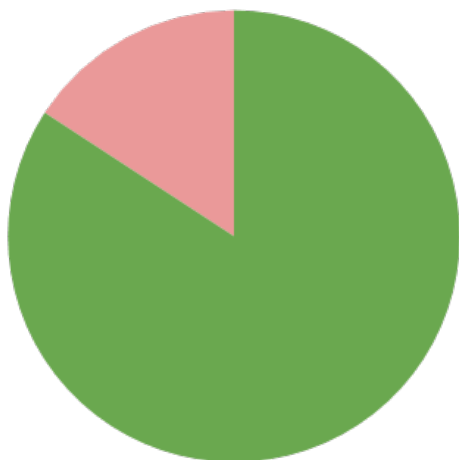


## What's Your Opinion?

Last week we asked students whether they were registered to vote.

Out of 19 people who responded, here are the results:  
16 - Registered  
3 - Unregistered



● Registered ● Unregistered

## Next Week's Poll:

### House and Home

Arkansas State University Housing has sent out several emails to students describing the changes in the housing situation for the 2020-2021 school year. Do you understand the policy or is it still confusing?

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

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.

## The Bankrupt Scouts of America

You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it follow the rules.

LILY CABIBI-WILKIN

OPINION EDITOR



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

On Tuesday, February 18, the Boy Scouts of America filed for bankruptcy. The organization called for a Chapter 11 filing, which means they will be able to keep running while they try to deal with around 300 lawsuits against them. The lawsuits come from men who say they were sexually abused as Scouts.

According to United States Courts, "A Chapter 11 debtor usually proposes a plan of reorganization to keep its business alive and pay creditors over time." The Boy Scouts hired a law firm in December 2018 in order to make the filing, which was made in Delaware and "is expected to set a new deadline for victims' claims to be made," according to NPR.

Jim Turley, the National Chair of the Boy Scouts of America, wrote an open letter to victims, which promises that "we believe you, we believe in compensating you, and we have programs in place to pay for counseling for you and your family by a provider of your choice."

It's not as if the Boy Scouts doesn't already have structure in place to protect its Scouts. In order to staff a scouting event (such as a summer camp), volunteers must have Youth Protection Training, which must be renewed every two years. YPT consists of a class and/or an online training session. Adults wishing to become Boy Scout leaders must complete an application that

"requests background information" such as "his or her experience with children, why he or she wants to be a Scout Leader, and what discipline techniques he or she would use." There's also mandatory reporting of child abuse and steps on the Boy Scouts' website explaining what to do in case there is a suspicion of child abuse.

"As knowledge on child sexual abuse prevention has advanced, so have our expert-informed policies, including mandatory background checks and trainings, a ban on one-on-one interactions between youth and adults, and mandatory reporting of any suspicion of abuse to law enforcement," says Turley.

The problem is that these policies may not always be carried out. I've been both directly and indirectly involved with Boy Scouts almost my entire life -- all of my brothers have been or are currently in Scouting, and my father has been a Cub Scout Cubmaster for seven years and an Assistant Scoutmaster for five. I also participated in a co-ed Venture Crew for two years. While I

was lucky to not see or experience any sexual assault, I did see some parents (other scout leaders, mind you) who acted in ways that I would categorize as abusive towards their children, and I know of one case where two Boy Scouts were caught engaging in sexual behavior.

Despite the training, two-deep leadership, and mandatory reporting, some things slip through the cracks, especially in a scouting environment in a state like Arkansas, which, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, had the highest amount of Adverse Childhood Experiences (potentially traumatic experiences and events) in 2018.

While it's clear the Boy Scouts of America is taking great steps to repair their image and keep Scouts safe, I think there's more they could be doing. Hopefully this filing will allow them to repair the damage members of their organization have caused so that they can focus more of their efforts on preventing more cases in the future.

## Police Love College Students- When They're White

Dragging the racism inherent in the police system.

TUCKER PHILLIPS

NEWS EDITOR



Tucker Phillips is a junior political science major from Salem.

waited. Both cruisers eventually left, suspect presumably in tow.

It made me think of something that happened just a bit after the new year. I was up here to visit my roommates, and had just dropped one of them off at their own. I was driving home when I got pulled over by a police cruiser. He asked for my license, asked if I've been drinking. I'll admit, I do have a tendency to hug the white line. However, he let me off with a warning.

Right before spring break last year, my little sister got pulled over for speeding. She fully admits she was 15 mph over. The officer let her off with a warning.

Now here's the question: would we have been let off that easily if we hadn't been well-off looking white kids? If you immediately answer yes, you have some assumptions about how the world works. If you don't, then you should be able to question why that is. In a fair world, the answer would be yes. But we don't live in a fairytale.

While my boyfriend is white, his sister and her kids are visibly mixed. I messaged him the night I was pulled over in January, and he could immediately recount stories about his sister being pulled over and thoroughly questioned. One of my cousins, who leans much further right than I, even noticed this type of double standard

when he was pulled over with a black girlfriend. When that particular cousin notices an issue, things are bad.

My dad was once pulled over for majorly speeding in Texas. Yet, the stop remained cordial. Casey Miller of Harrisburg can't take her kids grocery shopping without getting grief.

According to data from North Carolina, black people were 60-70

percent more likely to be in a traffic stop, despite being less likely to own or drive a car. I'm sure most of us remember the slew of hashtags in recent years for those unjustly killed. We remember "I can't breathe." There's the "suicide" of Sandra Bland, which is about as believable as that of Jeffrey Epstein. The system clearly needs a massive overhaul. What are we going to do about it?

Me: -relaxing and enjoying YouTube videos-  
YouTube ads:



A meme describing the numerous Mike Bloomberg ads run by Bloomberg's campaign. Meme by Jaiden Pense.

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Story ideas or news tips may be emailed to [heraldnews1921@gmail.com](mailto:heraldnews1921@gmail.com). The Herald welcomes comments, criticisms or ideas that its readership may have. We encourage you to send a Letter to the Editor to [melissa.palumbo@smail.astate.edu](mailto:melissa.palumbo@smail.astate.edu).

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