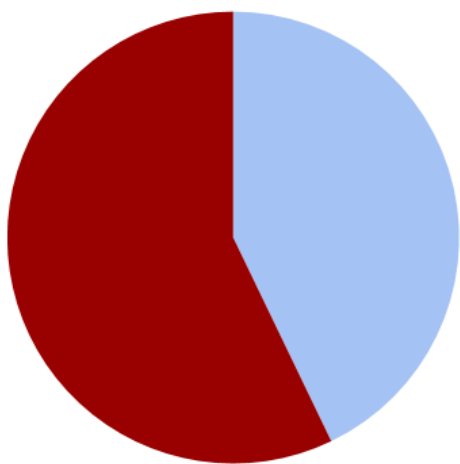


What's Your Opinion?

Last week we asked students their preference in weather: hot versus cold.

Out of 21 people who responded, here are the results:
Hot Weather - 12
Cold Weather - 9



 Cold Weather

 Hot Weather

Next Week's Poll:

Shop Your Socks Off

Which do you prefer: Black Friday or Cyber Monday?

There will also be a bonus poll on The Herald website over the next week, where participants can answer the question: What are you thankful for this Thanksgiving? Results will be posted on The Herald's Instagram.

Vote on The Herald's website (theherald.home.blog) to voice your opinion! The next poll will be posted on The Herald's Instagram (@astateherald) on December 2 at 4 p.m. Results will be posted in that week's Herald.

How to Avoid a Fight With Your Family on Thanksgiving

ALITZA CABIBI-WILKIN

OPINION EDITOR



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

Thanksgiving is a time for family members to gather and share stories, news, and, for some, political opinions. Unfortunately, not all family members think alike, which can lead to arguments over the turkey and pie. If you already dread the dinner table discussion, here are some tips:

Remember there are no winners
If you get in an argument with your uncle about immigration, what is the best case scenario? Do you really think your uncle is going to suddenly say, "You know what, you're absolutely right, I share your political beliefs now, you are so smart and valid?" Realistically, there are no winners. If your goal is to "win" the argument, then you are not going to be able to meet that goal.

Change the subject
The best way to avoid a fight is to not let one happen at all. If your great-grandmother makes a comment about Chik-Fil-A no longer donating to anti-LGBT+ organizations and you can tell she's trying to start a fight, ask the person across the table from you if they've tried the new macaroni and cheese. If that doesn't work, pick the most random thing you can think of and start talking about that. Let any potential instigators see that nobody wants to argue, and they'll stop trying

to start a fight.
Sit down, be humble
I understand how compelling it is to win an argument. (The best part of my job is that I get to "win" the "argument" in my articles every week.) But much like I said in my first point, you cannot win the argument. You are not going to be able to convince your cousin to change their mind on gun laws. Put your ego aside, take a deep breath, and let them talk themselves out. Once you stop engaging, they'll stop talking.

Remember you can always talk later
Oh no, not to them. The goal is not to argue, remember? But after dinner, when you're washing dishes or driving home or wandering around K-Mart at 2 a.m. looking for pre-Black Friday sales, you can gossip with your siblings and say, "Oh my god, can you BELIEVE Joshua at dinner tonight?" And if they nod and say, "Yeah, that was crazy," you can carry on and laugh about the

situation. But if they respond with "Uh, I kind of agree with Josh," then take a deep breath and start at bullet point No. 1.

Don't throw food
No matter how difficult things get, resist the urge to make things physical. Psych yourself up by watching videos of families tipping Thanksgiving tables and telling yourself, "I will not be like that." And then even if Grandpa Steve tries to make an impeachment discussion into a fistfight, you can think about the people you saw on the internet fighting over turkey and resist the urge to fight back.

Worst case, get out of there
You can always leave, even if it's just for an hour. Go blow off some steam by taking a walk, going to eat somewhere else, or going home completely. If there's no other options, leaving is your safest bet. Prioritize your own health and safety over one evening holiday.

Stay Off The Naughty List: Treat Retail Workers Better This Black Friday

ALITZA CABIBI-WILKIN

OPINION EDITOR

Next week is Thanksgiving break, which means next week is also time for Black Friday. That's right, it's time for the country's annual amateur MMA extravaganza. But while you may feel the urge to try out some karate moves on anyone who aims to stop you from getting Pokemon: Sword and Shield, make sure to remember the real soldiers in the battle of Black Friday: retail workers.

Black Friday is one of the worst days of the year for retail workers. Shoppers flock to their favorite retail stores in search of low prices and cheap holiday gifts. To accommodate the rush of customers, stores will take on extra employees and extra hours. In 2015, an article from The New York Times reported that 700,000 workers were hired specifically for working the holiday season, on top of the 16 million already employed that year.

Over the years, websites such as Daily News, HelloGiggles, and MoneyWise have posted stories from retail workers describing stories of working 20 hour shifts. The two situations are not mutually exclusive -- that is, it's certain that some employees will work one of their first few shifts on Black Friday.

An article from MoneyWise showcased stories of anonymous retail

employees who had been harassed and physically attacked by shoppers desperate for the hottest sales.

"During Black Friday, a guy got super angry that everything on a table wasn't on sale and...he grabbed my manager's lanyard and started choking her," says one employee.

"This lady had her dad's credit card and about \$1,000 worth of merchandise. The cashier refused to sell it due to her using someone else's credit card. The woman...(said) she had the power of attorney over her father...so she had the right to use his credit card to buy Christmas presents," says another, who said the woman in their story later came back with her ill father in order to buy the gifts.

"I noticed a scuffle breaking out towards the front of the line, so I went to break it up...as I walk away, the guy I have my back turned to tries to punch the other guy. Misses, hits me square in the back of my head," says a third.

A fourth describes the time she worked a 12 hour shift with no break and collapsed from exhaustion, and after only an hour of recovering in the hospital were contacted by their boss, who asked when she would be coming back to work. Another says that even

the security guards at their store weren't safe when a woman threatened one with a gun because he wouldn't let her cut in line.

I could go on and on about the horror of Black Friday, but I shouldn't have to. None of this should be happening. We should all be acting like adults and treat retail workers with respect, rather than acting like violent,

screaming children just because all the funky bath towels are \$2.

If you plan to participate in Black Friday this year, remember where you are. Act your age. Be respectful to retail workers and take the time to let them know how fortunate you are to have them there. It's literally the least you could do.



Comic by Jaiden Pense

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