

TRUMP: ROUND 2

By: Finley Aitken

President Donald J. Trump, a convicted felon, was inaugurated into office on Jan 19th, 2025. President Trump made countless promises during his campaign, and on Monday, January 20th, he held those promises true. Before he even ate lunch, Trump signed about 200 executive orders, some of which decimated the rights of immigrants and their children, ended the right to gender affirming care for inmates, and destroyed the environment.

Some of the most worrisome executive orders follow immigration. Trump has ended birthright citizenship to those born to non U.S. citizens. This breaks nearly 250 years of tradition and families coming from around the world to give birth on U.S. soil so that their child can have access to citizenship and a better life. This right is guaranteed under the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. He has also signed executive orders to round up immigrants and deport them, even if they are in “places of safety,” such as schools and places of worship. These places were previously off limits to ICE agents. In an elementary school in Chicago, as well as several other schools, ICE has already tried to take children out of their schools to deport them. Some are concerned about the workers that will be lost, creating even more of a worker shortage and crashing the economy. However, even more people are concerned about how many families will be torn apart, as parts of a family may be allowed to stay, while others will be torn away from the life they’ve built and the “freedom” they were promised in America. People also

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wonder if Trump's wife Melania will be deported, as she came here on visa fraud.

In all this fear though, there may be one shining light as a federal judge has temporarily blocked Trump's anti immigrant executive orders saying it is "unconstitutional."

Others, such as myself, are concerned about the rights of our LGBTQ friends and family. The U.S. government is poised to recognize only two biological sexes: male and female. This will not only be detrimental for the rights of trans and nonbinary people, but the rights of born intersex people as well. Intersex people are born on the line between female and male and don't fall into a definite binary. Even more, inmates will not be allowed gender affirming care anymore, despite it previously being labeled as life saving care. On inauguration day, the Trevor Hotline, an LGBTQ suicide hotline, had an increase in call volume by 33%. The day after the election, their call volume skyrocketed by 700%, 200% of which sighted political concerns as a reason for their call.

Another set of Trump's policies that we should be concerned about are ones concerning the environment. Trump pulled the United States out of the Paris climate agreement, which sought to reverse the effects of climate change, and keep our world healthier for future generations by cutting emissions. Trump has also made good on the promise to no longer restrict oil drilling in Alaska. The practice of oil drilling in Alaska will be detrimental to our environment, as more emissions

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lead to melting glaciers, rising sea levels, and loss of habitats for nearly extinct animals. Not everyone realizes that our arctic friends are not only cute, but essential to their ecosystem and native culture. Polar bears are at the top of their food chain, eliminating their home, and therefore them, would destroy their food web. Polar bears are also important to native traditions, which have lived on for thousands of years.

One thing most people from all parties can agree on, is that demanding flags, that were previously at half mast for the death of former President Jimmy Carter, be raised for Trump's "big day." Trump claimed that it was disrespectful to himself that the flags were lowered, but he seemed to have forgotten the long and lasting impact that the former president had on the nation. Trump also said that "the left" seemed to be happy that the flags would be lowered during his inauguration. Most people did not even notice or care until he pointed it out.

Another one of Trump's new orders that has members of all parties in a stir is one in which he blocked federal aid across the country, cutting off billions of dollars that support hospitals, schools, and cities programs. A federal judge has temporarily blocked this order which halted the stopping of funding until February 3rd. This does not just affect Democrats, or the so-called other party, as many Trump supporters will claim. In fact, the most affected areas are likely red states, as they have a larger percentage of people living in poverty than most blue states.

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Red states and Trump supporters are now in the “find out” stage of their messing around. All of this to give a tax cut to the richest people in America, which Trump claims will boost our economy.

As for the inauguration itself, which holds lots of controversy of its own. Trump’s inauguration on Jan 20th, 2025 was held in the Capitol Rotunda, where his supporters broke their way into during the Jan 6th, 2021 capitol riots. Though, this can be excused by the frigid weather which prevented the inauguration from being held outside. Trump also entered through the west wing hall where some of the worst fighting occurred. Trump also promised, and later followed through on, pardoning around 1500 of the rioters. One thing that off put even his most dedicated supporters, was that Donald Trump did not place his hand on the Bible whilst swearing into office. It has been a nearly 250 year long tradition for presidents being sworn in to place their hand on the Bible while taking the oath of office. Although it is not a requirement to place your hand on the Bible, it is a requirement to place your hand on some book to swear on. The next, and likely most controversial, was when Elon Musk, Trump’s closest friend, gave the Nazi salute towards the crowd. People around the world, especially Germans and Jews, were outraged, and rightfully so. Some will claim that Musk did not know what he was doing, or was not trying to give the Nazi salute, but I believe that he should be old enough and smart enough to know better. Others will claim that because he is

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on the autism spectrum he didn't know, however, as a person on the spectrum which also has friends on the spectrum, I have never seen another autistic person accidentally give a Nazi salute.

Can America truly be called "the land of the free" when we take the rights of so many? Which rights will be taken next from us?