



**JANUARY ISSUE**

Hello Royals!

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

Sincerely,  
Nikhil Jain  
Editor-In-Chief

In This Issue:

Vaccine Roll out



Top Black Artists



<https://fortune.com/2020/12/14/first-covid-vaccine-us-coronavirus-vaccines-united-states-photos/>

<https://twitter.com/bobmarley>

## **Vaccine Roll out in Minnesota and the U.S**

Anika Tripathi

Currently, Minnesota has opened community vaccination sites all across the state in hope of vaccinating adults 65 years and older who are in the high risk category as well as educators of grades K-12 in an attempt to get kids back in the classroom as soon as possible. Roughly 448,000 Minnesotan residents have received one dose of the vaccine while roughly 97, 000 have received both doses. According to John Hopkins University, Minnesota's vaccine roll out, compared to other U.S states, lies in the middle of the pack ranking at 17th. Nationwide, you may be surprised to learn that the U.S is rolling out COVID vaccinations faster than most countries. According to Oxford University, the U.S ranks first in the world for the amount of vaccines that have been administered with China following closely behind in 2nd and the U.K falls in third place. However, when looking at how many vaccines have been administered per 100 people, the U.S falls to 6th place while Israel takes the lead in first place. The advantages of Israel is that it has a relatively small population that lives in a compact space when compared to the U.S with a large population and lots of geographic land to cover. Countries like Russia, China, and Canada don't even fall in the top 20 of the list of vaccine doses administered per 100 people. Though after looking at this data, the U.S is comparatively doing well, our nation is falling behind in expectations as it was hoped that 20 million Americans would be vaccinated by the end of 2020 and this goal was reached a month later. While the U.S as a nation and the state of Minnesota are all making great strides towards achieving herd immunity through vaccination, a lot more work must be done to make this goal a reality.

# The Africa Century

It's apparent that Africa is rising—but when will it be its turn?

Gavin S.

Prior to the European expansion, the continent of Africa housed a number of strong—yet dynamic—states, sultanates, caliphates, kingdoms, and empires. A few of these kingdoms reached a level of unrivaled wealth, such as Mansu Musa of the Kingdom of Mali. Mali not only was rich in material wealth, but the kingdom was also a major hub of Islamic knowledge. This case study proves that Africa was once at the pinnacle of development in the classical world.

Why is Africa lagging behind in both institutional and economic development today? Much of the problems that plague Africa stem from its climate and colonialism-plagued past. In terms of climate, Africa's agricultural situation is unfortunate. A large chunk of its equatorial region is covered by 'humid tropics', so the soil there is nutrient-poor. In the Northern and Southern regions of Africa, vast swaths of land are covered in deserts; this places a burden on the farmers or governments to invest in wells, irrigation, and costly desalination processes that bring down productivity. Obviously, there are regions with fertile soils; however, Africa's population is expected to more than double by 2025, and it's only going to get harder to feed its population as desertification and climate change take their tolls. Arguably, the latter Scramble for Africa bears the most responsibility for the state of Africa today. Europeans were looking to import resources and export manufactured goods to support their industrial revolution, and Africa was a prime target. Europeans introduced western education, transport infrastructure, and a new economic system. These might seem positive at a first glance; however, these 'advances' mainly benefited the colonizers. The education was merely training for lower-level jobs, new transport infrastructure was meant for resources, and the economic system made Africa more dependent on Europe. In addition to those, monoculture, encouraged by Europeans, still contributes to food shortages and soil degradation even to this day, and borders were drawn without considering Africa's existing cultural complex. All and all, Africa's unfortunate climate and colonial past are some explanations for its present shortcomings within institutional and economic development.

In the 1950s, Africa was decolonizing. Conflicts filled the power vacuum, and there were mixed results. Today, there are democracies (e.g. Mauritius), quasi-democracies (e.g. Uganda), autocracies (Egypt), and Somalia. Despite the previous negatives, Africa is progressing. It's attracting steady foreign investment, economies are growing, people are being lifted out of poverty, and intracontinental relationships are improving (African Union). With this newfound wealth, leaders could be reinvesting it in the people, infrastructure, and economy, right? Not exactly, a new set of problems plaguing Africa is draining away a lot of the wealth. One could argue that these are the biggest threats to Africa: weak institutions, terrorism, and climate change. Corruption alone is draining away billions from the continent annually. With the money that isn't stolen, officials often fail to reinvest them in worthwhile causes. Terrorism in Western and Central Africa is infringing upon the sovereignty of those governments. The inability to establish effective security forces is making them rely on foreign intervention. Climate change is threatening coastal communities and bringing a slew of other problems, such as more droughts.

Of these problems, weak institutions and terrorism are the easiest to solve. African states that are working with international watchdogs and/or independently reforming are making a great deal of progress with increasing transparency, cracking down on corruption, and making smarter investments. With a sustained multinational effort, terrorism can also be quashed. Climate change is the hardest to solve because it contradicts Africa's growing secondary economic activities and requires a coordinated, global response. Nonetheless, we can expect Africa to match—or even exceed—present-day China in terms of development within 30 years.

## Musical Notes Black History Month Edition

By Carson Macynski



Black History Month is here and I would like to dedicate this newspaper edition to some of the top Black Artists that have or are out there changing the world with their voices and music.

1. Bob Marley was born on February 16th 1945 and his childhood friend Bunny O'Riley Livingston shared his passion for music. In the late 1950's, he arrived in Kingston and he was fond of Elvis Presley and Ray Charles. With the teaching of Joe Higgs, Marley went on to create his own music starting with Judge Not and Simmer Down released in 1962 and 1964. Bob Marley teamed up with Johnny Nash to create the hit song Stir It Up. His newly formed band the Wailers wrote 400 Years, Soul Rebel, Trench Town Rock, and Family Man. The Albums Catch a Fire and Natty Dread were released during the 70's. Exodus is considered one of the best albums made by Bob Marley released in 1977. Bob Marley died of a cancer that started in his toe and spread throughout his body in May 1981.
2. James Brown was considered to be the Godfather of Soul. He was born in 1933 and he spent his childhood living in poverty and he started a Gospel Choir in prison after he was caught stealing a car. James Brown and his band The Famous Flames started off with the song "Please Please Please" released in 1956 that didn't get too many reviews. Try Me, Lost Someone, and Night Train made him skyrocket to the top of the music charts. He was known to do elaborate moves on stage including the "Caramel Walk" and the "Mashed Potato" and "Popcorn" on stage and he was into improvisation. After MLK died, James Brown stopped a riot before it started during a Boston Performance telling the people "we're either in this together or we're ain't," The Blues Brothers got James Brown out of financial trouble in 1980 before he wined up in jail for drug abuse. Afterwards, he went back to touring before dying of heart failure in December 2006. His fame led to the creation of the film Get on Up starring the deceased Chadwick Boseman.
3. Prince was born in 1958 right here in MN and his parents broke up when he was 10. He rocked off in the 80's with Purple Rain the song and movie, Let's Go Crazy, and Doves Cry. His 8th studio album, Parade, was released in 1986 and Lovesexy in 1988 before he released his 11th studio album, the soundtrack to Batman in 1989. He spent the 90's writing for the music and film industry. Prince had a medical emergency while traveling in 2016 just a week later, he died.
4. Mickey Guyton was born in Arlington Texas and her first appearance was at the White House in 2015 for an All Star Concert. She won an Academy of Country Music Award in 2016 for New Female Vocalist and her song I'm Standing With You appeared in the 2017 film Breakthrough. Her other song Hold On was also featured in the movie. She performed on Good Morning America and NBC Today before releasing her latest hit Black Like Me on September 11th 2020 which received 4.7K likes as of January 29th.

[Www.biography.com](http://www.biography.com)

Super Bowl LV Preview  
Nikhil Jain

It is the matchup everyone wanted. Tom Brady versus Patrick Mahomes. The GOAT versus the Golden Boy. The Bucs and the Chiefs are both playing really well and as a result they are meeting in the super bowl to decide the world champion. The Bucs beat Drew Brees and Aaron Rodgers on their way to the superbowl while the Chiefs beat Baker Mayfield and Josh Allen. Looking at the quarterbacks in the AFC versus the NFC, you see a clear age difference. Some of the best of all time are in the NFC but they are growing older now. Meanwhile, a lot of the young talent at QB is in the NFC. If Mahomes is able to beat the GOAT in Super Bowl LV, then we may be seeing a passing of the torch. However, I would never bet against Brady so I have the Bucs winning. This game has potential to be one of the best Super Bowls ever.

Return To School  
Nikhil Jain

It was recently announced that we would be returning to school. This return will have us on the same schedule that we began the year on with hybrid learning and will begin on February 15th. Personally, after so long away from the school, I am excited to be able to see my classmates and teachers again. For many people, online school and quarantine seemed to make everyday feel the same and take away the motivation to complete tasks. I think this return to school will be a welcome change that will inject excitement into every student's life.

*Thank  
you*

