



# Biden's First Steps Toward Gun Control

By **Brittany Shadix**  
*Contributing Writer*

Nearing his third month in office, President Biden moved away from talk of the coronavirus pandemic and addressed what his administration is calling an epidemic—gun violence. Following headlining mass shootings across several cities in the nation, including neighboring Atlanta, the President stepped into muddy water as he announced six executive actions toward gun control.

So what exactly is Biden proposing to end gun violence in his recent address? In cooperation with the Department of Justice, the purchase of ghost guns and stabilizing braces will be the first to bear regulatory restrictions unless proven unconstitutional.

“The term ‘ghost guns’ refers to kits that are sold in an 80% or less state of completion,” said UWG Political Science Professor and expert in gun policy, Dylan McLean. “They are finished by a hobbyist at home typically by carefully drilling several holes and then assembling a variety of pre-fabricated parts. Since they are not fully manufactured when they are sold, they can be shipped directly to a consumer without the need for a background check.

“Braces are devices that can be affixed to pistols and are designed to attach to or rest on the shooter’s forearm in a manner that stabilizes the firearm while shooting with only one hand,” continued McLean. “They physically look very similar to shoulder stocks and, as a practical matter, can be and often are used much like one. This can have the effect of creating a de facto short barreled rifle.”

Now, do these regulatory first steps have the potential to effectively reduce gun violence across the nation? McLean believes there will be minimal impact to what seems to be a rise in deadly shootings. However, citizens should be aware of how the new regulations, if upheld, might require them to take additional actions or face legal consequences.

“There is some evidence that a notable number of ghost guns are being used for criminal purposes,” said McLean. “So it is possible that eliminating

them from the marketplace will eliminate a source of crime guns. However, the effects are likely to be marginal since there are many other ways that guns find their way to the illicit marketplace. Hobbyists will need to follow the implementation of this executive order closely. They may be required to obtain a background check and have a serial number affixed to their gun.

“Short barreled rifles are heavily regulated under the National Firearms Act (NFA),” continued McLean. “Pistols with braces do not differ from other pistols in the eyes of the law. So while braces can be a path around NFA requirements, they in no way alter the weapon’s potential lethality. So it is unlikely this order will have a meaningful impact on gun crime. It is likely, however, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) will determine that affixing a brace to a pistol makes it a rifle and subjects it to strict NFA regulations. Individuals who own these devices should follow this situation closely because violating the NFA can result in serious federal criminal penalties.”

The topic of gun control, or what advocacy groups are now calling gun ‘safety’, has long been passed around the political table for debate. Since the country’s founding and adoption of the Second Amendment, which gave citizens the right to keep and bear arms, it is difficult for any kind of legislation concerning firearms to be passed in fear those rights may be infringed upon. Coupled with the checks and balances system between branches, many say Biden’s recent actions to reduce gun violence proves his limited scope to impose such regulations.

“Like all provisions in the Bill of Rights, the rights protected by the Second Amendment are not absolute,” said McLean. “Our courts help determine where the lines are drawn and what sort of laws violate an individual’s rights. However, the U.S. Supreme Court has had less to say about the Second Amendment than it has other provisions of the Bill of Rights.”

The White House outlined additional measures to reduce gun violence including the publication of model

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‘red flag’ laws—laws that without due process permit a gun to be taken away from an individual who some report as posing a threat to themselves or others. Former President Trump also proposed the adoption of such laws for the states.

Biden also announced further steps with the implementation of prevention programs and the nomination of David Chipman for director of the ATF—the main agency in the Department of Justice that regulates firearms and legal requirements. Chipman, who is a known gun control activist, is a senior policy advisor for the gun control advocacy group Giffords. The ATF will also be required to provide an annual report of firearm trafficking.

Photo courtesy of the Associated Press





# NEWS



Photo courtesy of the Community Garden Club

## UWG Community Garden: Digging Deep to Fight Hunger

By Samara Marshall  
*Contributing Writer*

At UWG there are many student run organizations and clubs on campus that allow students to be active. One of the clubs at UWG is the Community Garden Club (CGC) which was founded to help raise students’ awareness about different sustainability efforts on campus as well as in the community.

Students may not notice the effects of the CGC at first glance. The club primarily works by providing a garden for students to access and grow their knowledge of agriculture. The garden is located behind Arbor View Apartments where club members meet every Friday to engage in club activities.

“The community so far is amazing because it brings people together who would never have interacted otherwise into something great,” said Zyn Liang, the Community Garden President. “Gardening also has a lot of cultural significance as well, and it’s fascinating to learn how people have grown their food throughout human history.”

This year the CGC has been able to grow many different vegetables and plants to explore gardening techniques.

“This year we’ve already planted: lettuce, potatoes, onions, cilantro, beets, carrots, rutaba-

ga and radish,” said Liang. “We plan to plant corn, beans, and squash in indigenous-style Three Sisters gardens, along with tomatoes, peppers, cane sorghum, watermelons and various types of the gourd.

“We’re also going to plant some wildflowers and medicinal herbs in our smaller flower beds,” continued Liang. “Also one of our members is taking it upon himself to create an index for all the plants we have growing too and is sharing it on our shared Google drive folder.”

The CGC has active participation each week from club members but other organizations come out and help in the garden as well. Alpha Gamma Delta is an organization that has been helping out with the garden for a while now.

“Our philanthropy is the Alpha Gamma Delta Foundation,” said Zowie Mccarty, the philanthropy chair at the Alpha Gamma Delta chapter at UWG. “Under that umbrella, one of our main focuses is to fight hunger. Garden visits give us a hands on experience with growing food, and it allows us to be hands on within our philanthropy.”

“This opportunity allows us not only to build in our philanthropy to help fight hunger, but it gives us an opportunity to build our sisterhood,” continued Mccarty. “We can joke around, dig in the dirt, and enjoy the little moments.”

## Does the MLB All-Star Decision Threaten Georgia’s Economy?

By Brittany Shadix  
*Contributing Writer*

Georgia’s new voting laws have sparked controversy across the country. The laws, which add additional measures to protect election integrity like ID requirements for all voters and more secure ballot drop boxes, have been labeled as means of oppression for the minority population. In response, many large entities in the entertainment and recreation industries, including Major League Baseball (MLB), have publicly opposed the laws and partially or fully removed their commerce from the state.

The MLB was one of the first to be vocal about its opposition to the voting law reform, and the league’s All-Star Game scheduled to be held in Atlanta summer of this year was pulled and relocated to Denver. With an economy still recovering from the pandemic, experts say an estimated \$100 million could be at loss for Georgia. According to UWG Economics Professor, Michael Sinkey, the relocation will most likely have little effect on the state’s economic outlook.

“I don’t know that there will be much effect,” said Sinkey. “The All-Star weekend is three days total. From a practical perspective, there just won’t be huge effects on labor market outcomes for any individual or group of people.

“I do think there will be some lost revenue for restaurants and hotels around the area, though I tend to agree with others in my field in that the economic impact will be much smaller than what MLB and the Braves have estimated,” continued Sinkey. “People tend to forget that many local residents leave town or don’t go out and fight the crowds when big events come around.”

It is not to say Atlanta and its neighboring cities will not feel the impact of losing one of America’s favorite pastime events. As stated by Sinkey, the leisure and hospitality industry

account for around 429,000 of the state’s estimated 4.5 million jobs. This includes lodging, restaurants and other sectors of tourism that has been heavily affected by the pandemic. The arts, entertainment and recreation industries make up around 47,000 of the state total. So while relatively small, these industries are important to Georgia’s economy and the livelihood of many.

“Any time businesses leave, there’s an impact on local spending in supporting industries,” said Sinkey. “With that being said, I would be surprised if any more sporting events are lost. The MLB All-Star Game was sort of a one-off deal.

“I doubt that major companies will leave Georgia,” continued Sinkey. “It is easy for events and pop-up industries like film to move around since they are not necessarily tied to any particular locale. Businesses that have a defined workforce, suppliers and ties to other businesses are not going anywhere. I’m under the impression that most of the business and events that were planning to leave have already left.”

While it may seem a multitude of them are threatening to pack their things and leave to support their minority consumers, there is something else either keeping them here or convincing them to make the move—money.

“An economy benefits when its workforce is being properly supported and utilized,” said Sinkey. “It seems like this is a primary goal for many activists.

“Businesses will make decisions to maximize their profits,” continued Sinkey. “MLB calculated that losing revenue in Georgia would be better than potentially losing sponsors and viewers due to the controversy of staying. While I think MLB was mindful of how their employees felt, I would be very surprised if the end decision was not pure cost benefit.”



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# NEWS

## Study Abroad: Business in South Korea

By **Samara Marshall**  
*Contributing Writer*

In the past UWG has had the ability to send students around the world to learn and study in different environments known as study abroad. Some departments at UWG have had the ability to send their students to countries like Morocco, Italy and Costa Rica. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, many study abroad trips had to be canceled in spring and summer of last year. Many countries were forced to close their borders, prohibiting outside travelers. However, with the recent decline in cases because of safety protocols and vaccine productions, the Management department in the Richards College of Business is now planning their first trip since the pandemic. Students will have the ability in spring of 2022 to spend their semester abroad studying in South Korea.

“This year we weren’t going to get approval for study abroad so we did a virtual study abroad program,” said Erich Bergiel, Professor in the Management Department. “As of right now we have gotten

tentative approval to schedule our trip for Spring 2022. We are really excited about this opportunity and have received a lot of interest from students about traveling again.”

With the opportunity to study abroad, students are able to continue working towards their degree while living in a new country and learning about the various cultures. Departments that offer study abroad programs put in a lot of effort to make sure all students have the best experience while away from home and have the opportunity to learn as much as they can.

“For our trips it’s all very scheduled,” said Bergiel. “We fly over to the country and then are greeted by our hosts, and while there, we have a pretty good model of a combination of business visits and cultural visits. Some business and cultural visits are mandatory and then we offer the student other opportunities to engage in cultural activities.”

The Management Department will be traveling to South Korea, a country they have yet to go to. Ber-

giel mentions that the department tried to offer students the opportunity to go to countries that they might not get the chance to visit out of college.

“The College of Business has never been to South Korea, I have been there on my own and really enjoyed my time so I think the students will too,” said Bergiel. “One thing that as far as the Management Department has is that our strategy is to try to go to countries or locations that students might not go.”

“Before the pandemic, we were going to go to Dubai,” continued Bergiel. “But then had to cancel that trip due to COVID-19, but we have also gone to China, Prague and places that may not have been your first choice.”

This opportunity is counted as a study abroad class where students are able to get credits from a management class and a marketing class. The marketing class will focus on the differences in advertising and consumer behavior with the different countries. The management class will focus more on the cultural and management aspects of the different countries.



Photo courtesy of the Management Department

## Hot Dogs for a Cause

By **Madison Creech**  
*Contributing Writer*

Sigma Nu Fraternity and the Kappa Alpha Order held their first hot dog eating contest at UWG on March 16. The two fraternities held this event in order to earn money for their philanthropies, which are the Educational Foundation and to fight against Human Trafficking.

At the event guests were able to buy hot dogs, chips and drinks. Many of the spectators were excited to watch the four competitors at the hot dog eating contest.

“I’ve been looking forward to the competition all week,” said competitor, Hunter Vaughn. “I have a strategy. I ate a big dinner yesterday, so my stomach is already stretched out a little. I haven’t eaten anything at all today. And then I have also been watching hot dog eating strategy videos on YouTube all morning.”

The contestants looked ner-

vous and excited when it came time for the start of the competition. Two of the contestants were representing Kappa Alpha Fraternity and the other two were representing Sigma Nu Fraternity. The competitors had 10 minutes to eat as many hot dogs as they could. Each contestant got a plate of around 13 hot dogs to start and then there was an extra plate if any one needed it.

Out of the four competitors, only two seemed legitimately trying to win the competition—Brandon Price and Hunter Vaughn—both brothers of the same fraternity. Six minutes into the competition, Vaughn had two hot dogs on his plate left and Price had three on his plate and one in his hand. It was neck and neck, but at this time it seemed that Price felt fine because of the look on his face. Price in the end was defeated and Vaughn was crowned the first Kappa Nu

Hot Dog Eating Champion of 2021.

“At the end of the day, I have been preparing for this competition since I found out about it,” continued Vaughn. “Brandon just decided when he got here he wanted to compete and had eaten at least three times already today. He was great competition, honestly kudos to him for eating as many hot dogs as he did having already eaten today. But I was more prepared. I am very excited to be the first Kappa Nu Hot Dog Eating Champion.”

Vaughn received a “Glizzy Champion” crown, as well as a Hot Dog Eating Trophy. At the end of the event, Sigma Nu Fraternity and the Kappa Alpha Order were able to raise over \$1,200 for both fraternities, totaling \$2,400. The members of each fraternity are thrilled with how successful the event was and look forward to having the same competition in the future.



Photo courtesy of Sigma Nu Fraternity



# ENTERTAINMENT

## Taylor Swift Maintains Youthful Diligence in Fearless (Taylor's Version)

By Kayla Henderson

Contributing Writer

In today's music industry, few other names are as well known as that of Taylor Swift. The 31-year-old singer-songwriter released her hit album *Fearless (Taylor's Version)* on April 9, 2021. The album comes as the first of a series of re-recordings of Swift's previous works.

The release featured tracks from her original *Fearless* album, which debuted in 2008, later paving the way to Swift's first Grammy for Album of the Year in 2009. *Fearless (Taylor's Version)* features 20 re-recorded songs from the original album, as well as six new, "from the vault" tracks, which originally were intended for *Fearless* but never publicly released.

*Fearless (Taylor's Version)* debuted No. 1 on Billboard, creating Swift's ninth No. 1 album. Far from slowing down, the 2021 album will be her third No. 1 album just in the past year alone. Because of this Swift has made history by being the first Billboard artist to top Country Song Writer and Country Producer charts at the same time.

Swift's contract with record label Big Machine Records ended in 2019, as per her contract, Swift's old music was under ownership of Big Machine Records. After a turbulent legal battle, Swift announced in 2020 that she would be re-releasing her music in order to regain control over her original music.

Although it has been 13 years since *Fearless* was released, *Fearless (Taylor's Version)* holds true to the youthful diligence of the 2008 version, all while giving

room to Swift's maturity in her popular songs such as "Fearless" and "Hey Stephen." The re-recordings feel as if Swift is revisiting her 18-year-old self through her music in "Fifteen," "The Best Day" and "The Way I Loved You."

Lyrical the re-recordings weren't that different from the 2008 versions. The production has been revamped with the help of musical talents Christopher Rowe, Jack Antonoff and Aaron Dessner, who have all collaborated with Swift for previous records. Altering the production allowed Swift to hone in on her voice itself, staying true to the country sound she had in 2008. Improving upon the production quality itself allowed for Swift to revisit her music and create a new, better and more intentional piece of work.

Swift plans to re-record her other albums in the future that were under her previous label including *Taylor Swift*, *Speak Now*, *Red*, and *1989*.

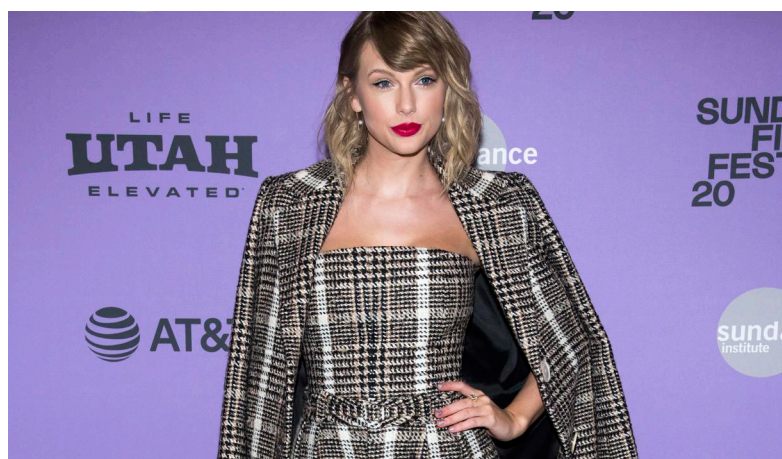


Photo courtesy of the Associated Press

## Psychological Tones in Amazon Prime's 'THEM'

By Brittany Hall

Contributing Writer

Amazon Prime's new series *THEM* was released on April 9 and has had social media in an uproar because of its excellent acting and exhilarating plot.

*THEM* starts off with an African American woman named Lucky Emory, played by Deborah Ayorinde, who is being verbally harassed by a Caucasian woman who attempts to take her newborn son. After the incident, Lucky and her husband Henry, as well as their daughters decide to move from North Carolina to East Compton, CA. Their new neighborhood is an all white suburban area, and the neighbors do not approve of the new family in town. The Emory family refuses to let their neighbors scare them away as their neighbors are not the only people they need to worry about.

The show takes place in the 1950s. Therefore, there is still racial tension between blacks and whites. The show's theme centers around the mental and emotional stress that comes along with dealing with racial discrimination. To add to the thrill, the show also has a supernatural creature that adds to the tormenting of the Emory family. The supernatural creature was placed by the writers of *THEM* to symbolize the fear and hardships that the characters have to deal with. The Emory family has to learn how to cope in their new environment by deciding if they were going to choose between fighting back with violence or ignoring the hate.

In a show that involves racial tension and discrimination they normally center it strictly around

violence. However, *THEM* shows the emotional and psychological stress that occurs when dealing with such a difficult situation. The show even shows the impact the situation can have on children by giving the children their own storylines and hardships they must deal with regarding the move and a supernatural creature. When shows display more than one perspective of a difficult situation by telling it through different characters from different ages, it allows the audience to see multiple sides of the story, especially when the acting was as phenomenal as it was in this show.

Now that *THEM* has become popular on Amazon Prime and has been constantly talked about on social media, fans are hoping that there is a season two on the way, especially since the show did not end happily. There are still questions that were left unanswered. *THEM* is not your average 1950s racial discrimination plot because it leaves viewers thrilled until the last second.



Photo courtesy of Amazon Prime



# ENTERTAINMENT

## Disney is on a Roll with ‘The Falcon and the Winter Soldier’

By Abigail Cummings

*Contributing Writer*

Disney+ has done it once again with its new series *The Falcon and the Winter Soldier*. Marvel meets buddy cop comedy in this action-packed mystery. Coming off of the success of *WandaVision*, this series has already garnered the attention of millions of Marvel fans.

*The Falcon and The Winter Soldier* focuses on the world post Captain America’s disappearance/retirement. In the show, *The Falcon*, aka Sam Wilson, is played by Anthony Mackie who teams up with *The Winter Soldier*, aka Bucky Barnes, who is played by Sebastian Stan. The two have to come together to combat the actions of an anti-patriotism group called the Flag Smashers. This rebel group is composed of people who believe that the world was better after the effects of Thanos’ snap. The group has also somehow gotten their hands on the Super Soldier Serum that was used to turn Bucky into the Winter Soldier which has caused both him and Sam to be concerned about the group’s actions. The two gentlemen have to put aside their differences and come together to try to bring down the insur-

gents before it is too late.

In the midst of battling the rebels, both Sam and Bucky have to come to terms with the loss of their beloved friend Captain America, aka Steve Rogers. To cope with the loss of Steve, the United States recruits a young war hero, John Walker, as the replacement for Captain America. Not only do Bucky and Sam have to deal with a terrorist organization, but they now also have to deal with a copycat. This fake Captain America has infuriated the audience simply because they believe no one can replace the real Steve Rogers.

The buddy cop element adds to the show’s success. Since people can’t have Captain America, having his two best friends team up has made fans’ hearts swell. The two have worked together in the past in *Captain America: Civil War*, but then they at least had Steve to keep them from losing focus. Without Steve, both Sam and Bucky have to learn how to work together to save the world, while also trying to deal with their own personal struggles—Bucky with his list of amends and Sam with the prospect of losing his family’s fishing company. They both don’t

want to let down Steve, and this makes the fans sympathize even more with them.

As with all Marvel content, the mystery aspect always keeps the fans coming back for more. In this show, the mystery keeps getting bigger and bigger which keeps the audience on its toes. Everyone wants to know what is going to happen next and so they watch multiple times to dissect the scenes. One area that has all the audience puzzled is who is the real villain. Is it the leader of the rebel group or is it the new Captain America? With this element of confusion, the show draws the audience in each week in order to solve this enigma.

After *WandaVision*’s end, it has been great to see more Marvel content. Because of the pandemic last year, Marvel had to halt their operations, but now the back-to-back releases of these shows has allowed for Marvel fans to view the characters they love once again. While *WandaVision* felt like more of a reprieve from the normal content Marvel creates, *The Falcon and The Winter Soldier* gives fans the action and adventure they’ve been waiting for.

Photo courtesy of Marvel Studios

