewable energy, smart grids, and other low and zero-carbon sources.

What's exciting to us is how rapidly Minnesota's clean energy sector is changing. It's not very often we get to live through transformations, but there is one taking place in Minnesota, and it's happening in real time. These changes are outlined in a new report called the 2021 Minnesota Energy Factsheet, compiled by BloombergNEF and published by CEEM and BCSE.

Emissions from power sector fell 40% since 2011

The report highlights the incredible progress Minnesota is making toward building a clean energy future. Emissions from the state's power sector fell 40% since 2011, and due to the low cost of natural gas and other economic conditions caused by the pandemic, emissions dropped 17% in the last year alone. In 2020, a whopping 588 megawatts of

(Continued on page 6)



--photo by Metro Creative Graphic

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ON A KNIFE'S EDGE

OTHER VOICES

Walter Mondale spent his life making the world a better place

by Eric Black
MinnPost

The sad news, which you have probably already heard, is that Walter Mondale passed away yesterday (Monday).

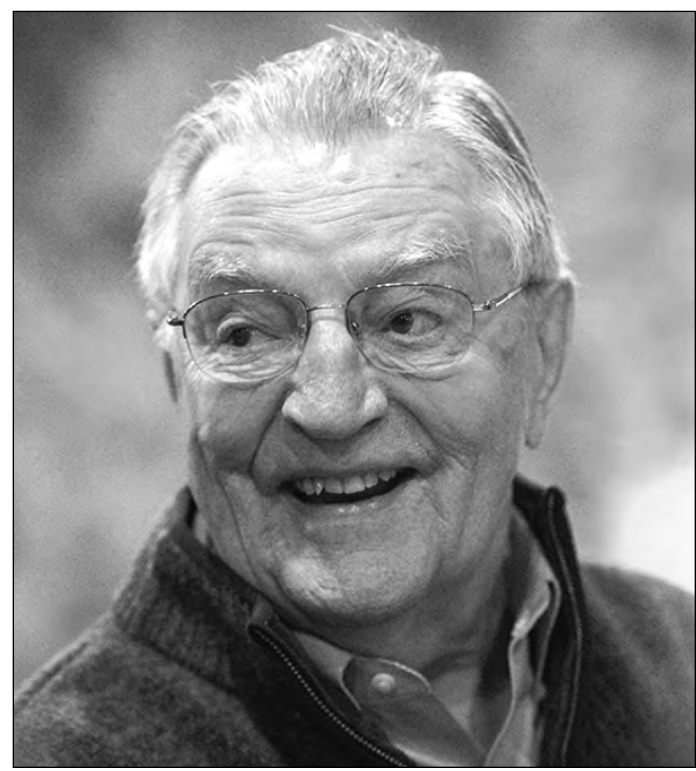
The good news is that we were lucky enough to have him with us for 93 and a quarter years, most of which he spent making Minnesota and the United States and the world better places, or at least better than they would have been without him.

I had the good fortune to know Mondale a little bit, which I view as one of the great honors of my own little life. He always returned my calls and granted me interviews when I needed one. I tried not to bother him often, but he always came through. Every quote he gave me had the ring of wisdom and truth.

Wisdom, I suppose, is in the eye of the observer (and, in the eye of this observer, Mondale epitomized it). But, even more so, as a truth-teller, Mondale and his partner in the White House, Jimmy Carter, were the truth-telling standard setters for their generation.

You can, and should, read longer, better obituaries about the accomplishments and contributions of this great American and lifelong Minnesotan. But I'll just say that he not only exuded intelligence and a desire to leave the world better than he found it, but also personified the best (not the false) kind of humility.

I'm a little too moved by his passing to write any more than



Walter Mondale celebrating his 87th birthday at Rainbow Chinese in Minneapolis in 2015. --MinnPost file photo by Craig Lassig

this. So I'll just pass along a quote about the essence of his philosophy as a liberal public servant, which Mondale gave to the New York Times in 2010 when it prepared his advance obituary:

"I'm a liberal or a progressive," Mondale said. "I didn't use the 'liberal' word much, because I thought it carried too much baggage. But my whole life, I worked on the idea that government can be an instrument for social progress. We need that progress. Fairness

requires it." I always felt a bit better about the world, knowing Mondale was in it.

Veteran journalist Eric Black writes *Eric Black Ink* for MinnPost. His latest award is from the Society of Professional Journalists, which in May 2017 announced he'd won the national Sigma Delta Chi Award for online column writing. Email him at eblack@minnpost.com.

IT'S MILLER TIME

by Rep. Tim Miller, IR-Prinsburg

We need civics; not social engineering

Last week Rep. Tim Miller (Republican-Prinsburg) brought forward an amendment to the omnibus education finance bill regarding social studies standards. The amendment would give the Minnesota Legislature the authority to either approve or reject new social studies standards.

"We have seen basic educational standards come under attack in recent years," said Rep. Tim Miller. "Social engineers have attempted to insert partisan political agendas into the basic tenets of social studies education. We need to

prevent this from happening. Currently, Minnesota's social studies standards are being formulated by an unaccountable education workgroup. My amendment would give the Minnesota Legislature final authority to determine what curriculum becomes a part of social studies education in Minnesota."

Rep. Miller offered his amendment when the omnibus education finance bill, known as HF 1065, was heard in the Ways and Means Committee. Rep. Miller's amendment was not adopted by a vote of 9-16.

Rep. Miller concluded, "We need social studies standards that teach American history and civics to our children. Being responsible, upstanding citizens requires us to be



informed on how our Republic works. We have a duty to make sure that our children are prepared to meet the real world when they become adults. Civics must not be tossed away and replaced with social engineering. I am frustrated that my Democratic colleagues do not feel the same."

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FIRST AMENDMENT

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

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