

## A transition like none other

SYDNEY MCCALL  
STAFF WRITER

After an unprecedented four years, the Trump era came to an end on January 19, following the inauguration of President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris. However, the transition to the next presidency was not without controversy.

Following the victory of Biden in November, former President Donald Trump convinced his supporters that the election was stolen and claimed the election was rigged. He and his attorney, Rudy Giuliani, spent months after the election filing lawsuits in battleground states that helped Biden win the election.

On January 6, Trump gave a passionate speech during a rally near the White House where he argued that the election was “stolen from you, from me and from the country.” He urged his supporters to walk down to the Capitol in an attempt to “stop the steal” of the election.

Hours following his speech, thousands of his supporters violently stormed the U.S. Capitol, one of the most important democratic institutions in America. Inside were rioters with baseball bats, bear spray and explosives.

Wearing Trump paraphernalia, they took over the Capitol halls, sending officials into hiding. Five people, including a Capitol Police officer, died as a result of the attack.

Later that night, despite the violence, Congress confirmed Biden’s win. Many of Trump’s longtime Republican supporters, including Chris Christie, Mitch McConnell and Kelly Loeffler, spoke out and condemned the violence

as well as the role Trump played in inciting the attacks.

On January 13, Donald Trump was impeached for “incitement of insurrection,” just one week before his term expired. In the same week, the former president was also banned indefinitely from Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and several other social media sites.

In fear of more riots and attacks, D.C. became a fortified city, and Muriel Bowser, the city’s mayor, enacted a

curfew. Almost every road in downtown D.C. was closed, and major metro stations were closed for days.

Thousands of National Guard troops from D.C., Maryland and Virginia guarded federal buildings, and some even slept in the U.S. Capitol to ensure overnight protection.

“I came to D.C. to see a friend, and I have never seen the city that dead and scary,” said Xavier Wilson, a first-year strategic communications major

at HU. “It was sad, seeing that all this security was to protect us from mainly domestic terrorism.”

Despite the chaos, Biden and Harris were still inaugurated, and for the first time in 150 years, the outgoing president was not in attendance.

Even though Trump was not present, he said it was “a great honor” to serve as president.



Patrick Semansky | Associated Press

## “A legacy to remember” William R. Harvey to retire in 2022

BARRY JONES  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Hampton University President Dr. William R. Harvey has announced his retirement. Set to retire in June 2022, Harvey would end up serving as the president of the university for 44 years, the longest tenure of any HBCU president and the eighth-longest tenure of any university president in the United States.

Becoming the 12th president of Hampton Institute in 1978, Dr. Harvey arrived on a campus that “was slowly losing ground,” according to a statement released by the university. Over the course of his time at the university, Dr. Harvey managed to expand its academic offering, financial standing and physical uniqueness.

Under Dr. Harvey’s leadership, 92 new academic degrees were introduced, including 12 doctoral programs; the endowment increased from \$29 million to over \$300 million; and 29 new buildings have been erected.

Through building a reputation of prestige, honor and dedication to Hampton University, Dr. Harvey has maintained a philosophy of leadership centered around teamwork and active listening. He highlighted the fact that a major factor of the university’s progression and success are the contributions of a high-caliber team of administrators, faculty and student-leaders.

“If you look at the team that I have amassed here, I think they are extraordinary,” Dr. Harvey said in an interview with The Hampton Script. “When you look at the fact that I have 17 [administrators] that have gone on to become presidents of other colleges and organizations, when I add in student-leader input, faculty input, the

board of trustees input, I think we have a pretty darn good process.”

Dr. Rodney Smith, former HU vice president of administrative services, was appointed president of the College of the Bahamas in Nassau. Former HU Provost Dr. Pamela V. Hammond was appointed interim president of Virginia State University in 2015.

The Harvey Leadership Model has served students, faculty and staff throughout the course of Dr. Harvey’s tenure. In 2016, Harvey published “Principles of Leadership: The Harvey Leadership Model.” The book highlights 10 principles that distinguish leaders. Serving as a culmination of 40 years of result-driven leadership, Dr. Harvey utilized his own personal response to adversity, wisdom from his parents and innovative thinking to pen a guide to obtaining and maintaining an enriching leadership experience.

Through Dr. Harvey’s avid political participation, Hampton University managed to make never-before-seen strides as it relates to the development and expansion of Historically Black Colleges and Universities. The Hampton University Proton Therapy Institute, the largest free-standing proton beam cancer center in the world, was established in 2010. Four satellites launched in 2007 made Hampton University the first Historically Black College and University to have 100% control of a NASA satellite mission.

“I have been in the Oval Office for every single president since Jimmy Carter,” Dr. Harvey said. “I think that has helped us gain federal money.”

Dr. Harvey has not backed down from his bipartisan approach to increasing Hampton University’s favor among political figures. Through Dr. Harvey’s relationship with former Republican president George H.W. Bush, the President’s Advisory Panel on HBCUs, a panel on which Dr. Harvey served, secured \$776 million in federal funds in 1989 and \$894 million in 1990 — an increase of \$118 million in two years.

During the Bush administration, Hampton University secured more than \$40 million in federal funding for faculty research, student scholarships and the expansion of academic programs.

“My father said to me there are good people and scoundrels in both major political parties,” Dr. Harvey said. “He said, ‘Always support the person, not the party.’ There may be times where alumni, faculty and students

don’t particularly like the decision. But I will always do what is right and best for Hampton.”

Dr. Harvey’s adoration for Hampton University has been a motivating factor during his long-standing tenure as president. Students, parents, alumni, faculty and staff have recognized the progress that has been made under his leadership.

“We all know Hampton University is a special place that has grown over the years to be a stellar institution,” Student Government Association President Austin Sams said in a statement to The Hampton Script. “Hamptonions of many generations have been fortunate for Dr. Harvey’s leadership, and I congratulate him on creating a legacy that



Courtesy of the Office of the President

will live on forever.”

As Dr. Harvey’s tenure comes to a close, the university will soon begin to set eyes on his successor. When asked how big of a role he will play in the selection of the next university president, Dr. Harvey indicated that the Board of Trustees will have the final say-so as to who will replace him.

The announcement of retirement has had no effect on the amount of work President Harvey plans to commit to during the remainder of his tenure. With plans to carry out the wishes of former Virginia Gov. Douglas Wilder, Dr. Harvey hopes to assist in raising funds for the creation of a slave museum in Virginia. He also emphasized an effort to fundraise \$50 million to \$75 million for minority cancer patients who can’t afford treatment. Finally, Dr. Harvey is focused on providing COVID-19 testing for “underserved rural communities.”

Upon retirement, Dr. Harvey plans to stay in Hilton Head, South Carolina, with his wife, Norma B. Harvey. Dr. Harvey plans to embark on yet another literary journey in an effort to utilize his four decades of experience to serve higher education. Although Dr. William R. Harvey will retire as president of Hampton University, HU will continue to be his “Home by the Sea.”



OPINION

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2021

Black joy:  
A form of activism

JAMAIJA RHOADES  
STAFF WRITER

Last year was such a solemn and somewhat bittersweet year for individuals of African descent. It was great to see everybody get informed or at least pretend like they were here for the cause. Still, it was also full of lots of responsibility with regard to educating others on the injustices we experience due to our skin color.

While Black activism can take many shapes and forms, the method I see implemented most comes from education and reminders. Individuals of African descent continue to use their platforms to remind the rest of the world that, “Hey, life still pretty much sucks for us, and we aren’t going to let you forget it.”

If anybody wants a breakdown of how horribly society has treated us for our differences, they can look in our films, hear it in our music, read it in our stories and even see it in our paintings. It feels like members of the community find it irresponsible to create anything about our experiences without highlighting the hardships and trauma we have experienced in the past and continue to share today.

This method of educating and reminding works to some degree to get our point across, but it also unintentionally convinces us that life is hopeless for Black folks and that we have no reason to be happy.

A radical yet simple form of activism that would be more beneficial to our mental health and our overall well-being is displaying more instances of Black people experiencing joy.

I want to see more Black love,

melanated smiles and embracing the beauty that is far from the westernized standards we all know far too well. More instances of Black kids being given the space to enjoy their youth without being reminded that their skin pigment makes them different from others.

I want more instances of brown and Black children being able to watch a film about someone who looks like them, as it allows them to experience true escapism. It lets their imaginations run free without interruption.

Simply seeing individuals who look like you finding happiness in a world that has convinced you that it is not available to you will create a sense of hope and strength that cannot be broken.

“We live in a world in which our social environments are constantly reminding us of the injustices and negative things happening around us,” said Ciara White-Sparks, a Hampton University junior journalism major from Las Vegas. “If we are able to show more happiness in our communities, then it would create a ripple effect and influence more of us to see the good in this life.”

By finding happiness and showcasing Black people experiencing and enjoying life despite our circumstances, we have said in the most straightforward way possible: screw the system and its standards.

In other words, nobody, not even the system of white supremacy, can take our pride, and nobody can hold us down.



Unsplash User Kiana Bosman

The debacle known as  
“Cyberpunk 2077”

RYLAND STAPLES  
STAFF WRITER

Video games took the world by storm in the latter part of 2020 when the new PlayStation 5 (PS5) came out in early November. Everyone wanted to get their hands on the new console to have the latest and greatest gaming machine. Some tried to get it to play next generation (next-gen) games such as “NBA 2K 21” and “Spider-Man: Miles Morales” or wanted it in order to resell the PS5 to make a profit. There has been one game that has been on gamers’ minds since it was initially announced back in 2012, “Cyberpunk 2077.”

The futuristic first-person role-playing-game (RPG) based in the far-off year of 2077 was first announced to the public in 2012. When the full game was released Dec. 10, 2020, gamers quickly realized that game was, for lack of a better word, broken.

Players would randomly not be able to move or would be flung across the map. Non-Playable-Characters (NPC) would appear and disappear at random, or their faces would be distorted. There are plenty of videos and pages on YouTube dedicated to making compilation videos of “Cyberpunk 2077” glitches.

Game consoles were pushed to their absolute limits just to run the game. There were major problems that made the game unplayable. The game was so bad on some console generations that Sony pulled the game from its online store and created ways for people to get a refund.

A demonstration of “Cyberpunk 2077” was shown at Electronic Entertainment Expo 2018. The event showcased the game and the vibrant life within Night City. However, it has been recently discovered following the game’s release that the developer of the game, CD Projekt Red, had pushed the restart button in 2016. The demonstra-

tion that was shown in 2018 supposedly showcasing the game was almost entirely fake.

CD Projekt Red recently released a video on Twitter apologizing for “Cyberpunk 2077” and said the game “did not meet the quality standard we wanted to meet.” The company is known for producing one of the best games this past decade in “The Witcher 3,” so it was surprising this game would have so many problems.

It’s strange that a game that was infamously known for delays can still come out like this. At first, “Cyberpunk 2077” was going to be released April 16, 2020, but the game suffered from a series of delays through the year before it was released Dec. 10.

Since CD Projekt Red was delaying the game, it would seem the company would not want its development teams to participate in “crunching,” which is the action of game developers working on the game for hours at a time over multiple days.

According to a Bloomberg article, “There were times when I would crunch up to 13 hours a day,” said Adrian Jakubiak, a former audio programmer for CD Projekt Red. “... A little bit over that was my record probably — and I would do five days a week working like that.”

As someone who enjoys playing video games to relax and escape from reality for a little while, I don’t want my enjoyment of a video game to come at the cost of someone not being able to spend quality time with their family and loved ones. I also think it’s very inconsiderate to release a game that was half-finished at best out to the public in order to make a quick buck off the game’s name.



Flickr User Instacodez



## LIFESTYLE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2021

## Manifesting your dreams

KENNEDY P. BUCK  
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Believe it, see it, and then achieve it.

This probably seems like a typical cliché phrase that people say to themselves to calm their nerves and minimize their stress, but really this is a form of manifestation. The exact definition of manifestation from Merriam Webster is the “public display of emotion or feeling, or something theoretical made real.” This means that when a person honestly believes and sees something happening and does everything in their power to make sure it happens, that dream or goal might happen.

The question on many people’s minds will be, “does manifesting your dreams and goals work?” It works according to that person and their mindset. When someone starts to include speaking things into existence in their daily routine, it becomes more than a habit, it becomes a mentality. Just adding little things to the end of your sentences will change your mindset: “I need to expand on my writing skills before I start at my dream job as a magazine editor this summer.” By adding it into your everyday conversation, you are making a small mental note to yourself to not only apply this to your life but to also make sure it is followed through.

According to a survey done by Study Break, by 2018 a trend was

beginning to show that more people were not only speaking things into existence, but also putting pictures of their goals up around their house to remind themselves to never lose faith. Study-Break also went on to say, “Speaking something into existence is an easy task to fit into your daily routine; in fact, by doing so, you are already becoming a part of the trend.”

Some useful tips to manifest your goals is a combination of the following things. First, write and post your goals in a place you see daily. It can help by posting them on your mirror or somewhere by your bed. Next, set a reminder to recite your goals daily. It can seem tedious at first but it helps to build a routine. Finally, personalize it to fit you. Not all manifestations will

work for you. Create some that will specifically motivate you.

It is also important to note that speaking things into existence any type of way will not work. A person must have confidence when speaking things into fruition and truly envision whatever they want happening. Manifestation is key and remember to believe it, see it, and you can achieve it.

## 3 must-have apps in 2021

SHIRMARIE STARKS  
STAFF WRITER

Between the Apple App Store and Google Play Store, there are more than 4.5 million apps available for download according to statista.com. We are all familiar with social apps such as Twitter, Facebook and TikTok, but what about other apps that can provide value and help improve your lifestyle? There are a plethora of really genius apps out there. Here is a list of three extremely useful apps for your phone.

**Google Calendar**

This simple scheduling and time-management app is ideal for both the technologically savvy and technologically challenged. Google Calendar allows one to create color-coordinated calendars based on different areas of life. These calendars can include personal, work, family and even birthday calendars on one single interface. Since the calendars are individually curated, a user can also invite people to edit or simply share their calendars with friends. With this feature, your availability can be compared to others in order to make plans accordingly. Google Calendar also has a feature to create goals, reminders and tasks so that users can stay on top of their life.

The app can even connect with your Google Mail account to automatically import events such as meetings and concerts into your calendar. As if this is not enough, Google Calendar is also able to sync with other calendar platforms such as those found in iOS, Android and Windows. Users can access Google Calendar from a laptop,

but the convenience and constant updates from the smartphone app makes this app very useful.

**1 Second Everyday**

After facing a pandemic and being quarantined for almost a full year, finding the joy in each day may be hard for some. That is where this video-diary application comes in. 1 Second Everyday (1SE) allows users to record one second of video or to insert a picture for each day of the year. Afterwards, the pictures and/or videos are mashed together into a single video. This video can capture anywhere between a week, a month or even a year’s worth of time and memories.

Having the app also encourages users to go out and try new things – pandemic approved, of course. Maybe you will finally check out your local coffee shop with the nice mural on the side wall. Maybe you’ll even go hiking on a trail within your state. Piecing together the positive moments in your life, and possibly even the important negative ones allows you to visually see how the little things truly add up.

**Peloton**

The Peloton app is a convenient way to get active at home or a gym if you are comfortable doing so. Peloton offers mobile classes in areas such as strength, cardio, cycling, and treadmill running/walking. Users can access calmer choices such as yoga, meditation, or even complete outdoor runs to the voices of Peloton staff members to fulfill their workout goals.

HU student Angel Hobbs, a fourth-year in the 5-year MBA pro-

gram, said, “My favorite things about Peloton are the challenging programs that are designed for you and the enthusiasm from the Peloton instructors.” For almost every class, Peloton displays the level of difficulty from beginner to advanced. They also give users the numerical level of difficulty on a scale of 1 to 10. If you have accountability partners and would like to work out with them, Peloton also has the ability to connect you with your friends.

“Being able to follow my friends on Peloton so that we can hold each other accountable” is what HU student London Williams, a senior nursing

major, enjoys about the Peloton app.

On November 10, 2020, Beyonce Knowles announced that she was partnering with Peloton to provide a free 2-year Digital Membership to students from 10 HBCUs. Fortunately, Hampton University was included in the number. Go redeem your Peloton subscription by Tuesday, February 16, 2021, and accomplish your fitness goals!

Google Calendar, 1 Second Everyday and Peloton can all be found within the Apple App Store and Google Play Store! Whether you want to stay organized, create memories or get a quick workout in, these three apps can help you get it all done!



Unsplash User Toa Hefitba

## Elizabeth Warren introduces student loan forgiveness initiative

GABRIELLE CHENAULT  
SECTION EDITOR

“President-elect Biden can enact this plan his first day in office, debt relief needs to be made a priority.” In a roundtable interview with several student journalists from around the nation, including Hampton University, Senator Elizabeth Warren spoke about her student loan debt relief initiative. Although student debt has been an existing national issue, the COVID-19 pandemic has accentuated this.

“This plan will help to close the wealth gap between African Americans and white Americans by 25 points,” said Warren. According to the Brookings Institution, the current difference between the current white and Black average wealth gap is 6.7 points or \$791,700. The Massachusetts senator’s plan calls for fairness when it comes to economic wealth and the potential for economic growth.

Another amazing aspect of this plan is the strong impact it could have for African American women. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, in 2019, African-American women were the most educated group in America and the most likely to seek a postsecondary degree. This plan calls for the removal of \$50,000 in student loans which will drastically change the lives of millions of Americans. This is very relevant specifically if you view Hampton University’s makeup. The university comprises 34% male and 66% women. Since women are seeking more collegiate degrees, they obtain more loans which accumulates more debt.

Vice President Kamala Harris, a Howard University alumnus, has spoken at length in support of this bill and

also supports providing free education for low-income students. She stated that if the student’s family makes under \$125,000, they should be able to get a free education at any HBCU.

The recent success of reform within the New York State College system speaks to the efficacy of nationwide reform. In 2017, Governor Andrew Cuomo signed the Excelsior Scholarship which states that students whose families make under \$125,000 will receive a free education at two-four year schools. Democratic Senate

minority leader Chuck Schumer has proudly spoken to the success of this bill and endorses the notion that more states need to follow suit.

Senator Schumer has partnered with Senator Warren on the debt relief plan and together they have spoken to various economic teams and local leaders to ensure this program will be effective. “The best way we can get this plan passed is by educating others. The more people that know about this plan, and support, the better chance we have at it succeeding,” Warren said.

As the Zoom meeting came to a close, Senator Warren reiterated why this plan needs to be passed and the impact it would have on Americans: “This plan isn’t just for current students. It’s for graduates who have thousands in debt, students who are scared to attend due to financial issues and even those who dropped out due to the cost. The difference it could make in people’s lives would be transformative, and as a society, we need to make this a priority.”



Saul Loeb | Associated Press



# LIFESTYLE/SPORTS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2021

## Target HBCU Design Contest winner: Isaiah Timmons

ALLYSON EDGE  
WEB EDITOR

Although 2020 was undoubtedly a year full of tribulations, Hampton University class of 2020 graduate Isaiah Timmons found a silver lining in submitting his work to the Target HBCU Design Contest. At the beginning of the pandemic, Timmons saw an email from the Hampton University Career Center with information about the competition and received encouragement from friends to make a submission. Little did he know, he would become one of three HBCU students to win the contest and have his design sold in Target stores across the nation.

“Seeing my design being sold in Target stores and on their website for the first time was very humbling, exciting, and beyond anything, I was grateful that I could have this opportunity, to be able to be featured in this way,” Timmons said.

Timmons’ design portrays an African American man and woman standing back to back, united by their hair, and the text surrounding them reads, “Stronger together.” He was inspired by the concept of being strengthened by the support of one’s community — specifically, holding members of one’s community up when they need help. Throughout Timmons’ creative process, his original design portrayed

two women, but members of the Target team encouraged him to alter the image to feature both men and women.

“I really appreciate Target for advising me to go in a different direction and showing a man and a woman because within the Black community,

even though we may be diverse in our gender identities, sexual orientation religion, etc., at the end of the day we need to be able to support each other because we are all united by our blackness. Also, our allies come from various identities as well,” Timmons



Courtesy of Isaiah Timmons

said.

Being an alumni of an HBCU, Timmons is grateful for his experience at Hampton because the culture, traditions, deeply rooted history and his experiences being around like-minded individuals all influence his art.

“No matter how far I go in life, I’ll always remember my experiences at Hampton, my HBCU, and how they’ve impacted my life for the better,” Timmons said. In the future, Timmons envisions himself being a creative director. In the meantime, he is taking steps to better his own skills and knowledge while continuing to grow as a professional.

Timmons urges any students who are thinking about entering the Target HBCU Contest or a similar type of competition in the future to share their stories.

“Always go for it!” Timmons said. “Going through the process, you always want to tell your own story through your art. Express your own experiences, not directly always, but express your own emotions and passions. And at the end of the day, whether you are selected or if you’re not, you still like what you did and are passionate about it so that’s all that really matters.”

*Isaiah’s design along with the rest of Target’s Black History Month Collection is available in all Target stores and online at target.com*

## NBA scrambles to combat COVID-19

CAMERON CROCHERON  
STAFF WRITER

NBA players and staff have an ongoing concern over COVID-19 protocols due to the postponement of 17 games to control the increase of COVID-19 cases and close contact tracing.

“We’ve seen it in the NFL, the NBA and college sports,” Denver Nuggets coach Michael Malone told ESPN. “These are real protocols, and they’re in place for a reason, and hopefully we can learn from it.

“COVID is real. The NBA has consulted with the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] and the best doctors in the country to make sure we are following those protocols and are disciplined.”

The NBA is taking additional steps needed to enforce stricter guidelines to limit contact among opposing players before games. League officials are positioning team security on the court before and after games to dissuade violations, including hugging and handshakes, according to ESPN.

Although the number of new cases around the league has decreased compared to previous weeks, the NBA is still active in ruling players out for games and postponing games as well.

“There’s no shame with this particular virus,” Phoenix Suns coach

Monty Williams told ESPN. “It’s unfortunate that teams are having a few guys here and there popping up, whether they got the virus or contact tracing limiting their potential to play. That’s a tough deal for any team.”

Contact tracing and contractions of the virus have affected some of the NBA’s top players such as Kevin Durant, Michael Porter Jr. and Karl-Anthony Towns, and Philadelphia 76ers center Joel Embiid was sidelined for a couple of games after being exposed to COVID-19, ESPN reported.

Throughout the season, teams have had to sit six or more players before upcoming games due to contact tracing. This left teams shorthanded and unable to meet the league’s eight available players requirement.

“Expand the rosters, sign players that are in a pool,” NBA free-agent guard Jamal Crawford said via Twitter. “G-League, vets, whatever, so there are available bodies, games can continue.”

The expansion of team rosters would limit the possibility of them being short-handed in case of an

outbreak among players and games would continue as scheduled. G-league players and current free agents such as Crawford would be given opportunities to play at the NBA level.

NBA general managers convened virtually in early January to discuss the possibility of expanding rosters from the current 17 available players with some teams in favor and some not, according to Marc Stein of the New York Times.

While there may not be a basis for criteria that may force the NBA to suspend the season, the league continues to make protocol enhancements. The NBA is expected to play a 72-game season, but due to yet another unprecedented season, there are concerns about whether that will be possible.



Kathy Cimmens | Associated Press

## TV ratings for sporting events drop

ALIYU SAADU  
STAFF WRITER

Professional and collegiate sports’ TV ratings dropped to record lows in viewership during 2020 and the beginning of 2021 due to adjustments to the COVID-19 pandemic safety regulations.

According to Sports Media Watch, the 2020 NBA Finals and 2020 MLB World Series averaged below a 5.0 rating for the first time in history. The 2020 Masters Tournament final round received its lowest average in history with a 3.4 rating. The NHL’s Stanley Cup Final rating dropped 61 percent. Low TV ratings can have a significant negative effect on the finances of leagues. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused many sporting events to be canceled or postponed.

The NBA had to suspend its 2019-2020 season for nearly five months to adjust to the pandemic and government safety protocols. MLB had to shorten and delay its 2020 season. The postponements and delays led to the NBA playoffs, MLB playoffs and start of the NFL season to be played around the same time.

“People’s ability to consume all that content doesn’t expand to meet the oversupply of events,” Fox Sports head strategist Mike Mulvihill told the New York Times. “If people were spending 80 percent less time watching sports in May, they don’t have the capacity to watch 80 percent more in October.”

According to Sports Media Watch, the 2021 College Football Playoff

National Championship averaged an estimated 18.65 million viewers across the ESPN networks. This game was the least-watched national college football championship ever recorded. The game’s viewership had not been close to that low since the 2005 USC-Oklahoma National Championship, which averaged a 13.2 rating and 21.45 million viewers.

“Even in a pandemic, you can’t watch everything at once,” strategic media consultant Patrick Crakes said in an interview with SportsPro. “If you’re

going to lower the pool of the casuals, and you’re going to be depending more and more on a heavier type of sports fan, even those guys and gals are going to have trouble sorting out a crowded environment. You have to make some choices.”

The ratings highlights of sporting events in 2020 were the NFL Draft and first episode of “The Last Dance,” a documentary about Michael Jordan’s last season with the Chicago Bulls.

According to NFL.com, the NFL Draft averaged 15.6 million viewers

in the first round. SMW reported that “The Last Dance” had nine episodes in the top 50 of the most-watched sports telecasts of 2020.



Butch Dill | Associated Press



# LOCAL & WORLD/ARTS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2021

## The U.S pushes for globalization of COVID-19 vaccine

JOURDYN GRANDISON  
STAFF WRITER

U.S Chief Medical Adviser Dr. Anthony Fauci announced on CNN that under the Biden administration, the United States plans to join the COVAX vaccine facility.

“President Biden will issue a directive later today which will include the intent of the United States to join COVAX and support the ACT-Accelerator,” Dr. Fauci said to CNN. “[This] advances multilateral efforts for COVID-19 vaccine, therapeutic, and diagnostic distribution, equitable access, and research and development.”

COVAX is known as one of the three pillars of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, introduced in April to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO), the European Commission and France. The COVAX initiative was started to ensure that poor and developing nations have access to coronavirus vaccines at the same pace as rich and developed nations.

Former President Donald Trump and his administration announced the U.S. would not join the alliance back in September due to distrust in the WHO and the Chinese government, the Atlantic reported. The administration’s action sparked outrage from public health experts who said it reflected a global initiative’s provincial view.

At the time, almost every country in the world joined the alliance except for Russia and the U.S. The result of Trump’s decision led to the WHO losing \$400 million to \$500 million in



Jae C. Hong | Associated Press

required and voluntary donations, CNN reported.

Vaccine developers estimate that there is a possibility of sufficient doses for more than one-third of the world’s population by the end of 2021, according to the Duke Global Health Innovation Center. Even with this possibility, many people in low-income and developing countries might have to wait until 2023 or 2024 for vaccination,

according to estimates from the Duke Global Health Innovation Center.

To combat this, WHO plans to distribute vaccines to developing countries in February under the COVAX strategy. Despite this, there are concerns that more prosperous countries may still be grabbing a large share of available shots.

The U.S. will work with the other 193 member states to reform the U.N.

agency and will make research accessible and available to professionals, Dr. Fauci said.

“We believe strongly that we can ensure that every American gets the vaccine, but also help make sure that others around the world who want it have access to it,” Fauci closed.

## Outspoken critic of Russian government detained five months after poisoning

WILLIAM PAUL ELLIS  
STAFF WRITER

Alexei Navalny, the leader of the Russia of the Future Party, who rose to prominence as an outspoken critic of President Vladimir Putin, was detained by Russian authorities after returning to Moscow on January 17, according to a statement from Russian authorities given to Aljazeera.

Navalny’s return to his home country comes after a five-month stay in Germany where he received treatment after being poisoned by the nerve agent Novichok, according to an ABC report. The chemical agent left Navalny in a medically induced coma. Novichok is the same chemical infamously used to poison former Russian spy turned double agent Sergei Skripal in 2018, according to NBC News. While Navalny, according to BBC, believes the poisoning was done at the behest of President Putin, no official explanation has been offered.

Navalny’s arrest has sparked international outrage, with many prominent government officials criticizing the Kremlin’s relentless efforts to suppress critics. Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia have called for European Union foreign ministers to discuss enacting sanctions against Russia, according to Reuters. Furthermore, the foreign ministers of Germany, Britain, France and Italy have called for Navalny’s release.

Outgoing United States Secretary



Associated Press | Pavel Golovkin

of State Mike Pompeo tweeted that he was “deeply troubled by Russia’s decision to arrest Aleksey Navalny,” and commented in a separate statement that Navalny’s arrest was “the latest in a series of attempts to silence Navalny and other opposition figures and independent voices who are critical of Russian authorities.”

While the Kremlin has yet to offer a full explanation, Russian foreign ministry officials have taken the opportunity to defend the decision while

attempting to maintain an image of internal fairness and stability.

“We should probably think about our image, but we’re not young ladies going to a ball,” Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova furthered these sentiments with a statement published on Facebook.

“Respect international law, do not encroach on national legislation of sovereign states and address problems in

your own country,” Zakharova wrote.

In a recorded statement targeted at his supporters, Navalny called for public protests for his release.

“They are afraid of you,” Navalny said. “I call on you to stop being silent, resist and take to the street. There are so many of us.”

Navalny is scheduled to appear in court on February 2, when a judge will decide if his original suspended sentence will be converted to three and a half years in prison.

## Drake announces “Certified Lover Boy,” surpasses 50 billion Spotify streams

JAMEL ROGERS  
STAFF WRITER

Drake has been making hits since the early 2000s and continues to be loved by fans worldwide. He crosses over his style and advances from his early work to adjust to different generations.

Although he adjusted to new content, many of his loyal fans consider his prime being his early stages at Cash Money Records. Today’s hits such as “Toosie Slide,” “In my Feelings,” and even “Popstar,” have been blowing up on TikTok.

In November, Drake announced his upcoming project titled “Certified Lover Boy” and seemed excited to release it. Unfortunately, he later posted on his Instagram story about a bad knee injury and delayed the album. Drake recently featured artist Lil Durk on a track called “Laugh Now, Cry Later,” a lead single on “Certified Lover Boy.”

The title “Laugh Now, Cry Later” speaks volumes to anyone experiencing hardships through the climb of their career. This song develops a true scenario of people who speak on big dreams but

won’t apply action to their thoughts. Many fans assume that the upcoming album will have similar themes that will resonate with them.

“I’ve always been a Drake fan, so I’m going to wait regardless of when it drops,” Hampton University five-year MBA major Adrianna Senn Yuen said. “I was disappointed that it got pushed

back, but it was expected with everything going on. I love old Drake the most, probably, but I still love the vibes of his new music. Drake will always be a true and unique talent to me.”

Although the album has been delayed, fans still maintain high expectations for the Toronto native’s sixth studio album.



Unsplash User Ivan Dorofeev

“I feel like this album is going to be another classic just because he has been working on it for so long. Also, he looks like he’s been in his feelings in the studio, so it must be a classic,” said Mark Minkins, an HU third-year computer science major.

Drake has successfully surpassed 50 billion streams on Spotify. This sets him as the first artist to reach the milestone on the app.

After being signed to We the Best Records, Drake worked alongside Lil Wayne, Rick Ross, Kendrick Lamar and Lil Baby. Since then, he has branched off and created his own record label called OVO Sound, where he has helped a lot of artists break the barrier from underground to mainstream.

He goes by the playful nicknames of “Drizzy” and “Aub,” and fans live for his constant social media engagement. He means so much to his fans and aspiring musicians when it comes to lyricism. Drake’s culturally relevant lyrics have served as captions on various social media platforms.



# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2021

## Nintendo users await new Switch console

ISAIAH TAYLOR  
STAFF WRITER

As Nintendo looks to compete with the market of new generation consoles from Microsoft and Sony that released last November, rumors have been floating around the market of a new Switch console hitting the shelves later this year.

The Nintendo Switch Pro is currently the name being used to describe the rumored mid-life cycle console refresh for the Nintendo Switch.

Back in August 2020, Bloomberg reported that Nintendo was investigating a new Switch model that has not only 4K viewing “high-definition graphics,” but also more computing power.

The question is whether Nintendo Switch Pro would feature Mini-LED technology—leading to an increased battery life, as well as improvements in the screen’s brightness and contrast, compared to the current LCD display.

“I have the original Switch, and although I’m pleased with the quality of the current system, I have always been a fan of Nintendo, and I do plan

on supporting the release of their next console, whenever that may be,” said Cameron Vance, a Hampton University engineering major from Baltimore, Maryland.

In a recent interview with Polygon, Nintendo of America President Doug Bowser said the Nintendo Switch is “at the midpoint of this life cycle,” and that the company is in no immediate rush to replace it.

Nonetheless, if the Switch Pro rumors are true, then it’s highly likely the newer console could feature some quality-of-life changes beyond just a specs boost, including updated hardware and improved battery life, which some Nintendo Switch users feel strongly about.

“I love my switch, but I feel like I barely get a chance to play it because it’s constantly charging,” said Paige Billingsly, a Hampton University third-

year marketing major from Atlanta. “I hope the new model has the improved battery life it claims to have.”

Although a Switch Pro would not necessarily be a replacement for the current Switch console, it would be an innovative build that can compete with the other gaming consoles. It could potentially be a version for consumers who want more out of the console rather than it just being handheld. Nintendo has done this many times with previous models in the past such as Nintendo 2DS, 3DS and 3DSXL handheld systems.



Business Wire | Associated Press

## Bridgerton: Season one review

NOAH HOGAN  
STAFF WRITER

Shonda Rhimes delivered a gift Dec. 25, as her television production company, Shondaland, made its streaming debut with a Regency-era romance story, “Bridgerton.”

Written by Chris Van Dusen, a previous writer who collaborated on television mainstays such as “Grey’s Anatomy” and “Scandal,” “Bridgerton” is the first scripted material from Shondaland’s multi-year deal with Netflix. Based on the eight-volume collection “The Bridgerton Series,” the story of the Bridgertons centers on eight siblings placed in upper-class English society in the 19th century. Each volume follows each member of the Bridgerton family, four boys and four girls, as they matriculate through life and find true love.

“Even though 19th century culture is something that I am vaguely familiar with, I appreciate Shonda Rhimes making an attempt to create a show using unconventional actors and actresses in prominent roles,” said Calyx Stover, a Hampton University journalism major from Boiling Springs, South Carolina. Season one of “Bridgerton” primarily revolves around Daphne Bridgerton (Phoebe Dynevor), the eldest daughter of the family, as she begins her journey to find love during a competitive marriage market. Only after attending endless parties and masquerades, each

young man makes his rounds to the young women and their families to discuss suitability in marriage.

After gaining favor from Queen Charlotte (Golda Rosheuvel), making her the topic of conversation in the eyes of Lady Whistledown, Daphne sees her value fluctuate. This leads her to develop a plan using the Duke of Hastings, Simon Basset (Regé-Jean Page), a man who has no intention of marriage and needs to find a way to keep mothers and daughters from throwing themselves at him.

While the development of Daphne and Simon’s relationship serve as the main focus of the first season, multiple siblings develop subplots over the course of eight, one hour-long episodes. The siblings include: Anthony (Jonathan Bailey), the eldest Bridgerton son, who longs for a relationship with an opera singer; Benedict (Luke Thompson), a painter who seeks to travel across the world; and Eloise (Claudia Jessie), who champions the role of comedic relief and is not interested in following in Daphne’s footsteps of marriage whatsoever.

Serving as the main adversaries to the Bridgerton family, the Featheringtons are trying to find suitable husbands for their daughters as well. As the elder sisters try their best to marry and fit into society, Penelope (Nicola Coughlan) looks to build a relationship with Colin Bridgerton (Luke Newton). She loves him from afar, but due to her shyness and Colin’s negligence, he

has no idea how she feels. Despite the fact the Featheringtons are preoccupied with marrying their daughters off to the wealthiest bidder, they decide to care for a distant relative named Marina (Ruby Barker).

Maybe the most interesting plot thread of season one is the identity of Lady Whistledown. The mysterious character publishes her scandalous thoughts that somehow involve all the present characters and their deepest darkest secrets.

With Netflix announcing that the series is projected to be viewed by 63 million households within the first 28 days of its debut, making it the fifth-most-watched Netflix Original, it’s easy to tell why the series has gained such popularity.

“It wasn’t until I talked to my friends about the show that I realized that it [Bridgerton] had come out on Christmas Day,” Stover said. “It gave us something to talk about as we caught up with each other.”

For all intents and purposes, Shondaland managed to create a modern-day princess drama with a unique 19th century flair, utilizing a modern score and a plethora of actors and actresses to address the ever-so-real conversations of feminism, race, sexuality and self love.



Unsplash User Patrick Schneider

## Aaliyah’s estate gives update on releasing her music to streaming services

NYLE PAUL  
STAFF WRITER

For all of the Aaliyah fans out there, many are familiar with the struggle of trying to find Aaliyah’s songs on streaming platforms. Due to legal issues with Aaliyah’s personal rights to her music, most of Aaliyah’s music has never appeared on streaming services, such as Apple Music and Spotify.

This might not be an issue much longer. Aaliyah’s estate has given an update confirming that efforts are being made to have Aaliyah’s entire catalog released on all streaming services.

“I hope what they’re saying is true,” said Makayla Jones, a first-year Hampton University English major from Brooklyn, New York. “I’d love to have easy access to the music she would want us to have, right at the tip of my fingers.”

A few days ago, the estate of Aaliyah released its first statement addressing fans’ concerns regarding the streaming of music for the singer, who died in a plane crash at age 22 in 2001. Her estate addressed the roadblocks that prevented them from releasing her music and assured fans that the estate is working toward addressing such concerns and protecting Aaliyah’s brand.

“We hear you and we see you,” read the statement from Aaliyah’s Twitter account. “While we share your



Unsplash User Phillip Blocker

sentiments and desire to have Aaliyah’s music released, we must acknowledge that these matters are not within our control.”

“In the meantime, we are working diligently to protect what is in our control - Aaliyah’s brand, legacy and intellectual property.”

The main roadblock that is causing such trouble over releasing Aaliyah’s catalog is the fact that all three of her albums were made with Blackground Records, a record label that is now inoperative.

Each album was also distributed by different labels. Aaliyah’s first album released in 1994, “Age Ain’t Nothin’ But A Number,” was on Jive Records, which still holds the rights to the album. “One In A Million” was on Atlantic Records, and her self-titled album “Aaliyah” is now owned by Universal Music Group. Jive Records allowed its content to be available on streaming services, hence the songs from “One In A Million” being the only songs from Aaliyah’s catalog that are available to stream.

“One of my favorite songs by Aaliyah is ‘One In A Million,’ and I’m sure I’ll have more when her unreleased music becomes available,” said Johnathan Williams, an HU Kinesiology major from Nashville, Tennessee. “It’s a shame that all this time has passed and no one has had the opportunity to enjoy the music we all know is good.”

With the inability to contact the former owners of Blackground records and maneuver around legal difficulties set in place, Aaliyah’s estate has been met with many unsuccessful attempts with releasing Aaliyah’s catalog. However, according to Aaliyah’s estate, gradual progress with releasing the catalog has been made since its first attempts with releasing the music back in August.

With the estate’s promise and the progress that has been made over time, Aaliyah fans are hopeful that her music will soon grace the platforms of all streaming services later this year.



# CAMPUS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2021

## SGA addresses student mental health concerns with spring wellness days

NICOLE PECHACEK  
STAFF WRITER

In hopes to give students a day not only to relax but focus on their mental health, the Student Government Association (SGA) helped implement scheduled Wellness Days. These days will allow students to catch a break from their busy day-to-day learning.

Many students have probably wondered how such a program came to pass.

To help give a better understanding as to how things work within SGA, both the President, Austin Sams, and the Vice President, Kimberlee-Mykel Thompson, agreed to discuss both the implementation of mental health days and give an inside look at how ideas and programs are brought up to the administration.

Inspiration for the wellness days initiative came from a fellow HBCU, according to SGA Vice President Thompson.

“One of the SGA senators had seen it at North Carolina A&T, and she brought it up and thought it would be a good idea. From there, I took it and pitched the idea to Dr. Harvey,” she explained.

While SGA has been a large part of student advocacy at Hampton, many students aren’t very aware of its inner workings, especially how ideas become full-fledged programs.

“For this specific program, we had administrative meetings where the class officers have the opportunity to meet with Dr. Harvey and Dr. Inman,” Thompson said. “Oftentimes, these meetings are ways for them to update us, and we have a brief amount of time to let them know what’s going on in our classes in this virtual climate. There, we have the opportunity to present

ideas, critiques, anything of the sort to help them run the university better, so that’s where wellness days were brought up.”

With the pandemic still going on and people staying indoors, mental health has been a consistent issue amongst students. When asked how these days would fix this issue, Thompson explained how they can help students relieve stress and take needed breaks.

“A lot of students complained to us that in the first semester, we had this 15-week straight semester where we had almost no breaks, and it just felt exhausting,” she shared. “Hopefully, especially in addition to spring break this semester, we’ll be able to get a break and not feel like we go to the same computer every day.”

While SGA has managed to work despite the pandemic, things have been very different for the organization. SGA President Austin Sams said social media was a big reason as to how they have been so successful.

“We’ve been fortunate in my opinion, to be able to be connected and meet students where they are and offer any support we can virtually,” he shared.

With the successful implementation of wellness days, SGA plans to add more mental health initiatives in the future.

“Ingraining the mental health days into the university’s calendar was a big step in not only acknowledging the importance of mental health but making it a part of our actual practices of the university,” said SGA President Sams. “We’re also pushing to do mental health initiatives and partnering with different organizations either on-campus or off-campus to drive the whole mental health awareness and

importance home for students, not just virtually but even when they come back on campus.”

SGA President Sams also confirmed there will be another virtual town hall and professional development programming in the coming semester.

Wellness days will hopefully give students time to evaluate and take care of themselves during this tumultuous time. With more programs incoming, mental health awareness at Hampton is bound to increase.



Unsplash User Jaeyoung Geoffrey Kang

## Founder’s Day 2021: A virtual celebration of Hampton University

NOA CADET  
STAFF WRITER

The year 2021 is in full swing! As students and faculty dive back into yet another virtual semester, a lingering question remains unanswered: How is the University going to handle all of its important events? Are we still going to have them, or are we going to skip them until next year?

As Hampton’s 128th Founder’s Day rapidly approaches, Hampton University has answered the call to action with a plan.

In previous years, Hampton University has celebrated Founder’s Day on campus during the last Sunday of January, with students and faculty coming together to celebrate how far Hampton has come from its humble beginnings as an institute, to the university that it is today.

In years past, the ceremony has always begun at the gravesite of Hampton University’s founder, General Samuel Chapman Armstrong. Before an audience of people wishing to pay respects, President Dr. William R. Harvey usually starts the ceremony by laying a wreath at the site, followed by acknowledgments of General Armstrong’s life and accomplishments. In particular, acknowledgments of all the obstacles that he had to overcome in order to start a school for minorities in the post-Civil War era, where racial

tensions were at an all-time high following the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863.

After paying proper respects to General Armstrong, the ceremony usually proceeds with a twenty-one gun salute, music and a ceremony held in the Chapel, where special guests are often invited to speak.

Hampton’s 126th Founders’ Day was particularly special in which it marked the unveiling of Legacy Park, a grand array of statues located outside of the Chapel, depicting a wide variety of historical figures that impacted both Hampton University’s history and

Black history as a whole, from Rosa Parks to President Harvey himself.

However, this year’s Founder’s Day is proving to be a bit different from most. Given that both Hampton students and faculty are not on campus directly, what is to become of Founder’s Day this year?

Dr. Karen Turner Ward, Old Dominion Endowed Chair of Fine and Performing Arts and Chair of the Committee of Ceremonial Occasions at Hampton University, is able to answer that question and shed some light on how to capture that feeling of celebration and remembrance, even while not

being on campus.

This year, Hampton University’s Founder’s Day will still be held on the last Sunday of January and will be held virtually. According to Dr. Ward, the virtual experience will be made accessible on Hampton University’s website, available to be accessed live by students, faculty and the Hampton community as a whole. It will also be made available after the event’s conclusion via recordings.

Dr. Ward, in a personal interview, stressed her love for Founder’s Day as a symbol of togetherness and remembrance and stated that although Founder’s Day will not be an in-person ceremony as it usually is, she still wants to make it as special as possible. When asked if she thinks it’s important for students and faculty to remain connected in events such as Founder’s Day, Dr. Ward answered, “Oh absolutely. And especially for events like this. In a time in which we are facing such horrific numbers with this pandemic, our lives are being touched at every moment. It is important to pause and celebrate all the goodness in life. I hope everyone will come together and view the ceremony, for it will truly be a special occasion.”

As students and as members of the community, we should all make the attempt to celebrate another chapter in Hampton University’s history, and to just enjoy a day of unity and fellowship in these challenging times.



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