

National Parks Celebrate 100-Year Anniversary

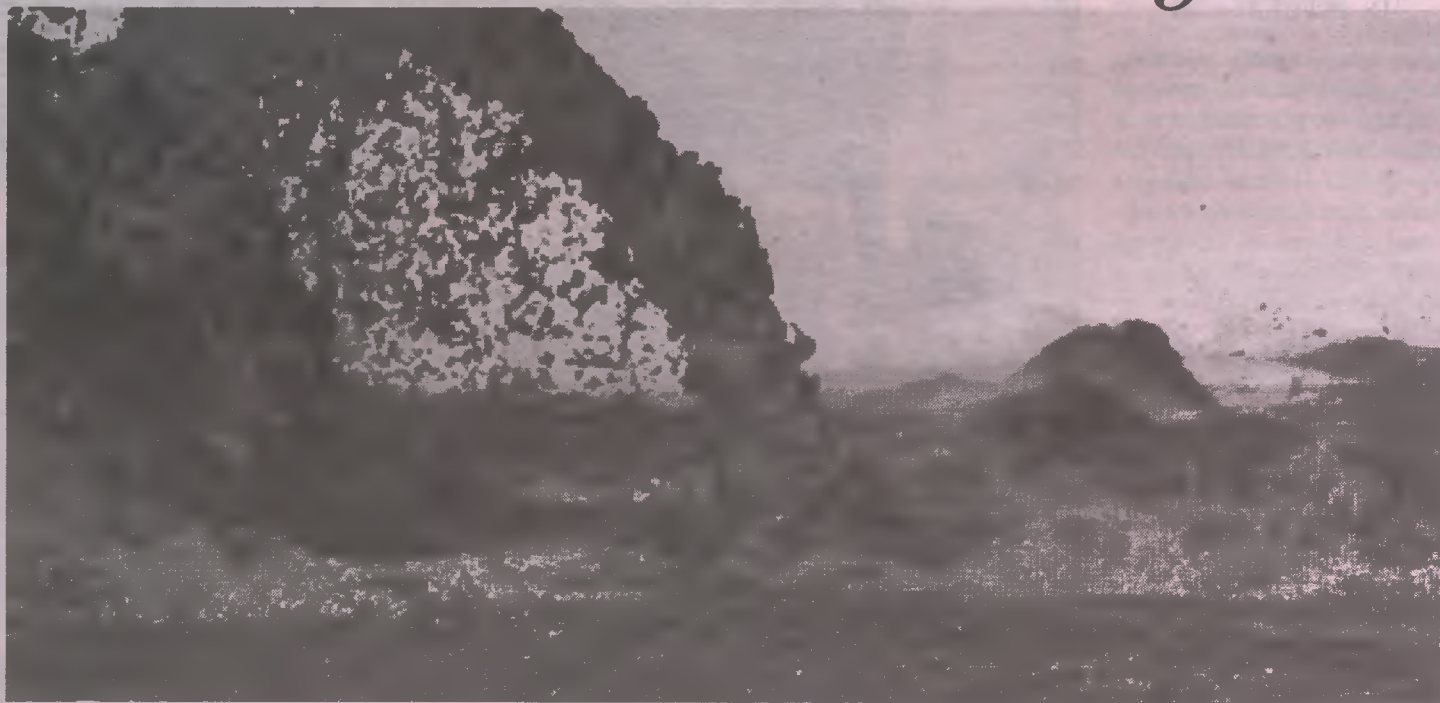
By CLAIRE YIN

A hundred years ago, Woodrow Wilson signed into law an act that created the National Parks Service. Since then, over 400 parks and park monuments have been established across the U.S.

On the 100 year anniversary, Aug. 25, there were a variety of events planned. Over 1,000 visitors of the Human Arrowhead Emblem gathered on the National Mall and Memorial Parks in Washington with brown, green and white umbrellas in order to bring the arrowhead emblem of the National Park Service to life.

Some individuals brought cupcakes to the Juniper Picnic Area at the Theodore Roosevelt National Park and shared the sweets with park rangers. Similarly, the Florida National Parks Association held a National Parks Birthday Party to highlight "This Land is Your Land: A Second Century for America's National Parks." This exhibit showed images, videos and artifacts from parks in Florida.

At the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, they held a Na Leo Manu Hawaiian Concert Series, featuring Hawaiian music and a hula troupe. An impressionist of Gen. Ulysses S. Grant appeared at the Gen. Grant National Memorial in New York City to relay his work. Preserve historian Erik



The Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, above, was home a concert series celebrating the National Parks' centennial. J.D. GRIGGS/USGS

Johnson worked alongside the Denali National Park in order to track the path of famous explorers and biologists on a journey through the park.

The centennial of the National Park Service was indicative of more than just the long existence of national parks: it represents their development and growth.

In the past century, much growth has occurred within the National Parks. Many of these parks now offer art programs, exhibitions, and projects as a way to recreate the beauty of the parks. With the beautiful landscapes in parks, it is no

surprise that over 50 parks house artists-in-residence every year.

In addition to the expanded art scenery, women and minorities have received increasing job opportunities in these parks. In the past, the parks reflected the prejudice and suppressive society, as mostly white men worked as rangers or on park staff. Now, these parks reflect the progressiveness and increasing diversity of America.

As research has supported the dynamism of ecosystems over the past century, parks have been increasingly

habitable for various wildlife. This is a large change from the previously poorly managed ecosystems, where animals were under stricter conditions and not allowed to evolve and live freely and naturally.

However, the next century may not hold the promise of equivalent growth. At Yellowstone National Park, Service Director Jon Jarvis says that political support for the parks has decreased over time.

This simply exacerbates the fact that the park currently faces about \$12 billion backlog of maintenance projects.

Underfunding requires for more corporate donations and philanthropy to be amended.

Monetary issues are just one of the many challenges ahead. As climate change continues to increase atmospheric temperature, scientists predict that Glacier National Park will have no glaciers. Additionally, wildfires have been longer and hotter than before.

Many parks share these environmental challenges, making us wonder how the next centennial celebration will look.

EpiPen Price Increases Cause Outcry

By ISABELLA LI

A study by the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America estimated that one in 50 Americans suffers from anaphylaxis, a life-threatening allergic reaction. For many of these Americans, the most immediate hope for survival, should they experience a reaction, is a fast injection of epinephrine from the EpiPen.

In 2007, the EpiPen cost 100 dollars for a pack of two. In 2016, the same pack of two cost 600 dollars — a 500% increase. Industry insiders estimated that the EpiPen only costs about 30 dollars to produce.

In 2007, pharmaceutical company Mylan purchased marketing and distribution rights for the EpiPen from Merck. Since then, Mylan has used aggressive marketing campaigns and congressional lobbying efforts to boost EpiPen sales, while steadily increasing prices for the product. Consumers have limited options in regards to other epinephrine autoinjectors, with the EpiPen's closest competitor, Auvi-Q, being discontinued

for inconsistent dosages last October.

This outrage has sparked congressional action, spearheaded by Senate Judiciary Chairman Chuck Grassley. Mylan's letter response to Grassley's questioning did not answer questions about how the company determined its drug prices. It did, however, offer defense for the company's actions.

Mylan claimed that it had invested over one billion dollars to increase awareness and preparedness about anaphylaxis. Mylan also stated that it believed that rather than decreasing the price of the EpiPen, offering a generic version of the drug would deliver more significant cost savings to patients.

"By ensuring the generic is priced well below the brand, we will be able to help ensure robust generic utilization and savings for patients and the healthcare system," said Mylan.

Generic drugs are copies of brand-name drugs that offer the same quality, dosage form, and strength, but for a lower price. Mylan claims that it plans to



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EpiPen pricing has stirred controversy regarding drug costs.

release a generic version of an epinephrine autoinjector at 300 dollars for a pack of two, a 50% discount over the current price.

However, the FDA places strict quality standards on the production of generic drugs to ensure that they are sufficient replications of brand-name versions. A generic epinephrine autoinjector has yet to receive approval.

Mylan's EpiPen price increase coincide with a rising outrage towards drug prices overall. The most notable case of this involves Martin Shkreli, former CEO of Turing Pharmaceuticals. In 2015,

Shkreli gained widespread notoriety — and was called "the most hated man in America" — for increasing the price of Daraprim, an antiparasitic drug, by over 5000 percent.

U.S. consumers pay more for drugs than those in any other country. Other national governments use pre-existing policies to negotiate with pharmaceutical companies for lower drug costs. The U.S. government has no such policy. In fact, U.S. law bans Medicare, the country's largest prescription drug buyer, from negotiating drug pricing at all.

Such legislation has been criticized on the campaign trail by both presidential candidates. Donald Trump has argued that Medicare should have negotiating rights with pharmaceutical companies. And in response to the EpiPen cost increases, Hillary Clinton has set forth a plan that threatens penalties if drug makers impose unreasonable price increases.

Ultimately, the EpiPen price increases first and foremost harm individuals and families who are affected by life-threatening anaphylaxis reactions.