

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

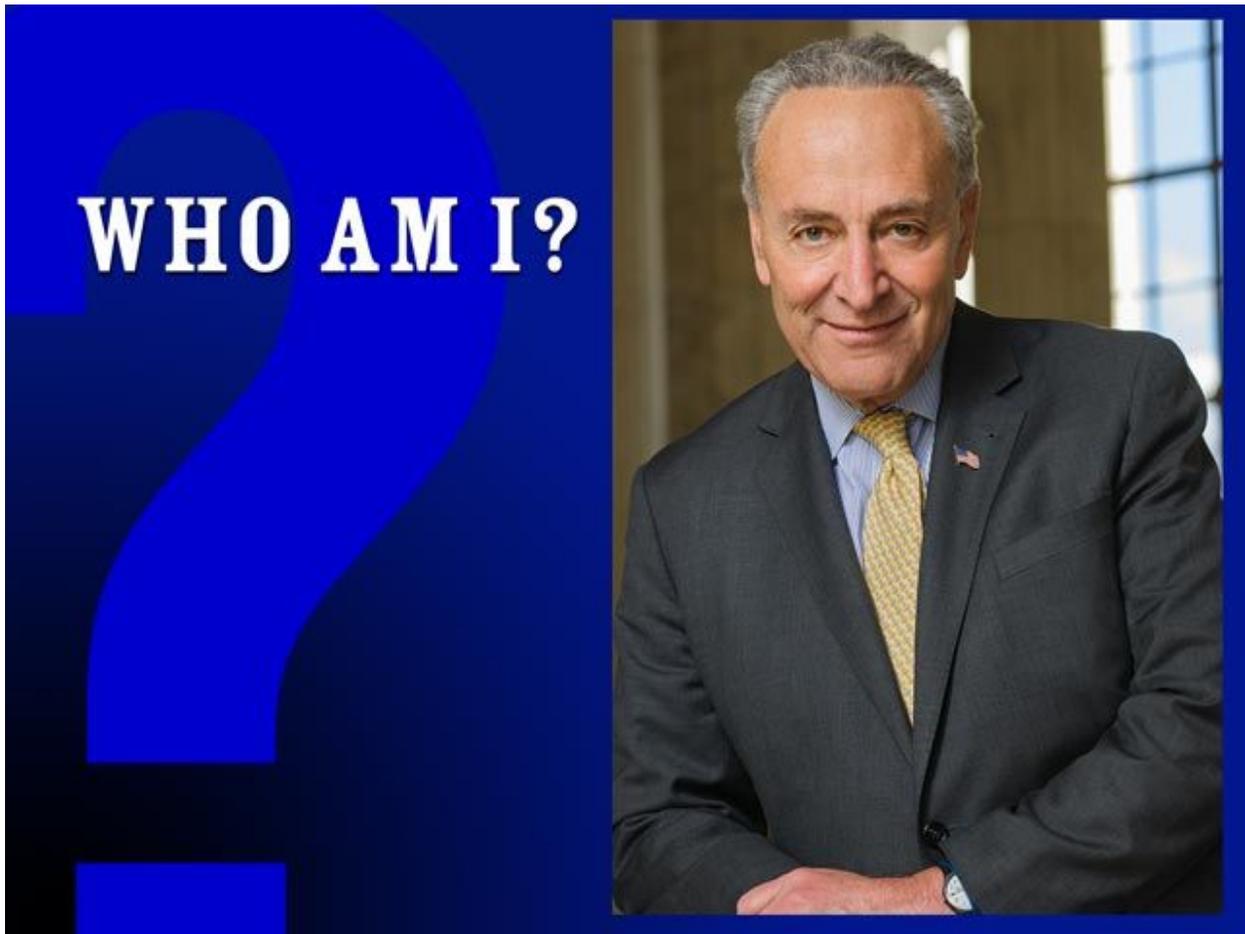
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Frank received his BA degree from the University of San Francisco with a dual major in Political Science and American History. He also earned his MA in Political Science and teaching credentials at USF. Over the course of his career, Frank taught in 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 has served as a U.S. senator since 1999, representing the state of New York. He is the leader of the Democratic Party in the Senate. Born 70 years ago in Brooklyn, New York, he attended public schools before graduating from Harvard College and Harvard Law School. Since running for New York State Assembly in 1975, he has never lost a political election. He was elected to nine terms in the House of Representatives before winning his seat in the Senate. Since 2016, he has been the Senate minority leader. But due to the current 50-50 split in the Senate, any tie vote would be broken by Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris. This had made him the new Senate majority leader. In this role, he had a great deal of influence over Senate procedures and rules, and which bills came up for a vote.



Who am I?

Singapore First to Approve Lab-Grown Meat

The image on the right shows the world's first hamburger made from cultured meat in 2013. What is cultured meat? (Meat grown in a laboratory using animal cells.) Cultured meats are grown in devices called bioreactors in a process that experts say is similar to brewing beer. The cultured meat industry has grown significantly in recent years, as several different companies work to bring lab-grown meat to the public. Lab Grown meats are different from another recently introduced meat alternative: plant-based meats such as the Impossible Burger. Does anyone know how they differ? (Plant-based meats are created using plant proteins rather than animal cells.)

An American start-up company called Eat Just has been developing lab-grown chicken nuggets for several years. The company recently reached a major milestone by having their lab-grown chicken approved for sale in Singapore after going through several safety tests. Now the company's chicken nuggets will be the first publicly available lab-grown meat in the world.

Lab Grown meat has important implications for animal welfare and the environment. Availability of lab-grown meat could mean that millions of animals could be saved from slaughter. At the same time it would reduce the carbon emissions created by the livestock industry. And while production of lab-grown meat is currently costly and slow, many in the industry believe demand for the product will help drive down costs over time.

Singapore first to approve lab-grown meat

Cultured chicken nuggets



The first cultured hamburger was made in 2013.



“My hope is this leads to a world...where the majority of meat doesn't require killing a single animal or tearing down a single tree.”

— Josh Tetrick of Eat Just.

It's too early to tell how cultured meat could change the way humans eat, but if widely adopted, lab-grown meat could drastically change how many animals are raised and killed for food. Every year, the global livestock industry kills over 70 billion animals for food. Raising this massive number of animals has led to poor conditions on factory farms and the use of potentially harmful antibiotics and hormones. Factory farms vastly outnumber the number of family-run farms and are more likely to cause pollution, and less likely to consider the welfare of animals.

But cultured meat, and other meat replacements, could revolutionize our impact on the environment and animals. Raising livestock also takes up a lot of land. One study found that livestock animals and pets make up 60 percent of the biomass on Earth. What does "biomass" mean? (The total weight of all living things on the planet.) From the graph, what makes up the other mammal biomass on Earth? (Humans make up 36 percent, while all other wild animals, from mice to whales, make up only four percent.) The same is true for birds. Poultry, which includes chickens and turkeys, accounts for three times as much biomass as wild birds. Humans and livestock have a disproportionate effect on planet Earth, and while human and livestock biomass has increased, the number of wild animals and fish has decreased.

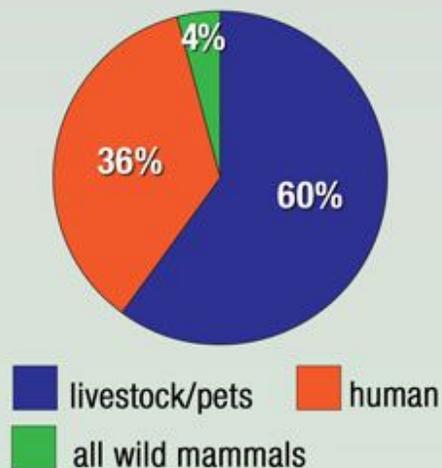
More than 70 billion land animals are killed for food every year.

Animals killed for food each year worldwide:

- 66 billion chickens
- 1.5 billion pigs
- 550 million sheep
- 300 million cows



Biomass of mammals on Earth

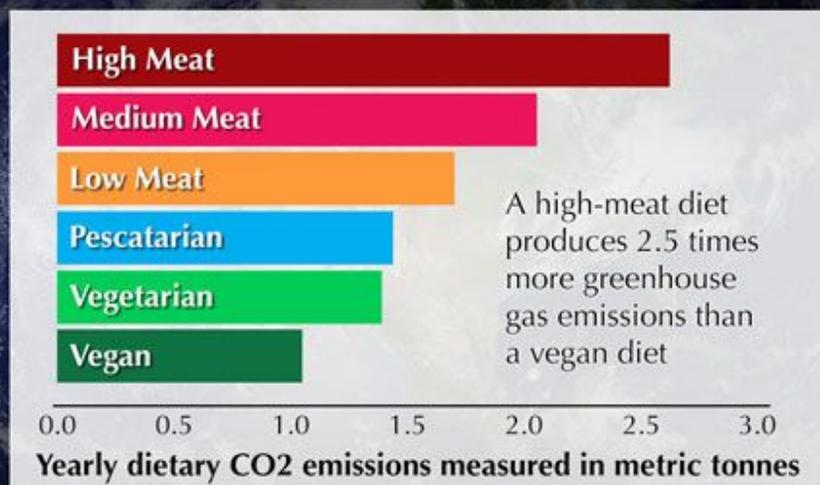


The widespread adoption of cultured meat could not only benefit livestock animals, it could also help protect the environment. For years, scientists have warned about the harmful impacts of the world's meat production. Recent studies have also confirmed that lowering meat

consumption is one of the easiest ways an individual can help improve the planet's health. Raising animals for meat and dairy takes up nearly half of all land on our planet. It also uses a massive amount of water. Most importantly, the global meat industry is one of the major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions, accounting for nearly 14.5 percent of all greenhouse gases.

Today, experts say that to help decrease the effects of climate change, beef consumption needs to fall by 90 percent and be replaced by five times more beans and legumes. Here, you see a chart that illustrates the environmental impact of various diets. Which diet has the largest environmental impact? (High meat.) Which has the lowest? (Vegan.) Which one best describes your diet? Experts say that a high meat diet produces 2.5 times more greenhouse gases than a vegan diet. Both pescatarian and vegetarian diets also have a much lower environmental impact. The quote here says we need to change our diets to have a sustainable future.

Experts say reducing meat consumption is essential to stopping climate change



"We need to change our diets if we are to have a sustainable future. The fact that it will also make us healthier makes it a no-brainer."

—Professor Peter Smith at the University of Aberdeen

Amanda Gorman's Poetic Vision

A star was born at President Joe Biden's inauguration ceremony. When 22-year-old Amanda Gorman stepped to the microphone and read her new poem, "The Hill We Climb," the audience of people who were there, as well as the millions watching on TV, were astounded. Did you see her performance? What did you think of it?

Joe Biden, who has talked about his love of poetry, is just the fourth president to have a poet read at his inauguration. The others were Barack Obama, Bill Clinton, and John Kennedy. The famous American poet Robert Frost read at Kennedy's inauguration, and Maya Angelou read at Clinton's inauguration. But Amanda Gorman is the youngest poet to have this honor. First Lady Jill Biden had seen Gorman read her poetry at the Library of Congress, and recommended her to the inaugural committee. Gorman worked on "The Hill We Climb" for weeks before the inauguration, but says she was stuck for a while on its final form. The poem finally came together when she learned about the riot at the U.S. Capitol. She changed parts of the poem to reflect this shocking event in U.S. history, while still remaining optimistic about our country. What is she saying in the closing lines from "The Hill We Climb," shown here?

What is the significance of the poem's title, in your opinion? Gorman had a special reason to work hard on this poem: she has dreamed of being president since she was in the sixth grade. She once said that she plans to run in, and win, the 2036 presidential election.

Amanda Gorman's poetic vision



Photo: Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff



Photo: Library of Congress

"When day comes we step out of
the shade,
afame and unafraid
The new dawn blooms as we free it
For there is always light,
if only we're brave enough to see it
If only we're brave enough to be it."

— From "The Hill We Climb"

Amanda Gorman was born and raised in Los Angeles. She describes herself as having been a “weird child.” While other children were playing at recess, she just wanted to write in her notebook. Her mother, Dr. Joan Weeks, was a major inspiration for this; she raised three children by herself while working full-time as a junior high school English teacher. How do you think this background taught her the value and importance of words?

Gorman continued to write poetry, but she wasn’t always comfortable reading them out loud, due to a slight speech impediment pronouncing the sound of the letter “r.” But this did not stop her from becoming the youth poet laureate of Los Angeles as a teenager, or from getting into Harvard University. During her time there, she worked on her impediment by reciting lyrics from “Aaron Burr, Sir,” a song from the musical “Hamilton.” With renewed confidence, she was selected to be the first ever National Youth Poet Laureate in 2017.

“The Hill We Climb” has made Gorman into a worldwide celebrity. It is the title poem from her upcoming collection of poetry, which zoomed to the top of the Amazon bestseller list following the inauguration. The lines here are from another poem that is included in this collection. What do they mean to you? Another yet-to-be-published work, the children’s picture book “Change Sings,” is also a bestseller. Gorman’s poetry focuses on themes of race, feminism, social justice, and marginalization.

Gorman as LA youth poet laureate, 2015

Presidential Inaugural Poet
AMANDA GORMAN
THE HILL WE CLIMB
Poems

CHANGE Sings
A Children's Anthem
Illustrated by Loren Long
Written by Amanda Gorman
Inspired by the words of the Presidential Inauguration

Reading at the Library of Congress, 2017

“There’s a poem in this place—
a poem in America
a poet in every American
who rewrites this nation, who tells
a story worthy of being told...”
—“*In This Place (American Lyric)*,”
Amanda Gorman

Nez Perce Reclaim some of their Ancestral Land

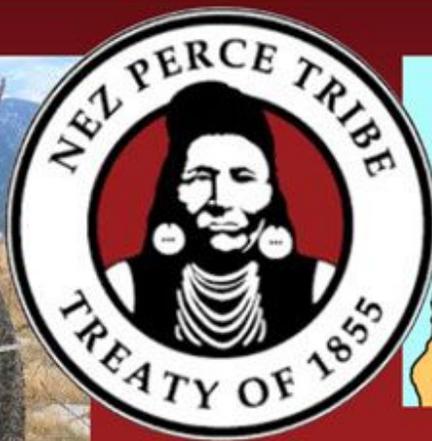
The Nez Perce — nehz purse — was once the dominant Native American tribe in the Pacific Northwest. The dark blue circle on the map shows their original tribal area, which covered parts of four states. Over time, however, most of the Nez Perce's land was taken from them through theft and broken government treaties. Today, the tribe has a small reservation in Idaho, but it only owns a small part of the reservation land and white non-Indians make up 90 percent of the reservation's population.

Recently, however, the Nez Perce bought 148 acres of their ancestral land near Joseph, Oregon. The tribe calls this area Am'sáaxpa — ahm-saah-shpa —, meaning “the Place of Boulders.” This area was very important to Nez Perce, who used it to fish for salmon in the Wallowa River, as well as a place to gather for meetings. Chief Joseph, the most famous tribal leader, addressed the Nez Perce in the area shown in this picture of current Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee Director Shannon Wheeler.

The Nez Perce are not alone in reclaiming some of their former land. The Klamath tribe recently doubled the size of their area by buying more than 1,700 acres, also in the state of Oregon. Minnesota's government recently returned more than 11,000 acres to the Leech Lake Ojibwe. In California last year, the Esselen people re-purchased land they lost to the Spanish 250 years ago.

Nez Perce reclaim some of their ancestral land

Photo courtesy of the Nez Perce Tribe



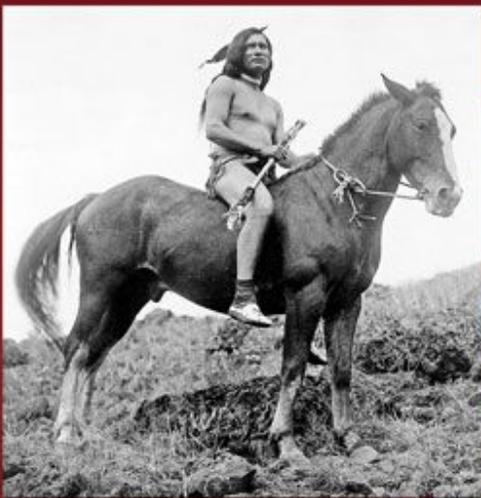
“First and foremost is the healing that will take place for the Nez Perce people... We have promises that we've made to the land and we look to uphold those.”

— Shannon Wheeler, Tribal Executive Director

According to anthropologists, the Nez Perce tribe has inhabited the Columbia Basin territory for at least 11,500 years. The tribe, which called itself Niimípuu — nee-mee-poooh —, or “The People,” was semi-nomadic, spending most of each year traveling to temporary camps to fish, hunt, gather roots and berries, and trade goods with other tribes. After the introduction of horses in the 1700s, the Nez Perce became expert riders, greatly extending their trading and hunting territory. Although the Niimípuu never pierced their noses, French traders conflated them with other western tribes that did, calling them “Nez Perce,” which translates to “pierced nose.”

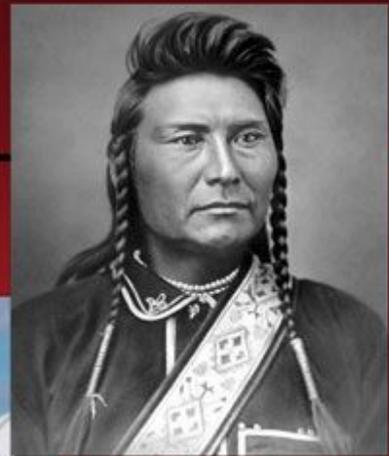
In 1855, a treaty with the U.S. government assured that the Nez Perce could keep 7.5 million acres for themselves — about half their original territory. But thousands of white settlers illegally took over Nez Perce territory, and the government did nothing to protect the tribe. Some years later, the U.S. set up a new, smaller reservation for the Nez Perce. But many, including a band led by the great Chief Joseph, refused. In 1877, the U.S. Army launched a war against the greatly outnumbered Nez Perce. The last group, led by Chief Joseph, was caught about 40 miles from the Canadian border and forced back to the new reservation. Is there some justice for the Nez Perce in reclaiming some of their land today? Like all Native American groups, the Nez Perce want to keep their history and traditions alive.

The Nez Perce call themselves Niimípuu, or “The People.”



Nez Perce warrior, 1907

Photo: Edward S. Curtis



Chief Joseph, 1877



Champion Niimípuu dancer in 2019

Photo: Nez Perce Tourism

New Population of Blue Whales Discovered in Indian Ocean

Does anyone know what makes blue whales unique? These amazing animals are the largest creatures to ever live on Earth. Fully grown, blue whales can reach lengths of 98 feet and can weigh between 110,000 and 330,000 pounds. Like other whales, blue whales communicate with one another using low frequency calls sometimes referred to as “whale songs.” The songs of blue whales are some of the loudest and lowest frequency sounds made by any animals, and they can travel over 600 miles underwater. While scientists aren’t sure exactly what purpose these whale songs serve, they believe the sounds likely play a role in social dynamics and mating. Do you think they are a form of language that humans just don’t understand?

Recently, a group of scientists discovered a previously unknown blue whale population while recording whale songs in the Indian Ocean near Madagascar. Each blue whale group has its own unique songs. Scientists were able to use the newly recorded whale songs to confirm the population in the Indian Ocean had never been seen before. Scientists believe the discovery is a good sign. In the first half of the 20th century, blue whale populations were nearly hunted to extinction for the oil found in their blubber. Nearly 300,000 blue whales were killed in the Southern Hemisphere during this period. In 1966, protections were put into place to stop this slaughter. Today, their numbers are slowly rising, but the species is still considered endangered.

New population of blue whales discovered in Indian Ocean



“With all that work on blue whale songs, to think there was a population out there that no one knew about until 2017, well, it kind of blows your mind.”

— Salvatore Cerchio, author of new blue whale study

Whales belong to an order of mammals called cetaceans — seh-TAY-shunz — that also includes dolphins and porpoises. These animals have a blowhole, which acts like a modified nostril, on the top of their heads. These blowholes allow whales to breathe air when they come to the surface. Whales are known for their physical size. The humpback whale shown breaching here probably weighs 66,000 pounds. Yet these mammals are exceptionally graceful swimmers. Whales also have extremely large brains, with cerebrums that are large and complex. The cerebrum controls the “higher” kinds of thinking, such as reasoning and imagination.

Scientists believe whales are highly intelligent. Some think they may be as smart or smarter than humans. Several kinds of whales use sounds in complex patterns. Some scientists think these sounds make up a language that we may someday learn and use to communicate with them. Do you think this will ever happen? Whales are also very social. They often play with each other, and they take care of any injured members of their extended families. Mother whales keep a close watch over their calves for the first two years. Many species live sixty years or more. Bowhead whales have the longest life spans. On average, they live 200 years in the wild, if left undisturbed by humans. While there has been an international moratorium on whale hunting since 1982, a few countries like Norway and Japan continue to kill whales.

Whales:

- Are mammals that must surface to breathe air
- Have the largest brains of any animal
- Communicate with songs, whistles, and clicks
- Live for many years



Photo: WWF

Bowhead whale



Photo: NOAA

Humpback whale breaching



Sperm whale mother with her calf

Country of the Week: Syria

Syria is a Middle Eastern country that borders Turkey, Iraq, Jordan, Israel, and Lebanon. Around 17 million people live in Syria. Syria also borders a major body of water, The Mediterranean Sea. The coastal region on the western side has some mountains and is generally temperate and warm. The eastern part of Syria is dominated by the Syrian Desert, a large, arid ecosystem that takes up about 55 percent of the country's total area. The Syrian Desert is one of the driest places in the world and gets almost no rain. Several rivers do flow through Syria, however, including the Euphrates. The Euphrates is the main water source for the Syrian population, and it has been heavily used for irrigation by the country's agricultural industry.

Damascus is the capital and, as of the early 2010s, the largest city in Syria. Before this, Aleppo had been the country's largest city for thousands of years. About 1.8 million people live in Aleppo today, a drop from around 2.3 million in 2005. This drop was caused by the Syrian Civil War, which has been going on since 2011 and struck Aleppo very hard.

Aleppo is one of the oldest cities in the world, founded around the year 5000 BCE. Until the war, Aleppo was Syria's major economic hub. The Syrian economy used to be heavily dependent on oil exports, but those have dropped significantly due to the war. Today, the economy is based more on exports of fruits and cash crops like cotton. Bashar al-Assad is the president of Syria. Assad has been president since 2000.

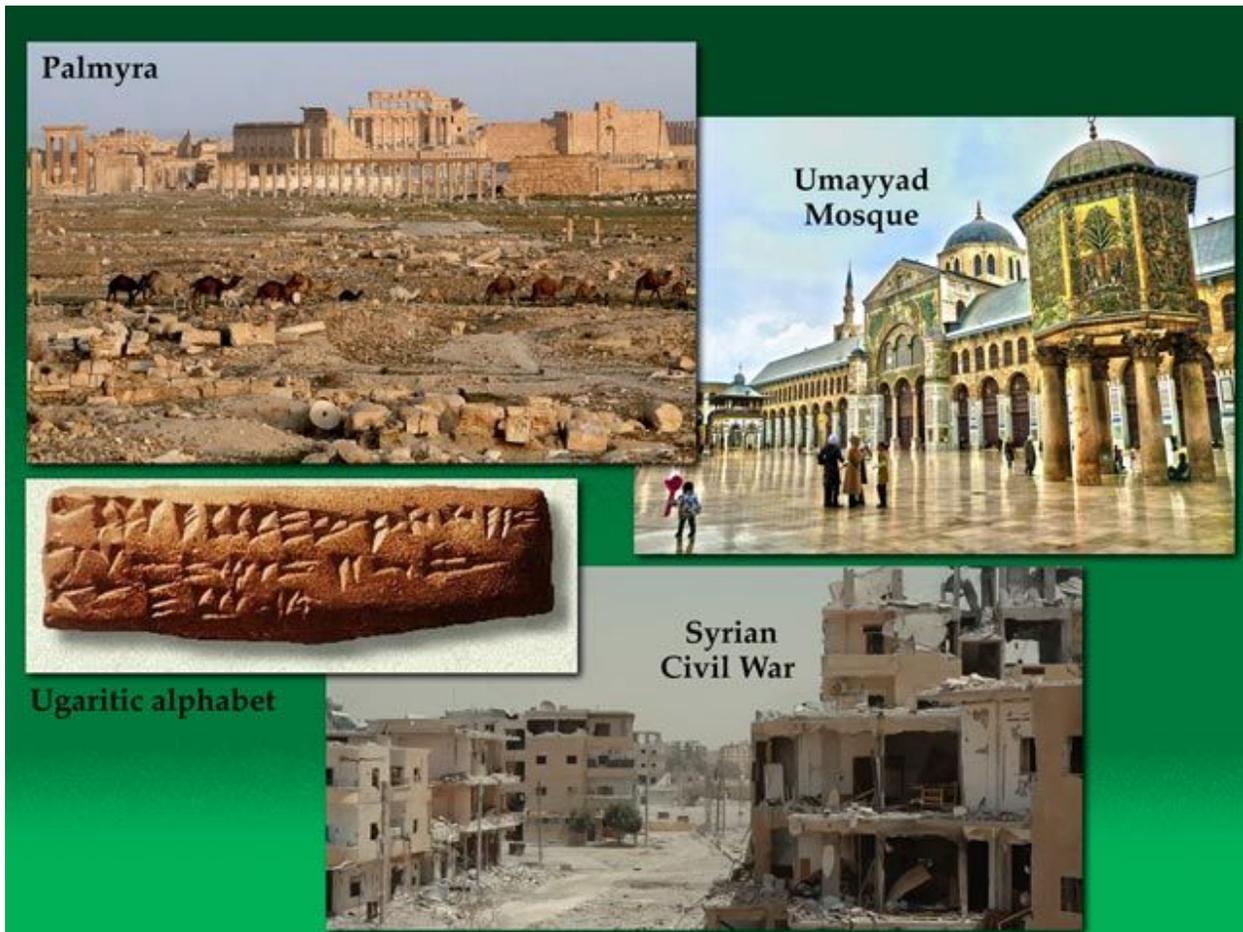


People have lived in Syria for more than 12,000 years, making its history and culture among the oldest of any country on Earth. The Ugaritic Alphabet was developed in Syria about 3500 years ago. The Ugaritic Alphabet is a type of cuneiform. An ancient Middle Eastern script characterized by wedge-shaped marks that were pressed into slabs of clay. It is among the oldest alphabets ever invented. These ancient populations also created cities in Syria, the most famous of which is Palmyra.

Palmyra was badly damaged by ISIS soldiers in 2015, but since the Syrian government regained control over this historic city there have been efforts to restore it. Palmyra was one of the largest and wealthiest cities in the ancient world, and it was an important spot on the Silk Road. What is the Silk Road? (A historic trading route that stretched from Europe to China.)

About 87 percent of Syria's population is Muslim, while 10 percent is Christian and the other 3 percent is Druze. Many large mosques stand in Syria, including the Umayyad Mosque, which is one of the oldest in the world. The Umayyad Mosque was completed in the year 715 CE, and is considered a holy site in Islam because members of the Prophet Muhammad's family once lived and were imprisoned there.

The Syrian Civil War has been going on continuously since 2011. This war has claimed about 570,000 lives and forced more than 7.6 million Syrians to flee the country. It is considered one of the worst ongoing humanitarian crises in the world today.



This Week in History

In the early 1800s, slavery was still legal in many places in the U.S. But there were also many Black Americans who were not enslaved. Some had been able to buy their freedom, and others were freed when slavery was declared illegal in their state. These people were called freedmen and freedwomen. In addition, a growing number of Black Americans had never been enslaved at all, because they were born into freedom. In all, about 15 percent of Black Americans were considered “free” by the year 1820. Of course, that still meant that 85 percent were not free. What do you think life was like for Black Americans during this time?

Some Americans felt that Black people would be a very important part of the new nation. Others, however, believed that the white population was too racist, and that this would keep Black people from prospering in the U.S. Still others, such as slave owners, did not want free Black people in the U.S. at all. Why? (They thought the example of free Blacks would make it harder to continue the practice of slavery; they were also afraid that free Black people would encourage enslaved people to rebel.)

In 1816, a group called the American Colonization Society was formed with the idea of finding a new place for African Americans to live. One of the first members was Francis Scott Key, an attorney in Washington, D.C. For what is Francis Scott Key known? (He wrote the “The Star-Spangled Banner.”) Another early member was Henry Clay, an important politician from Kentucky who was a slave owner. Other groups supported the ACS for different reasons. For example, groups like the Quakers supported the abolition of slavery. And they believed Black people had a better chance for a good life in Africa.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY Feb. 6, 1820:
The *Elizabeth* leaves for Liberia

This certifies that
is a MEMBER for life of the
AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

Joseph Jenkins Roberts,
first president of Liberia

Mauritania
Senegal
Mali
The Gambia
Guinea
Guinea Bissau
Sierra Leone
Ivory Coast
Liberia
Atlantic Ocean

On the left in the image, you can see a membership certificate from the American Colonization Society. Society members started to spread the word that they would help Black people move to Africa and build a new country there. Some Black Americans were very much against this plan. They felt they had a right to stay in the U.S. After all, they had worked hard to build the country, and thought they should be considered equal citizens. Others, however, were tired of the racism they faced. Dozens of them signed up to move to Africa, hoping to start fresh there.

On February 6, 1820, the ship shown above at top right, finally set sail for Africa with 86 Black Americans and three members of the American Colonization Society on board. This ship was officially called Elizabeth, but some newspapers nicknamed it “The Mayflower of Africa.” What was the Mayflower? (The ship that brought the Puritans to the “New World.”)

Unfortunately, the journey did not go well. Many people on board the Elizabeth got sick from insect bites, and about one-third of them died during the voyage. The ship could not find a safe place to land along the West African coast, so the settlers ended up on an island off the coast of Sierra Leone where many more got sick. In addition, the local African people did not welcome the newcomers, as they were not exactly happy to give up their territory to foreigners.

Do you understand why the local Africans would feel threatened? Although the first attempt to settle an American colony in Africa was a disaster, the American Colonization Society kept trying. After several voyages — and, according to some, the threat of violence against native Africans — they were finally able to establish a colony in 1822.

This colony officially became known as Liberia in 1824. Its capital was called Monrovia, after the U.S. president of the time, James Monroe. Over the next few decades, tens of thousands of African Americans decided to make the dangerous trip to Liberia, as well as other places in Africa. Despite its early struggles, Liberia grew and prospered. In 1841, the colony got its first Black governor, Joseph Jenkins Roberts. Six years later, Liberia became an independent nation, with Roberts as its first president.

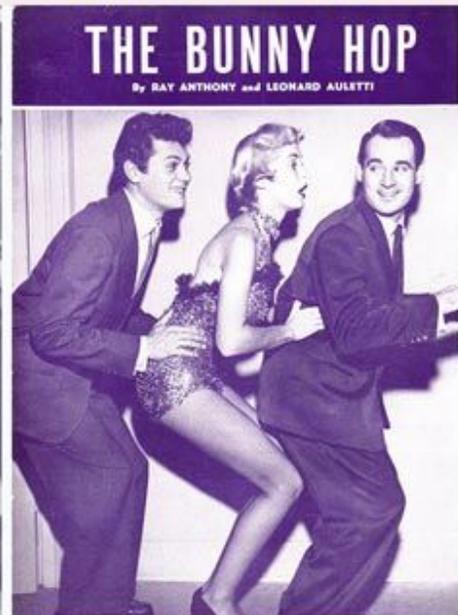
Remember When...

Every generation comes up with new dances to worry older people. Young Viennese in the 1780s shocked polite society with a scandalous new dance called the waltz. Why do you think the waltz was shocking? (The partners held each other closely.) In the 1920s, the Charleston took society by storm. Did you ever dance the Charleston?

In the 1950s, there seemed to be a new dance craze every month. This week, we'll remember some of the dances that swept the country during that decade. Big band music had become hugely popular in the 1930s and 1940s. The early 1950s began with many dances held over from that time, such as the Lindy Hop, the jitterbug, and the many varieties called "swing" dancing. Young African Americans in urban areas had first developed many of these steps. They then spread quickly to the rest of the population.

At the very beginning of the decade, however, a brand-new dance from Cuba swept the world. Do you know what this dance was? (The mambo.) The mambo was exotic and familiar at the same time. It was one of many Latin dance styles that have conquered the U.S. since then. Can you name any others? (The chacha, the samba, and the bossa nova, as well as salsa, which was later developed by Hispanic Americans in New York City.)

Remember When . . .



Dance crazes of the 1950s!

Teenagers also made up their own dances. One of the most popular started at San Francisco's Balboa High School in 1952. Students would form a conga line and do a simple

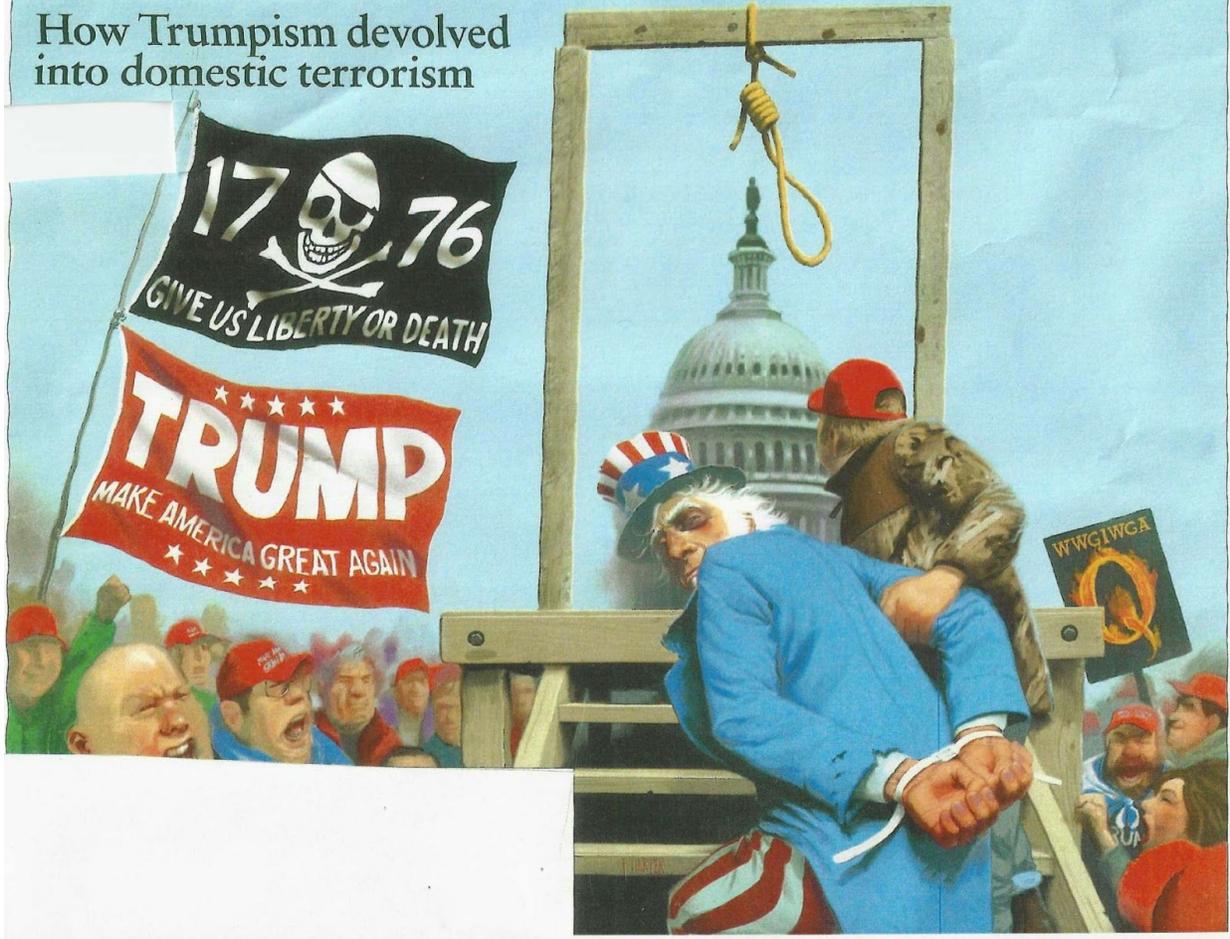
dance with back-and forth steps and a “hop hop hop” ending. When bandleader Ray Anthony heard about it, he knew that this could be a huge opportunity. He immediately wrote and recorded a record called “The Bunny-Hop.” Do you remember doing the Bunny-Hop? This craze spread across the country. Do you recognize the celebrities in the sheet-music picture here? (Tony Curtis, Janet Leigh, and Ray Anthony himself.) For this dance, you did not need any special ability or agility — you just needed to know when to step and when to hop. The Bunny-Hop is still around today, as you might learn the next time you attend a wedding or a bar mitzvah!

But as the 1950s rolled on, music changed. Suddenly, everything was rock and roll, and the dance crazes quickly followed. Most of the original dances were variations on swing styles. But young people soon came up with creative new ways to move. Some preferred line dances such as the Madison, or the Hully Gully, which required dancers to execute a series of steps in unison with everyone else. The Hully Gully was harder, because the steps got faster and faster as the song progressed! Others favored the Fish. Do you remember what the Fish was? (A slow dance with both partners holding each other close.) What kind of dancing did you like? Why?

And many people have fond memories of the dance shown here at left. For the Stroll, teens would form two lines, facing each other. One by one, couples would dance down the middle — each in their own way. This combination of structure and personal style was a great way for groups of young people to interact. The creativity of the Stroll also helped lead to the dance crazes that were coming in the 1960s, such as the Twist, the Mashed Potato, the Watusi, and many more.

Insurrection

How Trumpism devolved into domestic terrorism



Meet in the middle?

Why Biden's call for 'unity' may go nowhere



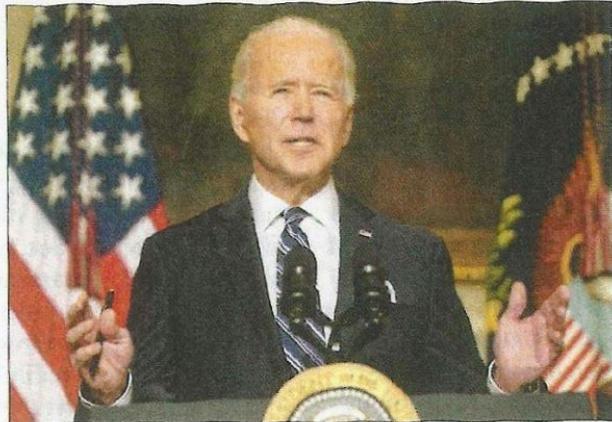
A bipartisan battle over ‘unity’

What happened

President Joe Biden’s aggressive pursuit of a progressive agenda sparked growing opposition from Republicans this week, as both conservatives and liberals accused each other of souring any chance for “unity.” Biden came out swinging with an unprecedented flurry of executive orders and actions, signing more than three dozen in his first seven days. Many were aimed at overturning Donald Trump’s policies on the environment and immigration, including orders that ceased border wall construction, rejoined the Paris climate accord, and revoked the Keystone XL pipeline permit. Others focused on social justice and delivering aid to the needy, including measures to expand food assistance and extend legal protections for transgender people. Biden’s ambitious agenda—including a proposed immigration bill that would offer millions of undocumented residents a pathway to legal status and citizenship—drew fire from Republicans, who said its sharp progressive bent belied the president’s plea for bipartisan unity. “He may use the language, the rhetoric, even the demeanor of a centrist,” said Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), “but so far his policies don’t seem to represent that.”

Republican opposition hardened against Biden’s \$1.9 trillion coronavirus rescue/stimulus plan, which the president has cast as crucial aid for suffering Americans and an economy hammered by the pandemic. Many GOP lawmakers called the bill too big. They targeted a provision to send \$1,400 stimulus checks to most Americans, which Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell said would “direct huge sums” toward many people who are still working.

Biden expressed willingness to negotiate, including on the stimulus checks. But he faced pressure from some Democrats to push the bill through the 50-50 Senate without Republican support, even if it means using a process called budget reconciliation. “It’s important that Democrats deliver for America,” said Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts. “If Republicans want to cut back to the point that we’re not delivering what needs to be done, then we need to be prepared to fight them.”



Biden: A flurry of dozens of executive orders

The GOP: Facing a post-Trump schism

The Capitol riot “will go down as the day that broke the Republican Party as we know it,” said Burgess Everett in *Politico.com*. After rampaging Trump supporters sent frightened legislators into hiding, the GOP faced its “ultimate reckoning with Trumpism.” Confronted with the damage wrought by Trump’s anti-democratic authoritarianism—and the loss of the presidency, the House, and now the Senate—“the party must decide whether to continue embracing the ousted president or finally move on.” How this “war for the soul” of the GOP will resolve is “the central question now hovering over America’s political landscape,” said Michael Scherer in *The Washington Post*. At stake is whether the GOP will become “an extension of QAnon” or “can emerge from the Trump era as a potential governing coalition built around ideas and some shared agreement on facts.”

Every Republican appalled by “Trump’s attempted coup” must face a harsh reality, said Jonathan Last in *The Bulwark.com*: Many of their colleagues cheered it on. Despite no evidence of significant fraud, about half the GOP’s congressional delegation voted to overturn the presidential election—“even after the sacking of the U.S.



A QAnon supporter at the rally last week

Capitol.” A large faction of the party is “literally in favor of authoritarianism.” The old GOP “is gone forever,” said John Daniel Davidson in *TheFederalist.com*. Trump’s 2016 win marked a profound shift in the Republican electorate—a populist uprising by rank-and-file voters “fed up with an entrenched establishment beholden to a donor class” that paid only “lip service” to their priorities: safe borders, protecting workers from globalization, an end to foreign wars. By channeling their frustrations, Trump “offered the party new life and a new direction,” and that populist genie is not going back into the bottle.

The GOP “could really collapse,” said Ross Douthat in *The New York Times*. The “implicit bargain of the Trump era” required traditional Republicans to swallow a measure of insanity in exchange for a hold on power. But an increasingly unhinged GOP dominated by fantasies of a Trump revival in some form “could become genuinely untenable” for moderate suburbanites, corporate executives, and center-right Republicans like Sen. Mitt Romney, and force them to “jump ship.” Many a prediction of “the crack-up of American conservatism” has come to naught. “But breaking points do come.”

Trump: Should he be criminally prosecuted?

President Trump “should be criminally investigated” for inciting the Capitol riot, said Randall Eliason in *The Washington Post*. For weeks, he “whipped up” his far-right supporters with unfounded conspiracy theories about election fraud, then summoned them to Washington for his “Save America” rally, promising that it “will be wild.” At the rally, he urged thousands to march on the Capitol, telling them to show “strength” and “fight like hell” to keep Democrats from “fraudulently taking over our country.” This behavior “seems to fall comfortably” within the legal definition of several crimes, including “rebellion and insurrection,” “seditious conspiracy,” and “incitement of a riot.” Let’s also not forget his earlier phone call with Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, said Ian Millhiser in *Vox.com*. A recording of the call shows that Trump pressured the election official “to find 11,780 votes,” or the exact number he’d need to win the state. He openly threatened Raffensperger, saying he could be charged with a crime if he didn’t support Trump’s bogus claims of fraud. These actions may have violated several state and federal laws.

never reached it, said Jeffrey Scott Shapiro in *The Wall Street Journal*. He never called for violence in his speech—indeed, while urging his supporters to “fight harder,” he told them to march on the Capitol to, as he put it, “peacefully and patriotically make your voices heard.” In *Brandenburg v. Ohio*, the Supreme Court ruled that speech that advocates illegal conduct is protected unless it threatens to incite “imminent lawless action.” When the president spoke, “there was no ‘public disturbance,’ only a rally.”

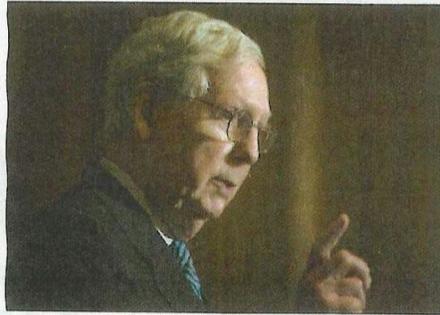
Still, with Trump facing so many potential criminal charges after he leaves office, “a self-pardon may prove tempting,” said David Yaffe-Bellany in *Bloomberg.com*. But a self-pardon has “weak legal foundations” that fly in the face of the Founders’ intention to curb any public official’s “absolute power.” In fact, a self-pardon might “increase the chances” that Trump is prosecuted, said Benjamin Wittes in *TheAtlantic.com*. It would represent “a taunt” to the Justice Department, which would have to bring a case against him to challenge the absurd notion that every president can break laws with impunity, and then issue himself a “get-out-

The filibuster: A tool of restraint or obstruction?

Democrats “won’t be blowing up the legislative filibuster any time soon,” said Li Zhou in *Vox.com*. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell this week backed off his threat to halt almost all Senate business until Democrats promised in writing not to abolish the filibuster, when two moderate Democratic senators—Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) and

Kyrsten Sinema (D-Ariz.)—publicly restated that they would not lend their votes to repealing it. Though McConnell didn’t get the formal pledge he wanted from Democrats, his “approach still worked, in a way.” An intact filibuster means there will still be a 60-vote threshold for most bills to pass, requiring Democrats to get 10 GOP votes.

If the GOP uses the filibuster to engage in the same kind of relentless obstruction it did during the Obama presidency, said Eric Levitz in *NYMag.com*, the Democrats should “press the big red button” and repeal it. Otherwise, McConnell can block everything voters elected Biden and a Democratic Congress to do, including Covid relief, climate change legislation, and a federal \$15 minimum wage. Manchin and Sinema might be persuaded to change their minds if GOP filibusters again lead to gridlock. The framers did not intend the Senate to have a 60-vote threshold, said



McConnell: Still can block legislation

Adam Jentleson in *The New York Times*. The filibuster isn’t in the Constitution, and it didn’t become an oft-used weapon until the Jim Crow era, when Southern senators used it to stop civil rights legislation. Today it’s used as “a weapon of mass obstruction” on almost every bill before the Senate. In the 1969-70 Congress, the filibuster was

used just six times; in 2019-20, it was used 298 times, or nearly once a day.

Both parties like to “complain about the filibuster when they control the majority,” said Susan Ferrechio in *WashingtonExaminer.com*. When Democrats were in the minority in the Senate, they insisted in a letter that “this long-standing rule should not be broken.” Now they’re “at risk of repeating a costly mistake,” said *The Wall Street Journal* in an editorial. In 2013, then-Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid “broke the filibuster for judicial nominations.” He pushed through some federal appellate appointments, but at the incredibly high price of enabling McConnell to later ram through three conservative Supreme Court justices in four years. If Democrats eliminate the filibuster now, they will bitterly regret it when Republicans regain power and pass sweeping conservative legislation with 51 votes.

Russia: Navalny leads from behind bars

In a matter of days, Alexei Navalny has turned Russia “into a different country,” said Leonid Gozman in *Novaya Gazeta*. The opposition leader was arrested at a Moscow airport last week after flying in from Germany, where he had spent five months recovering following his poisoning by suspected Kremlin agents. Rather than lying low and trying to appease the authorities, Navalny had his team release a video detailing a sprawling Black Sea palace allegedly owned by President Vladimir Putin. The feature-length investigation, which notched 86 million views in five days, accuses the president’s oligarch allies of funding the \$1.3 billion complex through a corruption scheme; Putin denies any connection to the property. Outraged by Navalny’s arrest, hundreds of thousands of Russians joined mass protests across the country. At least 3,450 people were arrested in some 90 cities and towns, including freezing Siberian villages where protesters gathered in minus 10 degree temperatures and hurled snowballs at the police. With his brave defiance and ability to rally crowds from behind bars, Navalny has “finally become a figure equal in size to the Kremlin and a real contender for the presidency.”

“The Kremlin’s hard-edged treatment of Navalny has backfired spectacularly,” said Alexander Baunov in *The Moscow Times*. Putin and his cronies tried to dispatch their nemesis in the most egregious and obvious way—with a Soviet-era nerve agent—but by surviving the poisoning, Navalny “has become something of a mythical hero, resurrected and given a second chance.” And he has chosen “not to live out his days peacefully abroad, but to



Police crack down on protesters in Moscow.

conquer evil, defy death, and defeat his enemies.” His arrest last week for violating the parole terms of a bogus, politically motivated fraud conviction has only further elevated Navalny, making him “the world’s most famous political prisoner.” To justify persecuting this gallant figure, the Kremlin is now promoting the “preposterous allegation” that Navalny, a noted nationalist, is a foreign intelligence agent.

Is he an agent? asked Mikhail Rostovsky in *Moskovsky Komsomol*.

Probably not exactly, but it is no secret that he was closely guarded by Western intelligence services while in Germany. The fact that German Chancellor Angela Merkel visited him in the hospital also suggests he has forged “a close alliance with the West.” Still, Western protection means nothing inside Russia. The U.S. and Europe may clamor for Navalny’s release, but—as they discovered with their demand that Crimea be returned to Ukraine—“Western ultimatums bounce off Putin likes peas off a wall.”

In fact, it’s the Kremlin elite who have foreign ties, said Maxim Trudolyubov in *Meduza.io*. Through his wildly popular video investigations, Navalny has shown this country “the magical changes that can happen to Russian officials” when they travel overseas. A drab lawmaker or prosecutor can suddenly morph into a “suave European, an investor in hotels and mansions, whose assets are protected by British, French, or Spanish law.” Navalny, meanwhile, remains a man of the people—and that makes him extremely dangerous.

School names to be changed

Balboa High School, Spanish explorer **Vasco Nunez de Balboa**

Abraham Lincoln High School, U.S. president

Mission High School, Mission Dolores

George Washington High School, first U.S. president

Lowell High School, poet/critic **James R. Lowell**

James Denman Middle School, founder of first S.F. school

Everett Middle School, **Edward Everett**, American statesman

Herbert Hoover Middle School, U.S. president

James Lick Middle School, land baron

Presidio Middle School, S.F. military post

Roosevelt Middle School, Theodore or F.D., both U.S. presidents

Lawton K-8, U.S. Army officer **Henry Ware Lawton**

Claire Lilienthal (two sites), S.F. school board member

Paul Revere K-8, American Revolution patriot

Alamo Elementary, a poplar tree or the site of Texas Revolution battle

Alvarado Elementary, **Pedro de Alvarado**, conquistador

Bryant Elementary, author **Edwin Bryant**

Clarendon Elementary Second Community and Japanese Bilingual Bicultural Program, **Edward Hyde, Earl of Clarendon**, English politician

El Dorado Elementary, mythical City of Gold

Dianne Feinstein Elementary, U.S. senator and former S.F. mayor

Garfield Elementary, **James Garfield**, U.S. president

Grattan Elementary, **William Henry Grattan**, Irish author

Jefferson Elementary, **Thomas Jefferson**, U.S. president

Francis Scott Key Elementary, composer of "Star Spangled Banner"

Frank McCoppin Elementary, S.F. mayor

McKinley Elementary, **William McKinley**, U.S. president

Marshall Elementary, **James Wilson Marshall**, sawmill worker at Sutter's Mill

Monroe Elementary, **James Monroe**, U.S. president

John Muir Elementary, naturalist

Jose Ortega Elementary, Spanish colonizer

Sanchez Elementary, **Jose Bernardo Sanchez**, Spanish missionary

Junipero Serra Elementary, Spanish priest

Sheridan Elementary, **Gen. Philip Sheridan**

Sherman Elementary, **Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman**

Commodore Sloat Elementary, **John Sloat**, Navy officer

Robert Louis Stevenson Elementary, author

Sutro Elementary, **Adolph Sutro**, S.F. mayor

Ulloa Elementary, **Don Antonio de Ulloa**, Spanish general

Daniel Webster Elementary, U.S. statesman

Noriega Early Education School, unclear

Presidio EES, S.F. military post

Stockton EES, **Robert F. Stockton**, Navy commodore

Why rename schools? What's next?

By Jill Tucker

The San Francisco Board of Education voted Tuesday to rename 44 school sites, a controversial decision that will strip the names of presidents, politicians, colonizers and locations connected to oppression off facades, sports fields and student sweatshirts. Here's a look at the process so far and what's ahead.

Why did the school board rename schools?

The school board voted in 2018 to create a task force to study the names of district schools, some of which were named after slaveholders and racists. The board didn't move forward on the plan until early 2020. Over the course of last year, the task force met several times and ultimately recommended renaming the 44 school

sites — a third of the district's schools, including George Washington and Abraham Lincoln high schools.

What was the renaming criteria?

Schools named after anyone connected with colonizing or slave owners; perpetrators of genocide or slavery; those involved in exploitation; abusers of women, children or the LGBT community; human rights or environment abusers; and racists, white supremacists or those who espoused racist beliefs. Even one example in a person's life was enough to qualify for renaming rather than taking their life as a whole. The 12-member committee came to a consensus on each name.

What happens now?

The families and staff of the 44 school communities will

have until mid-April to come up with a new suggested name. Their recommendations will go to the renaming committee, which will review them and then make a formal recommendation to the school board. The board will then vote on the new names in late April or early May. Suggested names include Barack and Michelle Obama, poets, civil rights icons, geographic locations, plants, animals or a numbers-only system. It will likely take months or more than a year to implement the name changes, including new signage.

How much will this cost?

The district has not done an in-depth cost analysis. Based on other school name changes across the country, it will likely cost at least \$1 million and possibly several million dollars to change signs, buy new band or

other uniforms, remove references to the old name (including a large statue of Lincoln), repaint gym floors and more.

Why did supporters call for the renaming?

School board members and other supporters argue the renaming is timely and important, given the country's reckoning with a racist past. Supporters say it can be traumatic to students to attend schools named after slaveholders, racists and others with a history of hurting people of color. School board members argue the district is capable of pursuing multiple priorities at the same time.

Why did opponents resist the renaming?

Some opponents of the renaming said they supported the idea but thought the timing was wrong since the district's 52,000 students have been in distance learning since March with no plans to return to class-

rooms. Some said the process was flawed and didn't include enough input from families and individual schools and didn't include historians. Others said spending money on renaming should not be a high priority when the district faces a budget deficit estimated at \$75 million.

Why include Abraham Lincoln?

The committee included Lincoln because of the Civil War president's treatment of American Indians, which included a mass hanging after an uprising. While Lincoln commuted the death sentences of 265 indigenous men, 32 were hanged. The committee said this met the criteria, and that his life taken on whole was not relevant.

Biden's big challenge

How the 46th president will try to clean up his predecessor's mess



Trump: The worst president ever?

“We will be back in some form. Have a good life.” With that “melancholy farewell,” delivered to a modest group of supporters, President Donald J. Trump this week turned and boarded Air Force One for the final time, said **Philip Rucker** in *The Washington Post*. A president once “omnipresent in American life” spent the last week of his single term “effectively in hiding,” reportedly “brooding over imagined injustices” and insistently repeating the Big Lie that November’s presidential election was “stolen” from him. With his Twitter feed permanently suspended, Trump’s petulance found an outlet in a series of petty snubs to the incoming president: Trump not only skipped Joe Biden’s inauguration, he refused to even use his name in a scripted farewell address. Fittingly, he issued a final raft of 143 presidential pardons to fraudsters, corrupt politicians, and cronies such as Steve Bannon, the architect of Trump’s unlikely rise to power. Trump’s graceless departure was like that of a “failed coup leader in a banana republic who has negotiated his exile but leaves at the point of a bayonet,” said **Ed Kilgore** in *NYMag.com*. Facing a second impeachment trial, this one for inciting an insurrection, the 45th president flew out over a national capital bristling with barricades and 25,000 National Guard troops protecting his successor.

Clearly, Trump was “the worst president in the 232-year history of the United States,” said historian **Tim Naftali** in *TheAtlantic.com*. He was worse than Richard Nixon, worse even than Warren Harding, James Buchanan, and Andrew Johnson. Before he was elected, Trump welcomed and amplified a Russian disinformation plot against his opponent. In office, he shamelessly abused his power to enrich himself and to ensure his re-election; his ham-fisted extortion of Ukraine’s president led to his first impeachment.



‘We will be back in some form.’

Through denialism and sheer incompetence, he so horribly mismanaged the pandemic response that the U.S. has by far the most cases and deaths in the world. And when he lost in November, Trump “mounted the first effort by a defeated incumbent” to overturn a fair election, inciting an assault on Congress that nearly got his vice president and many legislators killed. Trump appealed to America’s “ugliest impulses,” said **Paul Waldman** in *WashingtonPost.com*. He leaves the country filled with “misery and despair,” and with “our divisions seeming more intractable than ever.”

Before his “disastrous end,” Trump did have “a remarkable set of accomplishments,” said **Byron York** in *WashingtonExaminer.com*. His judicial appointments put a conservative stamp on federal courts that will last for decades. He curbed illegal immigration. With tax cuts and de-regulation, he boosted the U.S. economy. Trump’s “lasting legacy,” though, will be the political mobilization of America’s tens of millions of “forgotten men and women,” said **David Bahnsen** in *NationalReview.com*. The conservative movement needs to find leaders who can fight for the working class’s interests with Trump’s “energy, force, and boldness, yet without the self-defeating traits of ego and childishness.”

If the GOP is to have a future, said **Rick Wilson** in *TheDailyBeast.com*, it first needs a reckoning for those who “empowered, enabled, and normalized” that grotesque man for four wretched years. At the end, many Republicans joined Trump in dragging the nation “to the edge of a conspiracy-driven insurrection” that would have ended our democracy. Unless Republicans tell the truth about who Trump was and what he did, my old party will either be taken over by QAnon lunatics or “go the way of the Whigs.”

Nixon, Harding, Buchanan? Trump May End Up in the 'Subbasement'

By SARAH LYALL

In the race to the bottom for the title of worst American president, the same few sorry names appear at the end of almost every list, jockeying for last place. There's Andrew Johnson, whose abysmal behavior during Reconstruction led to the first presidential impeachment. There's Warren G. Harding, responsible for the Teapot Dome scandal. There's hapless, hated Franklin Pierce; doomed, dead-after-32-days William Henry Harrison; and inevitably, James Buchanan, often considered worst of all because of how badly he bungled the lead-up to the Civil War.

But as historians consider the legacy of Donald J. Trump, it appears that even the woefully inadequate Buchanan has serious competition for the spot at the bottom.

"Trump was the first president to be impeached twice and the first to stir up a mob to try to attack the Capitol and disrupt his successor from becoming president," said Eric Rauchway, professor of history at the University of California, Davis. "These will definitely go down in history books, and they are not good."

"I already feel that he is the worst," said Ted Widmer, professor of history at the City University of New York, noting that as bad as Buchanan was — and he was very bad indeed — he was "not as aggressively bad as Trump."

"Andrew Johnson and Nixon

would be the two others in the worst category, and I think Trump has them beat pretty handily, too," he added. "He has invented a whole new category, a subbasement that no one knew existed."

Presidential ranking may be a water-cooler exercise for historians, but it is also an official institutional pursuit. The Siena College Research Institute compiles ranked lists of all the American presidents, based on the composite views of scholars. So does C-SPAN.

Various polls periodically ask regular citizens to weigh in. And on Twitter last week, Chris Hayes of MSNBC took the presidential-ranking parlor game to his followers, asking them to list the "five worst presidents of all time." (He put Mr. Trump as the second worst, just ahead of Andrew Johnson.)

Mr. Trump was a highly divisive president, of course, and one of the confounding things about him was how two people could look at his behavior and make completely different assessments.

But not so much anymore.

"I would say that before the election it depended on one's political outlook," with conservatives applauding his tax cuts, deregulation policies and judicial appointments, said William J. Cooper Jr., professor emeritus of history at Louisiana State University. "But from the election forward, I don't see how anyone could feel that Trump's behavior was anything but reprehensible

or that he hasn't completely destroyed any legacy he would have left."

He cited Mr. Trump's refusal to concede the election; his promotion of baseless conspiracy theories attacking voting integrity; his intemperate, self-promoting behavior during the Georgia Senate runoffs, which helped ensure victory for the two Democratic candidates; and his encouragement of the crowd that rioted at the Capitol on Jan. 6.

Even conservatives from Atlanta, where Mr. Cooper lives, have had it with Mr. Trump, he said. "He has tarred and feathered himself, and I think it will blemish him for a long, long, long time."

Douglas G. Brinkley, professor of history at Rice University and a member of the advisory panel for C-SPAN's Presidential Historians Survey, said Mr. Trump "was a bad president in just about every regard."

"I find him to be the worst president in U.S. history, personally," Mr. Brinkley said, "even worse than William Henry Harrison, who was president for only one month. You don't want to be ranked below him."

Mr. Brinkley brought up Richard Nixon, the only president to resign in disgrace.

"At least when Nixon left, he put the country ahead of himself at the last minute," Mr. Brinkley said. "Now he looks like a statesman compared to Trump."

These are all hot takes. of course

— the sound of Frank Sinatra's "My Way," the song playing on Wednesday as Mr. Trump flew out of Washington, has barely faded from our ears — and it is too soon to know how history will judge him. But things do not augur well, said Don Levy, director of Siena's research institute.

In the most recent Siena survey, a year into the Trump administration, the president was rated 42nd out of 44 presidents, less terrible than only Buchanan and Andrew Johnson. In almost every category — integrity, intelligence and relationship with Congress, for instance — he was rated at or near rock bottom. (The exceptions: He was 25th in "willing to take risks" and 10th in "luck.")

"Speaking in terms of this survey, it would be surprising if Trump was meaningfully rehabilitated," Mr. Levy said. "If the opening paragraph of any discussion starts about being impeached twice, and the second sentence is about the coronavirus, and the third is about partisanship — that's going to be very hard to overcome."

Sean Wilentz, a professor of American history at Princeton University, said Mr. Trump was the worst president in history, hands down. "He's in a whole other category in terms of the damage he's done to the Republic," said Mr. Wilentz, citing the radicalization of the Republican Party, the inept response to the pandemic and what he called "the brazen, almost psy-

chedelic mendacity of the man."

The presidential historian Doris Kearns Goodwin, whose most recent book, "Leadership: In Turbulent Times," looks at how four presidents confronted tough moments in history, said that it normally takes a generation to evaluate a leader. But to the extent that a president's legacy is determined by his ability to rise to a crisis, Mr. Trump will be remembered for his failures: how poorly he handled Covid-19 and how disgracefully he behaved after the election.

"History will look with grave disfavor on President Trump for the crisis he created," she said.

For his part, Mr. Rauchway said he believed that Mr. Trump would "crash the bottom five" on the presidential rankings, but that the bottom spot itself was uncertain. "I think he has some stiff competition" in Andrew Johnson, whom Mr. Rauchway regards as the worst president of all.

"If I had to predict where historiography would go, I think people would have to recognize that Trumpism — nativism and white supremacy — has deep roots in American history," Mr. Rauchway said. "But Trump himself put it to new and malignant purpose."

Robert Strauss, a journalist and the author of "Worst. President. Ever," a popular history of Buchanan, seemed reluctant to allow the subject of his book to relinquish his title.

"I can go through a litany of things that Buchanan did," he said. "In the time period between Lincoln's election and the inauguration — that is, during the lame-duck period of Buchanan's presidency — he let seven states secede and said, 'I can't do anything about it.' He also influenced the Dred Scott decision, the worst decision in Supreme Court history."

Of course, "The difference was that Buchanan was a nice guy," Mr. Strauss said.

He added: "He was the greatest party giver of the 19th century. He was kind to his nieces and nephews. What he was, was not a very good president."

As they considered Mr. Trump's record in comparison to that of other presidents, some historians said that he could have done things to salvage his reputation.

"If he had presided over a competent response to Covid, he would have won re-election easily," Mr. Widmer of the City University of New York said. "And if he had responded with grace to his loss, a lot of people would have given him some grudging respect."

And yes, he added, President Trump was worse than President Buchanan.

"Trump is a worse failure because he really wanted to be re-elected, and he was rejected," Mr. Widmer said. "Buchanan colossally failed, but at least he had the dignity not to run again."

Biden's Executive Orders (About 30 in 48 Hours) Eat at Trump's Legacy

By GLENN THRUSH

WASHINGTON — As President Donald J. Trump boarded the plane to Florida on Wednesday, he cast his achievements as sweeping, ambitious and, above all, enduring — a few hours before his successor began demolishing his legacy at breakneck speed.

"We've accomplished so much together," Mr. Trump told a crowd of his supporters, ticking off what he believed to be his top policy achievements on immigration, deregulation, veterans affairs and taxes — adding, "We were not a regular administration."

The passage of Mr. Trump's 2017 tax bill and his appointment of three justices to the Supreme Court are clearly his most enduring accomplishments. But many of Mr. Trump's other signature actions were enacted via executive fiat, making them especially vulnerable to rapid reversal the same way — by an executive order.

President Biden, a more experienced Washington operator, is not using the process to build his legacy, as Mr. Trump tried to do, but as a means of erasing Mr. Trump's.

In his first 48 hours in office, Mr. Biden cranked out about 30 executive orders, of which 14 target a broad range of Trump executive mandates, with the remainder aimed at implementing emergency measures intended to deal with the pandemic and the economic crisis.

"I don't think it's fair to say that most of what Trump did can be undone in an afternoon. It's going to take at least ten days," said John D. Podesta, a former adviser to President Barack Obama who lobbied for the targeted use of executive action in Mr. Obama's second term when congressional Republicans blocked his environmental and immigration proposals.

"I think Trump sort of views Article II of the Constitution" — which enumerates the powers of the presidency — "as making him omnipotent, and now he's going to find out that except for cutting taxes, and maybe some of the foreign policy stuff, very little will actually last," he added.

One former senior Trump aide, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of retaliation, agreed. "Very little of what Trump did was done to ensure permanence. At the pace Biden is moving, everything Trump did will be gone by the time the sun rises on Monday — except his judicial appointments."



ANNA MONEYMAKER FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

President Biden signing an executive order on the economic crisis on Friday in the State Dining Room of the White House.

The list of rollbacks of Trump initiatives, through Biden executive orders, includes: Restoring the country's commitment to funding the World Health Organization; rejoining the Paris climate accords; reversing Mr. Trump's ban on immigration from seven predominantly Muslim nations and halting immigration enforcement in the country's interior; stopping construction of the border wall; ensuring protections for L.G.B.T.Q. workers undermined by Trump appointees; killing the Keystone XL pipeline permit; reimposing the ban on drilling in the Arctic wildlife refuge; imposing new ethics rules and tossing out Mr. Trump's "1776" commission report.

The effort has its roots in a less focused campaign at the start of the Trump administration. Four years ago, during the transition, a Trump aide printed out the detailed checklist of Mr. Obama's campaign promises from the official White House website with the goal, never quite achieved, of reversing every single one.

Mr. Trump's allies said Mr. Trump's stewardship of the economy, even after the pandemic, was his greatest legacy, an opinion shared by his aides who posted a list of about 1,000 accomplishments that has subsequently been scrubbed from the White House website.

"Before the China Virus invaded our shores, we built the world's most prosperous economy," it begins. "America gained 7 million new jobs — more than three times government experts' projections. Middle-Class family income increased nearly \$6,000 — more than five times the gains during the entire previous administration."

The list is light on legislative achievements. Mr. Trump, who did not take the time to learn the levers of power, did not consistently engage with congressional leaders, beyond basking in their support or making last-minute demands to increase funding for his wall by threatening to scuttle big budget deals.

While Mr. Trump lorded over

Twitter, important lessons for him lurked, unwatched, on YouTube.

In a remarkable interview 10 days before his death in 1973, Lyndon B. Johnson, the most skilled legislator-president in the country's recent history, explained why he had resisted the temptation to ram through landmark civil rights reforms by using executive orders.

Pursuing a legislative path was tougher and led to an uncertain outcome, but he wanted his reforms to endure, Johnson explained, and to do so they required the stubborn force of law.

Black leaders "wanted to me to issue an executive order, and proclaim this by presidential edict," said Mr. Johnson, speaking of the Fair Housing Act of 1968 — an approach, he concluded, that "would not be very effective if the Congress had not legislated."

If Mr. Trump needed a more contemporary lesson than Mr. Johnson's, he only had to look back to his predecessor, Mr. Obama, who endured a protracted

and messy process to pass the Affordable Care Act — a law that has endured, albeit weakened, despite Mr. Trump's repeated efforts to destroy it.

For the first two years of his administration, Mr. Trump enjoyed majorities in both houses of Congress, affording him the opportunity to legislate on the issues he campaigned on: tightening immigration restrictions and building a border wall, repealing Obamacare, and restoring vitality to the economically ravaged Midwestern heartland.

But he never seriously tried to build consensus on immigration reform and opted instead for acting unilaterally on the issue, drafting a poorly-executed ban on visitors from seven Muslim-speaking countries during his first days in office, to the chagrin of seasoned counselors, like his first White House counsel, Donald F. McGahn II, former aides said.

Instead, Mr. Trump became enthralled with the pageantry of issuing the executive orders, turning quotidian signing sessions

into televised demonstrations of his power.

At the same time, Mr. Trump was frittering away opportunities to create a durable legislative legacy, walking away, without explanation, from initiatives like an ambitious infrastructure package that might have drawn broad bipartisan consensus and altered the trajectory of his presidency.

Two bills broke that mold — the tax cuts and the 2018 criminal justice reform bill, a measure that enjoyed strong support in both parties and became a main theme of the Republican National Convention when he was seeking to win the support of Black voters.

Mr. McConnell — who has soured on Mr. Trump since the Jan. 6 riot at the Capitol — was responsible for a more enduring element of his presidency: the clever use of congressional riders to repeal some agency regulations, making them harder to repeal than the thousands of quickly reversible rule changes implemented by the president's political appointees.

Whether Mr. Biden will also become overly reliant on executive action remains an open question. But as a guide, some on Mr. Biden's team are using a 140-page law review article written in 2001 by Justice Elena Kagan of the Supreme Court, then a professor at Harvard Law School, which charts a middle course, supporting the use of executive power as a tool for regulatory efforts but not as a license to unilaterally dictate every action taken by presidential subordinates.

Two officials involved in the rollout of Mr. Biden's orders said that his use of executive decrees was not a reflection of an expansive view of executive authority but rather a response to the pandemic and the damage done by Mr. Trump's policies.

They said his use of executive actions would diminish when congressional action picked up.

On Friday, Brian Deese, a Biden economic adviser, said the administration's top priority was passing a \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package, but stopgaps included in the orders, like a minimum wage hike and increased food assistance, were needed to keep the country from falling into "a very serious economic hole."

But Mr. Biden seems to know that the path to completing his agenda runs through Congress, particularly the Senate, where he served for nearly four decades.

LARRY KING 1933-2021

Longtime interviewer of famous, infamous

By Robert D. McFadden

Larry King, who shot the breeze with presidents and psychics, movie stars and malefactors — anyone with a story to tell or a pitch to make — in a half century on radio and television, including 25 years as the host of CNN's globally popular "Larry King Live," died Saturday in Los Angeles. He was 87.

Ora Media, which King co-founded in 2012, confirmed the death in a statement posted on King's Twitter account and said he had died at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.

The statement did not specify a cause of death, but King had recently been treated for COVID-19. In 2019, he was hospitalized for chest pains and said he had also suffered a stroke.

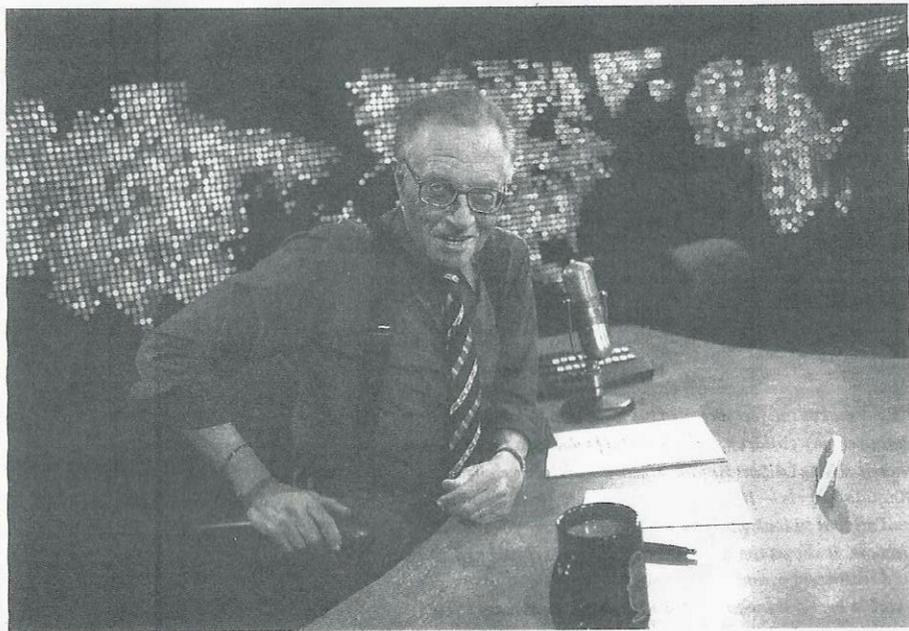
A son of European immigrants who grew up in Brooklyn, N.Y., and never went to college, King began as a local radio interviewer and sportscaster in Florida in the 1950s and '60s, rose to prominence with an all-night coast-to-coast radio call-in show starting in 1978, and from 1985 to 2010 anchored CNN's highest-rated,

longest-running program, reaching millions across America and around the world.

With the folksy personality of a Bensonhurst schmoozer, King interviewed an estimated 50,000 people of every imaginable persuasion and claim to fame — every president since Richard Nixon, world leaders, royalty, religious and business figures, crime and disaster victims, pundits, swindlers, "experts" on UFOs and paranormal phenomena, and untold hosts of idiosyncratic and insomniac telephone callers.

King might have made a fascinating guest on his own show: the delivery boy who became one of America's most famous TV and radio personalities, a newspaper columnist, the author of numerous books and a performer in dozens of movies and television shows, mostly as himself.

His personal life was the stuff of supermarket tabloids: married eight times to seven women; a chronic gambler who declared bankruptcy twice; arrested on a fraud charge that derailed his career for years; and a bundle of contradictions who never quite got over his own



Monica Almeida / New York Times 2007

Larry King's CNN interview program "Larry King Live" ran for 25 years and became television's highest-rated talk show. King interviewed an estimated 50,000 people in a career spanning a half century.

success but gushed, star-struck, over other celebrities, exclaiming, "Great!" "Terrific!" and "Gee whiz!"

He made no claim to being a journalist, although his show sometimes made news, as when Ross Perot announced his presidential candidacy there in 1992. And he was not confrontational; he rarely asked anyone, let alone a politician or policymaker, a tough or technical question, preferring gentle prods to get guests to say interesting things about themselves.

He bragged that he almost never prepared for an interview. If his guest was an author promoting a book, he did not read it but asked simply, "What's it about?" or "Why did you write this?" Nor did he

pose as an intellectual. He salted his talk with "ain't," and "the" sounded like "da." To a public skeptical of experts, he seemed refreshingly average: just a curious guy asking questions impulsively.

Larry King was born Lawrence Harvey Zeiger in Brooklyn on Nov. 19, 1933, the second son of Edward and Jennie Giltitz Zeiger, immigrants from Austria and Belarus. Their first son, Irwin, had died earlier. A younger brother, Martin, became a lawyer.

At 23, he went to Miami and was hired by a small station, WAHR, to sweep floors and run errands. When a disc jockey suddenly quit, he was asked to take over the 9 a.m.-to-noon broadcast.

Minutes before airtime

on May 1, 1957, at the station manager's suggestion, the name Lawrence Zeiger was abandoned, and Larry King (the surname taken from a liquor distributor's advertisement) sat before a live microphone for the first time.

In the early 1960s he did late-night radio interviews on WIOD, was a color commentator for Miami Dolphins football games, and dabbled in television with a talk show on WLBW and a weekend show on WTVJ. He later wrote columns for the Miami Herald and the Miami News. Ella Fitzgerald and Ed Sullivan befriended him. Jackie Gleason became his mentor and got him an interview with Frank Sinatra.

In 1978, King was hired by Mutual as host

of a weeknight coast-to-coast radio talkathon for night owls and early risers. "The Larry King Show," featuring interviews and listener calls, drew a devoted national following and ran until 1994.

Ted Turner put him on CNN in 1985, and his first guest was Gov. Mario Cuomo of New York. "Larry King Live," became television's highest-rated talk show and CNN's biggest success.

Survivors include three children, nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by a son and a daughter who died within a week of each other last year.

The Los Angeles Times contributed to this report.

Robert D. McFadden is a New York Times writer.



MONICA ALMEIDA/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Larry King in 2007. He shot the breeze with anyone with a story to tell or a pitch to make in a half-century on radio and television. Below, from left, Mr. King at WIOD, a Miami radio station, in 1962; during a break while interviewing Ross Perot, the presidential candidate, in 1992; and examining Donald J. Trump's hair in an attempt to prove that Mr. Trump did not wear a toupee in 2004.



PHOTOGRAPH BY JAMES H. HARRIS FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES. VIA PHOTOFEST



CHRIS MARTINEZ/ASSOCIATED PRESS



ROBERT GIBSON/GETTY IMAGES

Joe Clark, Tough New Jersey Principal Portrayed in a Movie, Dies at 82

By RICHARD SANDOMIR

Joe Clark, the imperious disciplinarian principal of a troubled New Jersey high school in the 1980s who gained fame for restoring order as he roamed its hallways with a bullhorn and sometimes a baseball bat, died on Tuesday at his home in Gainesville, Fla. He was 82.

His family announced his death but did not specify a cause.

When Mr. Clark, a former Army drill sergeant, arrived at Eastside High School in Paterson in 1982, he declared it a "cauldron of violence." He expelled 300 students for disciplinary problems in his first week.

When he tossed out — "expurgated," as he put it — about 60 more students five years later, he called them "leeches, miscreants and hoodlums." (That second round of expulsions led the Paterson school board to draw up insubordination charges, which were later dropped.)

Mr. Clark succeeded in restoring order, instilling pride in many students and improving some test scores. He won praise from President Ronald Reagan and Reagan's education secretary, William J. Bennett. With Morgan Freeman portraying him, he was immortalized in the 1988 film "Lean on Me." And his tough-love policies put him on the cover of Time magazine in 1988, holding his bat. "Is getting tough the answer?" the headline read. "School principal Joe Clark says yes — and critics are up in arms."

Mr. Clark, who oversaw a poor, largely Black and Hispanic student body, denounced affirmative action and welfare policies and "hocus-pocus liberals." When "60 Minutes" profiled him in 1988, he told the correspondent Harry Ressler: "Because we were slaves does not mean that you've got to be hoodlums and thugs and knock people in the head and rob people and rape people. No, I cannot accept that. And I make no more alibis for Blacks. I simply say work hard for what you want."

To get control of a crime-ridden school, Mr. Clark instituted auto-

matic suspensions for assault, drug possession, fighting, vandalism and using profanity against teachers. He assigned students to perform school chores for lesser offenses like tardiness and disrupting classes. The names of offenders were announced over the public address system.

And, in 1986, to keep thugs from entering the school, he ordered the entrance doors padlocked during school hours. Fire officials responded by having the locks removed, citing the safety of students and teachers. A year later, the city cited him for contempt for continuing to chain the doors.

"Instead of receiving applause and purple hearts for the re-

Expelling hundreds, restoring order and landing on the cover of Time magazine.

emergence of a school," Mr. Clark said after a court hearing, "you find yourself maligned by a few feeble-minded creeps."

Though the padlocking episode put him in conflict with the Paterson school board, his no-nonsense style led to an interview for a White House job in early 1988. Before turning it down, he insisted that if he took the job it would not be because of any pressure from the board.

"I refuse to let a bunch of obdurate, rebellious board members run me out of this town that I've worked in so assiduously for 27 years," he told The Washington Post in 1988. A Post headline called him "The Wyatt Earp of Eastside High."

Joe Louis Clark was born on May 8, 1938, in Borchette, Ga., and moved with his family to Newark when he was 6. He earned a bachelor's degree from what is now William Paterson University, in Wayne, N.J., and earned his mas-

ter's at Seton Hall.

After serving as a drill instructor in the Army Reserve, he started his education career as an elementary-school teacher and principal in New Jersey and then as director of camps and playgrounds for Essex County, N.J. Then he was appointed to turn Eastside High around.

"A school's going where the principal is going," William Pascrell, the Paterson school board president, told the North Jersey newspaper The Record. "Eastside is a school ready to take off. Joe Clark is the guy who can do it."

In 1988, his final year at Eastside, Mr. Clark spent time away from the school promoting "Lean on Me" and was on the road when a group of young men stripped down to their G-strings during a school assembly. Mr. Clark was suspended for a week for failing to supervise the gathering.

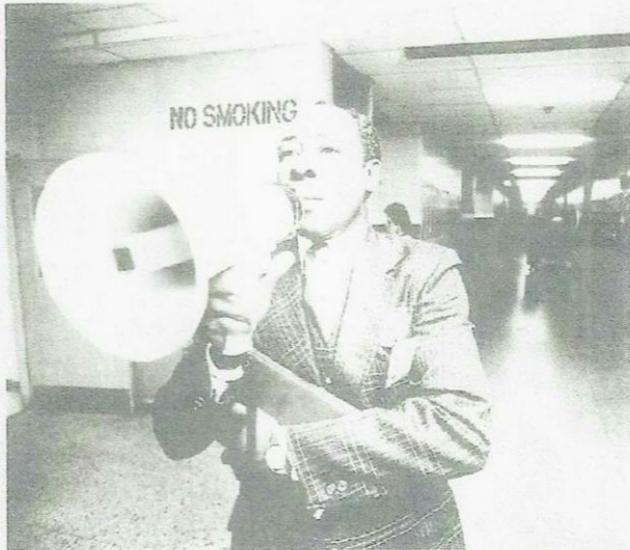
He resigned from Eastside in July 1989 two months after heart surgery.

After six years on the secure circuit, often calling for rigorous academic standards, Mr. Clark resurfaced as the director of the Essex County Youth Detention Center in Newark. Again his tactics drew fire. Both the New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission and the state's Division of Youth and Family Services criticized him at different times for excessive use of physical restraints, including shocking and cuffing some detainees for two days.

Mr. Clark stepped down as director in early 2002 after the juvenile justice commission accused him of condoning putting teenagers in isolation for long periods.

His survivors include his daughters, Joetta Clark Diggs and Hazel Clark, who were both Olympic middle distance runners; a son, J.J., the director of track and field at Stanford University; and three grandchildren.

Mr. Clark's image got a dramatic reimagining in the climax of "Lean on Me." As Mr. Clark, Mr. Freeman is sent to jail for violating fire safety codes, only to



Joe Clark, above, in 1988 at Eastside High School in Paterson, N.J. Morgan Freeman, right, played Mr. Clark in the 1989 film "Lean on Me." Beverly Todd portrayed a teacher.



persuade students rallying for his release to disperse. (He's released by the mayor in the movie.)

Mr. Clark never went to jail, and the film's director, John Avildsen, admitted that the scene was fictional.

"Now, if he hadn't taken the chains off the doors as reality," Mr. Avildsen told The Times in 1989, speaking of Mr. Clark, "and if he had gone to jail, then what happened in the movie could very well have happened."

MR. SHARON/CITY SOURCE

WALTER BRONKHORST

Among those who died in 2020...

Media and publishing
Elizabeth Wurtzel

(pictured), memoirist who chronicled her battle with depression in the 1994 best-seller *Prozac Nation*, died Jan. 7, age 52.



Jim Lehrer, unshowy journalist who co-founded and co-anchored *PBS NewsHour* and moderated 12 presidential and vice-presidential debates, died Jan. 23, age 85.

Mary Higgins Clark, "Queen of Suspense" whose tales of quick-witted women escaping perilous situations made her one of the world's most popular writers, died Jan. 31, age 92.

Albert Uderzo, French illustrator and creator of the wildly popular comic *Asterix*, which followed the Roman-bashing adventures of a diminutive Gaulish warrior, died March 24, age 92.

Phyllis George, former Miss America who broke the sports-casting glass ceiling when she became a co-host of CBS's *The NFL Today* in 1975, died May 14, age 70.

Jan Morris, British journalist, travel writer, and historian who wrote pioneering accounts of her experiences as a transgender woman, died Nov. 20, age 94.



John le Carré, former British intelligence agent who transformed the spy thriller into high art with novels such as *The Spy Who Came In From the Cold*, died Dec. 12, age 89.

Stage and screen

Terry Jones, member of the comedy troupe Monty Python who won laughs as a grinning nude organist, inquisitor Cardinal Biggles, and a host of cranky old women, died Jan. 21, age 77.

Kirk Douglas, chisel-jawed actor who specialized in playing what he called "tough sons of bitches," most famously the leader of a Roman slave revolt in *Spartacus*, died Feb. 5, age 103.

Terrence McNally, playwright who brought the complexity of gay life to the American stage, died March 24 of complications from Covid-19, age 81.

Jerry Stiller, who in the 1960s found success as a comedy team with his wife, Anne Meara, and in the 1990s won new fans as

Seinfeld's irrationally angry Frank Costanza, died May 11, age 92.

Ennio Morricone, Oscar-winning Italian composer of more than 500 film scores, most famously the spaghetti Westerns of director Sergio Leone, died July 6, age 91.

Regis Philbin, co-host of ABC's *Live* who greeted millions of Americans every weekday morning with a new gripe—the Mets, those damned computers—and later helmed *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire*, died July 24, age 88.

Olivia de Havilland (pictured), Golden Age star who played the kindly Melanie Hamilton in *Gone With the Wind*, died July 26, age 104.



Chadwick Boseman (pictured), actor who played a string of heroic black figures, including Jackie Robinson in *42* and the titular superhero in *Black Panther*, died Aug. 28, age 43.

Diana Rigg, classical actress who rocketed to fame as the stylish, high-kicking Emma Peel on the TV series *The Avengers*, died Sept. 10, age 82.

Sean Connery, suave Scotsman who defeated Dr. No, Auric Goldfinger, and a gang of other villains as the first—and possibly definitive—James Bond, died Oct. 31, age 90.

Alex Trebek, long-running *Jeopardy!* host who had all the answers, which were, of course, questions, died Nov. 8, age 80.

Music and the arts

Beverly Pepper, sculptor who transformed steel, bronze, and stone into towering columns, massive arcs, and twisting waves, died Feb. 5, age 97.

Kenny Rogers, country-music powerhouse who crossed over to the pop charts with smashes such as "The Gambler," died March 20, age 81.

Bill Withers, R&B singer who found massive success in the 1970s with hits such as "Ain't No Sunshine" and "Lean on Me," before abruptly retiring from music in 1985, died March 30, age 81.

John Prine, keen-eyed singer-songwriter who spun poetic stories over a five-decade career, died April 7 of



complications from Covid-19, age 73.

Little Richard

(pictured), flamboyant and influential rock 'n' roll wild man who released hit after hit in the 1950s—"Lucille," "Good Golly Miss Molly," "Tutti Frutti"—died May 9, age 89.



Christo, Bulgarian-born artist who made monumental artworks with his wife, Jeanne-Claude, once swaddling Germany's Reichstag building in 1 million square feet of silver fabric, died May 31, age 84.

Milton Glaser, graphic designer who created the much-loved "I ♥ NY" logo, died June 26, age 91.

Helen Reddy, Australian-born singer whose 1972 pop hit "I Am Woman" became a feminist anthem, died Sept. 29, age 78.

Eddie Van Halen, electric-guitar virtuoso who made his instrument growl, dive-bomb, and shriek, powering his namesake band to superstardom, died Oct. 6, age 65.

Charley Pride, velvet-voiced country singer who became the first black star in the overwhelmingly white genre, died Dec. 12 of complications from Covid-19, age 86.

Politics

The Rev. Joseph Lowery, stalwart of the civil rights movement for more than seven decades, from the Montgomery, Ala., bus boycott to the fight for gay rights, died March 27, age 98.

Larry Kramer, playwright and activist whose furious campaigning woke up America to the AIDS/HIV emergency in the 1980s and '90s, died May 27, age 84.

Jean Kennedy Smith, the "quiet Kennedy" who as U.S. ambassador to Ireland in the 1990s helped secure a peace deal that ended decades of conflict, died June 17, age 92.

John Lewis, civil rights icon who became known as "the conscience of Congress" during his 17 terms as a U.S. representative, died July 17, age 80.

Brent Scowcroft, foreign policy expert who advised presidents from Richard Nixon to Barack Obama, died Aug. 6, age 95.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg (pictured), legal pioneer of gender equality, first as a civil rights litigator and then as the second woman ever to serve on the Supreme Court, died Sept. 18, age 87.

Sports

Kobe Bryant (pictured), enigmatic basketball phenomenon who won five NBA championships with the Los Angeles Lakers, notching a long list of NBA records along the way, died Jan. 26, age 41.



Mickey Wright, golfing great who won 82 LPGA tournaments and was hailed by many as the finest woman player in the sport's history, died Feb. 17, age 85.

Fred 'Curly' Neal, long-running Harlem Globetrotter who astounded audiences with his seemingly magical basketball-handling skills, died March 26, age 77.

Vicki Wood, one of the first women NASCAR racers, who in 1960 set a speed record—150.375 mph—on the sand at Daytona Beach, Fla., died June 5, age 101.

John Thompson Jr., coach who built Georgetown University's men's basketball team into a national force and became the first black coach to lead his squad to the NCAA championship, died Aug. 30, age 78.



Tom Seaver (pictured), power pitcher who led the "Miracle Mets" to victory in the 1969 World Series, died Aug. 31, age 75.

Bob Gibson, hard-throwing pitcher with the St. Louis Cardinals who won 251 games in 17 seasons, terrifying batters with his intimidating fastball, died Oct. 2, age 84.

Whitey Ford, crafty New York Yankees pitcher in the 1950s and '60s who won 10 World Series games, still a major-league record, died Oct. 8, age 91.

Paul Hornung, "Golden Boy" running back with movie-star looks who propelled the Green Bay Packers to four NFL championships in the 1960s, died Nov. 13, age 84.

Diego Maradona, Argentine soccer star with blazing speed and a masterful touch who captained his country to World Cup glory in 1986, but lost his talents to drug addiction, died Nov. 25, age 60.

Business

Frieda Caplan, produce wholesaler who persuaded supermarkets to stock once exotic fruits and vegetables such as kiwis, shiitake mushrooms, and spaghetti squash, died Jan. 18, age 96.

B. Smith, former model who turned her name into a lifestyle brand, with a TV show, restaurants, and a home-product line—the first by a black woman to be sold at a national retailer—died Feb. 22, age 70.

Joe Coulombe, retail visionary who founded Trader Joe's, the grocery chain known for unusual foods, "Two-Buck Chuck," and a laid-back atmosphere, died Feb. 28, age 89.

Jack Welch (pictured), hard-charging General Electric boss who assembled a conglomerate and popularized a ruthless management style, died March 1, age 84.

Sumner Redstone, media mogul who used hostile takeovers and myriad lawsuits to amass holdings that included CBS, Viacom, and Paramount Pictures, died Aug. 11, age 97.



Robert Gore, chemical engineer who invented the waterproof and breathable material Gore-Tex, turning his family firm into a \$3.8 billion-a-year enterprise, died Sept. 17, age 83.

Cecilia Chiang, owner of the acclaimed San Francisco restaurant The Mandarin, who introduced American diners to authentic Chinese food, died Oct. 28, age 100.

General

Katherine Johnson, African-American mathematician portrayed in the 2016 movie *Hidden Figures*, whose calculations helped NASA land men on the moon, died Feb. 24, age 101.

Roy Horn, half of the famed illusionist team Siegfried & Roy, who entertained Las Vegas crowds by elevating tigers and disappearing elephants, died May 8 of complications from Covid-19, age 75.

Annie Glenn, wife of astronaut John Glenn and a champion of those who—like her—suffered from crippling stutters and speech disorders, died May 19 of complications from Covid-19, age 100.

Fossie Wong-Staal, molecular virologist who helped establish HIV as the cause of AIDS and revealed ways to fight the disease, died July 8, age 73.

James Randi, illusionist and escape artist who dedicated much of his career to debunking faith healers, psychics, seers, and spoon benders, died Oct. 20, age 92.

Chuck Yeager (pictured), World War II fighter ace and cool-headed test pilot with the "right stuff," who in 1947 became the first person to fly faster than the speed of sound, died Dec. 7, age 97.



Lost to Covid-19

More than 320,000 Americans died of the coronavirus this year. These are just some of the people who were taken from us.

Frank Gabrin, New Jersey doctor who became the first emergency physician in the U.S. to succumb to Covid-19, died March 31, age 60.

Leilani Jordan, grocery-store clerk from Largo, Md., who suffered from cerebral palsy but kept working amid the pandemic because she wanted to help people, died April 1, age 27.

Skylar Herbert, daughter of two Detroit first responders, died April 19, age 5.

Paul Cary, retired Colorado paramedic who traveled to New York City to volunteer in the fight against the coronavirus, died April 30, age 66.

Marie Pino, teacher who educated generations of children in the Navajo Nation, died May 13, age 67.

Lynika Strozier, who overcame a severe childhood learning disability to become a research scientist at the Field Museum in Chicago, died June 7, age 35.

Steven dePyssler, Air Force colonel who served in World War II, the Korean War, the French Indochina War, and the Vietnam War, died July 25, age 101.

Sharon Hunt, beloved elementary school teacher from Reading, Ohio, died Sept. 25 just weeks after retiring, age 65.

Guadalupe 'Lupe' Lopez, 911 dispatcher in Chicago for 33 years, died Nov. 16, age 58.

Carlos Aratujo Preza, doctor who spent months caring for the sickest coronavirus patients as chief of critical care at the HCA Houston Healthcare Tomball hospital, died Nov. 30, age 51.