Raider Report
Special Edition:
The Coronavirus Outbreak
The COVID-19 pandemic has become the single most important event not only this year, but arguably this century. However, while COVID-19 is disrupting almost every other aspect of life, one major event, in particular, will likely be decided solely on how this situation turns out. On Tuesday, November 3rd, 2020, voters this year will decide on the presidency, all 435 seats in the House of Representatives, 35 Senate seats, 13 governorships, and thousands of state and local elections. However, the global pandemic that is putting everything on hold could cause major problems to the election. One of the main questions is, “Could the election be delayed?” While some Democrats are concerned that President Trump could use his executive power to try to delay the election, it is extremely unlikely that this could happen. The Constitution sets the date of the Election, and the only way to change that would be to go through the Democratic-led House of Representatives.

Since it is unlikely the election could legally be delayed, the next question is: “Will anyone show up?” Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation’s top infectious disease expert said in a COVID-19 briefing at the White House: “We will have coronavirus in the fall. I am convinced of that.” History shows that when a pandemic strikes, people are rightfully scared to go out in public to the polls. This was shown 100 years ago during the 1918 Spanish Influenza when voter turnout was extremely low.

Because of all of these problems, what needs to happen in order to have a fair and safe election? Many voting rights groups and advocates like the American Civil Liberties Union and When We All Vote support allowing anyone who requests mail-in voting or early voting to be able to do so. These groups and their policies are also backed by the American public. In an NBC News/Wall Street Journal Poll, 67% of the public supported allowing complete voting by mail. However, several prominent Republicans, including Senate Majority Leader McConnell and President Trump, don’t support voting by mail. President Trump said in a press conference, “I think mail-in voting is horrible, it's corrupt.” However, the New York Times debunked this myth, saying that “Studies have shown that all forms of voter fraud are extremely rare in the United States.” In fact, voting by mail is good for democracy, as studies have shown that it boosts voter turnout by over 3.3%. It is likely that in this election, many people will vote by mail to stay safe and also exercise their Constitutional right to vote. However, it would take approval by the Republican-held Senate and Presidency, and right now it isn’t likely that they will budge.

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It’s not just the technicalities of the election that are being affected by COVID-19. In fact, there are multiple other aspects of the election that are being influenced by it. The campaign itself has been forced to completely change. While most campaigns revolve around human interaction and connection, this campaign will have to happen nearly 100% digitally. And while the campaign has taken a sort of backseat to COVID-19, President Trump has still tried to maintain a prominent presence in his COVID-19 briefings. Those briefings may not always be good for Trump, however, as he often makes false or confusing statements in them, such as when he confoundingly recommended injecting Lysol into the body to cure COVID-19. As a result, many people in the country are unhappy with President Trump’s handling of his handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the same poll mentioned above, 52% of the country is unhappy with how Trump has handled the situation, while only 44% approve.

If these numbers hold, it is likely that in November, swing-state voters in places like Michigan, Wisconsin, and our own Florida may still disapprove of Trump’s handling of the pandemic, and vote against him for the presumptive Democratic nominee, Joe Biden. As FiveThirtyEight said, “This election will be the COVID-19 election.”

By Ian Fox ‘24
Since March, the novel Coronavirus has ravaged many parts of the United States forcing a number of small businesses to cease operations. Numerous small businesses who are not a big time company like Apple or Google are getting hit hard with the effects of Covid-19. About 27% of goods sold in the US are made in China which almost doubles the percent of goods made in the US. Covid-19 caused many factories in China to shut down leaving many companies without inventory and in a time of despair. Small businesses are especially being hit hard since they do not have the money to use factories in the US. Many companies are being forced to temporarily lay off their workers since they simply cannot afford to pay them. Many businesses only have the funds to last a short period of time in this crisis. CNBC claims that “Thirteen percent of small business owners say they can survive less than a month in an extended period of lockdown; 31% say their business would last “a few months or less.” Just a little over one-third (35%) say their business could survive more than a year.” Other statistics show that 40% of small businesses will be unable to reopen after this disaster. And on top of this 72% of businesses say they will not be able to function the same way they did prior to the global pandemic. This means that you will not be able to go down the street and see lively restaurants with many people in them. Many businesses may never be the same and our economy may never be the same. Currently, unemployment rates are at a whopping 15% and expect to lower to 8% by the end of 2020 and could average 5.4% in 2022. This shows how long the effects of the virus will last since before Covid-19 the unemployment rates were dramatically lower at 3.6% in January of 2020. This is proving that even if Corona goes away, it will still have long-term effects on a huge amount of the population. These statistics show us that Corona cannot just go away in a snap, but we will gradually get away from this Global Pandemic.
Covid-19, as almost everyone knows, is the virus that has been rocking the world. With 3.17 million cases in the world as of 4/29, the coronavirus has become a nation wide pandemic and every nation in the world has felt its wrath. Although the vaccine for the virus is due to come out for public use in a year's time there have been some developments in a possible treatment for the virus. The treatment is not meant to help people from catching the virus but to help those who have the virus and are in the worst conditions.

**Remdesivir**

The possible treatment for patients in severe health conditions is called remdesivir. Remdesivir is a medicine that is created by the company Gilead sciences. The medicine has been seen as a possible hope for patients who have been under critical conditions and even for patients who have minor conditions. It has been tested on many people and now has reached phase three testing. This is a very good thing as it is constantly moving up through levels of testing and proving that it is a safe to use drug.

**Usage of the medication**

Patients that are on the clinical trial of remdesivir either receive a five or ten day treatment trial. The rate of recovery for a five day trial is 60% and the rate of recovery for a ten day trial is a 52.2% recovery rate. Although these are not the perfect recovery numbers they are still very impressive as this offers a chance to patients that are in critical health conditions as a last resort to recovery. Another notable mention is that the medicine ether works and cures the patient or is ineffective. The reason that this is worth taking note of is that remdesivir is not actually causing deaths in treatment unlike the malaria drug chloroquine which killed patients in treatment. This makes remdesivir a low risk and effective drug.

**Availability**

Although remdesivir is proving to be a very effective treatment against the coronavirus it is still not available for worldwide use because it has yet to finally pass all of the testing phases to be rendered safe for public use. Although we do not have a clear date for release of the drug we know that Gilead science is doing everything in their power to get it approved for public use and when that happens we may see a great decrease in casualties from the virus.

Thomas Crawley ‘24
Every student at Ransom Everglades has gone through “the application process.” The application process, even though a long and stressful process, is necessary to be able to go to this school. The process is split into three main parts, the open house, the SSAT, and the application form. The first of those three is the open house. The open house is highly encouraged as you are being able to see what an average day at Ransom Everglades is like. You are able to tour throughout the campus and observe classes. By doing this you can get a better insight on how the school’s schedule and classes work.

**SSAT Testing and Process**

Through my siblings and my own experiences this is one of the most rigorous steps of the process. When in this stage of the process, many recommend that you find a tutor to help you with your review for the test. According to your tutor’s preference, you will need to get an SSAT study book so that you may have access to certain lessons that will be relevant when taking the SSAT. After months of preparation, you will be taking the SSAT. The dates for the test this past year were: October 19, November 16, December 14, and January 4. The test begins in the morning at 9:00 am and usually ends around 12:30-1:00 pm, and you should try to arrive 30 minutes before the test starts.

It is worth noting that you are able to apply for more than one test date, so if your first test score is not up to your standards you may retry the test. These extra test dates give advantages such as opening up a larger range of studying time with your tutor and when you get results back from a test you can see areas of struggle and improve on those areas with your tutor. The one disadvantage of booking these SSAT tests is the fee. “The SSAT middle/upper level test fee is $127 ($45 late fee, $35 change fee).”(Kaplan, “What [Exactly] Is The SSAT?”). This may change how you want to schedule your test dates and how many test dates you want to schedule as scheduling all four will cost you $508. I personally would recommend choosing the two dates: November 16 and December 14. These two test dates are ideal because they allow you to add additional study time rather than taking the test on October 19. The reason that I would not choose the test date January 4 is that your child would have to study during the winter break and then take this test during your winter break or when your break is concluding.

Thomas Crowley “24
All over Miami, you might have noticed something new cruising the streets. Electric scooters are rapidly expanding and becoming popular all across not only Miami but the entire country. More than 84 million electric scooter rides took place in 2018 alone.

Major scooter brands include Bird, Lime, and Spin. They are becoming increasingly popular throughout Miami, with their numbers increasing from 300 to 3,000 in one year. With their popularity, though, they have come under a microscope, and some concerns have arisen. The scooters can accelerate up to 15-30 mph, and although their speed makes for a fun ride, several accidents have occurred. There have been 1,374 recorded scooter injuries, with a 222% increase since 2014. 8 people have died in electric scooter accidents, prompting some cities to completely ban them, including the state of New York. The City of Miami initially banned them, citing safety concerns. However, after a 6 month long review period, the city commissioners voted to allow the scooters back in Miami, and they have rapidly become extremely popular. There are many benefits to the scooters. They are extremely cheap, generally costing $1 to unlock them and then 15 cents a minute after that. Paired with that, they are also environmentally friendly. Many times, the scooters are used in place of cars, which account for ⅓ of all greenhouse gas emissions. Continued on page 8
The scooter companies have claimed that “Every mile traveled on one of its scooters mitigates 350 grams in carbon emissions.” The scooters are not only fun, but they’re also accessible. All that is needed to rent a scooter is an app, and they can be found almost anywhere in most cities. However, in certain areas, no-go zones are implemented to avoid congestion or accidents. They can be parked anywhere, and as such, their accessibility has made them very popular.

The scooters have become a popular mode of transportation, along with being cheap and environmentally friendly. Studies show that 70% of Americans view electric scooters favorably. All around, they have made a positive impact on Miami and the country.

Note: around a week after writing this article, the COVID-19 pandemic drastically struck the U.S. In response, Bird, Lime, and other scooter companies have taken their scooters off of the streets, citing health concerns. Spin has slightly reduced scooters on the streets, and is offering free rides to healthcare employees. They are also recommending the cleaning of the bikes before use, and the usage of gloves.
The CoronaVirus. A Virus that so far has a fatality rate of 2.3% being 20 times more deadly than the flu. So far the body count is at 3,164 deaths with over 90,000 people having contracted the disease. This disease originated in markets in the city of Wuhan. People are speculating that this disease came from bats that the people of Wuhan were eating. No matter the cause this is a deadly disease.

The Coronavirus or 2019n-CoV is a disease that causes a fever, shortness of breath, and a cough. It spreads through the air and is currently spreading throughout Asia and has had a few scares in the United States. The disease itself is not actually called the CoronaVirus. A CoronaVirus is a large group of viruses that cause respiratory tract and allow other diseases to be created. An example of this is SARS(Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome).

This can be cured and hopefully very soon. The 2019n-Cov causes very similar symptoms to SARS and MERS and comes from a coronaVirus. These two diseases had come out before but some scientists have managed an experimental vaccine for SARS. If they can modify it to treat the n-CoV then our chances to contain this virus and get past it. Other vaccines that are being made that can help fight it is the Ebola and Malaria vaccines as these vaccines will inhibit the virus’s ability to reproduce inside the host cell. Hopefully there will be a cure to stop this deadly disease.

Alejandro Andrade ‘25
Me when I realize Friday Advisory starts at 8:15 and not 8:20

THE RANSOM FACULTY AND STUDENTS...

IF I TELL THEM MY CAMERA IS BROKEN

TEACHERS WILL NOT ASK ME TO TURN IT ON

AFTER THE FRIDAY SCHEDULE

Once again I am asking you for your support in muting yourselves and turning your cameras on