



## DECEMBER ISSUE

Hello Royals!

Welcome back to The Current Uprouar! This is our December issue! Check out our previous issues from the past few years on the student newspaper tab on the activities webpage. As always, our newspaper is open to all students and open to a wide variety of content, so if you have any suggestions or would like to become a correspondent, send us an email at [nikhiljain04@gmail.com](mailto:nikhiljain04@gmail.com). Hope you enjoy this issue!

Sincerely,  
Nikhil Jain  
Editor-In-Chief

In This Issue:

Riots At The Capitol



<https://theprint.in/opinion/newsmaker-of-the-week/us-capitol-saw-much-violence-in-200-yrs-but-biden-must-repair-more-than-just-the-building/582414/>

The Truth About Thanksgiving



<https://www.dogonews.com/2018/11/16/its-almost-thanksgiving/page/18?audio=1>

## **Georgia Elects Two Democratic Senators in a Historic Election**

**Anika Tripathi**

Jon Ossof and Raphael Warnock won Georgia's senate races this week on January 5th, 2021. Both these democratic senators beat the Republican incumbents of Kelly Loeffler and David Perdue and by doing so have made this election a historic one as they establish that the South is indeed shifting. In Georgia's history, this was the first time an African-American senator has been elected. This also happened to be the most costly senate election in history as more than 500 million dollars was spent on advertising. By Democrats solidifying their wins in the state of Georgia, they have managed to score a trifecta as they take control of the presidency, on January 21st, the senate, as well as the house. But how did Ossof and Warnock manage to win in the first place? The data available so far shows that Black voters within Georgia are mainly what solidified these victories for the Democrats. In precincts where Black voters represented 80 percent of the electorate, overall voter turnout was higher at roughly 93 percent. Democrats also made gains in a small number of predominantly Hispanic areas within Georgia. In the more affluent, richer parts of Georgia however, Democrats made virtually no gains as these areas voted similar to the 2020 presidential election remaining Republican strongholds. Many experts also attribute the results of this election due to President Trump's as well some Republicans cries of election fraud within the 2020 presidential election. Because Trump painted the election as a rigged process to his supporters, many experts believe Republican were much more apprehensive to turn out to the polls in the senate run off elections. Warnock and Ossof, have minority voters as well as Republican, ironically, to thank them for their wins in the 2021 runoff elections. Overall, the state of Georgia that was once seen as a deep red state and a Republican stronghold, has made itself known on the map and redefined itself as a purple, swing state due to shifting demographics adding up to a more diverse population within Georgia.

# What Happened on January 6th?

**The first large scale storming of the Capitol since the War of 1812: five deaths and questions that remain unanswered**

## G.S

By reflecting on Wednesday's events, you'd think that we were reliving the Arab Spring: except, it appears that the recent storming was based on shoddy, flawed evidence and was 'encouraged' from within.

In a study done by Pew Research in 2019, it found that widening views on topics from guns to god is further polarizing today's political atmosphere, inducing partisanship. This is evident from the cumulation of all that's happened in the last four years into the grand finale, the presidential election. Last year's presidential election was extraordinary on multiple fronts: the way we vote, the gains and loses, and the sheer amount of participation. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, early and mail-in ballots were popular options, representing 64.1% (65,642,049) of the total votes cast. In 2016, Pres. Trump made sweeping gains and took political pundits by surprise by narrowly winning the blue wall (Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.) This year, Pres. Elect Biden rebuilt the wall and gained some more by flipping Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. A lot of this was thanks to his strong following in suburbs and cities, especially in Atlanta, Georgia. There was record participation in the elections this year (66.7% of eligible voters). Biden, himself, won 81,283,098 votes (51.3%), which was the most in history. Despite having less votes, Trump has also won more votes than any other presidential candidate, excluding Biden. Fun fact, Minnesota had the highest voter turnout with 80% of eligible voters casting their vote. Women and POCs also made tremendous gains with diversifying congress: Three more Hispanic Americans, three more Asian Americans, five more Black Americans, and two more American Indians were elected to the house than the 116th congress.

Last year's election was clean and fair. A statement from the FBI, a joint statement by the CISA, GCC, and SCC, a statement from the DOJ, and various courts and election officials asserted one thing: the election was secure, and Trump's claims were unfounded. After several major news networks called the election on November 7th, Trump and his team of lawyers filed lawsuits against several states, citing the election process and vote counting errors. However, the BBC stated that most of these lawsuits were dropped or failed to make a difference.

With this setback, Trump has resorted to more extreme measures to challenge this democratic process, from threatening officials to fighting directly in congress. In Georgia, his most painful loss, Trump told Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger (R) to find the votes, under a low-key threat of pressing criminal charges. In addition to that, 'more than a 100 House Republicans and more than a dozen GOP senators' (NPR) are challenging the results of the election. However, V.P. Mike Pence, Wednesday morning, rejected blocking the vote, an idea that Trump floated. Also, Mitch McConnell (before the insurrection) warned his fellow GOP senators against dissenting: "We cannot simply declare ourselves a national board of elections on

steroids. The voters, the courts and the states have all spoken. They've all spoken. If we overrule them, it would damage our republic forever.”

At 1:00 p.m., during his speech, Trump said, “We will never concede” and encouraged his supporters to protest. Subsequently, rioters began to gather around the building, and they attempted to break through the barriers and police: pepper spray and tear gas was involved. Around 2:07, the rioters made it up the Capitol’s front steps, and they breached the building at around 2:16. Some carrying zip ties to tie up lawmakers; others chanting to hang Mike Pence. The Senate and House chambers went under lockdown, and Pence was evacuated. While stuck in the chambers, security barricaded the doors and advised the congresspeople to put on gas masks. Afterwards, the lawmakers were evacuated. Five people died that day, including a police officer. Around 5:40, the building was secured. At 3:41 a.m., Pence certified the results of the election, confirming Biden’s win.

Afterwards, Trump faced bipartisan criticism for the riot. Several Trump Administration officials resigned in response to the violence: Betsy Devos (Education Sec.), Elaine Chao (Transportation Sec.), Mick Mulvaney (Special Envoy to Northern Ireland), and many more. Dwindling staff, public outrage, and increasing calls for the 25th amendment or impeachment are isolating Trump. Several world leaders, including Angela Merkel (Germany), condemned Trump for his role in the insurrection. Leading up to the insurrection, Trump, a prolific tweeter, propagated a number of lies regarding the election results. Also, he was accused of inciting violence for using phrases such as ‘you’ll never take our country back with weakness.’

For a celebrity-turned-politician, Trump’s presidency definitely caught America by surprise. Whether people remember him by his foreign policy or his controversial stance on immigration, it’s ultimately up to the individual; however, most of us would agree that his handling of the election results was poor. It not only was the final nail in the coffin for his reputation, but it also sowed division within the GOP, the very base that hoisted him to power. Despite ascending to the presidency, an accomplishment that most can only dream of achieving, he will exit this bastion of democracy, position of power with nothing but a whimper.

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## Music Notes

### By Carson Macynski

If you're wondering where the December edition is, let me tell you that you shouldn't need to worry because you guessed it, the Weeknd is coming to Super Bowl LV and while we don't know who'll be playing in the games as of January 4th 2021, we at least have something forward to. Super Bowl LV is scheduled for February 7th 2021 and the Halftime Show is what I'll be reporting on.

The Weeknd aka. Abel Tesfaye started his music career in 2011 with House of Balloons with the help of Wiz Khalifa and the Weeknd won a 2015 Grammy's award for the album Beauty Behind the Madness. To prove that wasn't enough, the Weeknd went on to win an Oscar Nomination and another Grammy's for Earned It in 2016. Now we know for sure that the Weeknd was looking for more with the latest hit Blinding Lights that scored over 300 million likes.

When interviewed by NBC news, the Weeknd reported that it was an honor to be selected to perform at Super Bowl 55 and he also stated that "We all grow up watching the Super Bowl and one can only dream of being in that position," TIME magazine also nominated the Weeknd for being "one of today's most compelling and significant artists of a generation," Well I have to agree with that statement after hearing about the Super Bowl LV Halftime show performance that is coming up.



## How Elliot Page coming out has impacted the lgbtq+ community.

By: Meadow Bergren

You may know Elliot Page from The Umbrella Academy as Juno. In 2014 he came out as queer during a speech for a human rights campaign Emma Portner, On December 1st, 2020 he posted on Twitter and Instagram that he is trans and goes by he/they pronouns. They also wrote how they were scared of coming out because of invasiveness, "jokes", and violence. Later in that paragraph, he states how many people that are part of the trans and POC community have been murdered for who they are. After he explained how much oppression the trans community goes tough they say "*Enough is enough. You*

*aren't being "canceled," you are hurting people. I am one of those people and won't be silent in the face of your attacks."*

He has gotten a lot of support since coming out, many from other well-known celebrities. Sadly there are always people who will spread hate but all we can do is ignore them and not give any attention to the hate.

How has Elliot coming out impacted the community? Elliot has inspired so many people in the LGBTQ community and others, he showed that you shouldn't be scared to be yourself and brought awareness to those who needed it. He loves that he is trans and queer.

Some people have asked Emma Portner (their wife) questions about her sexuality, gender, and pronouns now that Elliot is out. She responds with "My gender identity, pronouns, and sexuality are private and not up for debate." So as of right now, we can respect Emma's choice to not share this information. If and when she shares this information then we can respect it just like we did with Elliot. Also, respect others coming out no matter who they are. :)

## Thanksgiving: A Day of Mourning or Gratitude?

*By Rose Stephenson*

*Thanksgiving was first declared a national holiday in 1941 by Abraham Lincoln to foster unity and to boost tourism in the New England area. Even before then, a fabricated myth of the first Thanksgiving has been taught in classrooms all around the U.S. The story many of us know is as follows: European pilgrims arrived on ships to Plymouth Rock, where they were greeted by Native Americans, unidentified by tribe, ready to share their land. The pilgrims barely survived the first winter and the Native Americans, seeing this, chose to help them by teaching them how to grow corn and hunt. In this newfound community, the pilgrims and the Native Americans shared a large meal to celebrate. This version of the first Thanksgiving is historically inaccurate and adapted from a single paragraph in a letter written by William Bradford. The myth of Thanksgiving makes it appear that Native Americans happily welcomed the pilgrims, taught them how to farm, and then simply disappeared. This myth ignores the fact that Indigenous people lived and thrived in harmony with the environment long before Europeans arrived in North America. It also conveniently fails to honestly address the violent war tactics employed by the European settlers. The fallacy of Thanksgiving also widely misrepresents colonization as bloodless and consensual, in a sugar coated fairytale that emphasizes the innocence of White Americans. In actuality, the settlers' arrival was much worse than a happy meal. The true historical account of what is known to be the first Thanksgiving is as follows; The pilgrims arrived at Plymouth Rock, where the Wampanoag tribe lived. Primarily as a way to protect them from rival tribes, Wampanoag Chief Ousamequin offered the Pilgrims an alliance. For years, the Europeans repeatedly broke the alliance by exploiting the Wampanoag for their resources. Finally, the*

violence culminated into what is known as the King Philip's War. The settlers continued to violate the tribe and their agreement, exploiting their land and resources from that point on. Thanksgiving, for many indigenous people and especially the Wampanoag tribe, is a reminder of the theft of their lands, the many deaths of their people, and the relentless assault on their culture that continues even today. For these reasons and more, many indigenous people believe that Thanksgiving should not be celebrated anymore and that it should be held as a day of remembrance, and a day to tell the truth about the Europeans' arrival. Many indigenous worldviews are based in daily practices of gratitude, so many natives find that having just one commercialized holiday dedicated to being grateful, immediately followed by the most consumerist day of the year is ironic at best, if not disrespectful. Many Native Americans do celebrate a version of the holiday. However, others reject it, or choose to instead, mourn the loss of the many lives taken by Europeans ever since they arrived in the 1600s. To this day, the United States engages in active colonization, by building treaty breaking pipelines on sacred land, and active occupation of stolen territory. During the colonial era, 90% of millions of Indigenous people (a number between 20 to 100 million) were killed. More than four in five Native American women have experienced violence, and more than one in two have experienced sexual violence of some kind (the highest rates for any women in the U.S.). Native American people also have the highest rates of suicide nationwide. Yet, in light of these statistics, Natives are still largely invisible in our culture and education, and we continue to perpetuate a false fairy tale that celebrates their extermination. Many people are still going to celebrate Thanksgiving no matter what, so the question is, what now? Well, many Native Americans believe that this Thanksgiving should be different, especially because this year, the holiday is arriving amidst a struggle for racial justice. Thanksgiving this year should be re-envisioned as an occasion to confront the cruelty of how many of our ancestors came to this country. Non-natives can all act as allies to Indigenous people by bringing recognition to the historical truths of the first Thanksgiving, and what the holiday actually represents. Going forward, we can hold empathy for the past injustices and current oppression that our Indigenous neighbors face. Consider, whether through social media, among your friends, or with your family, what can you do to raise awareness and correct the myths this Thanksgiving?

## College Football Playoffs

By Nikhil Jain

In the previous issue of the newspaper, I had talked about the College Football Playoff and the teams which made it. Now, the season has concluded and we have a national champion: The Alabama Crimson Tide. The semifinal matchups were Alabama vs. Notre Dame and Clemson vs. Ohio State. The predicted final was Alabama vs. Clemson. Alabama took care of business against Notre Dame as expected with a 31-14 victory. However, Clemson could not do the same as they lost 49-28 to Ohio State, ending their season and the college career of future star Trevor Lawrence. This loss was mainly due to Ohio State's high powered offense running through the Clemson defense. These results set up a match we have seen before with Alabama vs. Ohio State. Alabama was the favorite going into the matchup. On top of that, the coronavirus became an issue for OSU and caused them to lose members of the team. Alabama dominated the game with huge performances from QB Mac Jones and Heisman winning WR Devonta Smith and came out with a 52-24 victory. This concluded a unique season with a not very unique champion.

## Premier League Soccer

By Nikhil Jain

The English Premier League is one of the highest regarded leagues in the world. It has some of the best teams and many of the best players. This season, the standings have been very interesting. Currently leading is Manchester United followed by Liverpool, Leicester, Everton, Tottenham, and Manchester City. The season has been disappointing for Chelsea so far as they spent over 200 million pounds and are sitting at 9th place. Another team that has been disappointing is Wolves who sit at 14th after placing 7th last season. Surprisingly, Southampton sits in 7th place when few projected them near the top 10. Both Southampton and Aston Villa are overperforming their expectations. Arsenal had gotten off to a poor start but are now seeming to find their form behind youngster Bukayo Saka and sit at 11th. Newly promoted sides Leeds, Fulham, and West Brom sit at 12th, 18th, and 19th, respectively. This is worrisome for Fulham and West Brom as 18th, 19th, and 20th get relegated after the season. The biggest disappointment of the season has to be Sheffield United. After finishing in the top 10 and remaining in the top 6 for much of the year, they were expected to perform well. However, they have fallen down to 20th and just won their first match after a streak of 17 winless matches in the Premier League. It will take a momentous effort for Sheffield United to escape relegation now.

*Thank  
you*

