



# the spectator

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THE MADEIRA SCHOOL

MARCH 2021

## State by State:

### *Independent Approaches to Vaccinations with National Deadline*

Mercer Thomas '22

Staff Writer

The first U.S. healthcare workers got the COVID-19 vaccine nearly two months ago. Already 500,000 Americans have died from contracting COVID-19, and the vaccine is the light at the end of the tunnel. Yet, rollout and widespread vaccination access continue to be challenging, even as the Biden-Harris administration promises hope. The CDC reports that as of February 24, 2021, only 44.5 million Americans have received their first dose, with less than half of them receiving the second dose needed to reach full protection. The number of doses given every day, however, continues to rise steadily. Each state is responsible for its distribution, contributing to the slow rollout seen since December. To get the pandemic under control, President Biden has committed to 100 million vaccines administered in his first 100 days. If Biden achieves this milestone, 50 million people – or around 20% of adults – will be vaccinated by May. However, experts estimate that to reach herd immunity, between 70-90% of the population must get the vaccine. These specialists also fear that Biden's plan is not comprehensive enough to thwart a possible sum-

mer COVID-19 resurgence.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, indicated that one recent setback for supplying the vaccine to states had been the brutal winter storms. He estimates that the weather caused a three-day delay in all 50 states but that "by the middle of the week [the states] will have caught up." That delay is minor compared to concerns about larger production issues. Still, Biden warned that new COVID-19 variants threaten his conservative prediction that the vaccine will be freely available to anyone by the end of the year. As the administration becomes cau-

*Vaccinating teachers protects school communities at large by lowering the possibility of transmitting COVID-19.*

tiously optimistic, they continue calling on individuals to wear masks and practice social distancing. Notably, healthcare workers have had nationwide access to the vaccine for some time. After administering vaccines to front-line workers, priority shifted to long-term care facilities' residents who have had access to vaccinations



A woman looks away while getting a COVID-19 vaccine. Photo courtesy of Flickr.

for several weeks.

Recently, each state has expanded access to other at-risk demographics. Due to the state-by-state method of distribution, each state has opened the vaccine up to different populations. Some states are further along than others. Currently, Alaska has the highest percentage of its population vaccinated, with 22% of people having received their first dose. Many Southern states have the lowest percentages, with Texas and Georgia at 11% of their populations. States with larger populations tend to have the lowest

percentages of people vaccinated because the distributions become more complicated.

In Virginia, 14% of the adult population has received their first of the two shots, and just 6% of the population of roughly eight million residents have gotten both shots. As with other states with large metropolitan centers and widespread rural populations, Virginia has experienced greater success with vaccinations in well-populated areas due to the difficulty of storing and distributing the vaccine in rural areas. In recent weeks, Virginia

has expanded the demographics eligible to receive vaccinations to include essential workers, high-risk individuals, and adults 65 and over.

State Department of Health Commissioner Norman Oliver's school vaccination efforts have enabled Madeira's teachers to access the vaccine. Most faculty received their first dose in January and are now fully vaccinated, which is a significant step in protecting the community as hybrid learning continues. "I was shocked that I did have real anxiety when transitioning from virtual back to hybrid learning in January," Dr. Boyette, a member of Madeira's science department, said of her time before receiving the vaccine. "[Now vaccinated,] I have a lower chance of taking [COVID-19] home to my dad. He's 85," Dr. Boyette added. The vaccine allows Dr. Boyette to focus on teaching instead of worrying about transmitting the virus to those in her bubble. Vaccinating teachers also protects school communities at large by lowering the possibility of transmitting COVID-19. It is taking longer than expected to distribute the vaccine, but there is little doubt that the government at every level is working to keep everyone safe while reaching herd immunity.

## The Show Must Go On:

### *Madeira Theater Presents Winter Musical Pippin*



Leading Player presents their extraordinary circus show. Photo by Ryan Maxwell Photography.

AC Frye '21

Staff Writer

Important COVID-19 restrictions, loads of snow days, and virtual rehearsals made the winter musical *Pippin* both a difficult challenge and an amazing accomplishment for Madeira thespians and techies across campus and beyond. The bright colored lights, glittery costumes, and countless tricks and kicks brought the magic on stage to the viewers right through their screens.

The theatre production up at the C.A. just weeks ago portrayed a young man seeking

his life purpose, whether that is fighting a war, ruling a kingdom, working on a farm, or sacrificing himself in the final act of a grand circus. There have been many interpretations of this show's plot, but *Pippin* has fallen victim to the circus, which is driven by Leading Player, who manipulates him throughout the entire story to inevitably decide to throw himself in fire for the grand finale. The circus acts as a frame for the entire show, reinstating feelings of hope, magic, and grand possibilities for *Pippin*, and the cast had the opportunity to learn many

different circus tricks, which included fabrics, acrobatics, poi throwing, and lyra hoop dancing.

The cast and crew of *Pippin* demonstrated impressive resilience and flexibility throughout the entire rehearsal process. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the actors were not able to sing live on stage. Thus, for each musical number, individual, pre-recorded clips were mixed together to create a track that was played over the spectacular dancing, circus acts, and interactions between the characters. The main characters of the show also prerecorded

videos in front of a green screen that were projected onto diamond-shaped screens in the set. This allowed more actors on stage and the expression of unmasked emotion. Some actors also performed and danced behind shadow screens, which allowed for immaculate shadow hand movements, puppets, and an overall sense of ambiguity and mystery.

The audience is an important entity during any theatrical act because the feedback gives the actors unparalleled energy and liveliness when performing. This interaction with

*The bright colored lights, glittery costumes, and countless tricks and kicks brought the magic on stage to the viewers right through their screens.*

the audience is especially important in *Pippin* because a major characteristic of the show is the synergy between the cast and

the audience. Due to COVID-19, however, the show was not able to be viewed by an in-person audience, and it was live streamed instead. Although the lack of an audience was very upsetting, it allowed for many more households to view the performance who would have been unable to otherwise. During opening night, around 350 households watched the show, and many alumni were gathering their sororities and friend groups to view it together as well. It is incredible how the Madeira community still felt united when not physically together.

Through all of these obstacles and challenges the cast and crew navigated, one would think that nothing else would happen to the show, but mother nature was in a bad mood. Many in-person rehearsals were lost due to snow, including opening night on Thursday, February 17. This further demonstrates the amazing resilience and effort the cast and crew put into this impressive performance. Madeira's *Pippin* will surely be remembered for years to come.



definitions of what it means to be active global citizens. For example, if my core life principles are honesty and faith, I believe that my role as a global citizen is to use these values to guide my pursuit of an equitable society. Secondly, we need to research to understand. Through analyzing the timeless progression of history, we can recognize that we benefit from our ancestors' longstanding fights for equality.

Thirdly, and most importantly, we must listen to the voices of others. This step is groundbreaking in the fight for global empowerment. In choosing to stand with others, we can combine our individualistic understandings of global justice into a wider goal, and thus rise against the systemic injustices of society.

Lastly, we must continue the fight for the global empowerment of people from all backgrounds: what if you could tell your future grandchild that you are the reason that she has access to fundamental reproductive rights?

In the weaponless battle against a patriarchal society, we must recognize the problem, define justice individually, analyze the progression of history, listen to others, and continue the journey. In so doing, we can shift global perceptions on issues of injustice. Are you with me?

Anna B. ♥

It will be exactly one year and two days since I've been to school in person, and I'm counting down the days until I return to campus at the start of Mod 6. I'm looking forward to trading somber, self-reflective neighborhood walks for hikes with friends, full of laughter and excitement at being together again. I could talk about all the ways I feel I have missed out on special traditions due to being a senior during the pandemic, and how desperately I hope I can cram enough experiences to make up for it into my last two mods of high school. I would rather, however, take a closer look at how we all have grown this past year. Spending time away from the usual bustle of life has turned our critical eye inward: how do we feel about the world around us? How do we cope with sudden change? What matters most to us?

The answers to these questions vary as dramatically as the individuals who consider them and the circumstances under which they do so. Personally, I've done my own heavy-duty introspection using methods you'd expect, such as taking walks or spending time in nature, and those you would not: scrolling through the comments sections of YouTube lofi playlists - yes, I feel that I've learned a lot about myself by reading the comments on lofi videos. I do believe there is no place on the Internet like lofi comments sections. If you are unfamiliar with the setting,



one astute commenter on a mix titled "Morning Coffee" described the environment as a place with "no arguments- just stories, emotions, and love." To me, it seems as though lofi music somehow inherently cultivates an atmosphere of openness and devoid of hate, which is so rare in the world today.

To scroll through and read deeply personal stories of love and heartbreak, gentle reminders that you're not alone, and the musings of creative writers inspired by the music is to be reminded of the common humanity you share with the over seven billion rest of us. It's a reminder that although the world is distressing, and drastic change can happen in an instant, it is our solidarity as human beings that keeps us going. So, when I feel down about having a senior year so drastically different from what I expected, I will try to keep in mind that like everyone else, I will have my times for loss and joy. That sometimes, all you can do is put on your headphones and experience the beauty of the present, in the words and music of others.

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At The Spectator, we encourage any member of The Madeira School to submit to the newspaper. Articles submitted are subjected to a staff peer review and edit, then submitted for editorial review. Submission does not guarantee print, but it does help! Of particular interest to the staff are articles concerning the Madeira community, club news and events, and sports. Submissions should be sent to the editors or the advisors, Ms. Zahradnik and Ms. Alston at thespectator@madeira.org

### Corrections

Any corrections should be sent to The Spectator lead advisors, Ms. Zahradnik and Ms. Alston, at thespectator@madeira.org. The publication seeks to always publish corrections as they come to our attention.

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# The Right to Remove: The Second Impeachment and Acquittal of Former President Trump

Megan Schmitz '21 Staff Writer

As vested by Article I, Section 3 and Article II, Section 4, of the Constitution, Congress has the power to remove and disqualify public officials from office due to unlawful conduct. In relation to the presidency, Congress has conducted three previous impeachment trials during which those charged were acquitted with near-full partisan support. On February 13, 2021, after five days of debate, the Senate acquitted President Trump of charges of inciting the insurrection at the Capitol this January, maintaining this historical pattern of impeachment without removal. However, this most recent trial differs from its predecessors in that conviction received relatively ample bipartisan support; even the Senators who voted against disqualifying the former President from office largely cited procedural unconstitutionality rather than inadequate evidence or unfounded

If the Constitution is taken to mean that a president can be disqualified from office as well as removed, Congressional jurisdiction extends to former presidents, but, if merely intended to remove dangerous leaders from positions of power, the inauguration effectively places justice in the hands of the courts.

charges. Contradicting the Senate's earlier ruling that charging presidents after their removal from office was constitutional, former Majority Leader McConnell was one such Senator to use the timeline as his rationale for voting to acquit, raising questions as to what role the Senate has in deciding constitutionality and trying outgoing officials.

In the days directly following the January 6 raid on the Capitol, the House of Representatives drafted and introduced a four-page article of impeachment charging former President Trump with inciting an insurrection. Along with denouncing the outgoing President's inflammatory language during his Stop the Steal rally the day of the Capitol attack, the article additionally traced his false claims of voter fraud to as far back as January 2020, arguing that his baseless questioning of electoral security encouraged his base to believe violence necessary to preserve democracy. On November 5 alone, the then-President made nine false or other misleading statements regarding voter fraud and the electoral process:



Nancy Pelosi displays the articles of impeachment as she reflects on the Senate's verdict with the press. Photo courtesy of The New York Times.

he purported widespread illegal ballot-casting in states wherein he lost the majority vote and asserted that he had won "by a landslide" despite the count having not yet ended. Beyond President Trump's alleged role in instigating the event, House Democrats further emphasized his delay in deploying federal troops and condemning his violent support-



On January 13, 2021, the United States House of Representatives voted to adopt an article of impeachment accusing former President Donald Trump of incitement of insurrection. Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

ers as further evidence of failure to perform his executive duty. Based on the perceived threat to national security and democracy this behavior posed, the House of Representatives voted

With the seven Republicans and all Senate Democrats ten short of a supermajority for conviction, the Senate voted to acquit former President Trump.

232 to 197 to impeach President Trump, with a historically-high

ten Republicans voting alongside their Democratic colleagues.

In accordance with former Majority Leader McConnell's public statement expressing a need to focus on inaugural security during Trump's final days, the House Impeachment Managers waited to deliver the article of impeachment to the Senate chamber until January 25. Upon its re-

as capable of trying an unseated official for crimes committed during their tenure, Article I's language remains highly interpretable. If the Constitution is taken to mean that a president can be disqualified from office as well as removed, Congressional jurisdiction extends to former presidents, but, if merely intended to remove dangerous leaders from positions

voted to evaluate the evidence, the House Impeachment Managers took two days to argue their case. According to Lead Impeachment Manager Representative Raskin, the President's words and actions prior to and during January 6 instigated the insurrection, and his lack of rapid response worsened the ensuing crisis. Contending that President Trump's words constituted free political speech, Trump attorney Van der Veen rebutted this claim that his client was responsible for the insurrection, which he contended was pre-coordinated and bipartisan. Using only three hours of their

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allotted sixteen hours for defense, the Trump legal team lambasted the trial as "constitutional cancel culture" undertaken by hypocritical politicians who had also often used the word "fight" figuratively.

To refute an argument of Van der Veen's that the President was ignorant of Vice President Pence's precarious position when he tweeted Pence "lacked courage," the House Managers proposed a vote for witnesses to have Representative Beutler testify. Having overheard a phone call between Majority Leader McCarthy and the former President, Representative Beutler had earlier divulged to the press that McCarthy informed Trump of the situation's severity and that Trump replied, "Well, Kevin, I guess these people are more upset about the election than you are." While their proposal passed the Senate, the Managers ultimately submitted a written testimony after the Trump team threatened to derail the proceedings with at least one hundred additional witnesses.

With the seven Republicans and all Senate Democrats ten short of a supermajority for conviction, the Senate voted to acquit former President Trump. With most Republicans who voted for acquittal justifying their choice with arguments of procedural unconstitutionality, however, the trial's outcome has not served to declare the President's innocence as much as it has restricted Congressional power to punish.

## Good News!

On February 27, 2021, the FDA approved the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use. They plan to distribute 100 million doses in early 2021.

After wildfires destroyed forests in Australia, koalas are now finally being released back into the wild!

After a greatly disputed turnout for the winners of the 78th annual Golden Globes, Chloé Zhao became the first Asian woman to win the award for "Best Directing." She is the first woman to win the award since Barbara Streisand in 1984.

On February 22, 2021, a bomb squad was called to investigate a suspicious parcel at an Ohio church which turned out to be a bag of kittens!

On Wednesday, January 20, 2021, Kamala Harris was inaugurated as the first female, woman of color, and Asian American Vice President.

The Himalayan region of Uttarakhand recently became the first Indian state to give women co-ownership rights over their husbands' ancestral property.

A plumber from New Jersey embarked on a 22-hour drive with plumbing supplies to aid Texans affected by the recent winter storm.

Amateur treasure hunter Kevin "Kev" Duckett found an unknown Tudor relic in 2017, which he was only able to uncover as belonging to King Henry VIII earlier this year after its donation and authentication from the British Museum in London, England.

On January 10, 2021, a campaign to make the famous film Ratatouille into a musical raised a total of \$2 million for the Actors Fund, an organization that helps the entertainment community by providing social services, financial assistance, career counseling, housing, and healthcare services.

Maersk, the world's largest container shippment company, has announced that it will be deploying the world's first carbon-neutral shipping vessel by 2023, seven years ahead of schedule.

# Touchdown on the Red Planet: NASA's Perseverance Rover Lands on Mars

Elena Jochum '21  
Layout Editor (Spring)

The past month has brought a wave of exciting new developments in Mars exploration. In February 2021, three different nations successfully arrived at the Red Planet: the United Arab Emirates' Hope probe entered Mars' orbit on the 9th, China's Tianwen-1 craft entered its orbit on the 10th, and NASA's Perseverance rover landed on the Martian surface on the 18th. Each of these missions will provide its own unique insight into different aspects of the planet's inner workings and help contribute to a fuller understanding of Mars. The Emirates Mars Mission's Hope probe will conduct a comprehensive study of the Martian atmosphere in order to help scientists understand why the planet's upper atmosphere is being lost to space. As China's ambitious first interplanetary mission, Tianwen-1 includes an orbiter, lander, and rover. The lander and rover, scheduled to land on the planet's surface in May or June, will study the geology, internal structure, atmosphere, and presence of water on Mars.

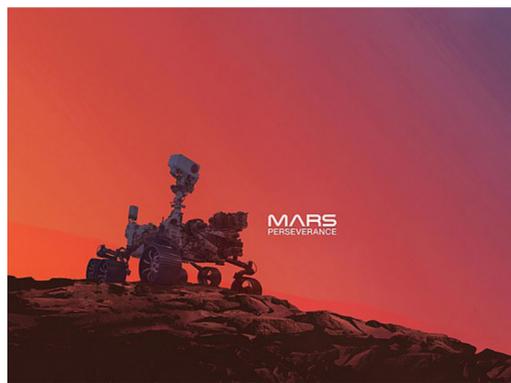
The largest and most advanced rover to land on Mars, Perseverance's mission is focused on astrobology, or the study of the origins, evolution, and distri-

bution of life in the universe. The rover will help answer whether life has ever existed on Mars, and if so, which kinds of past climate and geological conditions supported it. After a 203-day journey to Mars, Perseverance can finally begin its search for signs of ancient microbial life. The rover will also collect data on the geology and climate of Mars, helping scientists understand the chemical composition of Martian rock and how the planet's climate has changed over time.

Perseverance's location is crucial to its mission, as the site was carefully chosen for its geological history. The rover landed in Jezero crater, a 28-mile wide

*If the rover finds evidence of previous life on Mars, we will finally know for certain that we are not alone in the universe.*

meteor impact situated slightly north of the Martian equator. The region's geology indicates that Jezero crater was once filled to the brim with water – essentially, it is an ancient lakebed and river delta. While there are other similar sites located around the planet, Jezero crater was chosen because it is extremely well-preserved. Perhaps the most promising aspect of this



An artist's rendition of NASA's Perseverance rover traversing the Martian landscape. Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

region is that scientists believe it could have once hosted life. Perseverance will attempt to confirm or deny this conjecture by analyzing rock and soil samples with the goal of finding ancient biosignatures. The rover will study how this unique region has changed over time, completing a full portrait of how life could have appeared and died in Jezero crater. In fact, Perseverance will be the first mission to collect and store Martian rock and dust; NASA and the European Space Agency plan to transport these samples back to Earth via subsequent missions in 2031. That way, future scientists will be able to use the full range of cutting-edge technology on Earth

to analyze these samples in a way that would not be possible with only the technology on the rover.

Even still, Perseverance's seven scientific instruments utilize highly innovative methods to study geology and astrobology. The rover also carries the largest number of cameras ever sent to Mars as well as a microphone; for the first time, the public is able to "hear" what it is like to be on Mars. One of the most exciting pieces of technology that Perseverance carries, however, is Ingenuity: NASA's Mars helicopter. Ingenuity is groundbreaking in that it will be the first aircraft to fly on another planet. Attached to the rover's belly, the rotorcraft

will remain stationary for a waiting period of 30 to 60 days before beginning its experimental test flights. Thankfully, NASA has already received a status report from the helicopter indicating that it is functioning as expected.

Perseverance's technology and mission goals have grand implications for the future of space exploration and humanity as a whole. First, the mission represents a significant step towards human activity on Mars. By learning more about the composition of the Martian soil and climate, scientists can better prepare for manned Mars missions (such as NASA's "Moon to Mars" initiative), or in the far future, a Martian output able to support human life. Perseverance is also testing technology that will be crucial for manned Mars missions, such as the Ingenuity helicopter and devices that can produce oxygen from atmospheric carbon dioxide. In a more abstract sense, Perseverance's potential discoveries could entirely change the way we view humanity's place in the universe. If the rover finds evidence of previous life on Mars, we will finally know for certain that we are not alone in the universe. The discovery of ancient Martian life would revolutionize the field of astrobology, opening the gates to new and exciting questions about the origins of life.

# No Power for the Powerless:

*How Texas's Independent Power Grid Left the Most Vulnerable in the Dark*

Megan Schmitz '21  
Staff Writer

When a natural disaster strikes, the most vulnerable people within a population bear the worst of the crisis: not only does cheaper housing often lack protective infrastructure and rest on land vulnerable to extreme weather, inhabitants have less resources with which to recover their more extensive losses. By equalizing the protections available to people across incomes, governmental regulations can mitigate inequities, but they require sacrificing freedom of choice. In mid-February, winter storm Uri struck Texas, a state that has long prioritized independence over bureaucratically-imposed preparedness. Texans witnessed the drawbacks to deregulated infrastructure as their intrastate electrical grid nearly collapsed, necessitating rolling blackouts. As of February 22, a third of Texans still lacked consistent access to running water, and approximately 17,000 residents were without power, many of whom could not afford the \$16,000 cost of a whole-house generator. With the frequency of extreme weather events increasing each year, the feasibility of Texas's insulated, competition-driven approach to energy will continue to face heightened scrutiny. More temperate during



Texans stand in line for hours in the hopes of obtaining food and safe drinking water from grocery stores. Photo courtesy of The New York Times.

the winter season, Texas typically experiences less energetic stress when temperatures begin to drop. For this reason, the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT), a nonprofit that operates the Texas Interconnection electric grid, stockpiles energy for use during the scorching summer months. Greater than 90% of all electricity utilized by Texans originates from this grid that intentionally has limited connection to energy providers across state lines. As long as the energy sources that generate Texas electricity do not cross these lines and thereby avoid involvement in interstate commerce, ERCOT and the private, commercial energy providers working under its oversight can

function without abiding by federal energy laws. Such laws require the regular maintenance of power lines, pipelines, and oil and natural gas pumps as well as reserve systems; deicing and coagulation technology on wind turbines and in gas pipelines respectively; and power line insulation.

Not mandated to weatherize their systems, energy companies struggled when Uri's frigid temperatures and ice froze gas pipes and pumps, reducing the energy supply by 40% in the first hours of the storm as even power plants experienced outages. Without an energy reserve and isolated from the Western and Eastern Interconnection interstate grids, ERCOT had to instead ration

energy in response to a demand for energy 5% greater than the state's previous record. To avoid complete collapse, ERCOT initiated the largest forced blackout in United States history, leaving four million powerless at the crisis's peak. Redirecting natural gas, which generates 40% of Texan electricity, toward powering pricier gas heaters, energy companies rendered residents with cheaper electric heaters without heat as temperatures dipped as low as negative two degrees Fahrenheit.

Though all Texans confronted temperatures forty degrees Fahrenheit below their anticipated wintertime lows, poor residents, particularly those with medical conditions or without

housing, especially struggled. Of the estimated sixty-eight people killed by winter storm Uri, the majority died of exposure, a particular great risk for the homeless, or of a lack of access to electric-reliant medical devices. Though President Biden's major disaster declaration on February 20 enabled FEMA to open warming centers, Texans most at risk for the coronavirus had to weigh the potential of infection against their need for warmth and water, with 680 water maintenance systems issuing boiling notices and with grocery stores suffering from bottled water shortages. In the storm's wake, electricity bills as high as \$17,000 have accompanied rising temperatures, and, while some federal funds have been allocated toward utility reimbursement, customers receiving such bills have found providers slow in accepting withdrawals from their services, compelling continual grant applications.

Accused of putting profit before protection, Texas energy companies and ERCOT now face a reckoning in the state legislature as lawmakers reassess the state's approach to energy. While it is unlikely that Texas will integrate into an interstate grid system, lawmakers have vowed to seek a better balance between consumer freedom and weather safety, the efficacy and equity of which will be revealed when the next storm falls.

# A Record of Firsts: Vice President Kamala Harris Leads a New Era of Diversity



Vice President Kamala Harris looks into the distance on Inauguration Day. Photo courtesy of Flickr.

Mercer Thomas '22  
Staff Writer

On January 20, 2021, thousands of women of all backgrounds and ages were glued to the inauguration on their screens as the world watched Kamala Harris become the first female, Black, Indian Vice President. The former California senator was aware of the groundbreaking nature of her victory. "I may be the first woman to hold this office. But I won't be the last," VP Harris said on November 7 when she and President Biden celebrated their election. She also noted the significant sacrifices of those who came before

her, thanking "the Black women who are too often overlooked, but so often prove they are the backbone of our democracy." Drawing attention to the intersection of the two parts of her identity allowed her to connect with all the women of color she promises to fight for tirelessly. The choice to accept the nomination while wearing striking suffragette-white was a powerful symbol. The color reminded viewers that the rights and ideals women have fought for have expanded since women got the right to vote. Yet, women still struggle to achieve the basic rights of equality and acceptance in a patriarchal society. Despite a divisive elec-

tion that left the country shaking from violence at Capitol Hill in January, more women and people of color than at any other time in history were elected to both the House of Representatives and Senate. This record indicates a significant trend that brings hope to many marginalized groups and communities. In the two chambers combined, 1/4th of the seats are now held by women, with 144 of the 539 seats. As the Pew Research Center states, that is "a 50% increase from the 96 women who were serving in the 112th Congress a decade ago." The report also noted that 2/3rds of the women ever elected to the House were elected after 1991, with a similar

pattern reflected in the Senate. The growth of diversity in elected officials brings optimism to many angered by the disproportionate percentages of white men in Congress that do not reflect America's gender or racial makeup. Even as women in the House and Senate are in the minority, they play important roles in each branch's leadership. Nancy Pelosi began her fourth term as the Speaker of the House, and Kamala Harris became the first woman President of the Senate and presided over the swearing-in of the history-making members in early 2021.

Amid a resurgence of white supremacist activity and the Black Lives Matter protests across the country in response to the

*African American activists like Stacy Abrams are credited by many, including VP Harris, with inspiring people of color to vote in unprecedented numbers in the past election cycle.*

police murder of George Floyd in May, the House and Senate also became more ethnically and racially diverse than at any previous

point in the nation's history. After the swearing-in, a little less than a quarter of the 117th Congress identifies as nonwhite. Pew Research Center reports that "this is the sixth Congress to break the record set by the one before it." One hundred twenty-four members of the two chambers make up this group, a 97% increase from the number of nonwhite members 20 years ago within the 107th Congress. Despite these historic numbers, the percentage of white members appointed has remained around 15% higher than the proportional percentage of white Americans in the U.S. population.

African American activists like Stacy Abrams are credited by many, including VP Harris, with inspiring people of color to vote in unprecedented numbers in the past election cycle. Particularly in Georgia, the successful election of Raphael Warnock, as the first Black senator for the state, would not have been possible without turnout from young Black voters who successfully flipped the Senate with his victory. The political upheaval of the most recent election cycle spread fear throughout the country. Still, for many in minority groups who feel underrepresented, the results of this election cycle were crucial to give them a renewed sense of hope.

# Neo-Nazis on the Rise: A Wave of Anti-Semitic Attacks Spreads Across America

AC Frye '21  
Staff Writer

During the past several years, attacks stemming from anti-Semitism have spread across the nation. More evidence has risen to point towards a connection with anti-Semitic incidents and white supremacist groups alongside far right extremists.

The most recent attack occurred late February 2021, when five outdoor Holocaust tribute statues at the Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art were vandalized. Security footage showed two young men bending and knocking over the statues onto the ground, and, according to the Tulsa police, the young men had attempted to steal them. The two teens were put into custody by the Tulsa Police Department, but the museum reported they caused more than \$15,000 in damages.

The five statues represent the children murdered in the Holocaust. Each wired figure is filled with 2,000 rocks, and they were painted by kids visiting the museum throughout the years, with each a name of a child lost on one side and the age they died on another. The Executive Director, Drew Diamond, said that this vandalism was especially harmful because of what the statues represent, and he wishes the two men who did

this knew the importance of the statues. "We want them to understand what we're about in terms of our education needs and our work, particularly around Jewish Culture and around the Holocaust. You don't have to vandalize our parks, just come in and we'll greet you and give you some coffee and talk with you," Diamond said.

This attack, however, is part of a long string of anti-Semitic incidents. Earlier that month, a Washington state synagogue was vandalized with spray painted swastikas alongside damage to a nearby Holocaust memorial. In December of

*The riot was "not so much a tipping point" for anti-Semitism but rather "the latest explicit example of how [it] is part of what animates the narratives of extremists in this country."*

last year, the Anne Frank Human Rights Memorial in Boise, Idaho was targeted. The perpetrators hung flyers with swastikas and the phrase "we are everywhere."

According to a report released last year by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), the num-



The Anne Frank Human Rights Memorial in Boise, Idaho. Photo courtesy of Flickr.

ber of anti-Semitic incidents in 2019 were at their highest rate in at least four decades. With an increase of 12% from 2018, 2,107 cases of anti-Semitism were reported in 2019: 61 were cases of physical assaults, 919 were instances of vandalism, and 1,127 were cases of harassment. Additionally, more than half of these attacks occurred in New York City. Jonathan Greenblatt, the Executive Officer of ADL, partly blames former President Donald Trump for the rise in attacks, saying that he should have done more to condemn the incidents.

During the riot at the Capitol on January 6th, pho-

tographs portray a man in the crowd wearing a t-shirt inscribed with "camp Auschwitz." With a high presence of anti-Semitic symbols and sentiment, many Jewish Americans became concerned of this ongoing, disturbing trend. In a recent report released by the Miller Center for Community Protection and Resilience at Rutgers University-New Brunswick and the Network Contagion Research Institute, at least half a dozen neo-Nazi or white supremacist groups were identified as having involvement in the insurrection. The riot was "not so much a tipping point" for anti-Semitism but rather "the latest

explicit example of how [it] is part of what animates the narratives of extremists in this country," said Oren Segal, the Vice President of the ADL's Center on Extremism. Although not all high-profile recent anti-Semitic attacks have been linked to far-right groups (such as the 2019 assault on a New York rabbi's Hanukkah party) many have, including the deadly 2017 white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia.

The ongoing increase in anti-Semitic attacks and their supposed connection to far right extremists and white supremacist groups should set off the alarms of most Americans.

# Around the Oval



Seniors Eshana De Silva, Heston Friedrichs, and Mia Stewart (left to right) playing Mario Kart in the senior clubhouse. *Photo courtesy of Mia Stewart '21.*



Ashley Zheng '22 and Kyra Joostema '22 walking around the Oval. *Photo courtesy of Ali Southworth.*



Ina Zhang '21 and Corinna Chen '21 try on graduation dresses during the Rent the Runway event. *Photo courtesy of Ali Southworth.*



Alexa Ekhelar '21 writing notes in the Student Center for Kindness Week. *Photo courtesy of Ali Southworth.*

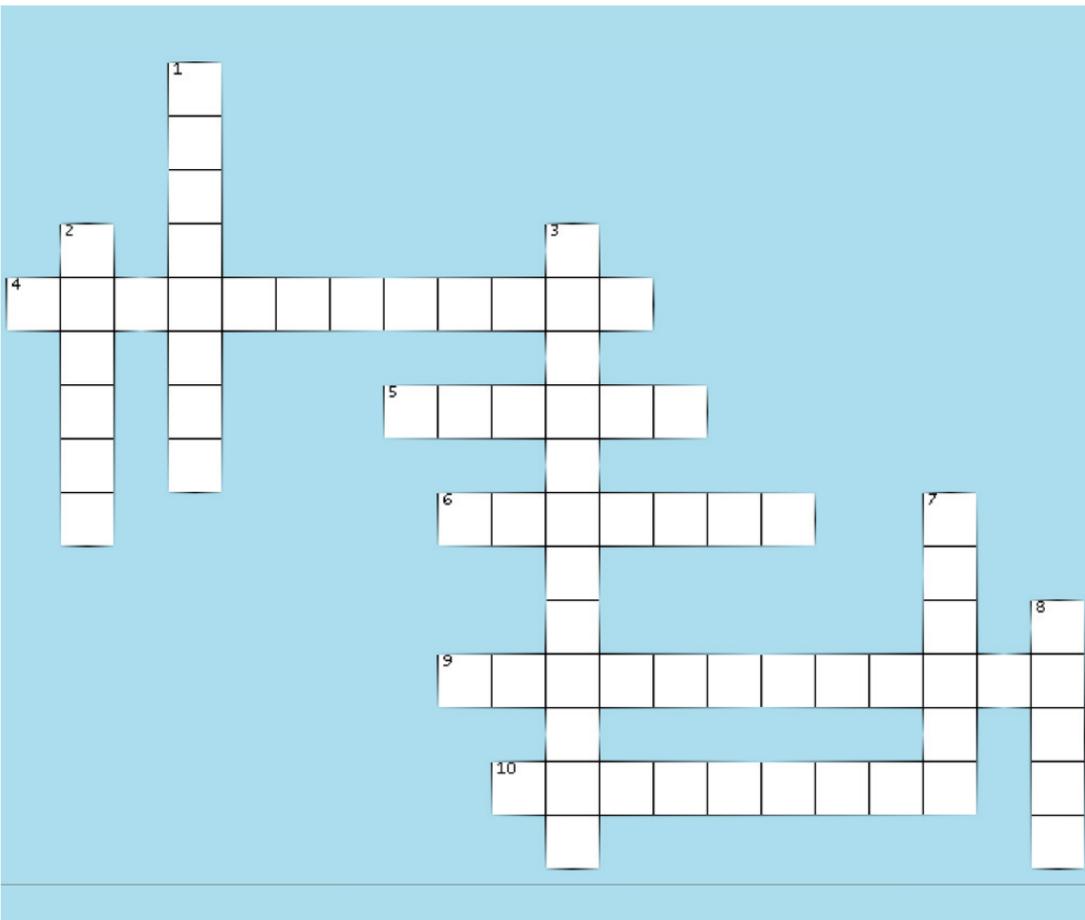


Lindsay Li '22 getting boba tea in celebration of Lunar New Year 2021 at Madeira. *Photo courtesy of Ali Southworth.*



Heston Friedrichs '21 (left) and Chi Hoang '22 (right) watch iCarly in the AV room. *Photo courtesy of Mia Stewart '21.*

## 2021 Winter News Crossword



Crossword puzzle made with Discovery Education Puzzlemaker.

**ACROSS**

- 4. Madeira's annual dorm pageant
- 5. Group in charge of Trump's impeachment trial
- 6. Southeast Asian nation that is in a military coup
- 9. Rover in NASA's Mars 2020 mission that landed in February

- 10. Madeira's yearly dorm cooking competition

**DOWN**

- 1. American dancer and Internet celebrity who recently came out
- 2. Madeira's 2021 musical
- 3. First female, person of color

- Vice President of the United States
- 7. Network that airs the television show WandaVision
- 8. State with an independently run power grid that is currently leaving many without proper access

## Pillsbury Bake-Off



Emily Ramirez and Angela Frankland cooking with peppers. *Photo courtesy of Ali Southworth.*



Rowan Smith cooking over the grill. *Photo courtesy of Ali Southworth.*



Frenda Havenstein presenting their dish to the judges. *Photo courtesy of Ali Southworth.*