

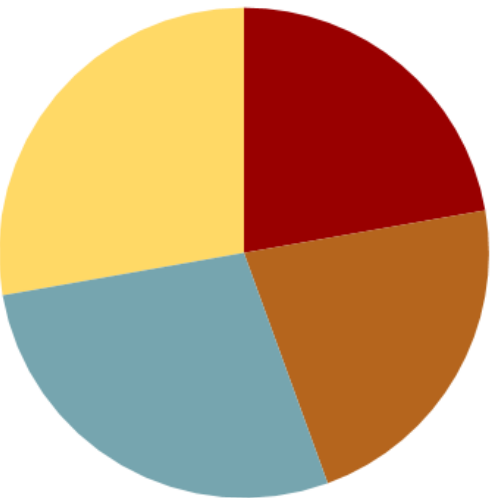
## What's Your Opinion?

Last week we asked students what monster which would they most want to have appear in their house on Halloween night.

Out of 18 people who responded, here are the results:

- Vampire - 4
- Werewolf - 4
- Ghost - 5

Cryptid (mothman, bigfoot, etc) - 5



- Vampire
- Werewolf
- Ghost
- Cryptid

## Next Week's Poll:

### Reddie Wolves

How do you feel about the addition of Henderson State University to the Arkansas State University System?

Vote on The Herald's website (theherald.home.blog) to voice your opinion! Polls are also posted on The Herald's Instagram (@astateherald) on Mondays at 4 p.m. Results will be posted in next week's Herald.

## Big Trouble, Little Rock

JOHN NORRIS

STAFF WRITER



John Norris is a senior English major from Sheridan.

There are rumblings in the Little Rock School District. Recognition of the union has ended, and a situation that already looked dire has only worsened. In January 2015, the district

has been under state control, as six of its (then) forty-eight schools were failing. The number is now up to eight.

Some students have staged a sickout, with thousands simply not attending school. The superintendent has said that if teachers walk off the job, they could face disciplinary action. The situation is tense, uncertain, and very familiar.

Teacher strikes are a common occurrence as of late. Many gormless opinion articles have been written about why this is (for Little Rock, it's a ghoulish plan to privatize the district -- an action that will essentially re-segregate the district via class lines), and this one is no different.

We all know the drill, and we all try to ignore it. Funding is cut to appease the neoliberal Budget Beast, the education of the state's children suffers,

lawmakers need to find a place to cut the budget instead of raising revenue, and the process repeats. It is a dirty (and very open) secret.

Indeed, the momentum of labor in the public sector doesn't seem to be slowing down. I believe we've all seen and read enough to agree this statement is uncontroversial. Building off of that statement, I have two questions:

Will this momentum spread to the private sector?

Will this momentum last and form into a cohesive political movement?

The answer to the first question is simple: "it depends on the answer to question two, but the GM strike is nevertheless interesting."

The answer to question two is not simple. Political movements need two things: a trigger event, and leadership. Occupy Wall Street only had one -- the

2008 financial crisis. The movement dissolved. Any sort of working class movement in America will have to learn lessons from the corpse of Occupy.

"Leadership" perhaps isn't the best word to use when describing what OWS lacked; it didn't even have a direction. So, who (or what) currently has the structure to create a direction for labor? The republican party isn't an option -- its leadership is hostile towards labor movements as a matter of principle. The democrats are possibly an option, but that would require them to pivot from a considerable amount of corporate funding. Wouldn't it?

Sanders, Warren, Biden, and several other candidates that don't matter walked the picket line in the GM strike. My two questions are now replaced with a much more urgent one:

Who actually means it?

## A-State Should Focus on the Quality-Of-Life of Their Students

ALITZA CABIBI-WILKIN

OPINION EDITOR



Alitza Cabibi-Wilkin is a sophomore music composition major from Hot Springs.

When the Acansa Dining Hall was remodeled last summer, many students were hopeful that the funds put into the new face of the cafeteria would also be used to improve the quality of the food. It has become a running joke among upperclassmen to talk about how much worse the cafeteria got every school year, and surprisingly this year the dining hall has hit a new low.

On Sept. 28, I was eating a sandwich from the deli line in the dining hall when a maggot fell out of it. On Oct. 7, I was halfway through a chicken sandwich when I noticed the middle of the chicken was completely raw.

On Oct. 26, Christian Huggins posted a warning on the A-State app, saying that he had found mold in his grilled cheese, and six days prior Christian Martillo posted a picture of

an artery he had found in a pork chop served to his friend. On Nov. 3, Alizaye Sampson posted a photo of a plate of chicken wings, which were raw and bloody on the inside.

All of these complaints were met with the same response from dining hall staff: shock, an apology, and a promise that the incident would be reported to "the appropriate managers for Dining Services." No change in food, no change in quality. Only a promise that things would improve.

The same promise has been made to students about the internet speed. The A-State app is also regularly used by students to claim about the speed (or lack thereof) of the internet on campus, particularly those who are trying to do homework or enroll in classes.

Since personal internet routers are not allowed in the dorms, the only way to get around using the campus internet is to use data or a hotspot. Since August, I have rarely used the campus internet, preferring to use my unlimited data instead, but not all students have this option.

And then, of course, there is the campus water. Though it is within safe drinking limits, it is "hard water", which means it has a high amount of minerals in it. While "hard water" is not widely thought to have any health risks, the high levels of calcium and magnesium in hard water can increase your risk of heart disease, diabetes, neural

diseases and gastric, colon, ovarian and esophageal cancers. Bathing in hard water can also irritate the skin.

This water is in the water fountains, in the showers, in the dining hall, and in the dorms. I had to buy a filtered pitcher last year in order to avoid spending large amounts of Flex on water bottles.

This may all sound like whining, but I think it is important to recognize when basic quality-of-life aspects are not being handled correctly on A-State's campus. Two weeks ago, A-State announced plans to have

Henderson State University become part of the Arkansas State University System. How can we expand our system and promote ourselves as a campus to other universities when students on our campus don't have access to safe water, edible food, and useable internet?

I find it embarrassing that these problems have been allowed to continue for so long, and my tuition doesn't contribute to fixing them. I'd rather have cooked chicken over scooters any day.



The chicken sandwich I was served on October 7.

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