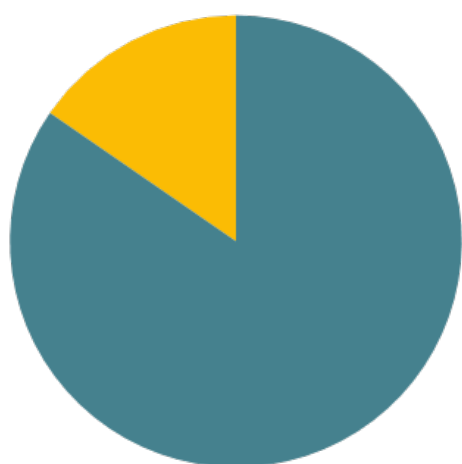


What's Your Opinion?

Last week we asked students whether they understood the housing policy going into effect in the 2020-2021 school year. Photos of emails can be found on the web version of this poll, featured on theherald.home.blog.

Out of 13 people who responded, here are the results:

- 0 - Yes, I understand the policy
- 11 - No, it is too confusing
- 2 - I didn't see the emails/This doesn't apply to me



Next Week's Poll:

INSTAGRAM EXCLUSIVE: Spring Broke

With Spring Break over and 25 days left of classes, do you feel rested and ready to finish the semester?

This poll is Instagram exclusive, meaning the poll will be posted on March 30 and results will be published on April 1. Follow [@astateherald](https://www.instagram.com/astateherald) to voice your opinion!

These and future articles can be found on the Opinion section of The Herald's website. All comics and memes can be found in the Comics section.

"Hoax" Was The Wrong Choice Of Words

Remembering disasters and the people who claim they never happened

LILY CABIBI-WILKIN

OPINION EDITOR



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

On Feb. 28, during a campaign rally in South Carolina, President Donald Trump said the following:

"The Democrats are politicizing the coronavirus...One of my people came up to me and said, 'Mr. President, they tried to beat you on Russia, Russia, Russia. That didn't work out too well. They couldn't do it. They tried the impeachment hoax. That was on a perfect conversation. They tried anything, they tried it over and over, they've been doing it since you got in. It's all turning, they

lost, it's all turning. Think of it. Think of it. And this is their new hoax."

According to an interview of Trump done by The Guardian, Trump's "use of the word referred to 'the action (Democrats) tried to take to try to pin this on somebody because we've done such a good job...The hoax is on them. I'm not talking about what's happening here. I don't like it when they are criticizing (federal health officials), and that's the hoax."

Even if the president wasn't calling the virus in and of itself a hoax, his comments reminded me of two conspiracy theories from years past that the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting and the Holocaust were hoaxes.

Before I go into any further detail, let me remind you with 100% certainty that both of these events actually did happen. I will also warn you that while I won't be describing the events, I will be describing the behaviors of those who believe the events were faked. Reader discretion is advised.

Lenny Pozner, the father of one of the 20 children murdered in the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting, runs an organization called the HONR Network. The network's mission is to fight back against those who claim that

the massacre was faked, the children were not real, or that the parents had been paid to claim the attack was real.

According to Pozner, the conspiracy theories started "the same day" as the shooting, which occurred in 2012. In 2014, after Pozner published information about his son's life and published his death certificate, Minnesota professor James Fetzer accused Pozner of publishing a fake death certificate in his 400+ page book, "Nobody Died at Sandy Hook."

In the summer of 2019, Pozner won a defamation case against Fetzer. In the case, Pozner and his wife had to provide DNA evidence to the court to prove that their son "lived and...died." In a post on HONR's website, Pozner said, "there is still a long way to go." In 2020, Pozner is still fighting to prove that a shooting that occurred eight years ago actually happened.

Deborah E. Lipstadt runs a website called "Holocaust Denial on Trial," which ensures "perpetual access to the evidence, transcripts, judgment and appeal documents that made the case in the David Irving v. Penguin Books U.K. and Deborah Lipstadt trial and (refutes) the misleading claims of Holocaust deniers with historical evidence."

According to the Jewish Chronicle, "Lipstadt was sued for libel in 1996 by British historian David Irving after she referred to him as a Holocaust denier in her book, "Denying the Holocaust." She won the case in 2000, after a trial which was dramatized in the 2016 film, "Denial."

According to Time Magazine, most Holocaust deniers "do not deny that Jews were interned in prison camps... rather...that the number of deaths was greatly exaggerated...Attorney Edgar J. Steele said, 'All those pictures of skinny people and bodies stacked like cordwood were actually of Czechs and Poles and Germans (who) died of typhus, which was rampant in the camps.'"

As of Monday, 595 people have tested positive for the coronavirus, according to the New York Times. There are zero confirmed cases in Arkansas at press time, but 100 recent travelers are under surveillance by the Arkansas Department of Health and three people are currently being tested. It has not yet been confirmed whether any of them have coronavirus.

So yeah, Trump, maybe "hoax" wasn't the best choice of words. Sandy Hook was real. The Holocaust was real. The coronavirus is real. End of story.

Guys Are Gross — You Can't Change My Mind

Please just wash your hands.

TUCKER PHILLIPS

NEWS EDITOR



Tucker Phillips is a junior political science major from Salem.

On March 3, I went to the men's room. Hardly unusual. The weird bit is what I found in the stall -- an open can of Best Choice Pink Lemonade. In the stall. Just, sitting on the toilet roll dispenser.

What the hell.

Having grown up using a different bathroom, the men's room was an adjustment. I know that the floor will never be clean. The weird, cushy chairs in the antechamber are a sacrifice I made willingly. Conversation is near

non-existent, with the occasional outlier. I've accepted (or rather, learned to ignore) the wide range of graffiti found in stalls, up to and including Nazi symbolism. I learned to live with the fact that the reminders to wash your hands are both more necessary and less effective. This lemonade? The last straw. How many airborne germs got on that can before I got there? Was someone planning to come back for it? Why pink lemonade, of all things? It doesn't even have caffeine.

The recent surge of COVID-19 has brought to light the disparity in hygiene practices between the men's and women's restrooms. Many men on Twitter have expressed shock to see a queue for the sinks for the first time. This, in turn, brought about statements of disbelief from the other side of the stalls. This expansion of the discussion brought further testimony, though an unfortunate amount was in negation of handwashing.

A 2013 study from Michigan State University found that, "Women wash their hands significantly more often, use soap more often, and wash their hands somewhat longer than men." The MSU field study was conducted by research assistants who observed nearly 4,000 people in restrooms around East

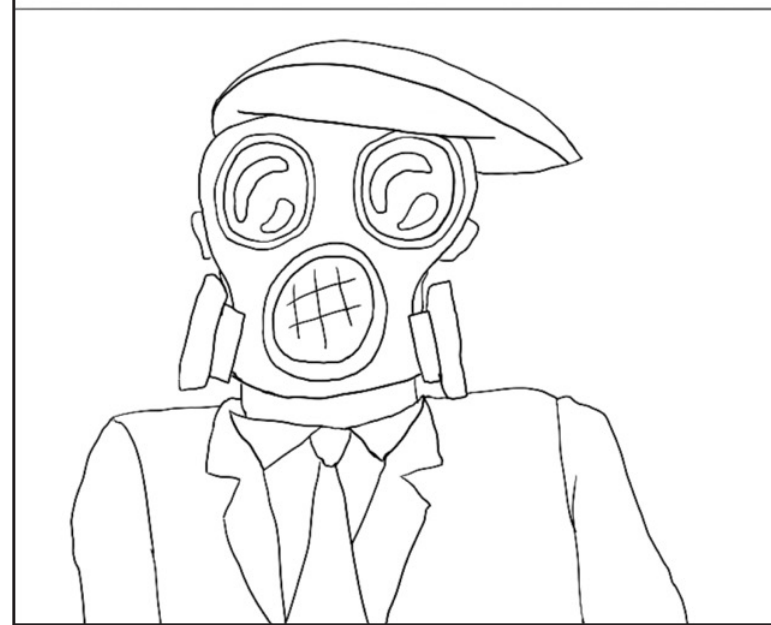
Lansing.

"The study found 14.6% of men did not wash their hands at all after using the bathroom and 35.1% wet their hands but did not use soap, compared to 7.1% and 15.1% of women."

If your childhood guardian failed you and never taught you to wash your hands, the CDC has a "handy" guide at <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/index.html>.

This is just a couple clicks away from the science behind why you need to wash your hands. No, it doesn't matter if you only pee, guys. You still need to wash up. The CDC links research stating that using soap and water to wash hands could reduce deaths associated with diarrheal disease by up to 50%, and a quick search of perianal sweat should cure you of several arguments against hand washing.

As you can see, the Coronavirus is just "Fake News"



Meme by Jaiden Pense.

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