



THE LIONS' PRIDE
MEDIA GROUP

JUMPING INTO GREATNESS



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JANUARY ISSUE



Editorial

WHY A PREFERRED NAME OPTION WOULD REFLECT CATHOLIC TRADITION

Reid Griffin
Contributing Writer

As a Catholic institution, Saint Leo University must defend an individual's right to a preferred name.

Presently, the university requires students to use their legal name in all aspects of their campus life. While Saint Leo's website states that a legal name is used on your transcript, student ID Card, and diploma, there is no option to use a preferred name elsewhere. This means students who do not use their legal name are forced to appear on rosters, attend online classes, and send e-mails with the wrong name.

As per the University of South Florida's policy 11-009, "Name for use on Official University Records," students and faculty may change their legal name to a preferred name in their school system. USF's Office of Registrar has a Change of Name Request Form in which students can petition for a name change without legally changing their

name.

Other public institutions in Florida with clearly defined preferred name policies include the University of Florida, University of North Florida, University of Central Florida, Florida Atlantic University, Florida International University, and New College of Florida. Several of these schools allow their students to change their preferred names themselves online.

This option is not limited to public universities—like their larger peers, the University of Miami and Flagler College have preferred name policies. For full transparency, UM lists where preferred first names are used, and where legal first names are used.

According to e-mails from the Saint Leo Registrar, a person named "Jeffrey" can be a "Jeff" and a "Christopher" can be a "Chris." There are also disabled options to change your name in online portals. Saint Leo has the digital infrastructure to include preferred names, but they choose

not to.

This is especially strange when you consider the Biblical precedent of names changing over time. Abram and Sarai become Abraham and Sarah. Jacob becomes Israel. Simon becomes Peter. Saul becomes Paul. These name changes are integral to their identity and their relationship with God. To deny them their new names is to deny them their spiritual growth.

Catholic traditions are also saturated with meaningful name changes that still occur in our daily lives. The sacraments of baptism and confirmation and the processes of becoming a nun, monk, and even the pope all involve taking on a new name. Saint Leo should be leading the charge on preferred name policies. Instead, our school has fallen behind.

Critics of this policy claim that the preferred name system

can be abused. This argument fails to recognize that, if a name containing inappropriate language is requested, it can easily be denied. If a student requests a name that sounds like a joke, let them have their joke. You never know when a preferred name is important to someone, nor can you assume everyone is able to legally change their name during their time at Saint Leo. The entire student body should not be punished for the potential actions of a few.

When I received my acceptance letters, Flagler College addressed me with the preferred name in my application: Reid. Saint Leo never asked. While it is an honor and a privilege to be enrolled at this institution, there are days when I feel pangs of regret for not attending an institution that respects its students' names.

If a Simon needs to be a Peter, let him. Jesus did.



Names are integral to a person's identity, even if the change is as simple as Jeffrey to Jeff.

NEWSROOM

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

500 WORD MAXIMUM — NO PROFANE OR SLANDEROUS LANGUAGE — FACULTY: INCLUDE NAME AND RANK — STUDENTS: INCLUDE NAME AND RANK
PLEASE INCLUDE A PHONE NUMBER TO VERIFY AUTHORSHIP — WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO EDIT FOR GRAMMAR/SPELLING/LIBEL OR PUBLISH
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Campus News

SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY BECOMES A COVID-19 VACCINATION SITE

Ryn Williams

Social Media Manager

Check your emails, Lions, because Saint Leo University is going to be serving as the East Pasco County distribution location for the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

Residential students on University Campus also received an email instructing them to move their cars away from the upper level of the parking garage before 11:59 Jan. 12, 2021. Students were warned that cars may be towed if they are not moved. There is signage posted around the campus to indicate that the parking garage will be used for the Moderna vaccine distribution.

“The Department of Health (DOH) will be using Lot 13 (behind the softball field) and the upper level of the parking garage.

Those two parking areas will be closed. We do not anticipate any impact to students given that our on-campus population is lower than usual due to COVID.” Dr. Melanie Storms, a member of the COVID-19 Response Team for Saint Leo University said, “The reduction in our in-residence population made closing this parking possible.”

Currently, the first round of vaccines will only be available to Florida residents over the age of 65. The vaccine consists of an original dose, and a follow-

up booster dose 28 days later. Residents who are given the vaccine must remain in the area for the duration of those 28 days.

Saint Leo employees who qualify will be able to receive the vaccine before the public during the first week of the spring semester. These employees will be sent an invitation and will need to complete a sign-up

will be voluntary at this time; however, we strongly encourage all community members to get vaccinated.”

Many of Pasco’s residents have grown frustrated with the way the vaccine distribution has been handled. Pfizer, another producer of the COVID-19 vaccination and a competitor of Moderna, released a statement claiming

to discuss possible vaccines with your doctor if you were previously told you are not recommended for vaccinations.

There are some common side effects of the Moderna vaccine listed on the CDC’s website. These include pain, swelling, and redness in the arm where the shot was administered, as well as headaches, chills, and tiredness in the rest of the body.

It is important to note that these side effects usually begin a day after getting the vaccine and should go away after a few days. In clinical trials, the side effects were actually more common after the second dose of the vaccine.

The CDC cited evidence from these clinical trials to declare that the Moderna vaccine is 94.1% effective in preventing COVID-19 illness in those with both shots and no history of a previous infection.

To be vaccinated, individuals who qualify must register through

the Department of Health’s website, pasco.floridahealth.gov. Floridians who would like to opt-in for COVID-19 vaccination updates via text message should text FLCOVID19 to 888777.

Saint Leo has a history of supporting the local community and is now proud to serve our county’s Department of Health. The university urges students, staff, and faculty to be mindful of and welcoming to guests who will be visiting on distribution dates, and to always exemplify Saint Leo’s core values.



process. The vaccine will be free.

Eventually, there will be opportunities for all members of faculty, staff, and students to get the COVID-19 vaccine when Fla. Governor DeSantis expands eligibility criteria. Until then, both Saint Leo and the Department of Health are unable to declare an official date when the COVID-19 vaccine will be available.

When asked whether or not students will require a vaccine before returning to campus life, Dr. Storms stated, “Vaccination

they have not received shipment instructions from Florida and have “millions more doses sitting in [their]warehouse.”

Unlike the Pfizer vaccine, the Moderna vaccine does not require ultra-cold storage.

The Moderna vaccine itself is manufactured by a company that pioneers what they refer to as mRNA medicines, and does not contain eggs, preservatives, or latex like many other vaccines. In fact, most sensitivity to vaccines comes from a sensitivity to eggs or latex. However, it is best

Science & Technology

U.S. RACES TO DEVELOP COVID-19 VACCINES: WHAT WE KNOW NOW.

Reid Griffin
Contributing Writer

Dr. John Torres, NBC News' Medical Correspondent, estimates that the general population may have access to a vaccine in April.

This is good news, especially for the United States. Dr. Paul Offit, a specialist in immunology and virology, shared a grim statistic with Slate: the U.S. has 4 percent of the world's population but 25 percent of the world's deaths.

President Donald Trump identified COVID-19 as a lethal airborne virus in an interview with reporter Bob Woodard, but his Twitter account regularly downplayed the pandemic, according to NPR. With a quarter of reported mortalities, the U.S. response to the pandemic has been a catastrophic failure.

In April, Pfizer Inc., partnered with BioNTech, began Phase I research on a vaccine. At the end of Phase III in November, their data on the vaccine reflected a 95 percent efficacy rate. Pfizer Inc. shared their intentions of requesting Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the FDA on Nov. 20.

According to STATNews, Pfizer's vaccine trials had a total of 43,661 volunteers. 162 participants in the placebo group contracted COVID-19, while only eight of the participants in the vaccine group contracted COVID-19. Nine of the placebo cases were severe, only one

of the vaccine cases was severe, suggesting that even when the vaccine fails to prevent infection, it still acts as a buffer against devastating illness.

Pfizer and BioNTech are not alone in their success—Moderna reported a 94.5 percent efficiency rate against COVID-19. The effectiveness of Pfizer and Moderna's vaccine candidates are a mere 0.5 percent apart.

Dr. Cheryl Kozina, a biology professor at Saint Leo University, is no stranger to clinical research. She explained the Phase II studies are primarily for safety, and the Phase III studies are for efficacy. If the rush for distribution has any negative impacts, it is more likely to lower efficacy than safety.

"At this point, it hasn't been peer-reviewed," Kozina said. "But considering that Pfizer and Moderna are both within a couple of percentage points of another and using the same approach [to fight the virus], that does seem to support each other's data."

Most COVID-19 vaccines are mRNA vaccines, Pfizer and Moderna included. mRNA vaccines teach the body's white blood cells to identify and destroy genetic material belonging to the target virus.

The CDC explains that the body's immune system response involves three white blood cells: macrophages, B-Lymphocytes, and T-Lymphocytes. When infected,

the body spends days to weeks creating and then deploying these cells. The body keeps some of the T-lymphocytes and B-lymphocytes as "memory cells," deploying them upon reinfection.

Kozina explained that, unlike other vaccines that typically involve weakened forms of the virus itself, there is no chance of a live virus making its way into an mRNA vaccine.

"There are only instructions for that spike protein," she said.

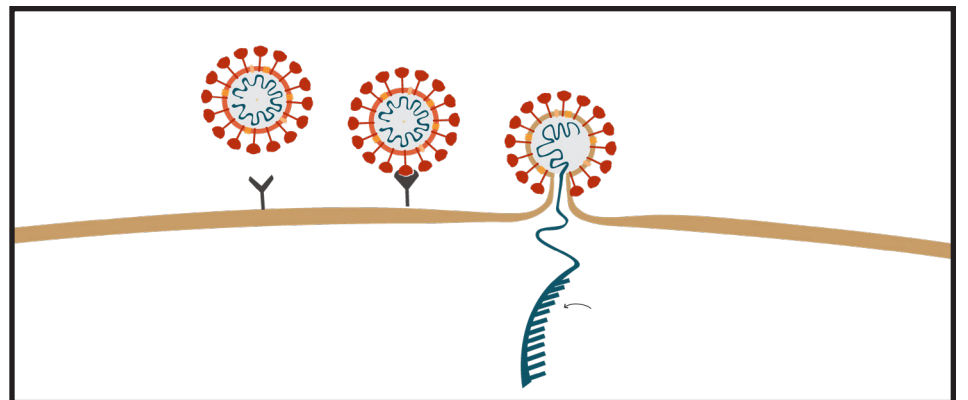
It is impossible to contract COVID-19 from Pfizer and Moderna's vaccine candidates. People can, however, have an immune reaction to the vaccine. STATNews reports Pfizer's volunteers reported side effects such as fatigue and headache. Kozina stressed that these side effects are a good sign.

genetic material of a virus must be familiar enough to trigger an immune response. There have been confirmed cases of reinfection of the coronavirus, says Science Magazine, implying mutations in the virus.

"It is going to mutate," Kozina confirmed. "We hope it mutates slowly and that that gives us time to create another vaccine, and it may be that this becomes like a new type of flu where you have to get a shot every year."

No matter how effective the vaccine, human error compromises its effectiveness.

The Saint Leo Polling Institute reports 67.2 percent of Floridians are willing to get the COVID-19 vaccine once it is approved—5.1 percent points higher than the national average. Over 40 percent of Americans may not want to be



Coronaviruses are named after their spike proteins. An mRNA vaccine does not include RNA (COVID-19's genetic material), rendering the spike proteins harmless.

"It's two shots, so you can't get scared off by that first shot and the reaction," she said.

She also suggested paid time off for employees receiving the vaccine in case of severe side effects. Fatigue and headaches for a day or so are far preferable to the risk of lifelong damage from the COVID-19 virus.

Offit informed Slate Magazine that even vaccinated individuals must follow CDC guidelines. The vaccine is not magic—the eight cases in vaccinated volunteers, one severe, reflect its room for error. Social distancing, masking, and handwashing combined with vaccination, Offit says, will be close to 100 percent effective. The

vaccinated.

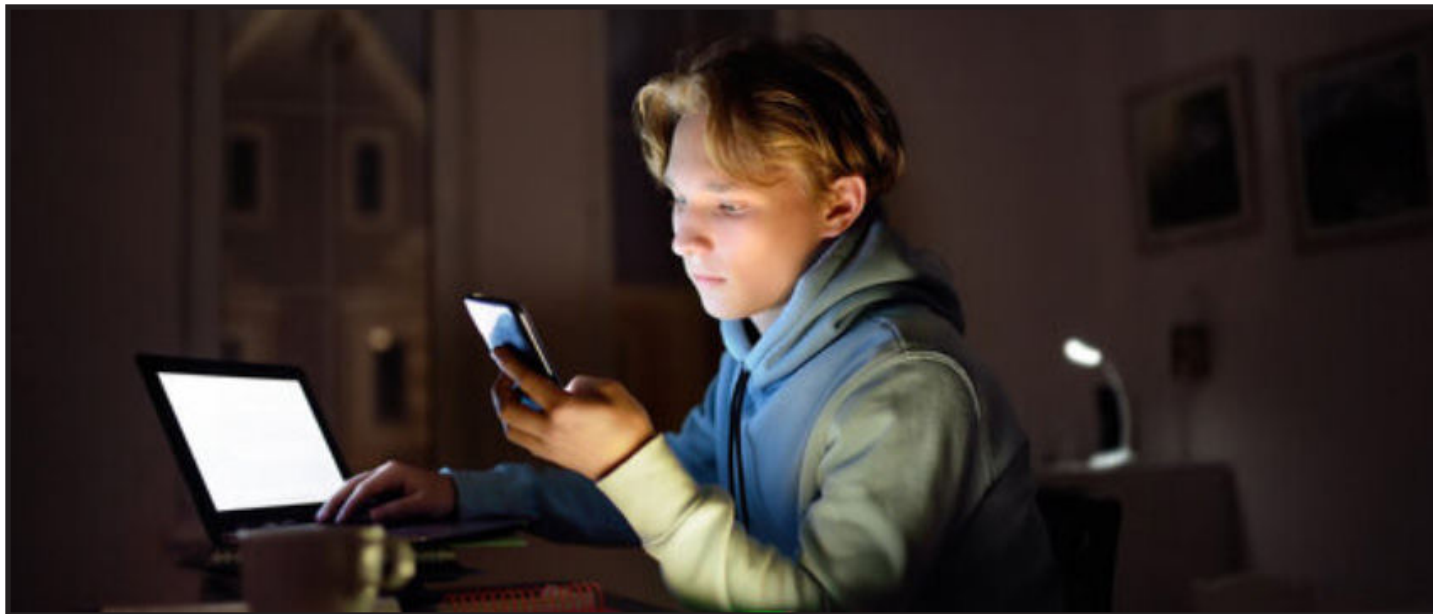
In 2016, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) declared measles eradicated. Unfortunately, the CDC reported outbreaks of the deadly disease every year since. If a significant percentage of the population refuses COVID-19 vaccinations, everyone will suffer the consequences.

Kozina shares the cautious optimism of public health officials such as Dr. Anthony Fauci, but she also gave a warning to those who may reject the vaccine.

"You don't speak for everyone. You don't speak for the uninsured, for the underinsured, for the unemployed. This is public health," said Kozina.

Science & Technology

KIDS & QUARANTINE: WILL QUARANTINE BABIES BE OK?



Dr. Woolfe explains that due to a large influx of social media and screentime, teens and college students may encounter more struggles bouncing back from quarantine than that of babies born within the pandemic (Picture Adobe Stock).

Ryn Williams

Social Media Manager

As the year under COVID-19 wraps up, many people are excited to return to their regular routine. For adults, it may be simple: returning to work and the grocery store. For kids and teens, going back to school with the option of distant learning seems treacherous but doable. But what about new parents and their babies?

Don't worry, because babies born in quarantine will likely be fine. Dr. Christopher Wolfe, an associate professor of psychology at Saint Leo University, stated that, "[Transition from quarantine] will be less difficult for an infant to two-year-old range."

This is because of a phenomenon called Synaptic Pruning. Synaptic Pruning happens when a child reaches

three-and-a-half. When a baby is born, their brains are constantly making connections to their surroundings. This isn't an effective way of getting information; and when they reach three-and-a-half, their brain cuts everything that isn't useful away. This is the cause for infant amnesia and is why most people don't remember being a baby.

This means that quarantine babies likely won't be impacted from staying inside all day. During this stage of life, the baby is focused on interacting with their parents, not cousins or family friends.

So, quarantine babies are fine. Older children may be affected.

"I'm worrying less for elementary school kids than I am for middle and high school kids," Wolfe said, "Older kids are reaching the mature stage of the adult human animal, which is all about connection and other

people. They're cut off from one another."

Social media is coming in handy for this problem.

"If we would have had this before social media, the detriment could be even more extensive, but social media is a connective point," said Wolfe.

Online friends can (and do) have real benefits for people. Thinking of an act of friendship, whether or not it is in-person or online, lights up the same parts of the brain on an MRI, Wolfe cited.

So Zoom may not be that bad after all. Quarantine babies will be fine, but older kids may have some lasting effects – and that's not necessarily a negative thing.

In every stage of development, children and adolescents make a choice. Erik Erikson, an American-German ego psychologist, developed a theory on psychosocial development. There are eight stages called "crisis points" in his theory. He

believed that the personality is developed through the way that adolescents respond through the series of stages.

"There's a crisis point in every stage of development," said Wolfe. "It's the big question or dilemma you must solve so you can move on, whether we isolate or look to others for help." So not only is there a world-wide crisis, nearly all children are going through their own personal developmental crises. This can be very overwhelming. The choices that an adolescent makes now, under these strenuous times, will serve as a reference point for how they behave later if faced with similar conflicts.

It also may boil down to keeping a healthy routine during quarantine.

"Routine is a key component of cultural transmission," according to Wolfe. "Doing the same thing over and over, the child learns the importance of that event." This means that a child learns better through repeated tasks. Going to bed at 8 p.m. every night enforces the habit of a good bedtime. Wolfe believes that healthy snack times are another routine that should be enforced with clear boundaries.

During childhood and teenage years, the frontal lobe, which is responsible for impulse control, isn't fully developed. This is why adults, who do have a fully developed frontal lobe, are able to function better than a child would in these circumstances. Routine is key for child development, and a good routine is pivotal.

Recovery from quarantine may be a rocky road, but it isn't impossible. Wolfe agreed.

"I think that we're social animals, and we're designed to work with one another. That hasn't gone away in a year of limited interaction."

Local News

MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE IN FLORIDA

Daniela Mercades
Contributing Writer

In the 2020 election, Florida voters approved a ballot initiative to gradually increase the state's minimum wage to \$15 per hour. Florida is the first state in the South to raise its' minimum wage to \$12 or more per hour, and it will be the eighth nationwide. Considering that the federal minimum wage is currently \$7.25, and \$8.56 in Florida, the increase will bring significant changes. The wage increase will occur gradually over a period of 6 years.

In September 2021, Florida's new minimum wage will stand at \$10 per hour. It will increase by \$1 every year until 2026. For workers, this increase is a positive event. However, business owners may need to modify aspects of their operations to be able to pay their employees almost twice the amount they did before. If the wage increase were to jump to \$15 per hour at once, employers would be in a rush to prevent financial losses. This would, in turn, cause panic in the labor market and an unstable economy.

President-elect Joe Biden supports a \$15 minimum wage nationwide, while former President Donald Trump believes the amount should be decided by the individual states. To approve the wage increase in Florida, Floridians needed a 60% or more vote on the minimum wage ballot initiative. Amendment 2, increasing the minimum wage, was passed with a 60.8% vote.

According to Zachary Smith, a professor of economics at Saint Leo University, the act of intervening in a market that

has reached an equilibrium and instituting a price floor above the equilibrium price will cause an imbalance between the quantity of the goods or service demanded on the market and the quantity of the goods and services that the market supplies. As a result, the country will likely have too many workers ready to work and too few businesses

related to economic inequality. There are other tools to achieve that purpose. Even though the minimum wage increase will take place over several years, it is likely to affect national debt levels in the long-term, according to Professor Smith.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, an increase in the minimum wage to \$15

his income; however, he thinks it will not benefit the country as a whole. With the extra money earned, Simon plans to become more involved in investing in the future. Annabella Serrano, a Saint Leo marketing major, and an economics major, Nicholas Balfe, also disagree with the increase in Florida's minimum wage. They explained that the outcome of



Citizen activism is one of the reasons the government took measures toward minimum wage increase.

willing to hire them at the increased wage.

Smith, who holds a doctorate in economics, disagrees with the minimum wage increase. He thinks that the government is destroying entry-level jobs, which help workers gain experience in their career ladders. According to Smith, they should allow market forces (the actions of buyers and sellers that cause the prices of goods and services to change without being controlled by the government) to determine the equilibrium wage rate and should not intervene in markets to attempt to fix issues

in any state by 2025 would increase the income of 17 million inhabitants. Such an increase could potentially result in 1.3 million lost jobs. Part-time workers and adults without a high school diploma would be the most negatively affected by this change.

Students at Saint Leo have strong opinions on this topic since the changes affect them. Wilnor Simon, a sophomore student majoring in business management, disagrees with the implementation of a \$15 minimum wage. He sees how the increase may positively affect

the wage increase will be raised taxes and lost jobs.

Myron Kowalski, a professor who teaches McDonaldization at Saint Leo University, explains to his students how raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour will force medium and large businesses to use technology instead of workers. This may mean that robots have the potential to replace humans.

Economists are now analyzing whether the wage increase will cause inflation. A hypothesis that could explain this situation is called a wage push. It is an increase in the price of goods as a result of an increase in wages.

National News

THE NEXT VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: WHO IS KAMALA HARRIS?



Kamala Harris was the first Indian American to serve as a U.S. Senator as well as the second African American woman. (Picture from Times of San Diego)

litigations as a young prosecutor fresh out of law school. She later endorsed her own record on child sexual abuse cases, prosecuting pedophiles in television advertisements as she campaigned for public office.

In 2003, Harris became the District Attorney of the City and County of San Francisco. After completing two terms, she was elected as California's Attorney General, the first African American and first woman to serve in that position.

As Attorney General, Harris declined to support two ballot

General was the creation of Open Justice, an online platform to make criminal justice data available to the public. The database helps improve police accountability by collecting information on the number of deaths and injuries of those in police custody.

While in office, clergy sex abuse victims complained about Harris' silence on the Catholic Church's abuse scandal. Joey Piscitelli, a spokesperson for the Survivors' Network of those Abused by Priests (SNAP), recounts that Harris ignored

on a federal level. "Times have changed — marijuana should not be a crime," said Harris.

Since then, Vice President Harris has co-sponsored bills for several causes, including the expansion of gun control measures, "Medicare for All," increased wages for working people, reform of the criminal justice system, substance abuse, support of veterans and military families, and more access to childcare for working parents.

President Joe Biden chose Harris as vice president because

Mariana Navarrete Contributing Writer

As a child of immigrants from Jamaica and India, Vice President Kamala Harris "knows personally how immigrant families enrich our country," President Joe Biden said in his first presidential campaign in Delaware, adding that "her story is America's story."

Harris was born in Oakland, California, to two immigrants – an economics professor from Jamaica and a breast-cancer researcher from India. Harris is the first Black woman and first Asian American to be chosen as a vice presidential running mate on a major-party ticket.

Harris earned her undergraduate degree from Howard University and her law degree from the University of California, Hastings. Harris began her career in the Alameda County District Attorney's Office in Oakland.

Harris specialized in sex crimes and child exploitation



Protesters stand in front of St. Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco in 2005 - when Harris was the city's district attorney. (Picture from theintercept.com)

measures to end the death penalty, disapproved of the notion of drug possession as a misdemeanor, and co-founded the Coalition to End the Exploitation of Kids.

Harris also formalized a court for young adults charged with felonies in which convictions were reduced and the young adults got second chances.

One of her most significant accomplishments as Attorney

multiple messages urging her to release records of abused clergy to help alleged victims in court.

In 2017, Kamala Harris was sworn in as a United States Senator for California. She was the second African American woman and first South Asian-American senator in history.

In 2019, U.S. Sen. Harris announced a bill she co-sponsored to decriminalize the possession of marijuana

of her experience in public office. President Biden believes that her mixed-race heritage allows her to connect across identities and reach multiple audiences and voting blocs.

President Biden said, "Little Black and brown girls, who so often feel overlooked and undervalued in their communities, but today, just maybe they're seeing themselves for the first time in a new way."

Biden's First 1000 DAYS

President Biden signed 17 executive orders after being sworn in on January 20, 2021. These orders were aimed at reversing the previous administration's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, removing anti-immigration policies, tackling climate change issues, promoting racial and LGBTQ+ equality, and education.

So far, the President has mandated for social distancing and masks to be worn on all federal property. Biden has revoked the United States withdrawal from the World Health Organization (WHO). A COVID-19 office has now been set-up that will report directly to the President, led by Jeff Zients, former Director of the National Economic Council. The National Security Council's directorate for global health security and biodefense has also been reconstructed after previously being closed by former President Trump.

Foreclosures and eviction moratoriums have been extended through the end of March of this year. This is designed to protect millions of mortgage-paying homeowners from being evicted. Direct mortgage servicers are now required to stop all new foreclosure actions and will suspend any that are in progress for FHA-insured single-family properties.

For students who have federal student loan payments outstanding, Biden has directed the education department to freeze monthly payments and interest on most federal student loans until September 30, 2021.

Biden has reversed Trump's orders to withdraw from The Paris Agreement. This is the administration's efforts to alleviate climate change. Biden canceled the presidential permit for the \$8 billion Keystone XL pipeline that would have transported fossil fuels from Canada across the United States. Rumors have sparked about the negative effect of President Biden signing this order.

*Joe Biden is now the second Catholic president of the United States. Some people question his faith because his support of abortion rights.
Source: The Guardian*

A Facebook post claimed that "By revoking the Keystone pipeline permit, Biden is destroying 11,000 jobs and roughly \$2 billion in wages," This is not exactly the case. TC Energy stated that they have only laid off only 1000 workers in both the U.S and Canada because of this order. The jobs would have been temporary. The order further banned drilling in a multitude of national parks and national monuments while implementing more rigid emissions and fuel economy standards for vehicles.

As a step to reduce racial injustice Biden has revoked the Trump Administration's 1766 Commissions project. The project was intended to reinforce a strictly conservative history curriculum in U.S. schools. Biden's order also prompted federal agencies to create an action plan within the next 200 days to tackle unequal barriers to opportunity in agency policies and programs.

Undocumented immigrants will be included in the U.S Census as Biden has repealed Trump's orders that excluded these groups of immigrants. Fears of deportation from Dreamers under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Act have been soothed. Biden has ensured that these young immigrants have legal protection.

The ban on people entering the U.S. from Muslim countries has been removed. The State Department has been directed to restart visa processing for the countries affected by the ban. Both the construction of the Mexico-United States border wall and the Trump administration's interior enforcement rule have been canceled. Deportation protections have been extended for Liberians.

With efforts to revive equality in the United States, Biden ordered a ban on LGBTQ+ discrimination in the workplace. The order further directs federal agencies to make certain existing laws banning sex discrimination also prohibit discrimination against gay, bisexual, and transgender workers. Biden also has plans to fully remove the ban on transgender people serving in the military.

An ethics pledge for all executive branch officials order has been signed to ensure that officials do not use their authority for their own personal gain. Trump's "midnight" regulations have been frozen: this order blocks any Trump Administration regulation that is currently in process and prevents them from taking full effect.

*Pew Research stated that statistics show that 46% of the public agree that Biden will make the way the federal government works better. Smaller shares say he will make things worse (28%) or not have much of an effect (24%).
Source: CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES*

*Joe Biden has a goal of getting 100 million vaccines into Americans' arms in the first 100 days.
Source: Tom Brenner, Reuters*

Aside from the executive orders signed in Biden's first week, he has much more action to take during his first 100 days in office.

So far, he has plans to boost the U.S. economy back and better to what it was pre-pandemic. Under the "American Rescue Plan," which has a budget of approximately a trillion dollars, \$1400 stimulus checks will be distributed to Americans who qualify in addition to the \$600 stimulus checks issued in January before Biden took office. Billions will also be spent on small business economic relief, state-level support, federal nutrition programs, and support for childcare providers.

Proposals have been made for minimum wage being raised to \$15.00. A senior economic-analyst, Mark Hamrick, approved this minimum wage notion by saying, "If the federal minimum wage were to be raised, it would provide a much-needed financial shot in the arm for many of those still in a position of financial fragility."

Biden aims to create 5 million jobs and to enforce his "Made in America" Plan, which would invest billions of dollars into manufacturing, research, and development.

Switching gear from economic recovery, the Biden Administration has plans to execute their "clean energy plan" that is anticipated to get the U.S. to net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

The country still awaits to hear more about Biden's plans for healthcare and education.

*President Biden has now made Dr. Anthony Fauci, an experienced infectious disease expert, the chief medical adviser for Covid-19.
Source: Mandel Ngan/Getty Images*

*President Biden has instructed the director of national intelligence to conduct a comprehensive threat assessment on domestic violent extremism in the United States.
Source: Roberto Schmidt/AFP via Getty Images*

*The new president pledged to remove corporate tax cuts where possible, while doubling the levies US firms pay on foreign profits.
Source: Reuters.*



Info by: **Tayhana Taylor**, *World News Editor*
Graphics by: **Christian Silva**, *Creative Director*

National News



Donald J. Trump  @realDonaldTrump · Dec 19, 2020 ⋮

Peter Navarro releases 36-page report alleging election fraud 'more than sufficient' to swing victory to Trump [washex.am/3nwaBCe](https://www.washex.com/3nwaBCe). A great report by Peter. Statistically impossible to have lost the 2020 Election. Big protest in D.C. on January 6th. Be there, will be wild!

 This claim about election fraud is disputed

“BE THERE, WILL BE WILD!”: WHAT HAPPENED ON JANUARY 6TH?

Ryn Williams

Social Media Manager

Jan. 6, 2021 was a date for the history books. Right-wing conspiracy theorists and protestors showed up and stormed the U.S. Capitol building, the first successful attempt since 1814. Their goal: disrupt the 117th Congress.

U.S. legislators were scheduled to formally certify Democrat Joe Biden's victory in the presidential election of 2020. The session would officially count the Electoral College votes awarded to President Biden.

Their attempts to disrupt Congress worked for a day. No legislators were harmed, but five people were murdered in the rampage, including one Capitol officer.

Self-proclaimed patriots pushed their way into the U.S. Capitol building, forcing

the Congress to hide in their offices, the House gallery, or in undisclosed locations fearing for their safety.

The mob walked freely around the building for the entire day. Many of the rioters came from former President Donald Trump's "Save America Rally" that took place on The Ellipse, a park nearby. He spoke to his supporters for hours, insisting that the election had been stolen, to demand a recount.

On Dec. 16, the Associated Press "called the race", based on certified election results. Democrat Biden won with 306 electoral votes, surpassing the 270 needed to be declared president. Republican Trump was awarded 232 electoral votes.

For the popular vote, Biden was still ahead of Trump with a total vote percentage of 51.4, while Trump was at 46.9%. Third-party candidates totaled almost 3% of the total votes cast,

and 0% of the electoral votes.

Compared to recent years, there was a massive increase of mail-in votes. The majority of mail-in votes were pro-Biden, due to his campaigns pushing the use of mail-in ballots to avoid the spread of the coronavirus. Far-right conspirers disagreed with the outcome. They took to Parler when Twitter and Instagram removed them for violating their Terms of Services. Congresswoman Maloney has formally requested the FBI investigate Parler. The FBI has yet to publicly respond.

This tweet sparked controversy in the House of Representatives, who have now pushed forward articles of impeachment against Trump. There are three things that a president can be impeached for or convicted of: treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors.

The "incitement of

insurrection," according to the U.S. House, is considered under high crimes and misdemeanors. On Jan. 16, 2021, the U.S. House resolved the articles of impeachment.

"In all this, President Trump gravely endangered the security of the United States and its institutions of Government," the article read.

Trump was previously impeached in 2019 for abuse of power and obstruction of Congress. A second impeachment could cost him the benefits that former presidents typically receive: an annual pension and Secret Service protection for the rest of his life, as well as tarnishing his reputation, and possibly disqualifying him from running in the future.

On Jan. 26, 2021, the Senate received the articles of impeachment. Senate has adjourned until Feb. 9, when the trial is scheduled.

Arts & Culture

CINEMA AND MOVIES, POST-COVID-19

Christian Silva
Creative Director

Going to the theaters to watch a new movie with the incredible surround sound and high-resolution screens is something that is hard to replicate. Streaming services, such as Netflix and Hulu have broadened our movie-watching experience, but do not provide the same experience unless you have expensive movie watching equipment.

The popularity of streaming service subscriptions has no doubt increased over the years as the internet and smart devices become more capable and accessible. However, there is still something special about watching a new movie on the big screen with your friends and family.

As a movie theater goer, I had always wondered why movies never went instantly to home screens through paid-viewing fees or subscriptions. However, that curious inquiry may not live for long with the way the movie distributors may begin releasing movies to the public.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many major chain theaters—such as AMC Entertainment and Regal Cinemas—have closed temporarily, while many small theater businesses have been permanently lost.

The pandemic caused a shift in the movie industry not only with the in-person movie experience but with the production, release, shooting, and planning of all movies. Many movie distributors have pushed back release dates from 2020 to 2021, in hopes of better profitability, of businesses returning to normal, and of the

reopening of the majority of theaters.

For example, Marvel Studios had originally planned to release Scarlett Johansson's solo "Black Widow" film on May 12, 2020, only for it to be pushed back to November and, later, to its current May 2021 release slot. Additionally, the production and shooting of other Marvel Studios movies, such as the untitled sequel to Tom Holland's "Spiderman: Far From Home," were postponed or pushed back to later release dates.

"Wonder Woman 1984," released in theaters on Christmas Day 2020, may have been the jumpstart to a new generation of movie experience and watching. For "Wonder Woman 1984," Warner Bros opted for both a theatrical release, as well as an exclusive HBO Max streaming access.

The streaming access would last for a month after the film's initial Christmas release, before being removed from the streaming service. HBO Max subscribers may watch "Wonder Woman 1984" for free and Hulu users may try a free HBO Max 7-day trial add-on to stream it. "Wonder Woman 1984," however, is not the only film that Warner Bros plans to release via this method. The company announced that their entire 2021 movie slate would be released simultaneously in theaters and via streaming. Warner Bros' 2021 lineup includes a number of highly-anticipated movies, such as "The Matrix 4," "The Suicide Squad," "Space Jam: A New Legacy," and Lin-Manuel Miranda's "In the Heights" musical adaptation to name a few. The decision was seen as a bold move by distributor Warner Bros. While some smaller movies

typically go straight to retail and digital without ever being shown on the big screen, an attempt at this tactic by a major movie distributor is unique. Competitors will surely be watching how this move plays out in the following year, discerning whether to join the movement.

Earlier, Disney Studios had made a similar attempt with the new, live-action adaptation of its original 1998 animated movie "Mulan" in Nov. 2020. Rather than releasing it in theaters, Disney sent the film straight to its new streaming service, Disney+, where it was available with a "premier access" purchase. Via Disney+, "Mulan" did not make as much profit as the film had been projected to make with a theatrical release, leaving many to wonder if the stream-only release method may not be ideal for big distributors.

Under the current pandemic, the global box office and movie industry has certainly taken a hit in terms of profits. However, the changes that the film industry has made in the past year could revolutionize the future of the movie-watching experience. If Warner Bros' dual release to both theater and streaming is a hit, we could see more companies invest and attempt this method, resulting in massive changes to new movie accessibility. In future, consumers may not have to wait for a film to go from theatrical to digital release.

However, Warner Bros' one-year experiment may also just be a temporary solution to releasing and watching movies during COVID-19. The spread of the coronavirus is still rampant in the United States, and—for the entire Hollywood movie industry—the box office revenue has been negatively impacted by



Film release dates are not the only things being pushed back due to COVID-19. Trailers and teasers, such as the one for Sony's "Venom: Let There Be Carnage" have also been delayed.



HBO Max offers a variety of television shows and movies, including all of the live-action films from DC Comics.



Disney's live-action "Mulan" originally had a watch-fee of \$29.99, on top of Disney+'s subscription fee. It was released for free on the streaming service later in the year.

theater closures. Currently, only a small percentage of theaters have opened back up for showings.

New film release formats could also influence the future of marketing, production, release dates, and wages, due to the revenue from theaters now being shared with at-home viewers. We will have to see how this year unfolds for all the companies taking new approaches and how much COVID-19 will continue to affect the film industry.

Arts & Culture

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She/Her/Hers ([What is This?](#))



This is one of many examples of where someone could put their pronouns (Top). To further educate, one can also use a prompt to link a url to mypronouns.org. The site gives detailed information about whichever set of pronouns the user prefers (Bottom). Social media and professional bios can include one's pronouns as well as spoken introductions (Right).

THE CONTEXT, HISTORY, AND PROPER USE OF THEY/THEM PRONOUNS

Emily Miller Senior Copyeditor

In 2017, the Associated Press (AP) Stylebook was updated to accept the use of the singular “they.” This means that individuals who do not wish to be referred to as either “she/her/hers” or “he/him/his” within articles can now be referred to with “they/them/theirs” pronouns.

For those who do not use or know anyone that uses they/them pronouns, using the singular “they” can seem strange. Today, written English typically uses they/them pronouns to refer to a group of people, not an individual. However, written English

has historically included the singular “they.”

According to the Oxford English Dictionary website, a middle-English translation of the poem “William and the Werewolf” includes the singular “they,” stating, “Each man hurried . . . till they drew near . . . where William and his darling were lying together.” Purdue University’s Online Writing Lab (Purdue OWL) notes William Shakespeare, in “Much Ado About Nothing,” wrote, “To strange sores, strangely they straine the cure.”

The singular “they” has not been left in the past. Dr. Chris Friend, Assistant Professor of English and faculty sponsor of

Prism, Saint Leo’s Gay-Straight Alliance, provided additional context.

“The thing with the ‘singular they’ is that we use it all the time in oral conversation,” Friend said. A singular ‘they’ is typically used in casual conversations when the gender of a person is unknown.

“If I tell you ‘oh I went to the bank today and I applied for a loan,’ your response would be ‘really, what did they say?’” said Friend. “And we would both understand immediately that your question actually was ‘what did the person I spoke to at the bank say to me’ because the bank doesn’t say anything, but that person

does.”

Using “they” in this sense means one would not have to assign a gender to this unknown person which saves time and energy. Saying “he or she” instead of “they” is not unheard of, but it is also not necessary in understanding what is being communicated. “Any time I mention something in conversation, and the other person in conversation needs to ask more questions about that thing, the easiest way for us to do that, and the natural way for us to do that, is to use the singular ‘they,’” said Friend.

Using the singular “they” in writing is not grammatically incorrect nor would its use

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be particularly distracting to the average reader—that is, if it is used properly. According to Friend, its improper use is most obvious with the verb “to be.”

“You naturally want to say ‘they is’ because you are thinking of a singular person and you know that, with a singular person, you use the word ‘is,’” said Friend. “As soon as you say ‘they is’ your brain explodes, because that goes against your lifetime of linguistic training.”

The solution is to stick with said lifetime of linguistic training and to write “they are.” This might be weird the first time because using “they

are” does not fit the typical image of one person, Friend explained. But, eventually, our brains would adapt because of the pronoun’s use in conversation. Friend emphasized that when a person is first introduced is the most important time to clarify that “they” refers to just the one person. He gave an example which applies to journalism.

“For instance [...] ‘We spoke with So and So and they told us such and such,’” said Friend. “If you introduce that person in that phrasing, you have all of a sudden made it abundantly clear, that person is a ‘they’ and that ‘we’ means the organization doing the journalism.”

Properly using the singular “they” does not just concern

its grammatical correctness. Friend expressed that asking for someone’s pronouns upon meeting them and then using those preferred pronouns is important. Picking a pronoun to use for a person that is different from the one that person prefers, is presumptuous.

“If you pick one, you are making a decision and a determination of my representation and self-image of gender and my portrayal of gender that I did not tell you was appropriate for me,” said Friend.

Not only would it be disrespectful to use, for example, “he/him” for a

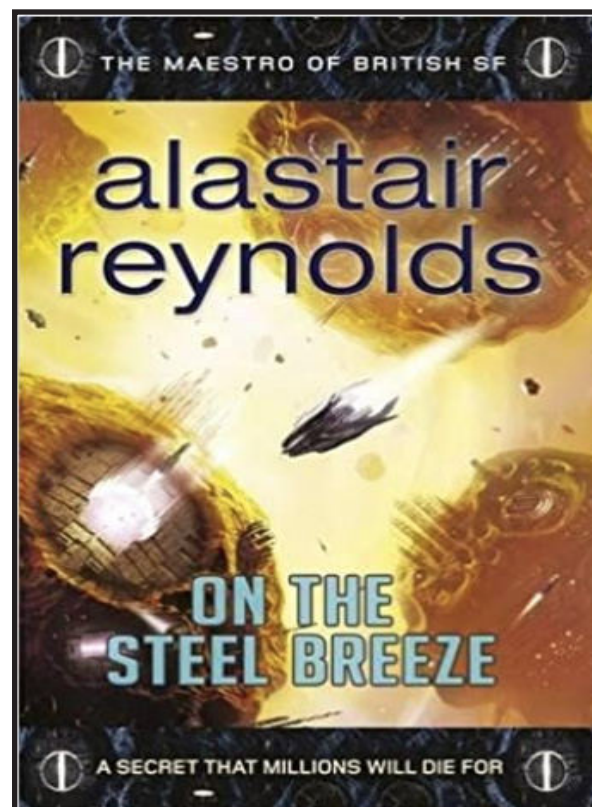


Pronouns are indicative of one’s gender but not inherent to any given gender identity. In other words, if someone identifies as male, that doesn’t necessarily mean that person uses “he/him” pronouns; this is another reason to ask someone’s pronouns.

person that uses “she/her” pronouns, it would be inaccurate.

Gender identity and sex are two different things, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). The WHO article dubbed “Gender

and health” states that, “[g]ender identity refers to a person’s deeply felt, internal and individual experience of gender, which may or may not correspond to the person’s physiology or designated sex at birth.” Friend expanded on



On the Steel Breeze by Alastair Reynolds is a novel which includes a character who uses neopronouns. According to mypronouns.org, neopronouns are typically gender-neutral pronoun sets which were developed in the 19th and 20th centuries.

the difference between sex and gender.

“Gender is a thing that you enact through your everyday life. You do gender so that people perceive you a particular way,” said Friend. “Gender is not assigned at birth. Gender is performed, sex is assigned at birth—and it’s also not as clear cut as we think it is.”

Friend explained why a singular person might use they/them pronouns and the concept of nonbinary gender identities. He used Barbie and G.I. Joe to illustrate the two extremes of binary genders, male and female respectively.

Barbie is the ideal for women—her figure, her self-expression, her role in society and G.I. Joe is the ideal for men—his rugged build, tough nature, and his role in society.

“Now, I would argue that pretty much everybody except

Barbie and G.I. Joe themselves probably want a little less of an extreme presentation of their gender,” said Friend. “The way I view myself is further away from Barbie than it is from G.I. Joe.”

For this reason, Friend said, he feels comfortable using he/him pronouns. Some people’s gender identity may fall on various points on this male-female spectrum, or they may fall outside of that spectrum altogether.

Pronouns play a large part in expressing one’s gender and their gendered experiences, so using one’s preferred pronouns acknowledges one’s gender and the way they view themselves. Friend gave some advice regarding this concept. “I encourage everybody to normalize the presentation of pronouns even, and especially, if the pronouns that you use seem obvious to you and those around you,” said Friend.

“By saying ‘these are the one I use,’ you’re opening the door for other people to feel comfortable and safe around you to tell you what theirs are.”

Sports

NFL REGULAR SEASON RECAP AND THE END OF THE PLAYOFFS

Anthony Martinez
Sports Editor

In an NFL season where people were unsure if it would even get underway, the league is now deep into the playoffs, and the Super Bowl is right around the corner.

In a season as odd as this one, the world saw some results that were considered just as abnormal with teams that had previously struggled for years, those that missed the postseason, or those that finally reached it. This season added on five new division champions from last year and breakout performances; the league saw great change.

Some NFL stars once again shined this season, while some were born and broke out onto the scene. Stars included those like Houston Texans' quarterback Deshaun Watson who led the league in passing yards this season at 4,823, Aaron Rodgers leading the league in passing touchdowns at 48, who also had the highest passer rating at 121.5, second all-time to himself in 2011. Derrick "King" Henry had over 2,000 rushing yards this season and 17 touchdowns, both league leaders. For receiving, Stefon Diggs had the most yards at 1,535 while Davante Adams had the most touchdowns with 18.

On the defensive side of the ball, Zach Cunningham had the

most tackles with a whopping 164. The sack leader is T.J. Watt with 15.5. The interception leader is Xavien Howard with 10 on the season.

The NFL awards have yet to be announced but there are some favorites so far. The favorite for MVP is Green Bay Packers' quarterback Aaron Rodgers for his consistent dominance this season, looking as good as he ever has at 37 years old. Other candidates are Bills' quarterback Josh Allen, Chiefs' quarterback Patrick Mahomes, and Titans' running back, Derrick Henry. Offensive rookie of the year will most likely go to either Justin Herbert or Justin Jefferson for their historic seasons, respectively.

Perhaps the most notable change this season was the new king in the AFC East, the Buffalo Bills. For the last two decades, the New England Patriots dominated that division and for the first time in 25 years, the Bills reigned supreme. The Patriots didn't finish second either, the Miami Dolphins surprised many with their success, and the Patriots were relegated to third while the Jets were awful.

Outside of the AFC West Champions, the Kansas City Chiefs, the other AFC divisions had close results, regardless, the North Champion went to the Pittsburgh Steelers and the South went to the Tennessee Titans.

In the NFC, the Green Bay

Packers and New Orleans Saints repeated as division champions in the North and South, respectively. The Seattle Seahawks took back their West crown and were champions yet again. While the NFC East had a historically bad division, so much so that a seven-win team, the Washington Football Team, won the division. The lowest win total outside of them was an eleven-win team.

Outside of the division leaders, six more teams made the playoffs thanks to the new format implemented this year. Those teams were Baltimore Ravens, the Cleveland Browns (for the first time since 2002),

divisional round, they saw their first action of the playoffs. The Packers' offense ran through the Rams defense despite that being their strength showcasing them as serious threats. While the Chiefs had a scare when quarterback Patrick Mahomes was ruled out, in the second half, they were able to just hang-on, beating the Browns 22-17.

Other divisional round results saw the Bills dominate the Ravens offense before and after quarterback Lamar Jackson suffered an injury. The Buccaneers were finally able to beat the Saints and move onto the NFC Champion game, as well.

This upcoming weekend



The updated playoff bracket before championship weekend, was started with fourteen teams, is now down to the final four. (Picture from cbssports.com)

the Indianapolis Colts, the Los Angeles Rams, the Chicago Bears, and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers (for their first time since 2007).

Wildcard weekend showcased some close games as well as some one-sided affairs. Close games saw the Bills defeat the Colts, the Rams defeat the Seahawks, the Ravens defeat the Titans, and the Buccaneers defeat the Washington Football team. The more one-sided games saw the Browns shock the Steelers, while the Saints took care of the Bears.

Because of the new format, only one team from each conference got a bye week as opposed to the usual two; those teams were the Chiefs and Packers, respectively. In the

features the Chiefs versus the Bills and the Packers versus the Buccaneers to see who will advance to go to the Super Bowl. The AFC sees two young star quarterbacks leading their teams. As top two seeds in the AFC, there is no shock that this game decides who will represent the AFC in the Super Bowl. Meanwhile, earlier in the season, the Buccaneers managed to beat the Packers. Since then, the Packers have done almost nothing but win, and win convincingly. With Aaron Rodgers as a potential MVP as well, and the game taking place at Lambeau Field, the Packers are feeling confident in their rematch to see who will represent the NFC in the Super Bowl.

Sports

2020- 2021 NBA SEASON BEGINS

Anthony Martinez
Sports Editor



LaMelo Ball, NBA rookie, became the youngest ever to achieve a triple double in the NBA (Picture from Bleacher Report).

The end of the 2019-2020 NBA season was one of the weirdest and unique situations in league history. From the shutdown to the bubble, the seasons' end was unorthodox, but still, it was an exciting one. Now on the heels of the shortest offseason in NBA history, the league is once again underway.

The biggest storyline at this point in the season, and most likely, the biggest of the entire season, was the recent four-team trade that included the Houston Rockets, Cleveland Cavaliers, Brooklyn Nets, and Indiana Pacers. Some relatively big names were included in the trade, like Victor Oladipo, Caris LeVert, and Jarrett Allen, along with several draft picks that the Nets sent away.

Obviously, however, the big piece in the trade was former MVP James Harden being traded to the Brooklyn Nets where he'll team up with Kevin Durant and Kyrie Irving. First-year head coach, Steve Nash, has a plethora of talent to work with of which most head coaches could only dream: two former MVPs, Harden and Durant, and a superstar in Irving.

Durant and Harden were former teammates almost a decade ago; now, they're much more mature and developed, especially Harden. They are finally looking for their champion together. The wildcard

is Irving, not because of his talent, but because of his availability. He has missed seven games in a row due to non-specific "personal reasons." Between that and a lack of inside presence, there are some concerns, but they're title contenders, no doubt.

The Nets are a solid 9-6 at this point, but 2-0 with Harden, so we'll see how they develop. Along with the Nets in the East, the Celtics have the early lead at just 8-4, no team in the East has really pulled away at all yet. Some East teams, like the New York Knicks, Charlotte Hornets, and Cleveland Cavaliers, are playing better than expected, while the Miami Heat and Toronto Raptors have surprisingly struggled.

For the Heat, COVID-19 has been tough for them as they've missed Jimmy Butler in multiple games as well as Bam Adebayo and Tyler Herro, recently. They should get back on track at some point this season.

In the West, the defending champions, the Los Angeles Lakers, are once again off to a hot start at 11-3. They're leading in the west while starting off at only 2-2, as well. The other Los Angeles team, the Clippers, are a game behind them at 10-4— still a great start, nonetheless.

The Dallas Mavericks and the Denver Nuggets have struggled

much more than people anticipated after the promise they showed last season. It's still early, but a team doesn't want to take too long to find their rhythm.

The Pelicans have a lot of young talent but they're still building chemistry with their new head coach, and are trying to find ways to shoot at a more efficient rate, as they have been a bad three-point shooting team: something that is hard to overcome in the modern NBA.

Some significant personal standouts so far this season, from a scoring perspective, are Bradley Beal who currently leads the league with 34.9 points per game this season. Andre Drummond is averaging the most rebounds at the moment at 15.8, an insane number, over two more than the second-highest. The assist leader, currently, is Nikola Jokic with 10.3; Jokic is actually averaging a triple-double at the moment, with those assists along with 25 points and 11.4 rebounds.

Defensively, Larry Nance Jr. surprisingly, has the most steals per game at 2.4, while Myles Turner leads the league in blocks with over four, an incredible number.

Along with these standouts are some of the rookie ones so far in the season. Undoubtedly, the rookie who has made the most impact at

this point into the season is also the most polarizing rookie, and the third overall pick of the draft, LaMelo Ball.

Ball is averaging 11.8 points per game, 6.8 rebounds, 6.1 assists, and 1.5 steals. All but points lead rookies currently. Ball has created opportunities for his teammates that Charlotte was not accustomed to having last season and it's evident in their start to the season. Because he's doing all this while coming off the bench, once he starts and his minutes' increase, the numbers will as well.

First overall pick, Anthony Edwards, leads rookies in scoring, but has been unspectacular elsewhere else and inefficient in his scoring as well at shooting just 37 percent from the field. James Wiseman has been more versatile than some anticipated. Tyrese Haliburton has arguably been the second-best rookie at this point, while Tyrese Maxey is on the rise.

The season still has a ways to go to finish its 72-game season whilst hopefully avoiding more issues with COVID-19 and creating more fantastic basketball for the world to watch.

Will teams like the Lakers continue to dominate? Will the Nets become the most feared? Who wins MVP? A lot of questions will be answered shortly in the 2020-2021 NBA Season.



FROM 2020
TO 2021...

