

Daly City Library & Recreation Services
Active Adult/Senior Services
presents



Current Events with Frank Damon

Doelger Senior Center has been fortunate to have Frank Damon leading both our Current Events and History discussion groups for the last 6 years. During this time of physical distancing due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Frank is sharing his current events discussion topics online. Starting on Monday, January 4, 2021 at 1:30 pm Frank will offer Current Events discussion groups each Monday on ZOOM.

Daly City Active Adult/Senior Services invites you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Current Events with Frank Damon

Time: 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm every Monday

Join Zoom meeting with following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87222786510?pwd=d0VucFhGYzhMMXVhSUNJTmdFWDNwdz09>

Meeting ID: 872 2278 6510

Passcode: 724368

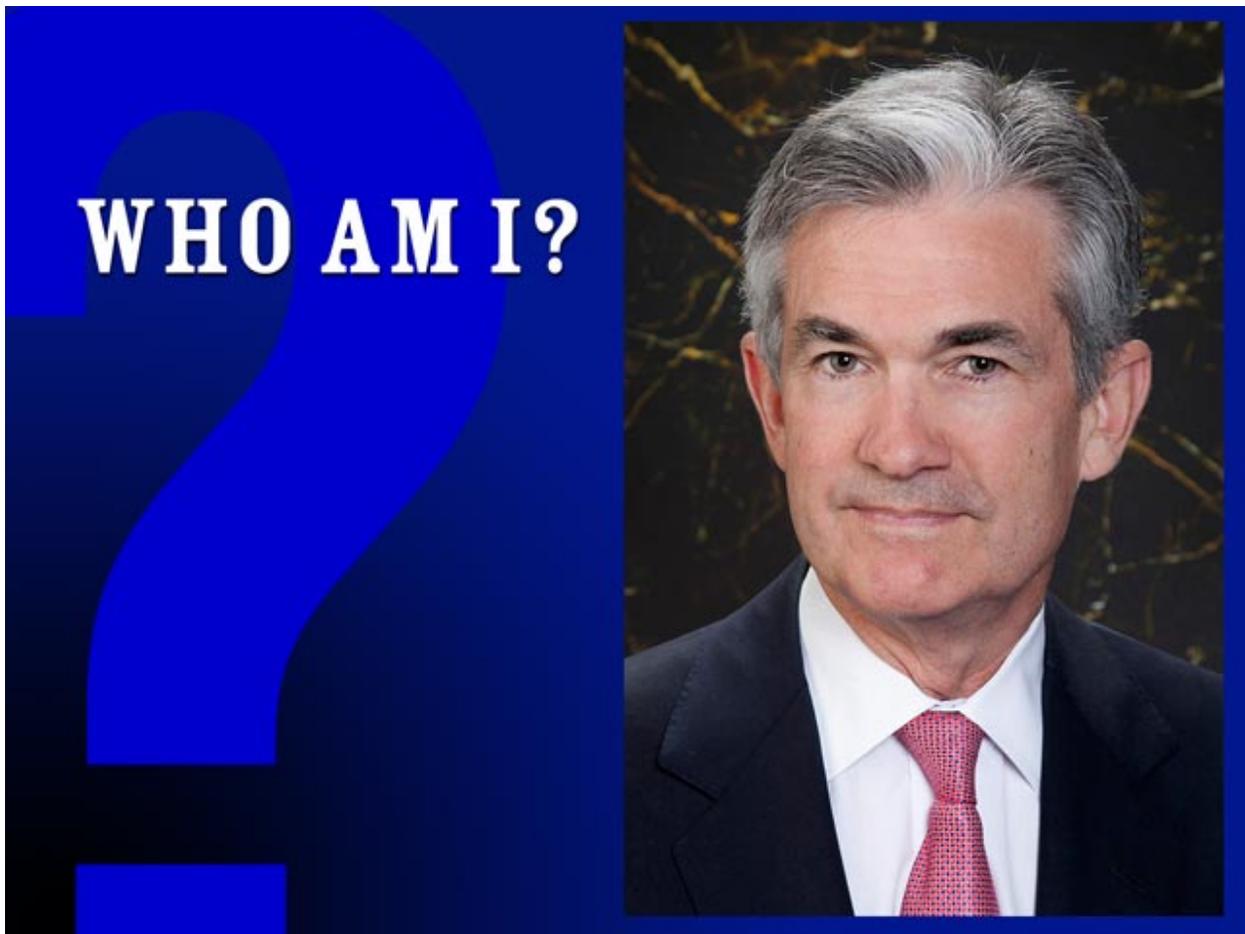
Frank received his BA degree from the University of San Francisco with a dual major in Political Science and American History. He also earned his MA in Political Science and teaching credentials at USF. Over the course of his career, Frank taught in the San Mateo Union High School District and at Marin Catholic High School, Terra Nova High School, Golden Gate University, College of San Mateo, Skyline College and Canada College.

If you are interested in joining *Current Events with Frank Damon*, please go to www.dalycityseniors.org/current-events or contact Frank directly at frankdamon@my.smccd.edu.

Man in the News

He currently serves as the Chair of the U.S. Federal Reserve, often called “The Fed.” This is the central banking system of the U.S. His job is to help promote a healthy economy. One of the important roles of the Fed is to set interest rates for bank lending. He held several jobs in the U.S. Treasury Department under Presidents George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush. Although he is a registered Republican, Barack Obama nominated him to the Federal Reserve Board of Governors in 2011. Six years later, President Trump appointed him as Fed Chairman; in this role, he earned high praise for steering the U.S. economy through the pandemic crisis.

In a recent “60 Minutes” interview, he presented an optimistic view of the U.S. economy, saying it was about to grow more quickly. At the same time, he warned that the biggest risk to growth would be another massive COVID-19 breakout.



(Jerome Powell)

Prince Philip Dies at Age 99

Prince Philip, the royal consort of Queen Elizabeth II, recently passed away at the age of 99. Why wasn't he called king? (There is a longstanding rule in the British royal family that a man who is married to a reigning queen will only be referred to as a royal consort.) During their 73-year marriage, Philip offered the queen his counsel, support, and companionship.

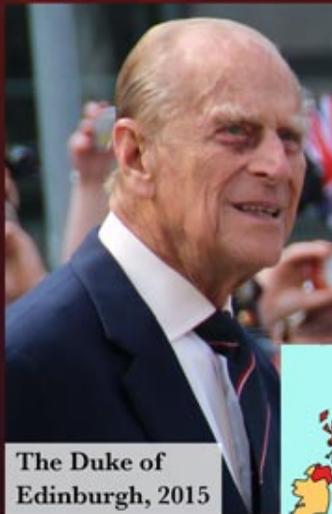
Prince Philip was a member of both the Greek and Danish royal families. He was born on the island of Corfu in 1921, but the military government of Greece forced his family into exile just 18 months later. Why would the government do this? (To avoid any challenge to its authority.) Philip grew up in France before relocating to the U.K., where he attended the British Royal Naval College. When he was 18, he was asked to accompany the 13-year-old Princess Elizabeth — his third cousin — on a tour of the college. Elizabeth, daughter of King George VI, fell immediately in love with the tall and handsome Philip. They started to exchange letters, which continued as he served bravely in World War Two. After the war was over, Prince Philip and Princess Elizabeth became engaged. Their marriage in 1947 drew worldwide attention; Philip was given several titles, including Duke of Edinburgh. Where is Edinburgh? (Scotland.)

In 1952, after the young couple had welcomed two children, King George VI died of lung cancer at the age of 56. This made his oldest child, Elizabeth, the new ruling monarch of the United Kingdom. You see Elizabeth here with Philip at her coronation in 1953.

Prince Philip dies at age 99



Photo from Queen Elizabeth's coronation, 1953



The Duke of Edinburgh, 2015



“Prince Philip is simply my rock...
He has quite simply been my
strength and stay all these years.”

—*Queen Elizabeth II*

When Prince Philip became the royal consort, he had no idea what the job entailed. How do you interpret the quote below? Prince Philip helped Queen Elizabeth host official visits like the one shown here at top left, with former U.S. President Kennedy and Jacqueline Kennedy.

Philip also played a big role in raising their children, two more of whom were born after the coronation. Can you list their children in order of their birth? (Prince Charles, Princess Anne, Prince Andrew, and Prince Edward.) Prince Philip made more than 22,000 official appearances on behalf of the U.K., both with and without the queen. He also delivered nearly 5,000 speeches in countries all over the world. Although he was often accused of inappropriate statements about other cultures, many found him to be charming, intelligent, and relatable. Since the royal family has little political power, Prince Philip had time for passions such as painting, competitive coach driving, flying airplanes, hunting, and yachting. Prince Philip was an early conservationist. In 1963, Philip became one of the founders of the World Wildlife Fund. What does this organization do? (It is devoted to protecting natural areas and endangered animals.) He also founded a program designed to encourage youth achievement called the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Prince Philip respected Queen Elizabeth's power and position. But the queen knew that if she asked his opinion about something, he would always give her an honest answer.

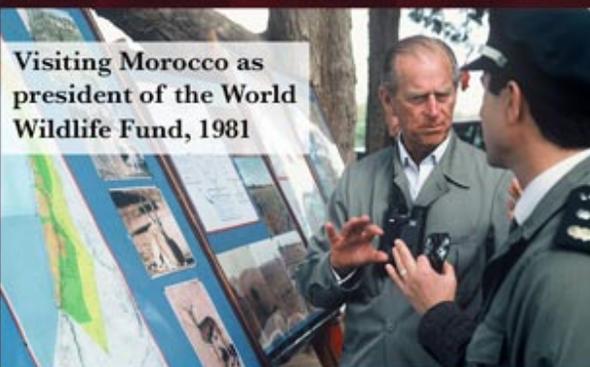
Photo: U.S. Department of State photo



With President and Mrs. Kennedy, 1961



Royal family in 1965: Prince Andrew, Princess Anne, Prince Edward, Queen Elizabeth, Prince Charles, Prince Philip



Visiting Morocco as president of the World Wildlife Fund, 1981

“There was no precedent. If I asked somebody, ‘What do you expect me to do?’ they all looked blank. They had no idea.”
—*Prince Philip*

Some people have speculated that Queen Elizabeth II might step down after the loss of her husband. Is this a sexist assumption? Why or why not? But the queen says she will never

abdicate the throne. After all, she has ruled the U.K. for more than 69 years, making her the longest-serving British monarch. At the age of 94, she is also the world's oldest head of state. Who would succeed her on the throne? (Prince Charles, her oldest child, who has been heir apparent since he was four years old.) Do you think Charles will ever become king?

Elizabeth was born a princess, but her father did not become King George VI until she was ten years old. Princess Elizabeth helped inspire the British people as a teenager during World War Two by serving the war effort. What do you think of the two pictures shown here at left? What do they tell you about her personality? In early 1952, Elizabeth and Philip were visiting Kenya when they were notified that her father had died...and that she was now the Queen of the United Kingdom. During her time as queen, Elizabeth II has overseen many changes in her country. The U.K. is no longer a global empire, as it was when she was young, and it is currently breaking away from the European Union. She has also grieved the loss of Prince Charles' first wife. Who was that? (Princess Diana.) Today, she is dealing with the fallout from Prince Harry's move away from royal family duties.

Queen Elizabeth II is the longest-serving monarch in British history.



Elizabeth as a young girl



Princess Elizabeth during World War II



In 2015

Fagradalsfjall erupts for first time in 6,000 years

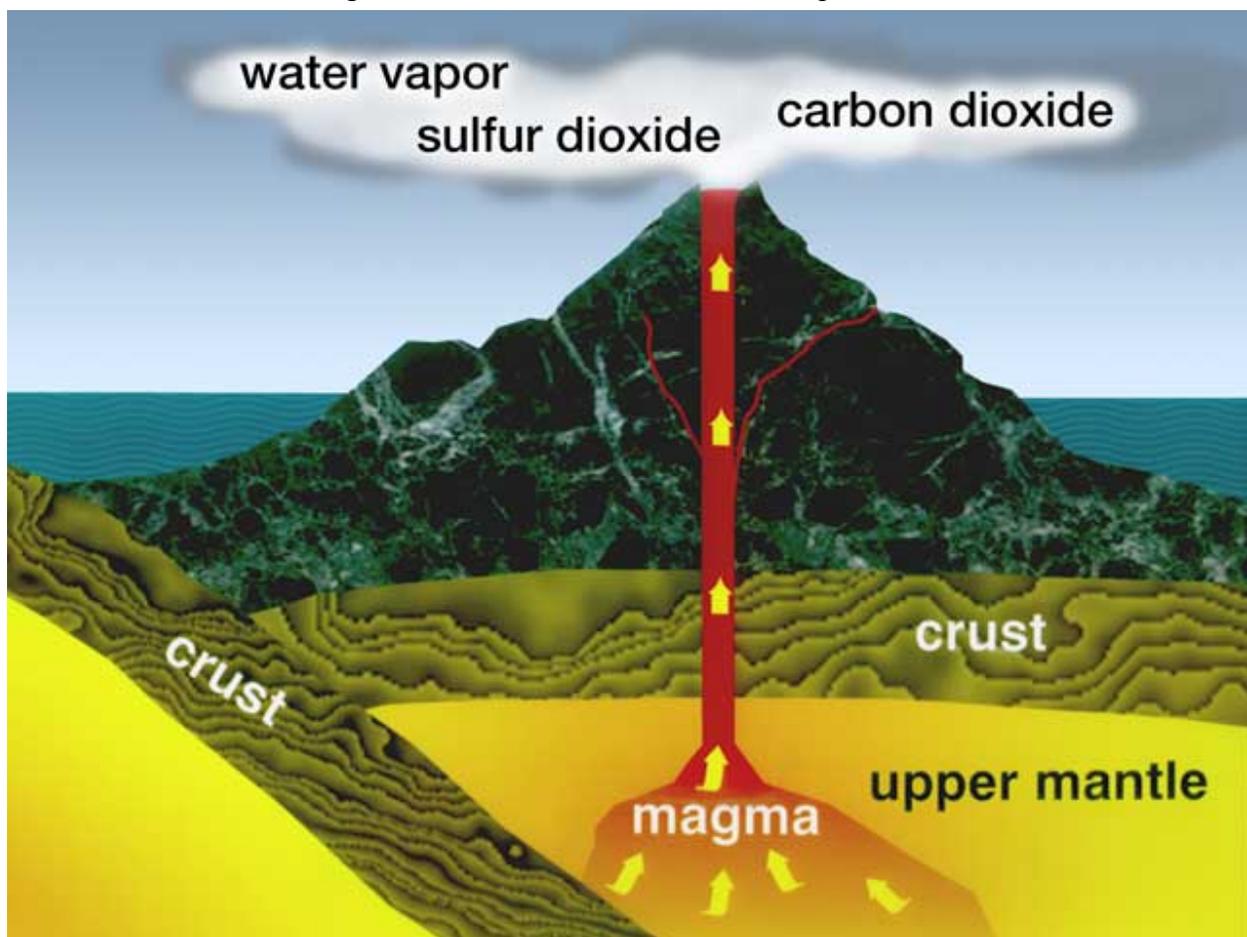
Iceland is an island nation in the North Atlantic Ocean. Its location often makes the weather very cold. But Iceland is located over a geothermal plume, or “hot spot,” located deep underground. What does “geothermal” mean? (Heat produced by underground gases.) This plume led to the ancient volcanic eruptions that formed the island, as well as the country’s 30 active volcano systems and many hot springs. For this reason, Iceland is sometimes called “the land of ice and fire.” Volcanologists recently recorded more than 50,000 earthquakes in the southern part of Iceland, so they thought there might be a new eruption soon. On March 19th, this eruption took place at a volcano called Fagradalsfjall — FAH-grah-tahlsFYAHT —, which last erupted 6,000 years ago. Although Fagradalsfjall is located just 25 miles from the capital Reykjavik, no one lives in the immediate area, a valley known as Geldingadalur. The eruption was effusive, rather than explosive. What do you think this means? (Instead of blowing up, the volcano simply opened up so lava could flow onto the ground.)

Experts say effusive eruptions in this area often continue for decades, or even centuries, before stopping. Since the eruption, hundreds of Icelanders and people from other countries have come to secure vantage points to watch the lava flow. Officials have had to crack down on visitors getting too close; some have even tried to use the lava’s intense heat to cook hot dogs or make coffee.



Volcanic activity often occurs where huge pieces of Earth's crust, called plates, slide past or under each other. They move a few inches a year, at most. It is this movement that causes earthquakes and continental drift. The plates also play a role in forming volcanoes. From your science reading and this diagram, can you explain how? (When plates collide, the edge of one plate may be forced down into the layer below it, called the mantle. Heat from within Earth and friction from the moving plates melt some of the plate material. This material, called magma, expands and pushes to the surface where it can break through in a volcanic eruption.)

Magma doesn't always find an easy crack in the crust to reach the surface. But at certain places, pockets of magma collect just beneath the crust. As magma heats up, it expands. And as it rises, it releases gases that add to the pressure. The gases in magma consist mainly of water vapor, carbon dioxide, and sulfur dioxide. If the crust is thin enough, the magma may push through to the surface in an eruption, where it is called lava. Explosive eruptions can destroy land for miles around. Even effusive ones contribute to global warming. But volcanoes have positive aspects as well. Cooling lava forms islands, and volcanic ash makes for some of the best soil fertilizer in the world. And volcanologists think that Earth's water supply and atmosphere — and therefore all life — originated in the steam from ancient eruptions.



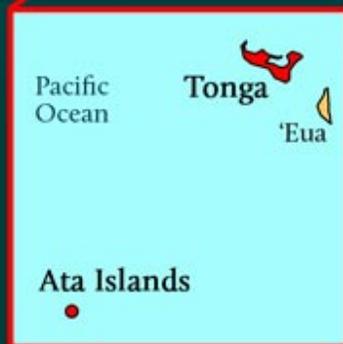
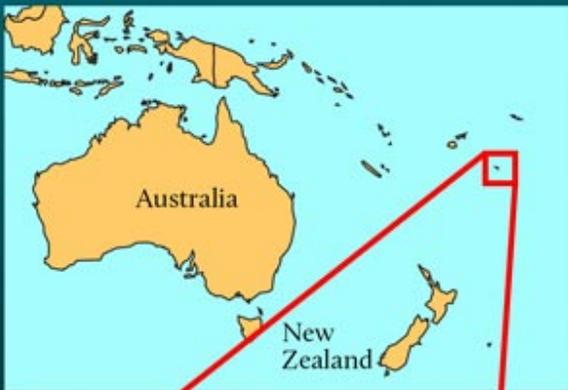
The true story of six boys stranded on an island for 15 months

The young men shown here grew up on the island nation of Tonga. Tonga is a Polynesian country consisting of 169 islands in the Pacific Ocean, of which only 36 are inhabited. In 1965, the six boys, all between the ages of 13 and 16, ran away from their boarding school. They stole a small sailboat and set out for the island of Fiji. But on their first night at sea, a storm ripped the sail and rudder off their boat and sent them drifting across the ocean without food or water. The boys drifted for over a week.

What would you have done in their situation? On the eighth day, they spotted land, and made it to shore on the uninhabited island of 'Ata. The boys found food and water, and eventually, they were able to make fire. Working together, they created a shelter by building a hut made from palm fronds. They even built a make-shift gym and badminton court. They ate raw fish and bird's eggs, and learned to store fresh water. Because of their ingenuity and ability to cooperate, the boys were able to survive on the island for 15 months. Then, one day, the boys spotted a fishing boat in the ocean. Seeing their opportunity for rescue, they all jumped into the ocean and swam out to the boat. There they met Australian lobster fisherman Peter Warner, who radioed authorities and shared the good news of the boys' survival. Warner led the six boys back to Tonga where they were reunited with their families.

Today, the boys, who are now old men, are still friends with Peter Warner.

The true story of six boys stranded on an island for 15 months



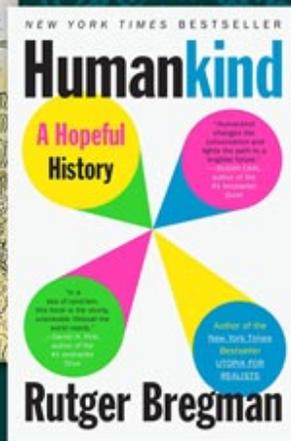
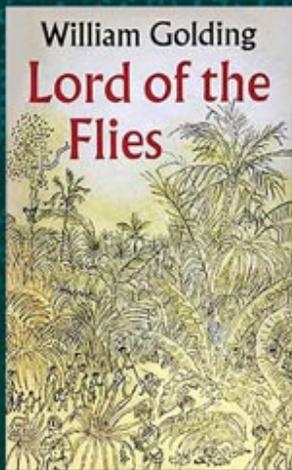
The Tongan castaways

“We hoped that a boat would come by with some people looking for us. The only thing we could do was pray and hope somebody would find us. There was no way we could do anything.”

—Tongan castaway, Sione Fataua

In 2020, the story of the Tongan castaways was brought back into the spotlight when a Dutch historian named Rutger Bregman wrote about them in his book “Humankind: A Hopeful History.” In his book, Bregman wrote about the castaways’ story by comparing it to William Golding’s famous novel “Lord of the Flies.” Have you read Lord of the Flies? What did you think of it? “Lord of the Flies” tells the story of a group of British schoolboys who are stranded on a deserted island. But in that novel, things devolve quickly into conflict and violence. “Lord of the Flies is often considered an allegorical novel about the nature of human beings. What is an allegory? (A narrative in which characters and events are used to deliver a broad message about real-world issues.) Some readers believe the novel presents a pessimistic view of human nature, as it demonstrates how people turn to tribalism over cooperation when faced with difficulties. What is tribalism? (A strong feeling of loyalty to a specific group, or a type of “us versus them” thinking.) But Bregman’s book uses the story of the Tongan castaways as a real-life example of how people behave in challenging situations. The Tongan boys didn’t resort to tribalism, but instead helped one another. What is Bregman saying in his quote below?

In his book, Bregman makes the case that humans are fundamentally good. And Bregman believes that the story of the Tongan boys shows us how humans are much better off when they work together cooperatively.



A scene from the 1963 film adaptation of “Lord of the Flies”



“It’s time we told a different kind of story. The real Lord of the Flies is a tale of friendship and loyalty; one that illustrates how much stronger we are if we can lean on each other.”

—Rutger Bregman

Animal expert works to save Brazil's tapirs

The animal shown below is known as the lowland tapir, sometimes called the Brazilian tapir. Tapirs are large mammals—sometimes weighing up to 500 pounds. They primarily live in forests in South and Central America. The lowland tapir is typically found near water in the Amazon rainforest and the River Basin in South America. Why do you think they live near water? (Tapirs are excellent swimmers and they often eat underwater vegetation.)

Recently, a Brazilian conservationist named Patricia Medici was awarded the prestigious Whitley Gold Award for her work on tapir conservation and awareness. Medici has been working to save tapirs for many years and she started the Lowland Tapir Conservation Initiative to help them. With the award comes a prize of \$75,000 which Medici intends to use to help her conservation work in an area of the Amazon known as the “Arc of Deforestation.” Why do you think this area was given that name? (It’s a part of the Amazon especially under threat by mining, agriculture, and logging companies.)

The Amazon rainforest is quickly being transformed by private companies. Why is this a big problem? Deforestation is a major issue in Brazil and losing large portions of forest doesn’t only affect the land and the climate, it also threatens animals. Tapirs are currently listed as vulnerable to extinction by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. It is estimated there are only about 3,000 individuals left in the wild, with about 2,000 in Brazil.

Animal expert works to save Brazil's tapirs



“These gardeners of the forest are super important as they play a key role in shaping and maintaining the ecosystem by dispersing seeds.”

— Patricia Medici, tapir conservationist.

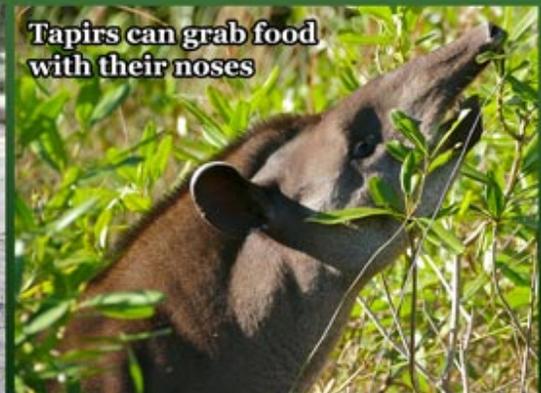
Tapirs are sometimes referred to as “living fossils.” Why do you think that is? (They’ve remained relatively unchanged over the course of 20 million years of evolution.) These animals are the largest living land mammals in South America. While they have a pig-like appearance, tapirs are actually most closely related to horses and rhinoceroses. There are four primary tapir species. Baird’s tapirs, lowland tapirs, and mountain tapirs are found in Central and South America, while the Malayan tapir is found only in Southeast Asia. The tapir's most distinctive feature is its flexible, prehensile nose. What does prehensile mean? (Capable of grasping.) Tapirs use their long noses to grab leaves off the branches of trees and shrubs. Tapirs are herbivores. What does this mean? (They eat only plants.) Because of their large size, in just one day, tapirs can eat around 75 pounds of fruits and vegetables.

Tapirs are surprisingly agile for their size. They can move quickly to avoid predators and are excellent swimmers. Tapirs often spend time lounging in water to cool off and will sometimes sink to the bottom of rivers where they walk along the riverbed looking for underwater vegetation. Because they don’t have many natural predators, tapirs can live to be nearly 30 years old in the wild. As you can see in the photo at bottom left, young tapirs, known as calves, have a special spotted and striped coat. This helps young tapirs remain camouflaged while they are still small and vulnerable to attacks from large animals.

Malayan tapir



Tapirs can grab food with their noses



Tapir calf



Tapir Facts:

- Tapirs have remained relatively unchanged over the last 20 million years.
- Tapirs are South America's largest living land mammals.
- Their closest living relatives are rhinos and horses.
- Tapirs use their prehensile noses to grab leaves.
- Tapirs eat 75 pounds of food every day.

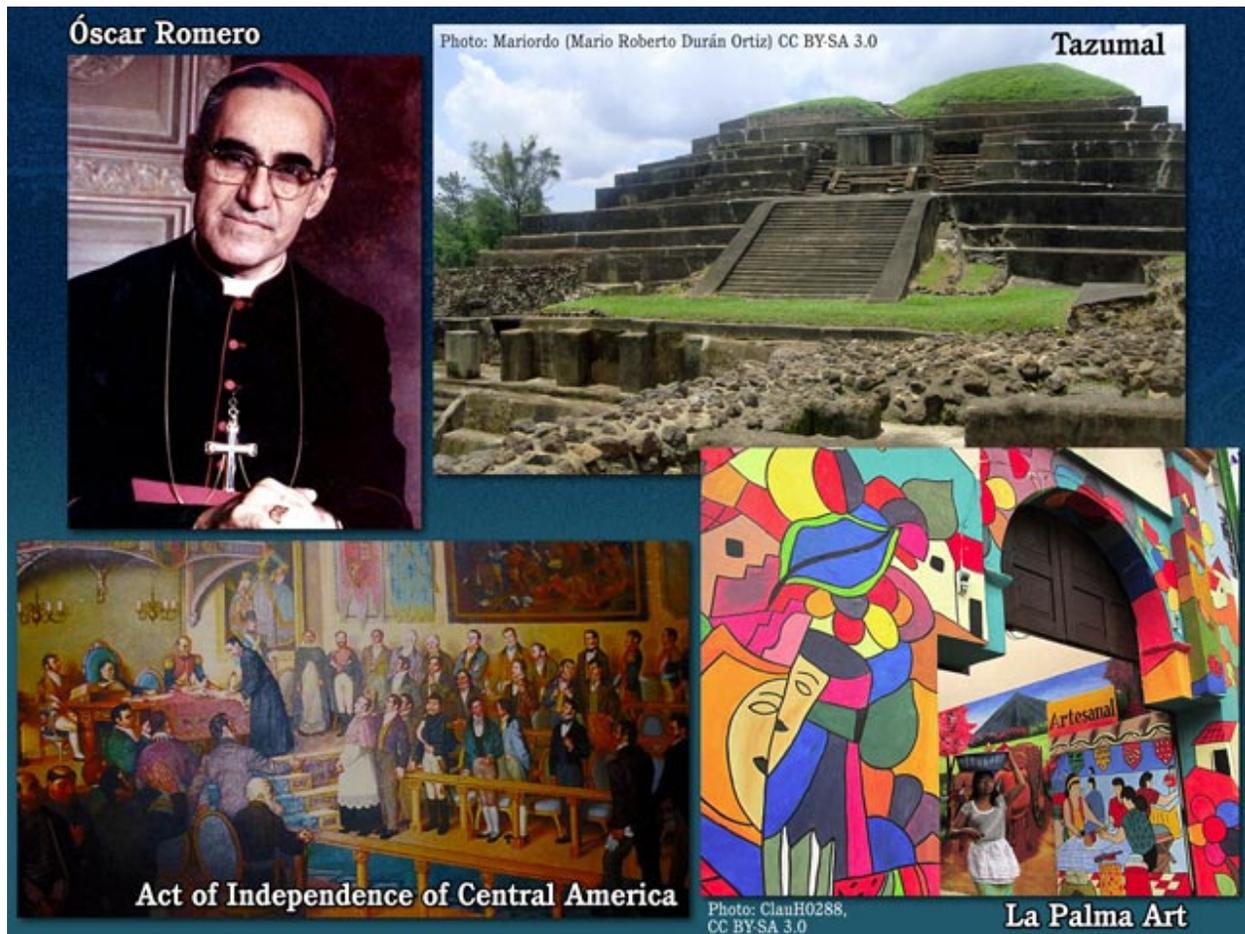
Country of the Week: El Salvador

El Salvador is a Central American country bordered by Guatemala and Honduras with a coastline along the Pacific Ocean. It has a population of around 6 million people. El Salvador is a mountainous country with a tropical climate, and it is located on the Ring of Fire. What is the Ring of Fire? (A region around the Pacific Ocean that experiences many earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.) Because of this, there are about 20 volcanoes in El Salvador, and the country experiences frequent earthquakes. Many plants and animals live in El Salvador, including some endangered species such as the leatherback sea turtle. The torogoz, also called the turquoise browed motmot, is the national bird of El Salvador. It is known for its bright colors and distinctive call. San Salvador is the capital and largest city in El Salvador. Its metropolitan area has a population of around 2.4 million. San Salvador was built at the foot of the Boquerón Volcano, and it has been decimated several times by natural disasters such as earthquakes and hurricanes. As a result, most prominent buildings in the city were built within the last 30 years. El Salvador's economy is mostly dependent on its textile manufacturing industry as well as exports of crops such as sugarcane and coffee. However, nearly 40 percent of Salvadorans live in poverty. Do you think the government should do more to fight poverty in the country? The president of El Salvador is Nayib Bukele. He is a member of El Salvador's Palestinian community, and has been in office since 2019.



Western regions of El Salvador were once part of the ancient Maya civilization. What do you know about the Maya? Ruins from Mayan cities still stand in El Salvador today. The Mayan complex of Tazumal, located near the modern city of Santa Ana, features temples and pyramids that predate the arrival of Europeans. Many Mayan sculptures and gold ornaments have been discovered there.

In 1525, El Salvador became a Spanish colony. Spanish rule lasted until 1821, when several Central American leaders, including José Matías Delgado from El Salvador, signed the Act of Independence of Central America. This act declared that Central America was free from Spain, and that the entire region would unite as one country called the Federal Republic of Central America. This country fell apart in 1841, and El Salvador has been independent ever since. There have been many conflicts throughout Salvadoran history, including the 1932 Peasant Uprising and the Salvadoran Civil War, which lasted from 1980 to 1992. Some believe this conflict began when Óscar Romero, a Catholic priest and peace activist, was killed by a right-wing militia during mass. Afterwards, Romero became a hero in El Salvador and around the world. In 2018, he was canonized by Pope Francis. What does “canonized” mean? (Turned into a saint by the Catholic Church.) La Palma art is an artistic style founded by Salvadoran artist Fernando Llort. La Palma is the national art style of El Salvador, and is often displayed on buildings.



This Week In History

On April 23, 1564, William Shakespeare was born in England. He was a poet and a playwright. Shakespeare is usually considered the greatest writer in the English language — and one of the greatest who ever lived. Historians know very little about the details of Shakespeare's life. They know he was born in the small English town of Stratford-upon-Avon. Do you know what this town's unusual name means? (The town of Stratford is located next to the Avon River.) Records show that he was married at the age of 18 to a woman named Anne Hathaway, and that the couple had three children.

But there are a lot of gaps in our knowledge of this famous writer's life. Historians have confirmed that sometime between 1585 and 1592, Shakespeare moved to London. There, he became a member and part owner of a theater company. The company was called Lord Chamberlain's Men, and it was one of the most popular acting companies in London. Does anyone know why the Lord Chamberlain acting company referred only to men? (During Shakespeare's time, women's parts were played by men or young boys.) Shakespeare was also the part owner of an outdoor London theater, where Lord Chamberlain's Men performed. What was the name of this theater? (The Globe Theater.)

William Shakespeare wrote at least 38 plays. They fit into three main categories. Some of them were comedies, such as "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and "As You Like It." Other plays focus on historical events. One of the most famous of these is about the death of a famous Roman leader. What is this play? ("Julius Caesar.") Tragedies make up the third category of Shakespeare's plays. What are tragedies? (Plays where people's flaws and problems lead to sad endings.) One of the best-known of Shakespeare's tragedies is "Romeo and Juliet." Do you know what this play is about? (The two title characters are teenagers from rival families in ancient Italy; they fall in love, but their families' rivalry keeps them apart.) Can you think of any other Shakespeare's plays? Have you ever seen a Shakespeare play, or a movie of it? If so, which one? What did you think of it?

April 23, 1564:

William Shakespeare is born



SOME WORDS WE LEARNED FROM SHAKESPEARE:

- swagger • worthless • champion • hint
- bump • fashionable • eyeball

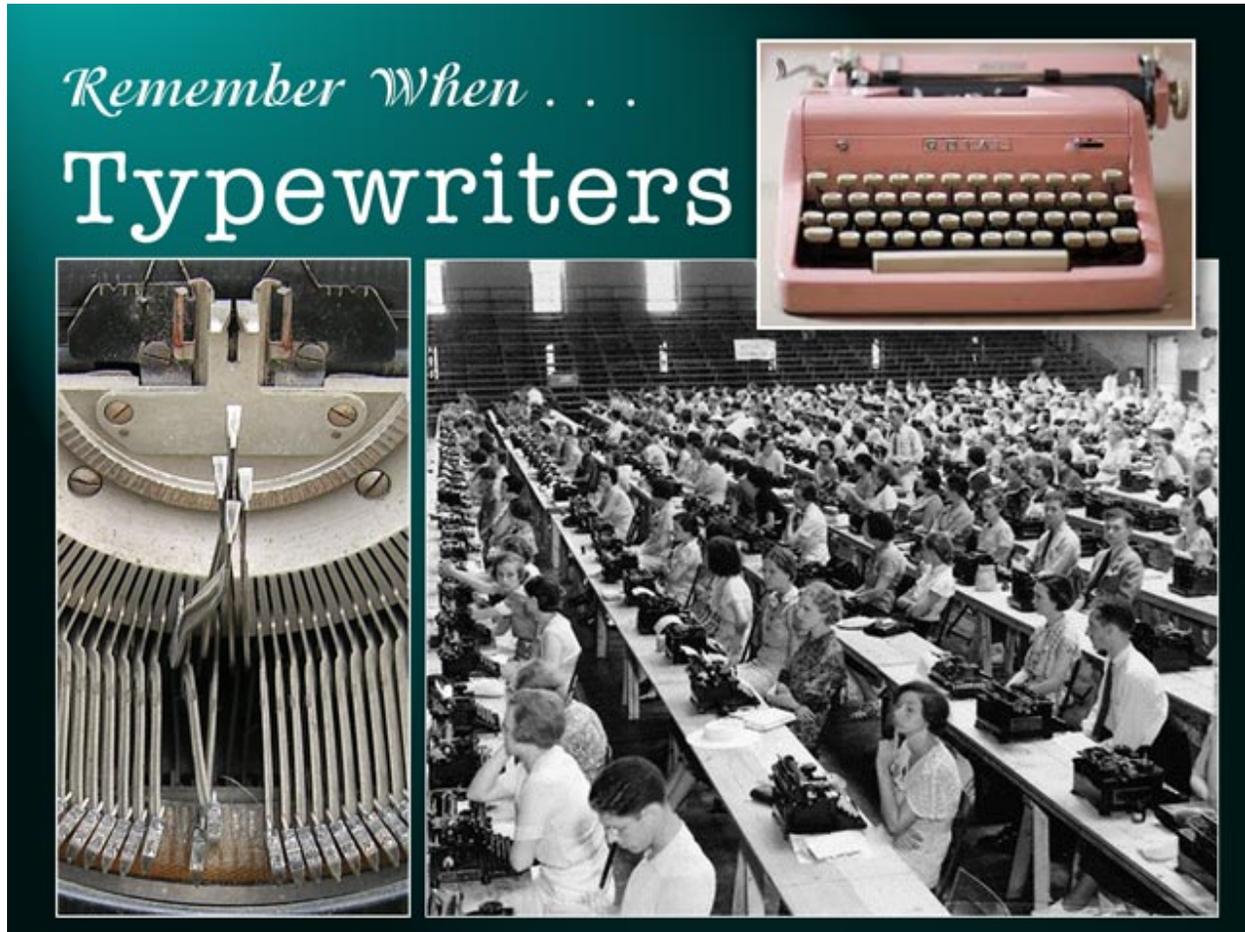
Shakespeare also wrote poems, including more than 150 sonnets. What is a sonnet? (A poem written according to a strict formula — each must have 14 rhyming lines of ten syllables each.) Many of Shakespeare’s sonnets are considered perfect examples of the form. Have you ever read any sonnets? Have you ever tried to write one?

One of the reasons Shakespeare’s work has endured is the beauty of his language. His plays have both humor and sadness. They also contain some of the most memorable phrases in English. Some of these phrases include “All that glitters is not gold,” “Too much of a good thing,” and “Break the ice.” Have you heard these phrases? Shakespeare also invented many words by jamming two words together, and by adapting words from other languages. And Shakespeare also was often the first to write down new words that were being used on the streets of London. His plays and poems are some of the first sources of the words you see here. What does the word “swagger” mean? (To walk or behave in a very confident way.)

William Shakespeare died on his 52nd birthday. He was famous in his day, but his reputation grew even bigger after his death. His plays have been performed in many different languages all over the world, and most have been made into movies. In fact, his writing was so good that some critics have questioned whether a man who never went to college could have written such beautiful works. Some think Shakespeare’s greatest works must have been written by someone more educated who wanted to remain secret. Many people have speculated about who the “real” Shakespeare might have been.

Remembering When...

For most of the 20th century, typewriters were the most important technology in offices. But the computer revolution made typewriters obsolete in most offices and homes. Now, as it turns out, typewriters are making a comeback with personal users. And the revolution was sparked by a man better known for his acting than his typing skills. We'll get to that in a minute.



Typewriters have been around a long time. People had tried to develop a working typewriter since the early 1700s. But it wasn't until after the Civil War that the first successful typewriters were produced in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. On these early machines, keys tended to jam up together when people typed too fast. For this reason, a man named Christopher Latham Sholes changed the keyboard layout to prevent jams. We still use this layout today. What is it called, and where does the name come from? (It is usually called the QWERTY keyboard. This name comes from the fact that the letters Q-W-E-R-T-Y are all in a row on the upper left side.)

Growing up in the 1930s, '40s, and '50s, many people learned to type in a typing class in high school. In that class, every desk had a typewriter and students tapped away, as the teacher called out letter patterns to a steady rhythm. Were you a good typist? Do you remember your typing speed? Did you need typing skills in the kind of work you did? Did you have a typewriter at home? What did you use it for?

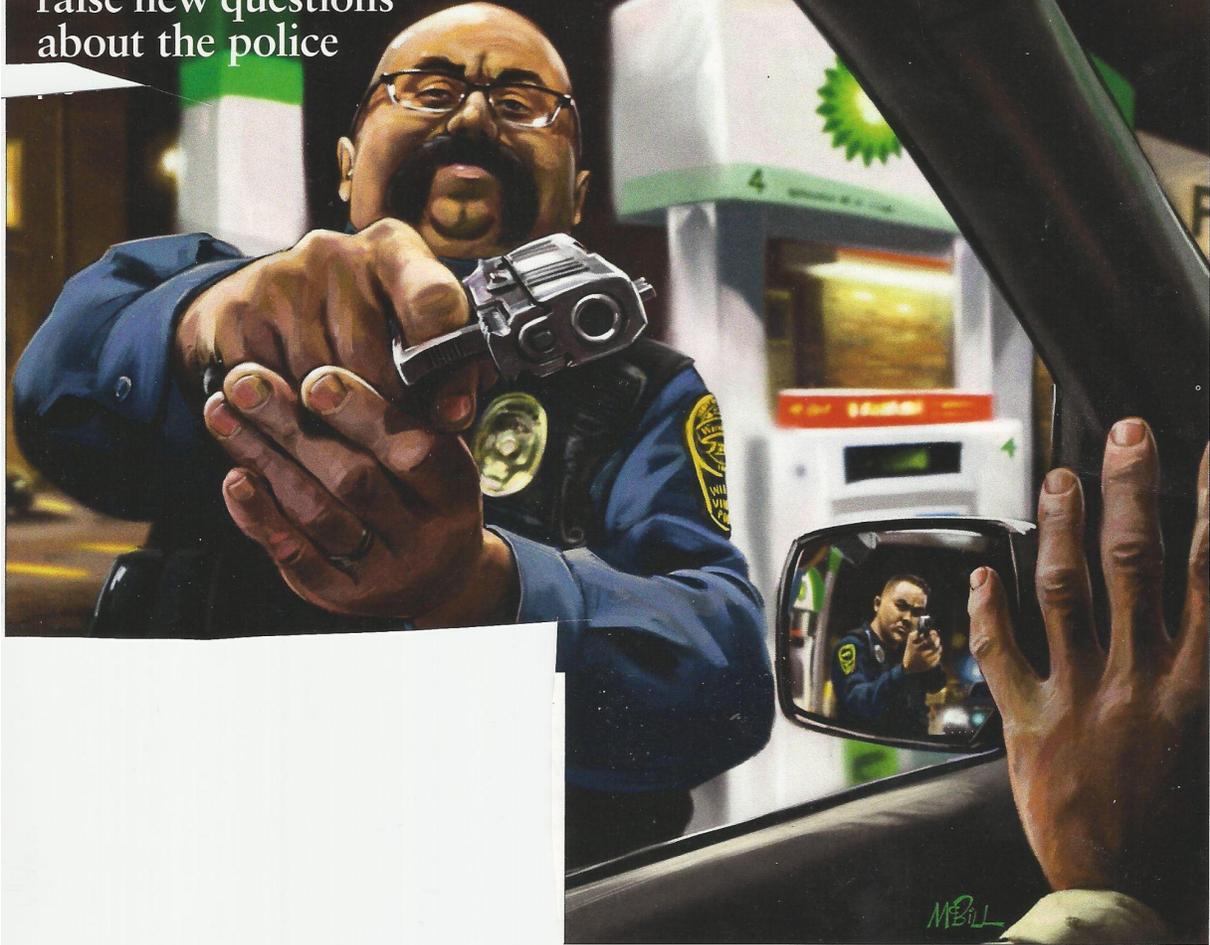
For decades, learning to be an accurate and fast typist was an essential skill if you wanted to work in an office. Many offices required a typing speed of at least 40 words per minute. The picture here shows a civil service exam for typists. Why do you think most of the people here seem to be women? How important do you think the rise of typewriters was for women in business?

The best typists were able to do much more than simply set words down on a page. They needed to format documents for easy readability, and to send the right number of copies to the right destinations. Did you ever use carbon paper? This work became a bit easier with the development of the electric typewriter. The first one was developed in 1900, but it took a long time for them to be available to everyone. By the 1960s, when the IBM Selectric was invented, electric typewriters were standard in all offices. What was so special about the Selectric? (It used a movable “ball” to strike the letters, eliminating key jams forever.) But typewriters were not just for business. The rise of the portable typewriter meant that journalists were soon banging out copy on battlefields and in press boxes around the world. Authors started writing novels on them. What authors do you associate with typewriters? (Some of the most famous are William Faulkner and Ernest Hemingway.) Soon, the image of the Great American Writer was that of a person madly typing away instead of composing with pen and paper. Did you ever want to be an author? How did you picture yourself doing this?

There have been many stories in the last couple of years about how typewriters are coming back into vogue among young people, who find them cool in a retro way. A 2017 documentary called “California Typewriter” featured actor Tom Hanks and his massive collection of old but still functional machines. Hanks even wrote a book of short stories about typewriters called “Uncommon Type.” Why do you think he is so obsessed with this invention? Another reason for their new popularity is practical; since they are not hooked up to the Internet, typewriters help writers stay more focused and less likely to surf through websites. And the clicking and clacking of keys is very relaxing to some people — although it might drive others to distraction.

Driving while Black

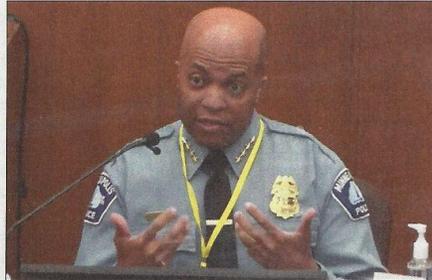
A shooting and an ugly traffic stop
raise new questions
about the police



Prosecution makes its case against Chauvin

What happened

The prosecution in the murder trial of former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin rested this week, after a series of expert witnesses testified that Chauvin's kneeling on George Floyd's neck violated police procedure and was the primary cause of Floyd's death. Jonathan Rich, a cardiologist, was one of several medical experts who testified that Floyd died from asphyxiation while Chauvin knelt on his neck for nine and a half minutes. "I can state with a high degree of medical certainty that George Floyd did not die from a primary cardiac event and he did not die from a drug overdose," said Rich. Hennepin County medical examiner Andrew Baker called Floyd's heart disease and fentanyl use contributing factors but "not direct causes of Mr. Floyd's death." The medical testimony followed numerous expert witnesses—including eight Minneapolis police officials—who called Chauvin's use of force excessive and a violation of standard procedure. It was "totally unnecessary," said Lt. Richard Zimmerman, a 36-year veteran, while Police Chief Medaria Arradondo testified that Chauvin "absolutely" violated police protocol by using force long after the handcuffed Floyd had stopped resisting. "That is not what we teach," he said.



Chief Arradondo: 'That is not what we teach.'

Defense attorney Eric Nelson called a use-of-force expert, Barry Brodd, who testified that Chauvin's actions were "objectively reasonable" in the face of a resisting suspect and a hostile crowd he perceived as a threat. "It's easy to sit and judge in an office on an officer's conduct," he said. Defense witness David Fowler, a forensic pathologist, testified that Floyd died from "a sudden cardiac arrhythmia" caused in "significant" part by his heart disease, along with his drug intake and possible carbon monoxide poisoning from the police car's exhaust.

What the editorials said

The unusual spectacle of police testifying against a fellow officer was a welcome breach of the "blue wall of silence," said *The Washington Post*. But it doesn't give police a pass on "systemic problems" that have "fueled brutality against people of color." If Chauvin was just a "rare bad apple," why hadn't his 17 civilian

complaints and two shootings raised red flags sooner? "Make no mistake: Policing is also on trial."

The jury must focus on the facts of the trial, not liberal notions about police officers' "collective guilt," said the *Washington Examiner*. To convict Chauvin based on a "hyped-up media narrative" about "police officers improperly killing unarmed black men" would be a miscarriage of justice.

What the columnists said

The "crumbling" of the "blue wall" is a striking development, said Elie Mystal in *TheNation.com*. In a sharp break from tradition, Chauvin was denied a key advantage that's allowed scores of accused cops to walk: "the support of other cops." If "uniformed outrage" is what it takes to hold police accountable, "then we must ask why there isn't more of it."

"The battle over causation is over," said Andrew McCarthy in *NationalReview.com*. Prosecutors only had to show Chauvin's actions were "a substantial factor" in Floyd's death, which is now beyond a reasonable doubt. But a second-degree murder conviction requires proving that Chauvin knowingly committed a "criminal assault" on Floyd that led to his death—"a heavy lift" because the jury must make a judgment about Chauvin's state of mind. If Chauvin is instead found guilty of third-degree murder or manslaughter—acting recklessly to cause Floyd's death—will it be seen as justice or will it "re-inflate the community and the nation?" asked Harry Litman in the *Los Angeles Times*. The verdict will determine whether the prosecution "goes down in history as a triumph or a failure."

If America is on trial, then vindication is not a possible outcome, said Leonard Pitts in the *Miami Herald*. Let's say Chauvin is convicted—would it "really attest to the integrity of American justice toward African-American people?" In this case, a video showed the whole nation how a chillingly nonchalant cop inflicted torture and death on a pleading, prone Black man for more than nine excruciating minutes. If that's what a conviction takes, isn't it just further evidence that "for us, justice is harder, the bar higher, the road steeper"? Where Chauvin's concerned, "we await the verdict"; for America, the "verdict is already in."

It wasn't all bad

■ Nothing could stop a Texas man from finishing his cross-country run from Disneyland to Disney World—not even the pandemic. Don Muchow, 59, hit the road in California in February 2020 to raise awareness for diabetes but was forced to pause for months after Covid-19 hit the U.S. Last week, he finally completed the 2,761-mile run in Florida, having averaged 32 miles a day. Muchow has been living with type 1 diabetes for nearly 50 years. "I want every single person with type 1 diabetes," he said, "to see that we can still dream big."

■ A fashion-forward 7-year-old got Old Navy to upgrade its style. Kamryn Gardner from Bentonville, Ark., was irked that the pockets on her pants—unlike those on her brothers—were sewn shut, depriving her of a place to keep interesting rocks. Having learned about persuasive letter writing at school, she picked up her pen and got to work. "Dear Old Navy," she wrote. "Would you consider making girls jeans with front pockets that are not fake." To her surprise, Old Navy sent her some shorts and jeans—all with pockets—and a note thanking her for her ideas. "They're really cute," Kamryn said of the new clothes. "But mostly, I just really like the pockets."



Kamryn: Pocket power

■ When a regular customer failed to pick up his dog from a grooming appointment, a worker at the Omaha pet store suspected something must be wrong. The employee contacted animal control, which arranged for Misty Binau, an investigator with the Nebraska Humane Society, to visit the owner's home. When no one answered the door, Binau called the police, who found the owner had suffered a medical episode and collapsed on the floor of his apartment. Thanks to this quick thinking, the man is alive and receiving treatment. The dog is with family members awaiting her owner's return.

Illustration by Howard McWilliam.
Cover photos from Reuters, Getty (2)

Crime: What caused a spike in homicides?

“As crime data from 2020 are compiled, one thing has become clear,” said *The Economist*. Last year “American cities saw the biggest rise in homicides in decades.” Across 34 large cities, murders were up by 30 percent last year, according to one study, yielding numbers not seen since the “great crime decline” cut violent crime nearly in half between 1993 and 2019. And it’s not just big cities—small towns and rural counties also saw “sizable increases.” What’s behind the spike is the question now consuming criminologists. Many point to the economic insecurity and hardship caused by the pandemic even as it shuttered stabilizing institutions such as schools, churches, community centers, and recreation programs.

Changes in policing likely played a role, said German Lopez in *Vox.com*. The widespread protests following the death of George Floyd may have led police to “pull back from proactive policing,” out of low morale or fear of repercussions. Frayed relationships between police and communities of color may have led to fewer citizens reporting crimes or offering information. Americans also bought a record 23 million guns last year, and studies show, not surprisingly, that “more guns lead to more gun violence.” The policing theory



Scene of a multiple homicide in Oakland

is complicated by “the fact that several other categories of crime went down in 2020,” said Jake Blumgart in *Bloomberg.com*. And past research has found little connection between economic downturns and rising crime. But criminologists do connect homicides with “broader social unease”—which “2020 delivered in spades.”

These disturbing numbers should raise questions about criminal justice reform, said Rafael Mangual in *TheHill.com*. In recent years police departments have put fewer cops on the streets, while states and cities have adopted pretrial release of accused criminals, sentence reduction, decriminalization of small offenses, and “new restrictions on prosecutions of juveniles.” When you “raise the transaction costs of enforcing the law while lowering those of breaking the law,” you get more “emboldened offenders on the street.” We’re probably looking at a “perfect storm” of all these factors, said Emma Tucker and Peter Nickeas in *CNN.com*. A looming question now is whether the homicide numbers will drop again as the pandemic’s effects recede. So far, 2021 is off to a troubling start—with Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, and other cities already outpacing last year’s homicide numbers.

Judicial commission: What is Biden’s goal?

President Biden has appointed a “commission to study changes at the Supreme Court,” said John Fritze in *USAToday.com*, and it’s got both Democrats and Republicans in a lather. The 36-member bipartisan study group, created via executive order, will spend six months examining whether the number of justices should be expanded from nine—as well as whether justices should have term limits rather than lifetime appointments. Biden promised to create the commission on the campaign trail, in response to progressive outrage that Republicans had forged the current 6-3 conservative majority by blocking Merrick Garland’s nomination. He has said that he’s “not a fan of court packing”—leading some Democrats to wonder if he created the commission “as a dodge” to avoid really confronting the issue.

Actually, the commission is “rigged” to support court packing, said Quin Hillyer in *Washington-Examiner.com*. Though it includes a few conservative scholars, it’s packed with “noted liberals” from academia and lawyers with long-standing ties to the Obama White House. It is likely to provide intellectual cover for a “power grab” that would fundamentally alter the court’s composition. Even liberal Justice Stephen Breyer opposes

enlarging the court, saying in a speech last week that court packing would “feed the impression” the court had become overtly partisan. “Don’t be fooled,” said *The Wall Street Journal* in an editorial. Democrats may not be able to expand the court as long as the filibuster remains, but Biden’s commission will serve as an open threat to the court’s conservatives to “think twice about rulings that progressives dislike.” Chief Justice John Roberts already seems to have been cowed in his recent votes in abortion and gun rights cases.

“In forming this commission, the main thing Biden has done is kick the can down the road,” said Mark Joseph Stern in *Slate.com*. He’s stocked the group with legal Brahmins from Harvard and Yale “who have spent their careers marinating in the fantasy that the Supreme Court is apolitical,” so they’re likely to shun dramatic change. Still, term limits “should be high on the commission’s agenda,” said *The Washington Post* in an editorial. By instituting, say, 18-year terms for each justice, we could “lower the stakes” of each one’s appointment and ensure that the president picks the most competent jurist available, rather than the youngest one who can survive confirmation and then endure on the bench for decades.

Milestones

ANNOUNCED

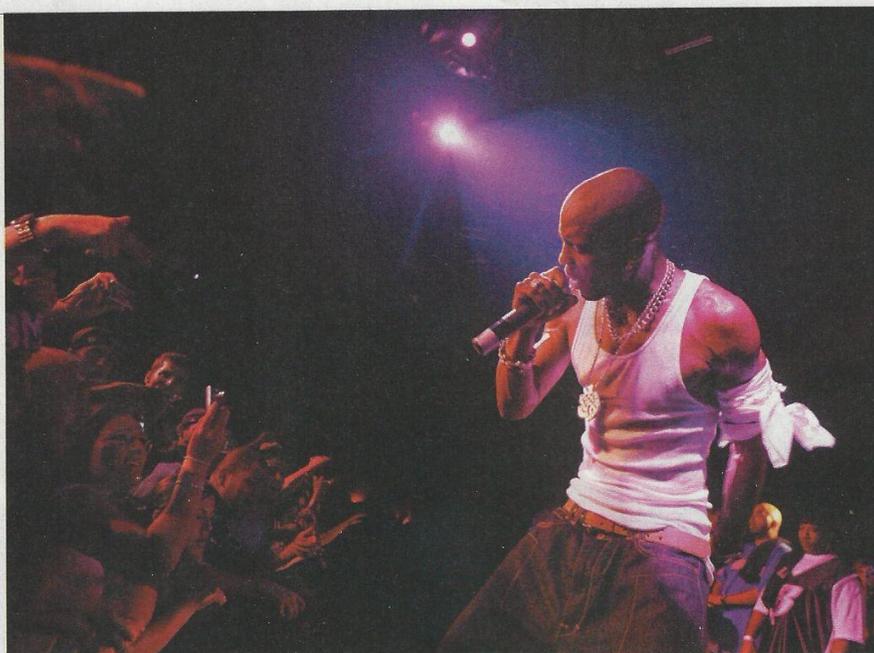
Homecoming

U.S. troops to exit Afghanistan

BY NAMING SEPT. 11, 2021, as the date that all U.S. troops will be out of Afghanistan, President Joe Biden reminded the world why they were sent there in the first place: to avenge the 9/11 terrorist attacks that had been planned in the country by al-Qaeda, which the ruling Taliban regarded as a guest. There were a lot of distractions—like Iraq, which had no role in 9/11, although the U.S. invasion spawned a new terrorist threat: ISIS. There was also altruism; much of the \$2 trillion spent on Afghanistan aimed to transform a country that had barred girls from school.

Brown University, which keeps count, reports that the 157,000 people killed there over the 20 years include 2,300 U.S. troops, 3,800 U.S. contractors and 43,000 Afghan civilians. The highest toll, 64,000, is among the official Afghan forces. When the U.S. leaves, they must carry on the fight against a Taliban that, while it claims to have severed ties with al-Qaeda, is again gaining ground.

—KARL VICK



DIED

DMX

Redemptive hip-hop icon

IN EARLY 1998, PUFF DADDY AND BAD BOY Records ruled hip-hop with lush production and silk Versace suits. Then 27-year-old Earl Simmons, better known as DMX, released his debut album, *It's Dark and Hell Is Hot*, and everything changed. The album, full of violent nihilism and hair-raising tales of betrayal and revenge, immediately skyrocketed to the top of the charts, as songs like "Ruff Ryders' Anthem" rang out of car stereos across New York City and beyond.

"It was a complete 180," the Apple Music radio show host Lowkey tells TIME. "Here comes this crazy energetic figure from Yonkers with the Timbs and the bandannas, running around with pit bulls, giving a perspective on the streets that a lot of people weren't familiar with and taking command of what hip-hop didn't look like."

By abrasively challenging the slickness of rap's assimilation into the mainstream, DMX,

who died on April 9 at 50 a week after suffering a heart attack, had unwittingly become one of the biggest rappers in the world. And over the next two decades, his raspy delivery and streetwise storytelling would have an outsized impact on the genre and its listeners.

DMX's road to stardom was brutally difficult: he survived years of childhood abuse, homelessness and prison stints. In his music, he fearlessly animated those traumas, giving voice to the countless Americans suffering from poverty, PTSD or bipolar disorder. But DMX also wrote prayers for redemption as well as spirited anthems that would hypercharge clubs around the world, from "X Gon' Give It to Ya" to "Party Up."

This versatility would make him a beacon for future generations of artists; he's recently been sampled or quoted by Drake, by A\$AP Rocky and even in *Hamilton*. And in 2012, Kendrick Lamar wrote a song paying respects to a record that changed his life: "Thank God for the album I idolized/ *It's dark and plus hell is hot*, that's the start of this crazy ride."

—ANDREW R. CHOW

DIED

Bernie Madoff, who in 2009 was sentenced to 150 years in prison for running the largest Ponzi scheme in history, on April 14, at 82.

SEIZED

The *Ever Given*, on April 13, by Egypt, which claims the ship cost the

country nearly \$1 billion when it blocked the Suez Canal for six days.

RECORDED

An all-time monthly high of nearly **19,000 unaccompanied migrant children** at the U.S.-Mexico border, in March 2021, U.S. authorities said on April 8.

EXTENDED

Somalia's President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed's term, **by his own order**, on April 14.

RESTORED

\$235 million of **U.S. aid to Palestinians** that was cut under President Donald Trump, U.S. officials said on April 7.

WON

The Masters, on April 11 by Hideki Matsuyama, the first Asian-born man to win the golf tournament.

STOLEN

Darius, the **world's longest rabbit**, from his owner's home in England on the night of April 10.

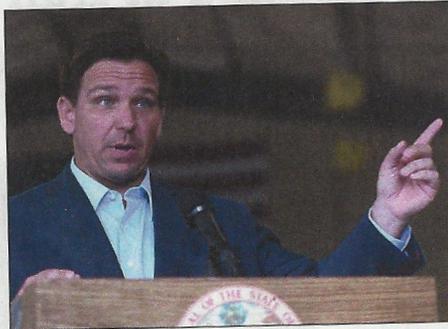
DMX: MICHAEL NAGLE—THE NEW YORK TIMES/REDOX; U.S. SOLDIERS: JOHN MOORE—GETTY IMAGES

The GOP: Why it just can't quit Trump

Republicans are stuck with “a ball and chain,” and his name is Donald Trump, said James Downie in *The Washington Post*. During his four years as president, Trump triggered such a backlash that the GOP lost the House, the Senate, and the White House. But the MAGA base still loves him, and last week, the Republican National Committee

bused 400 of its top donors from a Palm Beach conference to Trump's country club, Mar-a-Lago, to figuratively kiss Trump's ring. In a speech that left some donors squirming, he repeated the false election-fraud claims that inspired the Jan. 6 insurrection, called Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell a “stone-cold loser” and a “dumb son of a bitch” for accepting the election defeat, and said former Vice President Mike Pence lacked “the courage” to reject the Electoral College vote. Afterward, veteran Republican fundraiser Fred Zeidman called Trump's continuing grip on the party “a tremendous complication.”

The Republicans who want to succeed Trump don't seem to think so, said Tim Miller in *The Bulwark.com*. Among those who came to pay tribute to Trump were 2024 hopefuls Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, South Dakota Gov. Kristi



DeSantis: Still all in on Trump

Noem, and Sens. Marco Rubio and Tom Cotton. You'd think people who want to be president would want to give “some push-back” to Trump's “effort to become an unelected autocrat.” But no—they smiled and applauded his unhinged rantings. That's no surprise, given that DeSantis, among others, “continually expressed

explicit support for Trump's attempt to overturn the election” right up to Jan. 6. Trump's “fixation on McConnell” portends “chaos” for the 2022 midterms, said Zeeshan Aleem in *Vox.com*. By demanding total loyalty, Trump could divide Republicans against themselves. With his fat war chest of \$85 million, he's already planning to help fund primaries against any Republican who seeks to distance the party from him.

The GOP is obviously at “a low point,” said Peggy Noonan in *The Wall Street Journal*. “It is a badly divided party” that seems to exist only to stir up grievance and “own the libs.” But I still believe that it's worth saving, if only to preserve the two-party system. Remember, “with a third party you can win the presidency with 34 percent”—and that will be the end of majority rule. “That won't help national unity.”

Changing election laws

What do Republicans mean when they say there were 'irregularities' in the 2020 election that need fixing?

What is the GOP's position?

After claiming for months that the 2020 presidential election was marred by widespread fraud, mainstream Republicans are now using the term "irregularities." By this, they mean the expansion of mail-in balloting, early voting, and a host of other procedural measures enacted by courts, state officials, and governors in response to the risk of voting in person during the pandemic. These rule changes, GOP officials say, usurped the authority of state legislatures to set election rules. As former Vice President Mike Pence put it: "Many of the most troubling voting irregularities took place in states that set aside laws enacted by state legislatures in favor of sweeping changes ordered by governors, secretaries of state, and courts." In the wake of expanded access to the ballot, President Biden became the first presidential candidate in U.S. history to amass more than 80 million votes, and a record 159 million people voted in the 2020 election. It was the highest turnout—67 percent of registered voters—since 1900.

Who makes election laws?

The Constitution gives state legislatures the authority to pass election laws. But because the pandemic made many people fearful of going to crowded indoor polling places in 2020, state election officials, courts, and governors adopted extraordinary measures to limit close human contact while people cast ballots. Many states dramatically expanded no-excuse mail-in balloting and early voting, and nine states began mailing all registered voters absentee ballots whether or not they requested them. Thirty-eight states, plus Washington, D.C., employed drop boxes for absentee ballots, up from only 13 in 2016. The new voting methods were popular. Nearly 102 million people voted early in 2020, almost doubling the 58 million who did so in 2016; 65 million people voted by mail, up from 33 million four years earlier. But a recent Stanford University study found that it was the intense opposition and loyalty to Trump that motivated so many people to vote, not absentee ballots. "Voter interest was really driving turnout," said researcher Jesse Yoder.

Was there widespread fraud?

Every recount, audit, investigation, and court case regarding the 2020 election—including those conducted by state Republican officials and by President Trump's Justice Department—found virtually no evidence of fraud, with a handful of illegally cast ballots out of nearly 160 million. This is in keeping with studies of past elections, which have found that the number of people impersonating someone else to cast a ballot was between



A voter in Athens, Ga., casts a ballot in a drop box

0.0003 percent and 0.0025 percent of all votes cast. Nonetheless, 60 percent of Republicans believe Joe Biden won only because of widespread fraud, according to a recent poll. Republican officials have cited that belief in justifying rollbacks of expanded voting. Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita said the expansion of vote-by-mail had "shaken confidence" in "election integrity," and that state legislatures passing voting restrictions are merely "responding to their constituents." Georgia Lt. Gov. Geoff Duncan, a Republican, said the state's new voting law "is really the fallout from the 10 weeks of misinformation that flew in from former President Donald Trump."

Do Democrats benefit from mail-in voting?

Studies that have analyzed the five states that have almost exclusively switched to mail-in voting since 2000—Oregon, Washington, Utah, Colorado, and Hawaii—have found a very slight (0.7 percent) advantage for Democrats. Many seniors, who lean Republican, like to vote by mail. But that was before 2020, when Trump continuously railed that mail-in voting is riddled with fraud, possibly dissuading his supporters from voting in that manner. In that election, areas that voted by mail in higher numbers were more likely to turn blue than four years earlier. Democrats also had a massive advantage in early voting. The U.S. Elections Project said that among early voters, in the 20 states that report party affiliation Democrats held a 15 percentage-point edge over Republicans.

What has been the GOP response?

State Republicans in 43 states have waged a national campaign to wrestle back control over election rules, introducing 250 voting measures during the first seven weeks of 2021 alone. In Georgia, a new voting law transfers ultimate authority over elections from county boards of election and the secretary of state to an appointee of the legislature, who could intervene to oust local officials and seize control of election rules and ballot counting. Bills in other Republican-controlled states would curtail early and absentee voting, as well as institute stronger ID requirements and limit or ban drop boxes. Democrats say these changes are all based on "the Big Lie" that the 2020 election was stolen and are designed to discourage voting by African-Americans, Hispanics, the poor, and college students. Republicans insist the rollbacks and restrictions are needed. "We want a system that people can trust," said Texas Republican state Sen. Bryan Hughes. "If folks don't trust the system, they're not going to vote."

The battle over voter ID

Most of the new voting laws introduced by Republicans would require voters to show identification to cast in-person or absentee ballots. Republicans claim ID is necessary to ensure fair and safe elections, despite repeated studies over decades that found that people voting illegally are vanishingly rare. Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton spent 22,000 staff work hours in 2020 investigating voter fraud, and came up with only 16 cases of voters using wrong addresses. Democrats claim ID laws will disenfranchise some of the 21 million Americans who don't have a government-issued photo ID. The American Civil Liberties Union says voter ID laws disproportionately affect poor people and minorities who might not own cars or driver's licenses. It cited a 2014 Government Accountability Office study that found strict photo ID laws of the kind that are in effect in seven states reduce turnout by 2 to 3 percentage points—enough to change the outcome of close elections. But other studies have found little or no effect, or even increased turnout, possibly because voter ID laws mobilize Democratic groups to help voters obtain ID and to launch get-out-the-vote drives in Black and Hispanic neighborhoods.

The Brief Milestones

Prince Philip

The Queen's man

By Howard Chua-Eoan

UNTIL HER FATHER'S HEALTH BEGAN deteriorating, the couple could have been mistaken for any other happy young husband and wife. She had been just 13 when they met. He was the striking, handsome 18-year-old guide who took her and her sister on a tour of his naval college. During the war, when he was on a battleship in the Mediterranean, she kept his photograph on her dressing table, even though her father didn't quite approve. They had a spectacular wedding, and had had two children by the time they were traveling in Africa and got the news: her father, King George VI, had died. At age 25, she had succeeded to the British throne as Elizabeth II. Everything also changed for her husband.

A man who was with the couple recalled the transformation that took place on Feb. 6, 1952. Speaking to British newspaper the *Independent*, he said of the succession, "She seemed almost to reach out for it. There were no tears. She was just there, back braced . . . Waiting for her destiny." Her husband, by contrast, sat almost crumpled behind his newspaper. "He didn't want it at all. It was going to change his whole life: take away the emotional stability he'd finally found."

But by the time of his death, on April 9 at 99, Philip had long ago surpassed the record for a man with the title of consort. (The closest was Philip and Elizabeth's common great-great-grandfather Albert, prince consort to Queen Victoria during their 21 years of marriage.)

Philip, who received the title of Duke of Edinburgh upon marrying Elizabeth in 1947, would, before retiring from public engagements in the summer of 2017, perform royal duties for seven decades, through scandals and flamboyant in-laws, with just enough audible grouching from him now and then to make everyone remember what a strange business it all was.

If anyone was a princely pauper, it was Philip Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Glücksburg, born in 1921

atop a kitchen table on the island of Corfu. His father was the seventh son of a Danish prince plucked out of Scandinavia to become King of Greece; his mother was a Battenberg, a British family of German origin that had changed its last name to Mountbatten during World War I, about the same time the British royal family became the Windsors instead of the Saxe-Coburg-Gothas.

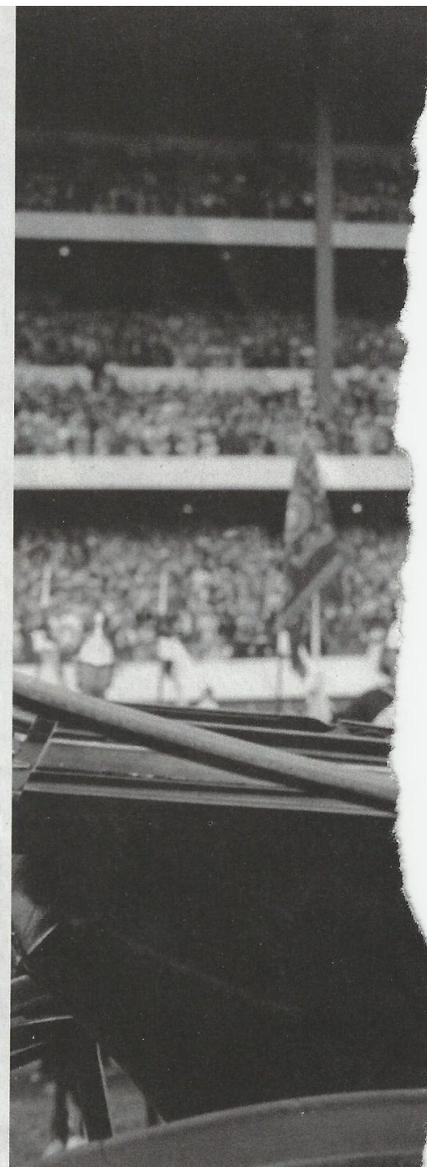
HIS PARENTS' MARRIAGE ended when Philip was 10 years old. Raising her four daughters and young son by dint of loans, limited family legacies and hand-me-downs, Alice of Greece would eventually find solace in religion and become a nun. (At the end of her life, she lived in Buckingham Palace, walking the halls in her wimple.) Her daughters would seek their fortunes in marriages in distant places. Philip was shuttled from country to country: from Greece, the family moved to Paris; when his parents split, he ended up in England for a couple of years and then was taken in by German relatives.

The unanchored life bred insecurity into the young noble. He found a harbor in Gordonstoun, a public school set up in Scotland. Gordonstoun's combination of pacificism and physical discipline would help define Philip for the rest of his life; his pursuit of what might have been a lifelong career in the Royal Navy was propelled by its tenets.

But then he met Princess Elizabeth, the heiress presumptive to the throne—or Lilibet, as she was then known. And while George VI may have looked askance at a Greek Orthodox royal from the wrong side of the blue-blooded track, his daughter could not be argued into considering any other match.

The dynasty's last crisis was a matter of the heart: George VI's brother, Edward, had abdicated in order to marry a divorcée—an impermissible entanglement for the head of the Church of England. In Elizabeth's case, the solution was simple: Philip gave up Greek Orthodoxy and was accepted into the Anglican Communion. They were married on Nov. 20, 1947. She was 21; he was 26.

Being consort to the British sovereign may have been more difficult than any feat demanded by Gordonstoun. Philip was always one step behind Elizabeth,



always deferring to her in public.

But Philip's reported insistence on leaving his own mark may have led to a postcoronation rupture in their relationship behind palace doors. At one point, he proposed changing the family's last name to include his own, but his wife would not hear of it. Furious, Philip reportedly said, "I'm just a bloody amoeba! That's all!"

The duke would always be sensitive about his role. Asked about it once by the BBC, he said, "Constitutionally, I don't exist."