Senate Votes to Confirm Barrett

Jonathan Kawauchi
World News Editor

Last Sunday afternoon, the US Senate voted to end debate on the nomination of Judge Amy Coney Barrett. This set the stage for the final confirmation vote Monday evening, a week before the general election.

In a floor vote along party lines, 51 Republicans advanced Barrett to fill the seat of the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

"By tomorrow night, we’ll have a new member of the United States Supreme Court," said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) following the vote. He added “A lot of what we’ve done over the last four years will be undone sooner or later by the next election. They won’t be able to do much about this for a long time to come.”

The only Republicans to vote against the motion were Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK). However, Murkowski spoke on Saturday that while she planned to vote against moving the nomination forward, she would vote to confirm Barrett, stating that she opposed the procedure but not the candidate. Collins has also stated in September that whoever wins the presidential election should fill the vacancy.

Vice President Pence intends to return from the campaign trail to Capitol Hill on Monday for the Senate confirmation vote, despite recent positive coronavirus testing from staffers on Pence’s team.

“As vice president I’m president of the Senate. And I’m gonna be in the chair because I wouldn’t miss that vote for the world,” Pence said.

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Modern Monopolies

A Look Into the House of Representatives’ Antitrust Investigation

Matthew Supp
Flipside Editor

It does not take a rocket scientist to see that technology has become ingrained in everything that we do. This huge part of our day to day can be traced to four main tech giants: Amazon, Apple, Facebook, and Google. All of which are known worldwide, and all of which are part of an antitrust investigation. Over the past two years or so, the House Antitrust Committee has investigated these giants for violations of antitrust laws. The committee found that in 2019, around half of Google’s searches came from Apple devices, and that Google pays anywhere between $8 billion to $12 billion dollars (or around 17% of Apple’s revenue) to remain Apple’s number one choice for search engine. This interoperability is something that the House considers protective of Google’s monopoly over the search market. This type of monopoly contracts with the House has concluded about Facebook, which has been accused of buying or acquiring competing services to keep them from being serious opponents. The two clearest modern examples of Facebook’s marketplace dominance comes from Instagram and WhatsApp.

“One way of looking at this is that what we’re really buying is a market that has been undone sooner or later by the next election. They won’t be able to do much about this for a long time to come.”

Debate over President Trump’s Supreme Court Nominee, Amy Coney Barrett, has ended in the Senate on Sunday, Oct. 25. Barrett’s confirmation has been scheduled for Monday, Oct. 26. Barrett’s confirmation has been scheduled for Monday, Oct. 26.
SteelSeries Arctis Pro Review

High Resolution Audio for Gamers

Adrian Moulder
Editor-in-Chief

The eat-upscissors of compact class from our daily lives is generally seen as a positive thing. The less paper boy any plastic product means less damage to the environment, after all, and switching from one art- ist to another doesn’t require a full-service change. Stream- ing services like Spotify and Apple Music now take up the time in our day-to-day operation that CDs once occupied, but it comes at a cost, which for some may be the greatest of all when it comes to music: sound quality.

Spotify Premium streams audio at 320 kbps at just around 1.4 kilobytes per second, and CDs hit a whopping 1.44 gigabytes. If you like to stream Spotify on your own and then again on a CD, assuming you have a good set of speakers, you will likely hear how much is lost when songs are com- pressed to the MP3 format. There are reasons to enjoy even CDs in quality, but because of extremely high bitrates (2.016 kbps for certified “Hi-Res” audits) and the problems associated with transmitting large amounts of data, they do not currently exist in very many convenient streaming platforms other than TIDAL. Frequency range is also important for overall sound quality. Most headphones have a low max out at 40,000 Hz, which in a typical use case is just fine. Games will sound normal, and good sound engineers will make use of all 48 kHz. However, if we have high bitrate audio with a much higher rate of sample (64 kHz or higher), we have to do it in my case, where SteelSeries enters into play.

SteelSeries is a relatively new feature in the gaming industry. They got their start making unusual mousepads including one made from glass designed to im- prove mouse roll performance. They rose to prominence and rebranded when they created a pad made from steel. Nowadays, they make mouse mats of all shapes and sizes, complemented by a wide array of ultra high- quality keyboards, mice, and headsets. I had been buy- ing issues with a wireless Logitech headset for several months when I finally decided to return to wired, and SteelSeries had some tempting offerings. When it comes to purchases that revolve around my PC, I go for the best possible experience, so I didn’t want to just get a low-end or mid-range pair of cans that would need replacing in just months. Therefore, I decided to invest in their top offering, the Arctis Pro. The Arctis Pro seems like a typical high-end gam- ing headset on the outside. Sturdy steel and aluminum con- struction makes the headset feel premium, and the overall design is very classy. It does not appear too “gamer-y”, and even the RGB lighting is surprisingly calm and subtle. Something particularly interesting to me about this headset is what SteelSeries calls a “ski goggle” headband. Instead of the headset sitting on your head with a foam pad, there is an elastic band that fits like you guessed it (a pair of ski goggles). Overall, despite there being no adjustability on the Arctis Pro other than a velcro pad on the headband, it is extremely comfortable after you find the right setting, and the gait opens up the already light headset’s weight enough to be completely unnoticeable, even after hours at a time. I think the only complaint I have relat- ing to comfort is that some of the included wires are a little too short. Those really only pose a problem when I have them behind my ears, which is only a minor amount of slack to prevent the headset from being yanked off my head accidentally.

Since I play a considerable amount of first person shooters, I find positional audio to be extremely help- ful, so I have always made use of virtual surround sound features to give me the upper hand. The Arctis Pro supports Dolby’s DTS HeadphoneX (version 2) Surround sound system, which is just a fancy version of their typical 7.1 system but with enhancements specifi- cally for headsets. The surround sound is nice, but I have not really gotten to the real reason I got this par- ticular headset. The most compelling reason to get the Arctis Pro is the extra hardware in the box, the GameDAC. A DAC, or Digital to Analog Converter, is used to turn a digital signal from a computer into an analog format that we can recognize as sound. Most headsets have these built-in, but the GameDAC is a standalone piece that sits on the desktop and acts as an interface to allow the user to control the output volume as well as the balance between game and voice audio. I absolutely love this thing. It is elegant and intuitive, and it allows you to play Hi Res audio at the press of a button. If the physical controls are not enough for you, SteelSeries Engine 3 is an excellent interface software that shows other companies’ peripheral software out of the water.

I absolutely had no idea what I was missing with high resolution audio until I used this headset. I have always thought that Spotify sounded really good with decent quality speakers playing very loudly, but I now know that there is so much more to depth of the bass and the midrange, the bit-depths, and the very low end come back into crystal-clear focus. Sounds that are normally drowned out by guitars, drums, and vocals, are audible, like lightly played cymb- als, and every part of the song that you are usually familiar with is no longer muddy, meaning you can hear more of what made you love a particular song in the first place.

Overall, the Arctis Pro is an expensive offering at $250 with the GameDAC, but it is comfortable and provides a great listening experience in every use case. However, this is absolutely not for true audiophiles. This system is not meant to and will not replace your sound quality of your typical car stereos or built-in hardware. I have had a high quality pair of studio monitors from groups like Sony or AudioTechnica paired with prevent-amplifier and DACs. The entire purpose of the Arctis Pro is to provide a good audio experience for gamers, first and foremost. Games, as I mentioned previously, do not necessarily have the need for superb quality audio, so this headset is really designed for people who want to check out the headphones and play on the “low to moderate” category.

The Deephousing Spoon by Sam Kean – While focused on a specific topic, this book may come to interest of anyone who has taken a chemistry class. Kean effectively compiles his research and investiga- tions into a tale of how every element on the periodic table came to be. From accidental discoveries, to invention of radioactive isotopes, to just some get their funny names, each element has a story behind it and why each holds an important place on the table.

The Universe Inside you by Brian Clegg – This easy to read book is a quick way to learn about anato- my and physiology. Clegg takes “the extreme science of the human body” – hair, eyes, digestion, and the brain – and breaks it down into the basics, telling stories of how our body relates to different parts of nature and the important developments we have made in becoming, well, us.
Degradation of Political Parties

Aidan Moulder
Editor-in-Chief

I had a discussion with my Resident Assistant this week about politics. My RA is probably one of the few people I've ever met, but I'm surprised I even mustered the courage to talk politics with anyone, since as of late those conversations always devolve into the nonsense that Americans affec tionately call politics in this day and age. To avoid such conflicts, I tell people I am apolitical and that I do not concern myself with most political matters. However, where my political opinion differs from a large portion of Americans is that I do not exclusively uphold the views of my party, and in some matters I agree with Republicans more than Democrat ones. I am not going to jump into the specifics of my beliefs, and I instead will go on to focus on the bigger picture of the state of U.S. Politics.

Members of both primary political parties are guilty of compromising political party's goals and not accepting good compromises. On a policy level, supporting a bill that is close to the political stand of the opposition party is not enough to claim one is a Democrat orRepublican. In American politics, a great deal of the voting population blindly supports their party regardless of how it affects them. I personally do not know if this support is based on principles or misinformation, but I suspect it is a result of the last one. There are many cases in which those die-hard supporters appear willing to accept lies and disadvantages provided by new laws or the results of elections. The result is toxic 'coprophilia' of politics that another member of the Thorn staff warned me about several weeks ago. In his campaign, the president promised to build a wall along the border between the United States and Mexico, and he emphasized he was going to make the Mexican government pay for it. Regardless of whether you support Trump and the wall idea, many supporters are likely to support this idea purely because it perfectly aligns with their political party's platform, but it has not accomplished any part of their border wall promise, and Mexico has not given him a dollar to support that effort. However, Trump's supporters have backed the idea of the wall and have started wasting around the idea of the wall, even though things like the border wall will have yet to materialize.

At the end of the day, everybody seems not to care about what actually happens in Washington, and instead worries whether or not the people doing it supposedly represented them. I'm sure that political parties in our country need to be addressed in some way, but until then the only thing we can do is vote and promote better political education, while also taking it upon ourselves to make it clear to our political representatives that we are one of the reasons why they have to have us. We can all win if we take the eight measures that will wake up the nightmare that has slowly creeping into our lives.

Dog Connection

Gladys Mudgett
Opinions Editor

Prison is defined as a building in which people are legally held as a punishment for a crime committed while awaiting trial (Oxford Dictionary). Prisons are known as rough places to people who have never been incarcerated, the men who see good conduct and great mercy, a rehabilitation program involving puppy training help them reacclimate to the world. Through their responsibility and the impact, they can have on others, prisons train the dogs with the intent to help humans with post-traumatic stress disorder.

The first dog training program for prison rehabilitation started in 1981. It was an initiative of Senior Pauline Quinn who thought that the program could bring a sense of community and have a low level of stress, just as the fact of raising dogs did in her youth. In several years, several researches have been done along the benefit of dog therapy and the links between rehabilitation and dog training. On the positive impact of the program, the Massachusetts Department of Corrections reported that "incarcerated officers, staff, inmates, and recipients of the service dogs are overwhelmingly positive, and their progression is measured by a medium severity score in California, a number of depression and aggression cases among the inmates have been regressed in past years." In the Journal of Family Social Work & Research, a researcher said that the dogs help them to deal with anger, which is an emotion that is very high in the body, and simply make them laugh, which is a little easier. "The realization was among the inmates who participate in any kind of dog training program, prison is significantly less than the others." The Prestige Tribune, reports that the median rate among inmates who trained dogs was around 12% while the national rate is 10%. Moreover, the result is not only accurately correct, but also, inmates feel better, because most of the time, the inmates who participate in dog training program are ideal, people, blind people, all people. The service revolved around service to people who suffer from PTSD is part of the general environment. One problem is that even if the service dogs help people with PTSD, there is still a problem with training service dogs.

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A study published in the February issue of the Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology shows the positive impact of service dogs in lowering PTSD symptoms. O’Leary says that “this innovative study applied rigorous methodology to an area that has been treated with a lack of scientific rigour and intuition rather than evidence-based science.” The result of the study is positive. In the way that service dogs help to lower veterans’ symptoms of post traumatic stress, to lower levels of depression, higher levels of life satisfaction, lower overall psychological well-being, lower levels of social anxiety, and greater ability to participate in social activities, higher levels of resilience, higher levels of empathy and compassion, and even less use absorption from work due to health issues. The study was published in Psychology in the Schools, (Psychiatric News News Front). In general, and dogs, in particular, it has been important always to help humans with the ability to participate in society between the effort of the inmate who volunteers himself toward society and the humanity of the war hero. The dogs in these special programs are a gift for all, everyone who has them. They humanize the person and help them again with their task of self-play. They play an integral role to deliver these gifts and women.
At the beginning of the season, the Cowboys seemed to be on the right track. Under the leadership of a new first-year coach, or so he claimed, they would now be a credible NFL title contender. Their defense had been the central issue in the previous Superbowl title. It was bold but we could see the potential. They had the skills and the resources to be a force to be reckoned with. Some fans even predicted a deep postseason run, while others dismissed the Cowboys as pretenders. The media was divided, with some analysts predicting a deep run, while others believed they would fade quickly.

However, as the season progressed, the Cowboys' performance did not live up to expectations. They were outscored in nine of their first 11 games, and one of the losses was a narrow defeat to the New England Patriots. The team's defensive struggles were evident, with the opposing quarterbacks常常 completing passes at will. Their wide receiver was often targeted, leading to a series of interceptions. The running back and the team's wide receivers were not as effective as expected, leading to a decrease in the team's overall scoring. The offense struggled to score points consistently, and the defense allowed too many points, leading to a lack of confidence in the team.

The team's performance in the last few games of the season was disappointing. They lost to the Los Angeles Chargers in a close game, followed by a disappointing loss to the Philadelphia Eagles. The team's struggles were evident, with the players not performing at their best. The coaches and the front office were under scrutiny, with many fans calling for changes. The fans were disappointed with the team's performance, and some even called for the team to be traded to another market.

But there were still some positive things to look forward to. The team's young talent was promising, and with the right coaching and management, they could make a comeback. The team's defense was improving, and with the right strategy, they could become a force to be reckoned with next season. The fans were hopeful, and the team was determined to prove them wrong. The season may have ended disappointingly, but the team was determined to come back stronger next year.
BREAKING NEWS!!
Another old white guy says some dumb sh*t!!
OG Wutta Suhpryz

I never tire of reporting on the shocking field that is American politics. There is nothing in this world more infatuating than the old blubber piles that work in Washington DC. And just when you thought it couldn’t get any more exciting, there’s another surprise to rock your world.

The other day, the turtle of a man that is Mitchell McConnell, was seen with visible bruising and bandages on both hands after some Republican function that I don’t care too much about. What I do care about is what he said regarding his hands. After being asked, he looked at them and said in a deep, almost satanic voice: “Soon you will see, there is no need for concern, soon you will all see.”

If you have any strong opinions on this meme or if you would like to send me a meme to put on here, read the thing at the bottom to figure out my email, then email me that meme and I will probably put it on here. Thanks in advance. *If you are reading this and want to earn a prize, find the hidden meme within this page and email me*

The journalist who asked the turtle-man about his hands was reportedly taken to the hospital, screaming something about the world being in the back of a weird giant tortoise. One can only hope that this maniacal yelling means nothing, and that the human turtle is just going off his meds. I, for one, don’t know if this is anything but insanity, but I do know that Mitch McConnell is not someone I want to ever talk to. Like, ever.

Meme of the Week

If you have any questions, comments, or content, do not hesitate to reach out to Matthew Supp, the Flipside Editor, at suppmg@rose-hulman.edu. Thank you for reading!